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## Susan Horn Talks Education with 5th District Residents

By Sally Absher  
sallyabsher@knoxfocus.com

Friends and supporters of Susan Horn, candidate for KCS Board of Education, 5th District, hosted a "meet and greet" at the Copperstone Clubhouse in the Choto area of West Knox County last week.

Horn has been active in Knox County Schools since her girls Madeline and Reagan, now at Farragut High School and Farragut Middle School, were in Kindergarten. She has served in various PTA Executive Board

positions at Farragut Primary and Intermediate Schools, including serving one year at each school as PTA President. She currently serves on the PTSO Board of Managers at both Farragut Middle and High Schools.

She told attendees, "We have great schools in Knox County, and in the 5th District, but we can do better." Schools in West Knoxville's 5th District include Bluegrass, A.L. Lotts, West Valley, and Farragut Primary, Intermediate, Middle, and High

Schools.

"As parents and teachers, we must nurture an environment that makes children excited about learning. Teachers are our most important resource, and they need to feel supported by parents, administrators, and the community at large," she said, adding, "A healthy teaching environment is the first step toward student success."

She said she would take a common sense approach when making decisions, for example,

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L-R, supporters Sarah Starkey and Blair Kerr talk with candidate for 5th District School Board Susan Horn at last Monday's Meet and Greet.

## Mayor Burchett seeking bulletproof vests

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

"It's no secret that putting on a badge and belt can be a thankless job. But law enforcement can be a very rewarding career," Knox County Mayor told the graduates of the Knox County Sheriff's Regional Training Academy Friday.

"Today I'm happy to announce a goal that is just more than words," Burchett told a packed house at the ceremony that graduated two dozen officers. "It's a true commitment to the folks in Knox County, he said.

"I'm honored to partner with Sheriff (J.J.) Jones to provide 400 protective vests designed specifically to shield against rifle fire," Mayor Burchett said.

"God forbid that Knox County or any other county should experience anything like that that happened to officers in Dallas or Baton Rouge, but I want our deputies to be prepared and protected," he said.

"Next month we'll ask the county commission to approve the funding for



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Mayor Tim Burchett (center) displays a bullet proof vest that could stop a rifle shot. Along with Burchett are Chief Lee Tramel (left) and Sheriff J.J. Jones. The mayor will ask county commission next month for the funds to purchase 400 of the vests.

these vests and they'll be in patrol cars shortly after that," Burchett said.

Other speakers at the graduation class, which included not only Knox County Deputies but

officers from Claiborne, Anderson and Union Counties, were Sheriff Jones, Chief Lee Tramel, and State Representative Jason Zachary.

"You and your families

are always in our prayers," Burchett told the new recruits and the veteran officers and thanked them for their "Willingness to serve our country."

## Regal gets go-ahead from City Council

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Regal Entertainment wanted it, the governor wanted it, and the city and county mayors wanted it. And on Tuesday, Regal got it.

The final hurdle in luring Regal to move its corporate offices from Halls to the former Baptist Hospital site was approved by the City Council in a unanimous vote. The deal involves the city buying the office building at the former hospital site and give a ten-year lease with an option to buy to Regal.

Additional details of the agreement stipulate that Regal must keep at least 275 employees there, pay rent in the amount of the estimated property taxes, and agree to lease parking spaces at the garage next door. The garage itself will be owned by the Industrial Development Board and managed by the Public Building Authority.

Cindi Branscom, the city's Chief Operating Officer, explained the paperwork for the Tax Increment Financing agreement "is in final form." Mayor Rogero thanked everyone involved in the agreement and especially praised Branscom for her management of the agreement.

The ten-year agreement, with an additional agreement for two ten-year periods, gives Regal an option to buy the building for \$9 million and decreases that amount each year. If the corporation leaves before the agreement ends a penalty of \$178,000 for each remaining year will apply.

The Tax Increment agreement is for \$22 million and the seller has agreed to repair the garage. The deal should net the city about \$300,000 in taxes each year during the lease.

## Baby Roadrunners celebrate end of football camp



By Ken Lay

The annual barbecue signaled the end of football camp for the Austin East youth football program Friday night at Claude Walker Park.

The Baby Roadrunners finished the final camp practice and the players from the various teams

were treated to a dinner of barbecue sandwiches, sliced watermelon, drinks, potato chips, cookies or brownies.

The annual end-of-camp party was hosted by the Knox County Sheriff's Department, which sponsors the program, and the Austin East Youth Football Board, Commissioner Melvin Tate, members of the Knox County Sheriff's Department's Aviation Division and candidate for Knox County Commission Michael Covington. Photo by Dan Andrews.

Members of the Austin-East Youth Football Program celebrate the final day of summer camp Thursday at Claude Walker Park. Pictured with the Baby Roadrunners players and coaches are members of the Austin-East Youth Football Board, Commissioner Melvin Tate, members of the Knox County Sheriff's Department's Aviation Division and candidate for Knox County Commission Michael Covington. Photo by Dan Andrews.

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# How to maximize your car accident settlement

Regardless of the extent of your injuries, a car accident can be very stressful. Dealing with a damaged vehicle and repairs is much easier than dealing with physical injuries and emotional issues.



By **Jedidiah McKeenan**  
attorneyknoxville@gmail.com

Remembering these five things can help to make your accident much less traumatic:

1) Keep a record of all expenses and days lost from work due to your

injuries. Also, get written documentation from your employer verifying your missed work. This proof will enable you to claim lost earnings. If you're having difficulty getting your employer to work

with you, then your lawyer can assist in obtaining this documentation. If your injuries prevent you from returning to work or school, ask your doctor for a signed letter confirming that you

cannot attend.

2) Keep track of time spent by friends and family caring for you and overseeing household and family obligations. If you must now pay someone to mow your lawn or drive you places, you can make those payments part of your claim. If possible, pay those individuals with a check so that you have documentation.

3) Keep all bills and receipts related to your accident. If you don't save them, you may not be able to prove the amount of your damages. Be sure to

save everything, including hospital charges, pharmacy bills, therapy bills, and all other bills associated with your accident. If you buy over-the-counter pain medication, heating pads, crutches, special clothing to fit over casts or braces, or similar items, you may be able to recoup these expenses. If you find such thorough documentation overwhelming, then you should hire an experienced attorney to help you sort, organize, and calculate the total of your medical bills. You don't want to miss out

on any potential reimbursement.

4) Know all your injuries. Injuries caused by accidents may not show symptoms for days or even weeks. Thus, in the days following your accident, you should avoid describing your injuries to the claims adjuster. Don't give a statement to an adjuster unless you are confident about the status and healing progress of your injuries.

5) Keep a journal of your experiences, and pay close attention to the emotional toll of an accident. Record

sleepless nights, pain levels, and limitations or restrictions from regular activities. Be sure to take note of special events, hobbies, and interactions with your loved ones that you missed because of the accident.

By investing a little time and effort before you've even had an accident, you can learn how to properly document and record the events related to an accident and save yourself money and potential headaches down the road.

## Two neighborhood victories at council

By **Mike Steely**  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The neighborhoods of Oakwood-Lincoln Park and Inskip came away from the City Council meeting Tuesday with victories, one appealing the design of a Habitat Home proposed there and the other objecting to an apartment development.

Knoxville Habitat for Humanity had been granted a certificate of appropriateness by the Infill Housing Review Committee for a home at 431 Springdale Avenue and Deborah Thomas and homeowners in Oakwood-Lincoln Park took their appeal to the council. Thomas and other citizens told the council they do not object to Habitat building there and Habitat residents are welcome, but the design of the home and especially the low roof pitch didn't conform to other houses there.

While Dan Mitchell, Habitat's Director of Operations, told the council the organization agreed to two neighborhood requests to

move the side door to the rear and change the front porch, it could not agree to the higher roof pitch because of the expense. He cited other homes in the historic area with lower roof pitches and said a higher pitch would add \$4 or \$5 thousand to the cost of the home.

Thomas said the nearby homeowners were upset that a Victorian home was demolished on the property and said Habitat doesn't respect the historic architecture there. Apparently the city council members agreed.

"Unfortunately we've tried for weeks to work this out. Oakwood needs the respect it deserves. We came so close (to an agreement) but it just doesn't meet the infill guidelines," said Councilman Mark Campen who represents the area. He also noted that the area zoning regulations need to be updated.

"Habitat should enhance the neighborhood, not distract from it," said Councilman Nick Della Volpe.

"I love Habitat but unfortunately the neighborhood has made a really good point," said Councilman George Wallace.

Councilman Duane Grieve said the issue brought the neighborhood homeowners together and urged Campen to seek a conservation or historic designation there.

"The neighborhood has a unique character. The guidelines call for original house designs," said Councilman Marshall Stair.

Councilwoman Brenda Palmer urged Oakwood-Lincoln Park to stop talking about a protective overlay and "get it done." She said that Habitat may have

a "cookie cutter" set of designs and that the organization "needs to modernize."

The approval of the neighborhood's appeal passed 7-1.

The Inskip neighborhood, for the second time, objected to a request by Quint Bourgeois to put an apartment complex on his property on Bruhin Road across from the Inskip Pool and Park. Bourgeois told the council that zoning changes in the area occurred without his knowledge and resulted in "taking my property rights."

He charged that his "chief opponent" was Betty Jo Mahan, President of the Neighborhood Association and employee of the Metropolitan Planning Commission. He said that although the city promotes affordable housing, not allowing him to build there means 80 families won't have housing.

Bourgeois was represented by Attorney Scott McCullough, who said government is overstepping its bounds and that the planning commission now has control it didn't previously have. MPC had voted 14-0 to deny the zoning change that would permit the apartments.

Mahan told the council that the neighborhood is saturated with multi-family dwellings, overcrowded, and suffers from unplanned growth. Inskip successfully worked with the city to change most of the zoning there to prohibit apartments.

Campen said that the owner may still develop his property on a smaller scale and moved to deny the

**Continued on page 4**



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

The Springdale Avenue homes near a proposed Habitat house have high-pitched roofs and neighbors there asked the planning commission that the project house be similar.

## Baby Roadrunners celebrate end of football camp

**Cont. from page 1**  
East Youth Football Board (including Marion Quinn, Jim Jennings, Aaron Carroll, former Philadelphia Eagles player Albert Davis, Robbie Flood, Steve Templeton, Jeffrey Minor, Commissioner Melvin Tate and other officers).

The KCS D has sponsored the Baby Roadrunners for more than a decade and the sponsorship was started Lee Trammell.

"This signals the end of the summer camp," Tate said. "This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year and this is one of our features.

"They've been in our corner for the last 10 or 15 years and Lee's been great to us. He's always there to make sure that

we get anything that we need."

The party was truly earned by these players. There was food and fun and several members of the Knox County Sheriff's Department's Aviation Division were on hand.

One normal staple, however, was absent. The sheriff's department normally brings a helicopter. It wasn't present Thursday night because the extremely hot weather makes it risky for the chopper to fly in thin air.

But members of the aviation division attended to celebrate the end of a hot week of football camp along with the coaches, players and board members.

"We love to go out

into the community and we love this," KCS D Sergeant Tim McClelland said. "These coaches are doing a great thing with these kids.

"They project a positive influence and that's a good thing."

Captain Rick Trott agreed.

"This is our future. You're looking at it," he said. "These kids are going to be the people making decisions for us older people soon,

"This teaches these kids about more than football. It teaches them about teamwork and it teaches them about tolerance and it teaches them how to set goals."

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# Publisher's Position

## The Money-Bullies Are After Martin Daniel



**By Steve Hunley,**  
**Publisher**  
publisher@knoxfocus.com

Knoxville has a particular wealthy elite political class that has appeared with alarming frequency during the last several election cycles. The Haslam family and its faithful retainers have recently had a habit of contributing money for their favorite candidates. One such candidate was Board of Education member Tracie Sanger who received about \$15,000 from the Haslam family direct and collected a total in excess of \$43,000, most of it from their friends who don't even

live in her district. These wealthy elites were also devout in their support of Superintendent Jim McIntyre and one could always tell which candidate for the Knox County Board of Education was the proposed rubber stamp candidate to support McIntyre by reading the financial disclosure lists. Nor were the candidates confined to the Board of Education; they include contributions to candidates for county commission, city council, mayor and other state and local offices from many of the same people. The money-bullies are aided by the Knoxville News-Sentinel, the Chamber of Commerce, and WBIR-TV who provide a reliable voice for the business elite.

Now the money-bullies are coming after Martin Daniel. Daniel, a first term State Representative, evidently has been far too independent to suit these folks. Instead, the Haslams and their friends are

putting their money behind Daniel's predecessor, Steve Hall. Hall served on the City Council until he was term limited out, ran against former Mayor Mike Ragsdale and served two terms in the State House of Representatives. If Steve Hall accomplished much during his time in state government, I did not notice what it was. From what I could tell, Hall was merely a lockstep ally of former State Senator Stacey Campfield. Hall never seemed particularly motivated nor productive. He seemed content to allow Stacey to lead the Campfield-Hall team. On the other hand, Martin Daniel has been a thoughtful and interesting voice in Nashville. Martin Daniel, an attorney and successful small businessman, has been unafraid of upsetting apple carts of the establishment and telling the truth. Daniel questioned the cost of the Office of Diversity at the University of Tennessee

and aside from ultraliberals and the overly politically correct crowd, believed the office had gone too far with some of its proposals, including substituting gender-neutral pronouns for "he" and "she." Daniel has also questioned the management of the Knox County School system when necessary. The job of a member of the state legislature isn't merely to bring home more money for the Board of Education to spend and considering that local boards and systems have to comply with state law, it is appropriate for a legislator to ask questions about how that money is being spent.

Martin Daniel has been an exemplary first term legislator and has distinguished himself by his intelligence, ability and independence. Hall has been in and out of office for decades; Martin Daniel is a true citizen-legislator. I have heard that money is the mother's milk of

politics, but here lately it hasn't done the money-bullies a lot of good. Grant Standefer was awash in money in a recent school board race, yet lost badly to a far superior candidate, Jennifer Owen. Nathan Rowell had more money at his disposal than King Midas, yet was beaten like a drum by incumbent Law Director Bud Armstrong. Buddy Pelot, another candidate supported by the establishment elite, trailed Susan Horn by 1,000 votes in the March primary.

Folks tend to see the same names appearing on the financial disclosure lists of the wealthy elite establishment supported candidates. One such name is Randy Boyd, a businessman who is currently serving as Bill Haslam's Commissioner of Economic Development. We are told Boyd is being mentioned as a candidate for governor in 2018. Of course all the mentioning of Boyd running for governor is

either from Boyd himself or by Haslam allies. Now you have a good idea where the establishment is already headed two years from now.

The wealthy elite establishment doesn't just want rubber stamps on the Board of Education; they like them everywhere, including the state legislature.

For those readers who truly value independence and ability, they ought to look at the financial disclosure statements of the various candidates available at the Knox County Election Commission website. If you don't think there's much reason to go vote in August, think again. If you stay home, the money-bullies may well get their way. If you want to strike a blow at the establishment, here's your chance.

The choice between Martin Daniel and his opponents couldn't be more clear.

## Susan Horn Talks Education with 5th District Residents

**Continued from page 1**  
favoring reduced class size in the early grades to improve achievement over spending millions of dollars to purchase technology that may be obsolete in just a few years. "It is important for our students to be familiar and comfortable with technology, but it can never replace the value of the personal relationship between

student and teacher." She also talked about the 2016 election process, which has caused confusion for some voters. With the Presidential election, Knox County has three separate elections this year. March 1 was the Presidential Primary, and the Knox County Primary for School Board, County Commission, Law

Director, and Property Assessor. Susan was the top vote getter of the three Board of Education candidates in District 5, but fell just short of the 50% + 1 vote to win the seat in the primary. August 4 is the Knox County General election. Voters will decide whether Horn or second place finisher, Reuben "Buddy" Pelot will represent the 5th

District on the Board of Education. The August 4 election is also the Primary election for State and Federal Representatives and Senators, and the Town of Farragut Municipal Election. Early voting is going on now through July 30. Knox County residents can early vote Monday - Friday from 10 am to 6 pm, and Saturday from 11

am to 5 pm. Early voting locations in West Knoxville include Farragut Town Hall and Downtown West. Finally, the 2016 Presidential Election and the Federal and State General Election will be held on November 8.

am to 5 pm. Early voting locations in West Knoxville include Farragut Town Hall and Downtown West. Finally, the 2016 Presidential Election and the Federal and State General Election will be held on November 8.



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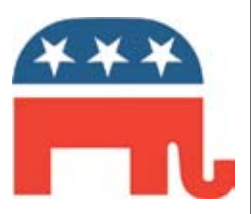
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District 2 Candidate



**Hugh Nystrom**  
District 4 Candidate



**John Schoonmaker**  
District 5 Candidate



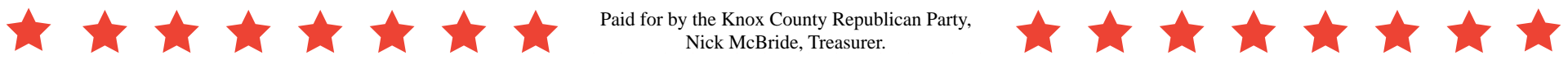
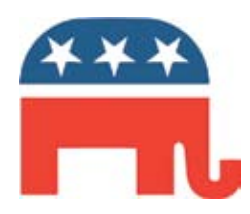
**Brad Anders**  
District 6 Candidate



**Dave Wright**  
District 8 Candidate



**Carson Dailey**  
District 9 Candidate



# THE CHALK BOARD

## Bits of News About Local Education

By Sally Absher  
sallyabsher@knoxfocus.com

### Knoxville's Summer Interns Create Mosaic in Honor of Zaezion Dobson

Pictured right, high school and college students participating in the City of Knoxville's Summer in the City internship program have created a mosaic in honor of Zaezion Dobson, the 15-year-old Fulton High School student who was tragically killed in December 2015. The 26 students have been working on the mosaic during their six-week internships in multiple City departments.

The mosaic was unveiled last Thursday in the 5th Floor Atrium of the City County Building, with Mayor Madeline Rogero presiding.

Photo by Dan Andrews.



favorite color, etc. (you can state a preference to sponsor a boy or a girl). Then go shopping! Pick out a new backpack with school supplies, 2 new outfits, shoes, socks and underwear, and anything else you can think of to make their FIRST DAY special.

Drop off clothing and school supply donations at Calvary Baptist Church, 3200 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. If you can't drop your donation off, they will even come pick them up from you! Or, you can write a check to Calvary Baptist Church (note First Day on the memo line) and mail it or drop it off at the church.

### Stuff the Backpacks

Knox Area Rescue Ministries (KARM), KARM Stores, WIVK-FM 107.7, and Sweet Frog Premium Frozen Yogurt are partnering to support homeless

and needy children in the Knoxville area through the Stuff the Backpacks campaign.

Donate the following supplies at any KARM Stores or Sweet Frog location through July 30:

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- Pencil Boxes
- Pencils and Pens
- Crayons and Markers
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Boxes of Kleenex

### Sales Tax Holiday

Tennessee's annual Sales Tax Holiday is Friday, July 29 through Sunday, July 31. During the three-day tax holiday, shoppers can save nearly 10 percent on clothing, school

and art supplies, and computer purchases. The tax-free weekend begins at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 29 and ends Sunday, July 31 at 11:59 p.m.. To see the list of school supplies for your student's classroom, please visit your school's website by first going to [knoxschools.org](http://knoxschools.org) and using the "Select a School" button at the top of the page. Also, school supply lists are posted on the doors of our schools.

During the designated days, shoppers will not pay state or local sales tax on select clothing with a price of \$100 or less per item, school and art supplies with a price of \$100 or less per item and computers with a price of \$1,500 or less.

A few examples of exempted items include the following:

- Clothing: Shirts, dresses, pants, coats, gloves, hats and caps, hosiery, neckties, belts, sneakers, shoes, athletic and non-

athletic uniforms, scarves, jackets, jeans, socks and underwear

- School supplies: Binders, book bags and backpacks, calculators, tape, chalk, crayons, erasers, folders, glue, pens, pencils, lunch boxes, notebooks, paper, pencils, rulers and scissors
- Art supplies: Clay and glazes, paints, paintbrushes, sketch and drawing

pads and watercolors

• Computers: Computers are defined as central processing units (CPUs) and bundled components including speakers, monitor, keyboard, mouse, cables and basic software

- Laptop computers, desktop computers and tablets less than \$1,500 each are eligible

## Two neighborhood victories at council

Cont. from page 2

appeal. Della Volpe said it was important to respect the community's wishes.

Wallace said specific plans for an apartment complex were needed and that the council can't go back and approve the request.

The request was denied, 8-0, with Stair not voting because of a family association with Bourgeois.

In other action the council denied plans to renovate the former CiCi's Pizza at the corner of North Broadway and Tazewell Pike. Damon Falconnier was appealing a ruling by the Board of Zoning Appeals

where he had requested a variance from the flood plan regulations. Falconnier told the members that McAllister's Deli wants to put \$1 million into renovating the building and asked for an exemption from the 100 year flood plan. Jim Hagerman, Director of the city's Engineering Department, said that flood plans were changed in 2013 and, until then, the restaurant site was outside a possible flood area.

The request failed on a 2-5-1 vote with Wallace recusing.

The council also voted final approval to place a Historic Overlay on the Cal

Johnson Building although Jed Dance spoke for his family that owns the building and said plans are underway to preserve the building. Dance wanted to remain under the Downtown Review Board rather than have a historic designation applied.

Final approval was also given to regulate the distance between future Check Cashing businesses in the city and in what zones those businesses can locate. The "clustering" of such businesses was the main concern and the "negative" impact they have on the areas. Wallace, who had voted against the

first reading, told the meeting he'd changed his vote because, "I am in no way supporting these businesses." The ordinance passed unanimously.



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<b>Hugh Nystrom</b> County Commission 4th District	<b>James "Brandon" Hamilton</b> County Commission 9th District

**We Encourage Voters to Vote For These Candidates!**

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## Our Neighborhoods

# Four empty buildings getting attention

By Mike Steely  
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Scattered across Knoxville and Knox County are buildings that stand unused and empty. Some are historic in nature and some are almost beyond repair. Thanks to various groups, including Knox Heritage, movement is happening to restore and reuse such structures, and repurpose the original intent to a modern one.

Several structures are already in the process of renovation, including the Old Knoxville High School, the Farragut Hotel and Kerns Bakery.

The Cal Johnson Building on State Street received a Historic Zoning last week by the Knoxville City Council to protect it from demolition.

Several other buildings, including Rule High School, remain in limbo about their future. County Mayor Tim Burchett has authorized the sale of the Andrew Johnson Building and has mentioned the possible sale of the old Sears building on Central Avenue.

Four more buildings are in the process of getting much needed attention.

The Metropolitan Planning Commission issued a report back in April and the four structures were mentioned. Things have happened since then.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

The Pryor Brown Garage downtown Knoxville has been blight for years and last year part of the roof collapsed. The West Church Avenue structure might eventually house retail stores and residential apartments in a plan now being considered.

### The Pryor Brown Garage

The Pryor Brown Garage has been an eyesore for several years and the ceiling fell in last year damaging some of the brick façade. Requests to demolish the structure were denied. Built in 1925 the building may be the oldest parking garage in the nation and is eligible to be included in the Market Square National Historic District.

Kim Trent, Executive Director of Knox Heritage, told The Focus that developer Rick Dover hopes to develop the building as a mixed use facility with retail shops and apartments. Trent said the idea, coupled with a request for a tax credit, gives the Pryor Brown building some "forward motion."

### Old South High School

The historic old South High School, at 953 East Moody

Avenue, was privately owned but the city didn't think it had been kept up and a "demolition by neglect" order was filed against the property. That allows the city to make repairs to stabilize the structure and bill the owner for the work.

Built more than 75 years ago Old South High School has 42,000 square feet of building and sits on 2.2 acres. It was vacated as a school in 1991 and a demolition order in 2011 was

denied.

A Historic Overlay has been placed on the old school. Last week, according to Trent, the city issued a Request for Proposal to sell the school.

### Old Giffin School

On the corner of Lenland Avenue and Beech Street stands Giffin School, built in 1920. The 35,000-square foot structure was purchased by Knox Heritage and has been sold to Giffin Senior Community Partners LLC. Plans submitted by architect David Cockrill call for the former school to become a center for independent senior living, assisted living, an adult day care and a clinic.

The school had been used by Remote Area Medical and was designed by Barber and McMurry Architects.

### Standard Knitting Mill

Located at 1400 Washington Avenue the 400-million square foot industrial building at one time employed hundreds of people. Built about 1945, it remains the only standing structure associated with Standard Knitting, which began in 1900.

Purchased in 2014 with plans to repurpose the building it appears now that phase one of a plan is being put together. The end use would be mixed purpose and the initial phase is to stabilize the structure.

# Legion Post Hurt by City Zoning Rules

By Mike Steely  
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Sometimes the government rules against the wishes of the public. Consider the plight of the American Legion Post 2 just off Asheville Highway. For months the members of that organization have been trying to have the zoning changed for the old school they have been using so a buyer can operate an occasional auction there.

"The building is perfect for Mr. John Coker's operation, he doesn't plan to operate a car lot

or anything else there," Attorney Arthur Seymour told the planning commission recently.

The Legion Post has been in the historic Sunnyview School, built in 1931 and designed by Barber and Dow Architects. The building is empty now and the Legionaries have been temporarily meeting at the Red Cross building on Middlebrook as they want to move west and be closer to the veterans they serve. They've moved the Army tank that sat outside the building in order to possibly get the city to approve



American Legion members await a decision of the planning commission on their request for commercial zoning of their facility so they can sell it to a ready buyer who wants to run an auction house there. The answer was not what they wanted but they can take their case to the City Council. (Photo by Mike Steely)

rezoning the property from residential to commercial. They've appeared before the planning commission

which recommended a zoning designation of Office instead of the commercial zoning they

requested.

They went to the city and found out that the only zone that allows for the

operation of an auction is "C-4." So they applied for that designation. The buyer

**Continue on page 2**

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# Motorola chosen as E-911 System

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knox County and Knoxville finally have a new emergency radio contract. After more than two years of debate and indecision the E-911 Board voted unanimously Tuesday morning to agree to a contract with Motorola, the past supplier.

The new system will apparently allow the various users of the digital radio system to communicate with each other, adjoining counties and the state. Those users include the Knoxville Fire and Police Departments, the County Sheriff's Department, UT Police,

and various officers of the county school system, city and county agencies, public transportation, and the highway department.

Back in 2014 the board was prepared to leave Motorola and choose Harris Communications as the supplier, based on bids submitted by Harris, Tait Communications and Motorola. The users voiced concerns regarding all three service options.

Requests for bids were again issued after consulting the users and Motorola was selected as the supplier. Hugh Holt, Knox County's Procurement Director, told The Focus that the agreement runs

for seven years. Board member Brad Anders noted that a maintenance agreement with Motorola also runs for seven years.

County Mayor Tim Burchett, who chaired the E-911 board meeting, said he was comfortable with the decision and praised Holt for his negotiation with Motorola. Burchett said Hold saved nearly 50% of the original price of almost \$16 million, cutting it to \$8.6 million.

City Mayor Madeline Rogero told the meeting that she is satisfied with the agreement and City Fire Chief Stan Sharp noted that he and others had "lots of questions over

the past months" but said answers about those concerns were received and the contract vetted by the independent consulting firm of Blue Wing.

"I think Motorola can supply us with a safe system for both the fire and police departments," Sharp said.

"The public will have a good system," Burchett said, adding that the final agreement proves "that the committee system we have works."

Allen Bull, Director of the E-911 system, said, "Lots of work is ahead and working with the user committee has been great!"



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

County Commission Chairman Dave Wright places a campaign sign at the Carter Library early voting place. Early voting ends Saturday, July 30.

# Legion Post Hurt by City Zoning Rules

Cont. from page 1

is in place and accompanied the Legion members to hearings to explain his plans.

Even the MPC staff agrees that the former school is an ideal location for an auction house location. The nearby businesses along Asheville Highway are all zoned commercial but the area behind the structure is zoned for residential use. But the planning commission is limited in going against the city's rules.

Coker told the MPC that he has no plans to put merchandise outside the building; that there would only be five or six auctions a year; and mostly he wants the building for storage for merchandise and antiques. There's been no public opposition to the rezoning during the three

hearings so far.

MPC attorney Steve Wise told the planners they cannot overrule Knoxville City Regulations. The former school building is just within city limits along one of the "finger" annexations made by the city years ago. Until they decided to sell the building the post members had no idea they were within the city boundary because the post was not required to pay property taxes.

The main objection to the requested C-4 zoning is that the zoning follows the property and a future owner could use it for auto sales or any of the businesses permitted in that zone. The MPC apparently cannot recommend the commercial zoning with stipulations about its use.

Even Art Clancy, who moved to zone it for O-1

(Office) that allows no auction businesses, said the building "is perfect" for an auction. The planning members voted 5-4 for the Office designation with four members apparently siding with the American Legion request. Voting "No" were Chairman Rebecca Longmire, Len Johnson, Jeffery Roth and Herb Anders.

Two of the "Yes" voters indicated their votes were reluctant.

The matter now goes to the City Council and may be heard at the council's meeting on August 16th. Unlike the MPC the council has the power to override the current regulations. MPC Director Gerald Green said the city is currently working on revising all of its zoning regulations.

## Second Annual Emory Place Block Party

The second annual Emory Place Block Party will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The event has been organized to help bring attention to the historic Emory Place area. The goal of the block party is to create an opportunity for locals to get out and meet one another while experiencing what the area has to offer. The event is free to the public and everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

The 2016 Emory Place Block Party will have a more music centered focus with multiple acts performing at various venues around Emory Place. All of the acts are Knoxville locals and the music is sure to please with a range

including reggae, folk, indie-rock, jazz and more. A full line up, including performances by local dance groups, will be released in the coming weeks.

"Last year we had so many people say they didn't know Emory Place existed before the block party. The area has seen a great amount of growth in the last year so this year it's less about discovering Emory Place and more about celebrating it as a special little place in the city," said block party organizer Whitney Manahan about the upcoming event.

The block party promises to be a fun filled afternoon with activities and entertainment for the whole family!

The Emory Place Block Party is seeking sponsors, vendors and volunteers. Email emoryplaceblockparty@gmail.com or visit www.emoryplaceblockparty2016.com.

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# The 1936 Campaign For Governor

## Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

Hill McAlister had finally achieved his dream of serving as governor of Tennessee after two hard fought failed campaigns. The descendant of two governors, McAlister had run a strong race against incumbent Austin Peay when the latter was seeking a third two-year term in 1926. Peay had died suddenly in 1927 and McAlister ran again in 1928 against Henry Horton, who had succeeded to the governorship when Peay died. Once again, it was a bitter and close campaign, but Horton won narrowly.

McAlister had tried a third time in 1932 when Governor Horton was discredited and highly unpopular; in fact, Horton had only barely survived being impeached after the fall of Caldwell and Company just after the 1930 election. Caldwell and Company held almost \$7 million in state funds, which were lost after the banking empire collapsed. Rogers Caldwell had very close personal and business ties to Luke Lea, former U. S. senator and owner of a publishing empire that extended across the State of Tennessee. Lea was rightly considered by many to be the power behind the throne in the Horton administration and the fall of the House of Caldwell ruined both men, personally and politically.

McAlister enjoyed backing from Tennessee's senior United States senator, Kenneth D. McKellar, as well as McKellar's political partner, E. H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County political organization in each of his campaigns. McKellar was personally closer to Governor McAlister; as a member of the state legislature, McAlister had strongly backed McKellar to serve in the U. S. Senate. McAlister had also enjoyed the support of another effective political machine, that headed by Nashville Mayor Hilary Howse.

The Memphis Boss had no real personal ties to the governor, nor did he especially esteem his ability. By 1936, Tennessee was still in the throes of the Great Depression and the state's finances were hurting. As a remedy to Tennessee's financial woes, Governor McAlister had proposed a sales tax, which was anathema to Crump. The Memphis Boss immediately broke with Governor McAlister.

McAlister had wanted to seek a third two-year term, but the Memphis Boss was adamant in refusing to support the governor for reelection, although Senator McKellar was quite willing to back the governor for yet another term. McKellar attempted to change the Memphis Boss's mind,

but was unsuccessful. McAlister was, Crump snapped, "Tennessee's sorriest governor,"

When it became clear McAlister would not be a candidate again, McKellar began considering other possible candidates. The McKellar - Crump alliance had consolidated its domination over Tennessee politics, but the Memphis Boss had little to say about the coming gubernatorial race.

It was readily apparent Gordon Browning was off and running for the Democratic nomination. Browning had served twelve years in Congress and had considered running against McKellar in 1934. Senator McKellar proved to be too formidable a figure to challenge and Browning later admitted he could not secure a single commitment of support from an influential individual in Tennessee. His senatorial ambitions, however, burned brightly and he resolved to run for Tennessee's other senate seat. Nathan L. Bachman of Chattanooga had been appointed to the United States Senate in 1933 following Cordell Hull's resignation to serve as Secretary of State in Franklin Roosevelt's administration. Bachman had sought election to the United States Senate in 1924 and run a poor third and seemed to be an inviting target for a serious challenge inside the Democratic primary.

Browning ran an aggressive campaign to defeat Bachman and complained that the junior senator's own campaign seemed to be run out of McKellar's Washington office. Bachman had the full support of his senior colleague and won comfortably, although Browning made a credible race of it.

Despite having lost the primary election to Senator Bachman, Browning had established a statewide organization for himself during his unsuccessful campaign, as well as having considerably increased his name recognition amongst the voters.

It was Senator McKellar who settled upon the candidate to oppose Browning: Burgin Dossett. Dossett was from Jacksboro, Tennessee and had been the Superintendent of Education for his native Campbell County. The McAlister administration moved behind Dossett's candidacy, yet E. H. Crump made it quite clear he had not agreed to support any candidate.

Gordon Browning was an old-fashioned orator and excelled in not only speaking from the courthouse steps and improvised platforms,



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Burgin Dossett in 1936

but was excellent at meeting and greeting prospective voters. Browning, a veteran of World War I, had strong support from veteran's organizations, many of whom had supported him against Senator Bachman in 1934.

Browning was an expert in the art of invective and was a colorful speaker at a time when there were no slick campaign commercials designed after extensive polling. Browning shrewdly tried to turn the McAlister administration's support of Dossett into a liability rather than an asset.

The former Congressman told audiences that "the people of Tennessee are paying the campaign expense of Burgin E. Dossett."

Browning admitted "they may not know it, and they are certainly doing it unwillingly, but before this race is ended it will cost a million dollars to defeat that crowd."

Gordon Browning was quick to point out he was opposed to a sales tax, a stand Burgin Dossett assumed himself, yet there were few informed people in Tennessee who did not realize Governor McAlister had been all too willing to ask the legislature to impose just such a tax.

Browning delighted crowds who came to hear him speak with his denunciation of the McAlister administration and the state employees who were allegedly working hard on Burgin Dossett's behalf. Browning described lazy state employees who used state owned automobiles and other property to campaign for his opponent.

Browning was usually cheered lustily when he thundered, "I am going to put them out when I am elected governor!"

Two years later when he

sought reelection, Gordon Browning would be charged with utilizing state employees on his own behalf.

Both Gordon Browning and Burgin Dossett praised the Tennessee Valley Authority and pledged to do whatever they could to help it along. Yet, Browning scoffed that Dossett was attempting to ride into the governor's mansion by firmly grasping Franklin D. Roosevelt's shirttail.

Browning told audiences Dossett "has done everything but claim to be Roosevelt's daddy."

"I'm expecting him to do that next," Browning added.

Gordon Browning drew laughter from folks when he told the story of the fly who "rode on the chariot wheel in the fable of old. That fly looked down the road and said, 'Look at the dust we are raising.'"

There were rumblings, many of them hopeful, that Senator McKellar and E.H. Crump had parted company in the gubernatorial race. While McKellar had not made an open endorsement of Burgin Dossett by early summer, Bert Bates had come out for Dossett. Bates was McKellar's appointee to serve as the U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Tennessee. Bates was very close to the senator personally, but he was positively loathed by Crump.

McKellar had appointed Bates to office over the strenuous objections of the Memphis Boss. Bates' endorsement of Burgin Dossett was thought by many to be a prelude to a similar endorsement by Senator McKellar.

Many of McKellar's appointees followed suit or were working to elect Burgin Dossett.

Dossett opened up a line of attack charging Browning,

despite his public utterances, was not fully committed to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

E. H. Crump waited until July 18, 1936 before releasing a statement that changed the nature of the gubernatorial campaign. Crump gave his own endorsement to Gordon Browning. It was an announcement that stunned just about everyone.

The Memphis Boss pointed out he had served in Congress with Browning and found him to be a "fine, high-minded, upstanding man..." The Memphis Boss defended Browning's record on the Tennessee Valley Authority, noting they had almost identical voting records on the issue.

They were words Crump would later bitterly rue, as he soon fell out with Gordon Browning and the two men would engage in one of the fiercest political brawls in the annals of Tennessee's political history.

Crump's endorsement was followed by similar endorsements by Mayor Hillary Howse of Nashville and George L. Berry, president of the Pressmen's Union. Howse headed a potent political machine of his own in Davidson County. Berry was closely associated with the national union movement, as well the Roosevelt administration.

Burgin Dossett replied to Crump while campaigning, saying he did not regret getting "down on my knees" to beg for Crump's support and pointed out the Memphis Boss had strongly supported Governor Henry Horton in 1930 and then turned around and urged his impeachment. Dossett reminded voters that Crump had turned against Governor McAlister, whom he had supported no less than four times. Dossett picked up his attacks on Browning's record on the Tennessee Valley Authority

while serving in Congress. Dossett said, not without justification, Browning was tied to the predatory private power interests.

As the campaign wound down to its close, Dossett cried, "No fair, honest, and just governor, who has the interest of the common man at heart, can please Crump."

Crump certainly pleased Gordon Browning when the election returns from Shelby County came rolling in like a tide. 60,208 votes were tallied for Browning, compared to a paltry 861 for Burgin Dossett. Still Browning would have won without the vote from Shelby County, winning 243,463 votes to 109,170 for Dossett. Even without the huge vote from Shelby County, Gordon Browning would have won the Democratic nomination for governor.

At least one Nashville newspaper opined that E. H. Crump had supported Gordon Browning to make a point to Senator McKellar that it was Crump who ruled in Shelby County. 1936 was pretty much the nadir of Kenneth McKellar's long political career and for many, the gubernatorial election that year demonstrated that Crump could elect his favorite in a statewide election. That notion was little more than a myth, but it persisted and some relegated Senator McKellar to the role of merely Crump's lieutenant, which was not at all true.

It took only some five months before Governor Browning and E. H. Crump had an acrimonious falling out. Senator McKellar, who rightly believed Browning intended to win reelection as governor in 1938 and challenge him for reelection in 1940, prodded Crump's misgivings about Gordon Browning, and would find himself closer to Crump than ever by 1938.

E. H. Crump, who had so lavishly praised Gordon Browning in 1936, would denounce him in the bitterest terms in 1938. The 1938 gubernatorial and senatorial elections in Tennessee would prove to be one of the hardest fought political contests in the state's history.

Burgin Dossett would go on to serve with distinction as Commissioner of Education in the administration of Governor Jim Nance McCord, as well as the beloved president of East Tennessee State University.

Gordon Browning would remain a towering figure in Tennessee politics for almost two decades.

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# It takes only one event

You're where you are in life through a series of events. I suppose the fact that for every action there is a consequence comes into play. At this point, I'm pretty sure that one major event in my life dictated what paths I've taken.



**By Joe Rector**  
joerector@comcast.net

swiftly. Still, we did our share of drinking and carousing, and, in Jim's case, fighting. Daddy would have put a quick end to some of that behavior because a team of parents can

side until the end. Jim's marriage to Big Brenda will reach year 44 in August. It was at college that I met Amy. She was a Cookeville girl, and the minister of the church harassed me until I asked her out. Because Mother insisted we go away to college, I was able to find Amy and marry her 41 years ago. The chain of events that occurred after Daddy's death led to that marriage, the birth of two children, and the presence of grandson Madden.

better sniff out the wrong doings of their children. It must be said, however, that we refrained from doing many things because we understood the tough life Mother led and never wanted to disappoint her with dangerous or illegal activities that were available during those years. That includes drugs and dangerous stunts to which many teens are drawn.

Mother was the single parent in a house with 3 teenaged boys. Decisions had to be made without Daddy's input. It's because he was gone that I feel sure that Mother insisted that we go away for our first year of college. She felt that we needed to learn to be on our own and told us we could return home to attend school after that one year. She knew in her heart that none of us would move back. More than likely, Daddy would have had us stay home and attend UT to save money and keep us from doing anything stupid.

Because she insisted that we become independent, all three of us worked hard to earn college degrees and find secure jobs. Dal and Jim married early; both they and their wives were only 19. However, those marriages always remained solid; Dal's illness posed problems, but Little Brenda stayed by his

Although I've been a slow learner, Daddy's death was partly responsible for my giving up smoking. He died of lung cancer, as did Mother and Dal. I can still remember vividly each illness and the devastating effects the disease inflicted. That first loss of Daddy set in motion the eventual decision to give up such a devilish habit. Of course, I suspect that the smoking that I did for so many years was the result of watching both parents puff away for years.

I've often wondered how life might have been different if Daddy hadn't died at the age of 53. No doubt, many of the things that are part of my life would not exist, and I am sure Amy and I wouldn't have met, a fact that would have erased Lacey and Dallas' existences. What I wish is that Daddy could have watched what we boys became and have had the opportunity to meet his daughters-in-law and grandchildren. I suppose that he might have had that chance in the place he's been for so long. Life's path often takes a direction after the occurrence of just one event.



This picture of a beautiful new school bus is a much updated version from the ones my generation rode. Photo courtesy of Barron McGinnis, son of Perry and Carol McGinnis, whose family has a long history with school buses in Knox County.

## School Bells ringing in the distance!

The days of summer vacation are dwindling, and the start of school is almost here! It is fun to think back to our school days when a day was set aside to go to town. That would be downtown Knoxville. There were no malls in the sixties. When we did not drive the family car into town, we would sometimes catch the blue town bus to go shopping for school clothes.



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

Woolworths, W.T. Grants, and Lerner's were on the other side. On this day, there was no time for a movie at the Tennessee Theater or a visit to Lawson-McGee Library. Lunch was a welcome relief at the Blue Circle counter on Wall Avenue, leaving just enough time to stop at the Emery 5 & 10 and the Quality Bakery on the mall. By then, it was time to start toward the bus station for the ride home---shopping bags and all!

when few families even had a typewriter. Today, nearly all have a computer. Few families had a home phone with party lines that served six to ten households---all using the same line! Today, nearly everyone has some type of cell phone. The ways we shop and the gadgets we use have dramatically changed over time. Hopefully, the friendships that are made during the school year will never change and will last long after the school days are done. Have a great school year---be safe---and make lots of memories and friends!

It took most of the day to cover downtown. There was J. C. Penneys and The Knox on one side of Gay Street; McClellans, Kresses,

at the Blue Circle counter on Wall Avenue, leaving just enough time to stop at the Emery 5 & 10 and the Quality Bakery on the mall.

So much has changed from those earlier days

Piddle Diddle Update: Grainger County Tomato Festival, July 29-31.



2016 / 2017

### Alcoa City Schools

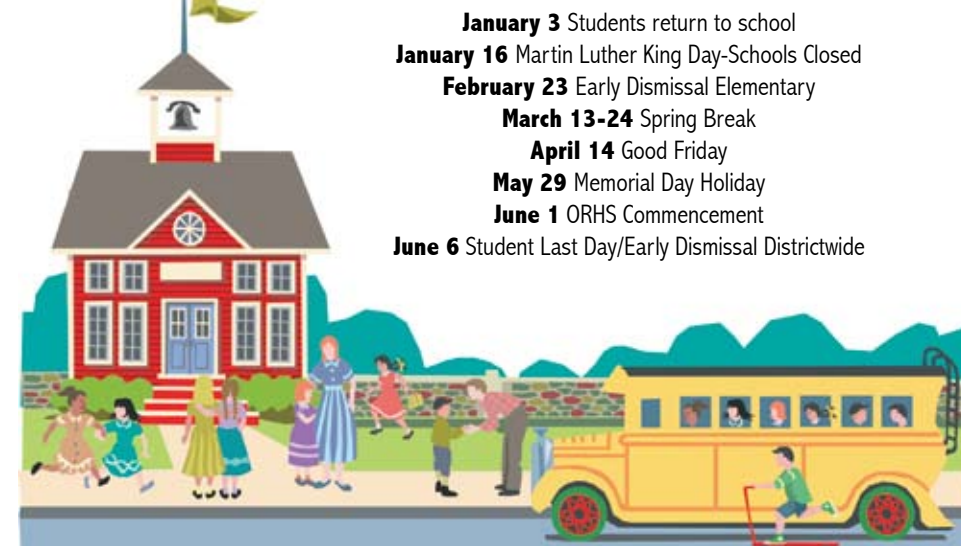
- July 25** First day of school
- August 15** Professional development/no students
- September 5** Holiday
- October 3-14** Fall break
- November 8** Professional development/no students
- November 23-25** Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 19-30** Winter Break
- January 1** Holiday New Year's Day
- January 2** Professional development/no students
- January 16** Holiday, MLK Day
- February 20** Holiday-Presidents Day
- March 13-20** Spring Break
- April 14** Holiday - Good Friday
- May 24** Last Day for Students

### Blount County Schools

- August 1** First Day of School for Students
- August 4** Election Day/ Professional Development- No Students
- September 5** Labor Day- Schools Closed
- October 3-7** Fall Break
- October 10** Professional Development-No Students
- November 8** Election Day/Professional Development- No Students
- November 23-25** Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 19-30** Christmas Break
- January 4** Students return to school
- January 16** Martin Luther King Day-Schools Closed
- February 20** Professional Development-No Students
- March 13-17** Spring Break
- March 20** Professional Development-No Students
- April 14** Good Friday
- May 15** Graduation  
WBHS- 6:00 pm  
HHS- 8:30 pm
- May 19** Last Day for Students-Abbreviated Day

### Oak Ridge Schools

- August 1** Students Report/Early Dismissal Districtwide
- August 2** Early Dismissal K-8 Only
- September 5** Labor Day- Schools Closed
- October 3-14** Fall Break
- November 8** Election Day/Professional Development- No Students
- November 23-25** Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 16** Winter Break Early Dismissal
- December 19-30** Winter Break
- January 3** Students return to school
- January 16** Martin Luther King Day-Schools Closed
- February 23** Early Dismissal Elementary
- March 13-24** Spring Break
- April 14** Good Friday
- May 29** Memorial Day Holiday
- June 1** ORHS Commencement
- June 6** Student Last Day/Early Dismissal Districtwide



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## Ten new members to join Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame

By Steve Williams

The 35th annual Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction Ceremony will be held Tuesday night at the Knoxville Convention Center.

Heath Shuler, former UT All-American quarterback, will be the guest speaker

and Voice of the Vols Bob Kesling will serve as master of ceremonies.

The 2016 Hall of Fame class includes Dr. William C. Battle (Official), Samantha Hatcher Chafin (Softball), Steve Chancey (Best All-Around), Halle Cioffi Carroll (Tennis), Charlie

Durham (Track), Joe Fishback (Football), Grandmaster "Pete" Mills (Martial Arts), John Newton (Swimming), Tommy Schumpert (Administration) and Lynn Sexton (Coach).

The induction ceremonies start at 7:30. Special award recipients

include Harrison Smith, the Chad Pennington Professional Athlete of the Year; Eric Berry, Pat Summitt Ignite Greatness Award; Zaezion Dobson, Will McKamey Spirit Award; Ben Byrd, Thanks for the Memories; and Kenny Jones, Special Recognition.

Six High School Athletes of the Year for 2016 also will be recognized. They include Caylan Arnold (Maryville), Megan Murray (West), Micha Sheetz (Webb School of Knoxville), Gashaw Duhamel (Tennessee School for the Deaf), Zach Linginfelter (Sevier

County) and Kentel Williams (Fulton).

Proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley, which serves over 7,900 youth and teens at 19 Club locations in Knox, Blount, Loudon and North Anderson Counties.

### AUSTIN-EAST HIGH 2016

## Roadrunners' goal is to 'win the state'

By Steve Williams

The goal has been amped up at Austin-East in 2016.

Last season it was to make the playoffs. This season it's to "win the state," said Coach Jeff Phillips. "That's the goal. Win it all."

The Roadrunners made great strides last fall, going 9-3 after finishing 1-9 and 2-8 the first two seasons under Phillips, who played on A-E's last state championship team in 2001.

"I feel our program right now is on the up and up," said Phillips, who saw his team advance to the second round of the playoffs in 2015 before falling to undefeated Hampton 48-38. "Now they're hungry for even more."

Austin-East, which hadn't qualified for the playoffs since 2011, defeated highly regarded Grace Christian Academy 28-23 in the regular season finale last fall to force a three-way tie for the title in Region 2-2A. Phillips said that was a victory "to show how far we've come."

Ten freshmen on Phillips' first team in 2013 will be seniors this season.

"They've come a long way," he said.

"We didn't lose any of our core guys transferring to another school, which is very important. We're trying to build a program, not just one season."

That group of 10 includes 6-3½, 215-pound Darius Harper, one of the state's top quarterbacks who has committed to Coastal Carolina.

"Obviously, we'll be led by Harper," said Phillips, "but our strength is having 10 starters returning. We also have three good running backs, good receivers and an all-state receiver in Kashif Warren."

By going from a program that basically was in "the dumps" to the state championship, this senior class, said Phillips, has an opportunity to leave "one of the greatest legacies" it could.

In addition to Harper and Warren,



Austin-East senior quarterback Darius Harper and head coach Jeff Phillips are synchronized as they work together in a passing drill last week against the secondary.

who also plays cornerback, key veterans include WR-SS Shannon Cozart, WR-WS Xavier Ligon and inside linebacker Keanu Prigmore.

Junior running back Jahson Jackson (6-0, 185) and junior LG-DT Calvin Wilson (5-10, 300) have started since their freshmen years.

Running back Gedarian Mobley is another swift returning starter. Up front right tackle Daquan Willis will be the only new starter on offense. He'll join left tackle Winston Beaty, center Knori Bone, right guard Zacc Cooke and Wilson.

Phillips wants the defense, which also returns 10 starters, to play fast but with more discipline than it did at times last season.

The A-E coach also hopes to see Prigmore (5-11, 210) pick up where he left off in 2015. "He stepped up at the end of the season and showed that he can be a dominant force," said

Phillips, noting the inside linebacker had 18 tackles against GCA, followed with 16 against Sullivan North and 16 against Hampton.

"Keanu's a tough guy. He plays with an attitude and has an attitude all the time. I think Kashif Warren may be our only player angrier than him. Kashif wants to prove everybody wrong. He reminds me of Steve Smith, Carolina Panthers receiver. And Keanu plays the same way. He plays angry and with a chip on his shoulder."

Tim Forbes and Matt Escobar will man the defensive end posts. Greg Smith and Wilson are the tackles. Chris Stevenson also is an inside linebacker. The secondary will include cornerback Garyion Hamilton and new starter Isaiah Ligon at free safety.

Austin-East will host Scott High in its season opener on Aug. 19.

## Back to Back? Catholic prepares to defend state title

By Alex Norman

### KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC 2016

For the Knoxville Catholic Fighting Irish, the 2015 season came down to finding a way to hang on against the three-time defending state champions from Fulton.

In the second round of the Class 4A playoffs, the Irish jumped out to a 26-0 lead, on the Falcons home turf no less. They'd spend the next 3 quarters trying to hang on. The 28-25 victory sent the Irish on their way to an eventual state championship, the second in program history.

"I learned that we can win an extremely tough environment, and mentally getting us over that hurdle," said Knoxville Catholic head coach Steve Matthews. "It was huge in leading us to the State Championship."

It also served as revenge of sorts for Catholic, since the Falcons had eliminated the Irish in the past two postseasons. In the middle of September these two teams will square off once again in a mid-season test that could decide who wins the Region 2 title.

"It's our biggest rival. (Fulton) Coach (Rob) Black does a great job with the Falcons, and I really respect how hard his players play for him," said Matthews. "They are usually the team to beat in Class 4A so it's always an exciting game."

Early in the season, on August 26th, the Irish get to hit the road and play a game on an SEC field. The

Irish will take on CPA in Nashville, in a game played at Vanderbilt.

"I think it's great for these young men to experience playing at Vandy," said Matthews. "We change in the SEC locker rooms and play on their field and tour the campus and indoor facility. It is a great time for our young men."

Last year the Irish had their struggles in the regular season, going 6-4. But they certainly turned things around by finishing with 9 straight victories, along a win over Pearl-Cohn in the Class 4A championship.

If the Irish are going to get back to Murfreesboro, they will count on their 15 returning starters, including 8 on offense and 7 on defense.

The Irish aren't afraid to throw the football, and will look to receivers, Cam Blakely, Chase Kuerschen, DJ Mitchell and Amari Rogers in that area. Rogers, a verbal commitment to Clemson and the 2015 Mr. Football Back of the Year winner in 2015, had surgery in April to repair a torn labrum, but is expected to be back on the field in time to start the 2016 season.

On defense the Irish play a 3-4, with strong safety

Cont. on page 2

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# HVA golfers open season Tuesday

By Ken Lay

When the Hardin Valley Academy golf teams open their respective 2016 seasons Tuesday, they will do so against a pair of top area teams at one of the area's top courses.

The Hawks and Lady Hawks will make a short trip to Oak Ridge to face Webb and Catholic and Coach Shane Chambers is ready to see how his teams stack up against premiere teams in Division II and Class A/AA.

"You have a lot of great teams and great individual players in Knoxville," said Chambers, who will begin his eighth season as the school's head golf coach. "In our district, you have teams like Farragut, Bearden and Maryville. Those are great teams.

"Then you can go down the road and play teams like Catholic, Webb and [Christian Academy of Knoxville] and those teams are always competing for state titles in their classifications."

Chambers and Hardin Valley know what it's like to face tough high school competition. The school will begin its ninth season of interscholastic golf competition and it spent the first few years in District 3-AAA, a league dominated by Halls for the last decade-plus. The boys team won a district title there before moving to District 4-AAA, a league where Farragut has been dominant for what seems like an eternity.

"We went from one great district to another,"

Chambers said.

In 2016, the HVA boys will be talented but young.

"We lost three seniors who competed for us last year at the district tournament," Chambers said. "We'll have a fairly young team.

"We'll have to get better every day and we want to be playing our best golf at district tournament time at the end of September."

Top returners for the Hawks include junior Joseph Marcinelli, senior Dylan Vieyra and sophomore Spencer Dodson. That trio will be joined by newcomer and incoming freshman Jeremy Jones.

The Lady Hawks have three returners from the 2015 squad after not having a team just two years ago.

"Last year was the first year in two years that we were able to have a girls team," Chambers said. "This year, our [returning] girls will have another year of experience and I'm excited to see how much those girls have improved.

"With the girls, like the boys, we want to be playing our best golf at the end of September."

Top returners include junior Tyra Thomas and sophomores D'Naysha Cannon and Jenna Galbraith.

Chambers said that he also has three newcomers who will look to make an impact as the 2016 campaign progresses.

By Ken Lay

Brad Schrock is a family man and he met his new extended family Monday afternoon when he was introduced as Central High School's new baseball coach.

"We're a family and we're all in this thing together," Schrock told his team at the introductory meeting. "I'm a family man and this is a new part of my family."

Schrock replaces Matt Byrd, who left to take the Clinton job this summer after pulling the Bobcats out of baseball obscurity. Byrd coached Central for three seasons and restored the once proud program back to respectability.

Now, Schrock is looking forward to making an impact on the program.

"I feel truly blessed to have this opportunity," said Schrock, who played high school baseball in Indiana

before playing in junior college in Michigan and later at Carson-Newman. "I want to maximize this opportunity. This program has a lot of tradition and history and they've built it back up little by little over the past few years.

"I can't wait to get things started. I'm just excited to be here and I'm excited to get the chance to meet more of the faculty and staff."

Schrock comes to Central after a coaching stint at Sequoyah High School. Under his leadership, the Chiefs made three consecutive State Sectional appearances. Sequoyah made a deep state tournament run in 2014 when the Chiefs finished in the top four in Murfreesboro.

He's coached college ball at Carson-Newman and Campbell University as an assistant.

He is well-respected in

the collegiate game.

"[Brad is a] grand slam hire for Central High School," Carson-Newman head coach Tom Griffin said, "Coach Schrock will establish a culture that will develop the student-athlete on and off the field.

"[He is a] master motivator who will have a positive rapport with his team and staff."

Central athletic director J.D. Lambert agreed.

"With two very successful tours as a head high school coach and experience as a Division I and Division II assistant, coach Schrock brings a tremendous reputation as a teacher of the game," Lambert said. "He brings a thirst to develop the young men that he works with on and off the field."

Schrock, 36, is married. He and his wife Megan have an 8-year old daughter Evey.

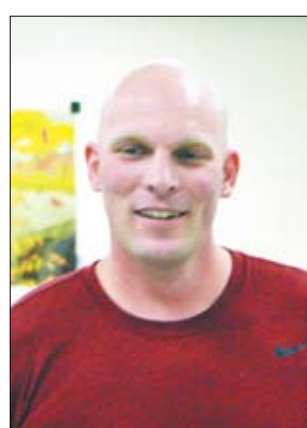


PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

**Brad Schrock was named Central High School's baseball coach recently. He replaces Matt Byrd, who departed for Clinton High School.**

Brad and Megan Schrock will celebrate their 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Aug. 3.

Brad is a Chicago Cubs fan and spends his fall Saturdays cheering for Notre Dame's football team.

# Hardworking Central golfers prepare for upcoming season

By Ken Lay

To say that Central High School golf coach Tony Patterson is excited about the upcoming 2016 golf season may be a true understatement.

"We don't have big numbers but we have quality," said Patterson, who will soon begin his 13<sup>th</sup> season as coach of the Bobcats and Lady Bobcats, "These kids have worked hard, and by different process, they've learned what they

need to work on

"You can go practice and practice and if you practice bad habits, then you'll play with those bad habits. These kids have figured it out and they love to play. They're there because they want to be there. They're not there because they have to be and I expect us to be successful. I love my job. It's fun. It's fun because I have such great kids."

The Central boys squad has four players (including three senior four-year lettermen and a freshman).

The four veterans include Kaleb Cooper, Hunter Palmer and Dane Rheinecker. They'll be joined by incoming freshman Cameron Bowles.

The boys will begin the 2016 season at the Morristown Invitational, an 18-hole event on Aug. 1.

Patterson may be Central's coach but he gets plenty of help from former players when both his teams practice at Three Ridges Golf Course. His former players always seem to show up. One such

former player is Brad Hawkins, who has had a stellar collegiate career.

"It's always great to have my former players come back and practice with my current players," Patterson said. "One of those players is Brad Hawkins.

"Yesterday [July 18] was the first day that we could practice and Brad met our team at the driving range and Brad remembered that we first met at that driving range and that was nine years ago. I really appreciate what Brad does to help our team and he knows that. Our team can only get better by practicing with Brad."

The weather has been extremely hot lately but that has not bothered the Bobcats or the Lady Bobcats. All of Central's players have practiced on their own in the heat.

"You know what kind of weather we've had since school let out," Patterson said. "But that had hasn't bothered these players. They go out every day and bang balls."

As for Central's girls, the Lady Bobcats have three players. Sophomores Alyssa Montgomery and Grace Cochran return. They'll be joined by junior newcomer Elizabeth Mitchell.

Montgomery won the Region 2-AAA Championship and posted a sixth-place finish at the Class AAA State Tournament. She's looking to have another big year. Cochran is one of the county's hardest working golfers, according to Patterson. She also showed immense improvement as time went on last season.

Mitchell is playing for the Lady Bobcats for the first time and Patterson said that she'll enjoy success as she learns from Montgomery and Cochran, a pair of high school veterans.

"These girls have all worked hard," Patterson said. "They love the game and I'm looking for a great year out of them."

The Lady Bobcats open their 2016 season at on Aug. 4 against Carter and Halls at Three Ridges.

# Back to Back? Catholic prepares to defend state title

Cont. from page 1

Jack Sompayrac, linebackers Jake Mahoney, Joe Fluker, Josh Brown, Beau Hollin, Tony Scott, and linemen LB Liverman and Charlie Connors taking on

leadership roles.

"We have a veteran team coming back that's a strong character group," said Matthews. "They have been working very hard."

Catholic also features

junior offensive lineman Cade Mays, a five-star recruit in the Class of 2018 that has already verbally committed to Tennessee.



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POWELL HIGH 2016

# Improved Panthers will try to pick up where they left off

By Steve Williams

Powell High football fans have a lot to look forward to this season. The Panthers' offense is way ahead of where it was this time a year ago and their defense already is better than last year's, says head coach Rodney Ellison.

"We look completely different," said the second-year coach, comparing the team's offense to where it was this time last year. "The kids know the offense so we're able to move a little faster. They're running great routes. The quarterbacks are making good reads."

Carson Cole, who was given the reins of Ellison's "spread up-tempo offense" as a freshman at halftime of the season opener against Farragut last year, is now a sophomore quarterback who looks like a junior.

New defensive coordinator Eric Myers already has taken the 3-3 stack defense Powell switched to after the ninth game last season "to the next level," said Ellison. "Our defense has grown by leaps and bounds. We haven't even

played the first game yet, but our defense is already better than it was last year."

After the team's fifth 7-on-7 competition in eight days last Wednesday, Ellison gave the Panthers the rest of the week off.

"We've been coming in every day since the dead period ended, lifting weights, having practice, the 7-on-7s and a lot of film study," said Ellison. "It's been a grind and started to show a little bit, so we're going to let them enjoy the rest of the week off, come back and get ready for two-a-days on Monday (today)."

Senior Conner Sepesi returned as starting quarterback last season, while Cole had moved up to the backup position prior to the first game.

"Carson kept improving," recalled Ellison. "We knew that Conner could help us at receiver. So we made that move because we knew that the future was Carson. That's going to pay big dividends because we have some really good receivers this year. Carson

was able to throw to them a lot last year and he has all of them back for the most part this year and you can see a big difference in our 7-on-7s."

Three wide receivers return -- Hunain Rasheed, Kamari Smith and Brandon Smith. Rasheed was the leading WR last season and Brandon Smith ranked No. 2. Riley Bryant, a sophomore with potential, will be another target for Cole. When the Panthers use a tight end, Bryson Reed will step in.

There's a three-way battle at running back between seniors Dayton Beason and David Robbins and freshman Bailor Walker.

Left tackle Will Hoyle and right tackle Tanner Kesterson return in the offensive line. Chase Morgan and Caleb White are competing for the starting job at left guard. Center Brandon England and freshman right guard Michael Treadwell are other probable starters up front. Treadwell played in the Tennessee-Kentucky Middle School All-Star game.

On defense, Bryson Reed



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Powell High football head coach Rodney Ellison addresses his team after 7-on-7 competition against Austin-East, Clinton and Oakdale last Wednesday at Powell. Ellison said the Panthers have been working hard in preparation for the 2016 season. Powell opens on the road at Farragut on Aug. 19.

has moved from outside linebacker to "quick" end this season. Kesterson will be the "strong" end. Young but athletic Alvin Stacy is playing the key nose tackle position.

Jonathan McQueen and Hayden Epperson are outside linebackers, while Wesley Hardin and Robbins are inside LBs. Senior middle linebacker Eric Ludwig will "direct traffic."

Starters in the secondary will be Kamari Smith and Brandon Smith on the corners and Bryant at free safety.

"We're trying to put a lot of speed on the field -- young speed," said Myers, who coached previously with Ellison at Clinton. "We're really young on defense in the back half. There will be some growing pains, but we're going to try

and work through it."

Cole will be the punter. Coach Ellison may have to check with the soccer team about a kicker.

The Panthers would like nothing more than to pick up where they left off last season. After losing their first nine games, they won their last two.

## Concord Christian Lions Preview

By Alex Norman

Building a program from scratch is a difficult process... one that requires perseverance and an ability to see the big picture.

Former Tennessee Vol running back Troy Fleming is the man in charge of that process at Concord Christian, and is the Lions head coach.

"Last year was year one for varsity football, year two for our football program and the growing pains in year one was difficult," said Fleming. "Most of our players have less than three years of football experience, but they are fast learners with big hearts. We are limited in physical capital, i.e. a stadium, locker rooms and adequate practice fields, but we made it work for what our gracious church has allowed us to use. They have been patient with us by allowing us to share facilities with them. It would take all day to write about how adventurous our game nights are with set up and take down, so I'll invite you all to our game on August 19th (the opener against Grace Baptist) at home to see!"

The schedule features 9 games, many of them a considerable distance from West Knox County. Perhaps the Unaka game will be the Lions best chance to pick up its first victory as a varsity program.

"We played them close last year with 14 total players dressed for a half, but then numbers played a factor," said Fleming. "If we can stay healthy... I think we can have a chance to play four good quarters that game."

The Lions will return 21 starters this season (7 on offense, defense

and special teams). On defense, they use a 3-4 alignment.

"My key guys are my linebackers, Todd Henningsen and Jon Roberts," said Fleming. "It's imperative that we get maximum production from our linebackers this year in order to be a formidable defense. Caleb Bethel is a wild card player for us because he's athletic enough to roam around in space to create plays from anywhere on the field. He must be disciplined though."

On offense there are significant changes afoot.

"We are finally transitioning into a full blown spread offense this year," said Fleming. "After the spring I thought from a personnel perspective we'd be a tight end oriented team, but we are heavy with "tweeners" at running back and wide receiver. Matt Kirkland has stepped in this year at quarterback for us since we lost our starter from last year and is doing an admirable job so far. Other key players are Caleb Bethel, Jon Roberts, Baylor Smith, Jon Haerberli and Jackson Duncan."

Fleming added, "Our numbers are still not where I would like them

### CONCORD CHRISTIAN 2016

to be, but we are adding players slowly. Roster size is about 20 kids for now but we have a new school year approaching."

Fleming, a licensed minister as well as a football coach, is excited about the future at CCS.

"I love these guys and am excited to see them growing as young men," said Fleming. "Being patient and consistent with tough love was how my college coaches were with me, so that's how I am with my guys. Once any coach establishes a relationship with his players, they are willing to give their all for him, and I believe with all my heart that's where we are as a program now. The biggest thing I've learned from my college and NFL experiences is that they are high school kids and not young adults, so I keep that in mind when running my program."

## Wildcats have high gridiron expectations in 2016

By Ken Lay

Oak Ridge High School will be one of the first area teams to take the field in 2016.

The Wildcats, who went 10-2 last year, will open their 2016 campaign with a key early-season Region 3-5A road game against longtime rival Clinton on Thursday, Aug. 16.

Oak Ridge finished second in the region behind Farragut, which also went 10-2 in 2016. The Wildcats suffered their lone regular-season loss to the Admirals last season.

In the game, the Admirals used a big second half to nab a comeback victory.

This year, Oak Ridge has

its eyes on a region title and the Wildcats will have a tough conference tilt to open things this year. The Dragons (4-7 in 2016) are tough at home and they made the playoffs last season.

Wildcats coach Joe Gaddis, who is in the fourth season of his second stint as coach of the Wildcats, said that expectations at Oak Ridge are high as always.

"The expectation is to win the region, make a deep playoff run and to win a state championship as always," Gaddis said.

The coach knows that that's never an easy task. ORHS's region foes include Clinton, Farragut, Campbell County, Karns and

### OAK RIDGE 2016

Lenoir City.

The Wildcats have non-league tilts against King sport Dobyns-Bennett, Anderson County, Sevier County, McMinn County and Webb.

Gaddis said he expects the Cougars and the Admirals to be two top teams in the area, although the Admirals must replace some key players who graduated after last season.

"Campbell County returns 20 starters and Farragut's JV and freshman teams have been

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# Karns All-Stars take third place in state

By Steve Williams

A few of the Karns players could be seen being consoled by a parent after their season ended one win short of the State Little League tournament finals Wednesday night at Karns. Such scenes are quick reminders that these are just 11-year-old boys.

Six years or so ago, they were just beginning to play youth baseball. In another six years from now, they could be seniors on their high school team.

They're growing up, but still young enough to enjoy the comfort of a mom's hug after a disappointing defeat.

In a team meeting with parents after a stinging 13-3 loss to Goodlettsville, Karns manager Jimmy Hartline chose to highlight the positive. He talked about how his boys finished third in the state this year after going 0-2 last year at the state as 10-year-olds.

"When tournament play began, there were 78 All-Star teams across the state," said Hartline. "We finished third in the state."

Karns hosted a team banquet Friday night (July 15) and tournament play started the following day with eight district championship teams in the field.

Displaying a strong hitting

attack and excellent speed on the base paths, Karns, the District 6 champ, stormed from behind to win its first game, defeating Montgomery Central of Clarksville 16-9.

Other first-round games saw Tullahoma beat Greeneville 19-0, Goodlettsville edge Gallatin 12-11 and Madison Central of Jackson get past Johnson City 8-6 in seven innings.

Second-day action saw Gallatin oust Greeneville 7-1, Montgomery Central eliminate Johnson City 17-12, Tullahoma shut out Goodlettsville 13-0 and Karns topple Madison Central 13-8.

Two more teams were eliminated last Monday as Madison Central rolled past Montgomery Central 14-2 and Goodlettsville stopped Gallatin 8-1.

Tuesday's play featured the winners bracket finals, with powerful Tullahoma downing Karns and submarine southpaw Riley Hartline 11-1. Goodlettsville outscored Madison Central 18-2 in the nightcap to stay alive.

With only three teams left standing, Goodlettsville ousted Karns to move into Thursday's finals against Tullahoma.

Leading 4-1 after three innings, Goodlettsville

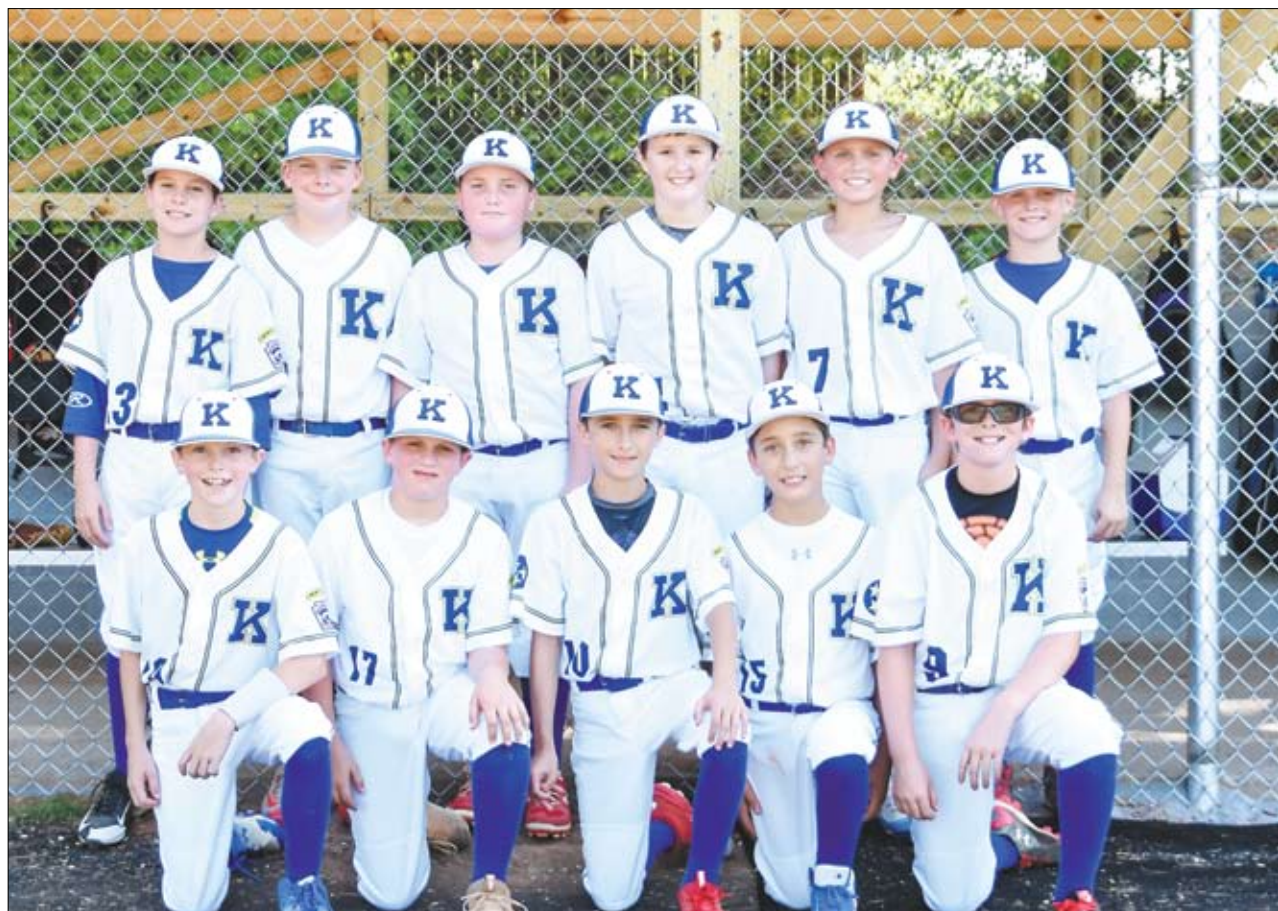


PHOTO BY LORI DAVIS

*The Karns' 11-year-old Little League All-stars captured the District 6 championship and took third place in the State tournament that was played at Karns. Back row (left to right): Jacob Franklin, Riley Hartline, Tyler Millsaps, Riley Keegan, Eddie Tan and Nick Wilson. Front row: Brandon Bilbrey, Jackson Eller, Bryce Wallace, Anthony Monteagudo and Jacob Camfield.*

erupted for nine runs in the top of the fourth. After Karns starting pitcher Riley Keegan was pulled, Jeffrey "Boog" Powell greeted reliever Jacob Camfield with a grand slam and Trent Sheely followed with a solo homer to straightaway centerfield.

Karns, getting a single from Tyler Millsaps and a double from Nick Wilson, rallied for two runs in the bottom of the fourth but couldn't prevent the game from ending on the 10-run mercy rule.

Jalen Summers, using an effective slow curve,

pitched a three-hitter and struck out nine Karns batters.

A single by Jacob Franklin in the second inning was Karns' only other hit in the game.

Tullahoma defeated Goodlettsville 11-5 in Thursday night's finals to

qualify for a berth in the Tournament of State Champions in North Carolina.

Karns' 12-year-old All-Stars were scheduled to play Tullahoma this past Saturday afternoon in state tournament opening round action in Gallatin.

# Clinton enters 2016 with 'battle-tested' team

## CLINTON HIGH 2015

By Ken Lay

When Clinton High School opens the 2016 football season it will do so with a veteran squad.

"Our offensive line is battle-tested and those kids have had to play a lot of football, said Dragons coach Josh Kerr, who begins his sixth season this fall.

Clinton went 4-7 last season and the Dragons may have experience at several key positions. But they must find a replacement for quarterback Tyler Thackerson, a versatile athlete who graduated following last season.

Two youngsters are competing to replace Thackerson, who is now at Carson-Newman. Junior Matthew Bouchard and sophomore Luke Harrison will fight for the starting quarterback job.

"Matthew has a strong

arm and Luke is fleet of foot," Kerr said.

Thackerson may be gone but Kerr is not changing his philosophy.

"We're not going to change what we do but we might change the way that we do it," Kerr said. "We have a lot of experience coming back."

Thackerson was the Dragons' leading rusher and Kerr knows that he must find a running back.

"If we can run the ball, we will be successful," Kerr said. "We have a lot of experience coming back and we feel pretty good about that. We have experience at our skill positions and we have the potential to be a pretty good football team."

Time will tell if Clinton can achieve its somewhat lofty goals but one thing is for certain. The Dragons will have to be ready to go out of the gate. Not only will Clinton be one of the first area teams to hit the field; the Dragons will open at home on Thursday, Aug. 18 against rival Oak Ridge

in a crucial early-season Region 3-5A tilt.

Top returners for Clinton include: Billy Long (senior, running back); Demerea Whitt (senior, wide receiver/defensive back); Jason Caldwell (junior, offensive lineman/defensive lineman); Jayven Booker (junior, defensive lineman); Jamon Adkins (sophomore, defensive lineman); Blake Sherwood (a senior offensive lineman who will begin his third season as a starter for the Dragons) and Jamaal Booker (senior, offensive lineman/linebacker).

Key newcomers are Cody Miles (junior, wide receiver/defensive back) and Josh Breeden (sophomore, running back/defensive back).

Key games for the Dragons include: the season opener against the Wildcats as well as Regional road showdowns at Karns (Sept. 2); at Campbell County (Sept. 16) and Farragut (in the regular-season finale on Oct. 28).

Clinton's other home

conference game is against Lenoir City on Sept. 30.

The Dragons' non-league slate of games includes

home showdowns against Rhea County (Sept. 19);

Christian Academy of Knoxville (Oct. 7) and

Heritage (Oct. 21). Clinton

will also have a road game against Morristown East on Aug. 26.

## Wildcats have high gridiron expectations in 2016

Cont. from page 3

really good in each of the last two years," Gaddis said.

Team strengths, according to the coach, include experience at the skill positions and team speed and quickness.

The Wildcats, however, are inexperienced on both fronts.

"We're inexperienced on both the offensive and defensive lines," Gaddis said.

Top returners for the Wildcats include: Tee Higgins

(a senior wide receiver and defensive back who recently committed to Clemson); Kyndall Clark (senior, linebacker); Caleb Brinkman (senior, offensive lineman); Chase Kimbro (senior, running back/linebacker); Jordan Graham (sophomore, running back); Jacob Miner (senior, defensive back), Adarius Simpson (junior, running back/defensive back) and Jack Borchers (junior, offensive lineman/defensive lineman).

Key newcomers are: Tre Jackson (sophomore, running back); Adarius Cox

(junior, offensive lineman); Jacob Gross (senior, defensive lineman); Jeremy Mitchell (sophomore, wide receiver, outside linebacker); Caelan Thompson (sophomore, defensive back); Ramar Hawkins (a junior offensive lineman and defensive lineman who transferred in from Georgia); Kai Reese Pendergrass (sophomore, wide receiver/defensive back) and Johnny Stewart (a junior quarterback, who will see his first significant varsity action this season).

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

### Claiming Peace

A friend recently said she was disengaging from social media because of the political battles that rage there like everywhere else in these troubled times. I too have debated “tuning out” and proverbially running away to a monastery as people have done throughout history. Maybe I should claim a “safe zone” like the PC crowd demands.

My Dad fought in WW II as did many others of the Greatest Generation. What if he had run away from Tojo or Hitler? He didn’t and neither did Navy Seal, Marcus Luttrell, the Lone Survivor who recently challenged me to, “fight for this country. Your war is here,” not overseas. I’m convinced our freedom and the fate of our country rides on this November’s election. I cannot play it safe or shirk my duty when others have given their all.

We Americans are at war

with each other, Islamic terrorists and foreign powers like Iran, Russia and China. It amazes me that some PollyAnnas don’t see terrorists walking among us, dysfunctional government, godlessness and civil strife as problems. A fellow parishioner told me he thought Obama was doing a great job and everything was just fine in America and the world. How can two people with such similar backgrounds see things so differently? Perhaps one of us is disengaged from reality.

Sometimes I worry about being behind the news cycle with a weekly column. And yet, it is a tragedy that my essay The Blue Line of July 18, 2016 still remains contemporaneous as police officers are pilloried and assassinated by anarchists who justify themselves by masquerading as victims. The

real victims are innocent bystanders slaughtered by thugs in Chicago and on Main Street, not by police. Mr. President, Reverend Sharpton, where is your outrage for the nightly carnage in Chicago? The disconnect is as staggering and disingenuous as is Hillary’s reluctance to speak the truth and name radical Islam as the source of worldwide terrorism.

I have to admit that Trump was not first, second or perhaps even my third choice for President. However, he is now the best hope for our country and the world. We need a strong leader, not a career politician. We’ve seen what career politicians bring. We need a wartime President, just as England needed Churchill in 1940. I was put off by Trump’s brash style and verbiage. But I got over it; apparently Ted Cruz could not. Words don’t destroy; actions do. And when I consider Hillary Clinton (HRC) as the alternative to Trump, there is no contest. Only a fool would not vote or throw their vote away on the Libertarian or Green Party candidate.

No honest person can dispute that Hillary Clinton lied to the American people and Congress. Her record of ineptness and dishonesty disqualifies her from even a low level security

clearance, let alone Presidential responsibility and the keys to America’s nuclear weapons. Her incompetence as Secretary of State with the Russian “reset,” the engineered fall of Gaddafi and the resulting Libyan civil war with Benghazi should disqualify her from Presidential consideration. But there are true American zombies who are willfully uninformed and will vote for HRC and their continued enslavement. Do you realize that it was Lincoln’s Republican party that freed the slaves, fought against the Jim Crow laws of Southern Democrats, and championed the civil rights movement of the 1960s? Civility prevents me from quoting the racist and guttural remarks of LBJ, the architect of The War on Poverty, which produced governmental enslavement of black Americans.

Carl Bernstein, of Woodward and Bernstein fame, recently spoke of America’s “culture war” and how the November Presidential election will bring more than just a winner. It will determine the “irreversible” direction of our country. I believe Bernstein, the darling of the the leftist media, academia and Democrats everywhere, is right. America is at a crossroad. If HRC is elected president the America we have known

will be gone forever. Oh, and don’t forget, Clinton’s Foundation is still under investigation by the FBI. However, I have no misconceptions that Comey and “company” would ever indict the Democrat Presidential nominee. As Trump said, “The fix is in.”

One of my friends often says she’s “Claiming peace” in the midst of turmoil. I like that perspective. Soldiers need time away from battle and are periodically sent away for R&R (rest and relaxation). Amidst the chaos, I’ve been meditating on Psalm 121:1. I have a Bible app on my iPhone and I also use the powerful e-Sword tool on my laptop. Both afford me different translations and perspectives of scripture. I like the NIV best, but the poetry of the King James’ translation is unequalled.

The Psalmist said, “I lift up mine eyes to the hills, from whence cometh my help.” In the King James version there is no question mark after verse one as in the NIV translation. I like that perspective. In antiquity holy places were associated with heights like Mount Sinai.

We have a cabin in Townsend. As I looked out this morning over the Townsend Valley and the encircling mountains, I thought “Surely, the

presence of the Lord is in this place.”

As I said last week, I’m drawn to moving water and especially cascading mountain streams. There is a risk living so close to God’s Smoky Mountains. We too often take for granted what is familiar and don’t seek wisdom and solace in these high places with life-giving water. As I hiked one of my favorite trails along a tributary of Little River, I sought renewal amidst God’s creation. And I was healed by mountains and cataracts which tumble into deep pools, metaphors for turbulence within God’s creation and His presence in the deep pool of my soul.

The battle is now rejoined as I, like so many others, struggle against the “rulers and powers and forces of darkness.” I’d rather think and write about anything but the sickness of our country. However, I don’t have that luxury. As Lincoln said in his Gettysburg Address, “We are engaged in a great war” testing whether our nation will survive. The Big Lie is championed by the acolytes of evil and party apparatchiks who still seek to manipulate zombies and enslave free men. It is our time to hold the line and push back the darkness.

You may email Dr. Ferguson at [fergusonj@knoxfocus.com](mailto:fergusonj@knoxfocus.com)

## Hobo Visits The North Carolina Arboretum

Hobo the Wonder Dog continues celebrating the National Park Service’s Centennial year with a visit to the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina. We decided to take a brief detour to The North Carolina Arboretum. The Arboretum is



By Howard Baker, RN BSN

than a collection of trees and shrubs—it is an amalgamation of senses offering a sensation of belonging and being one with nature. A visit to The North Carolina Arboretum is one you will want to relish—not rush. Whether you have a little or a lot of

time to spend here—it will enrich and renew your senses

The North Carolina Arboretum offers ten miles of hiking trails connecting to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Lake Powhatan to name a few. Regardless of your fitness or experience level, I am sure there is a hiking or biking trail for you to enjoy. From azaleas, hardwoods, and rhododendrons, to the sounds of creeks rushing by—nature is calling you. The Arboretum offers experiences from bonsai, to towering forests

and the manicured gardens in between. With more than sixty-five acres of cultivated gardens, ten miles of hiking trails, and educational opportunities, there is surely something for everyone, including your dog, at The North Carolina Arboretum.

The North Carolina Arboretum is located just south of Asheville, North Carolina. I describe The Arboretum as a sophisticated or refined amusement park for your senses. With exhibits, self-guided tours, insects, reptiles, and mammals, our experience excited our senses while relaxing our souls. Asheville has to be the most dog friendly destination in our region. Lodging and dining with your pooch in Asheville is not a problem.

Hobo the Wonder Dog gives The North Carolina Arboretum four paws up for their dog friendly policies and attitude toward the family pet. Service animals are

permitted inside all buildings and the Bonsai Exhibition Garden. Remember, the privilege of enjoying more places with our trusted four-legged travel companions depends on those who have traveled before us. We encourage observation of proper dog etiquette wherever you travel. Keep Fido under control and on a leash at all times—no longer than six feet. I do not recommend retractable leashes. Dispose of excrement in trash receptacles and never leave anything but paw prints on trails and positive impressions on people. Be prepared for accidents by carrying dog waste bags and supplies for quick cleanups. Good manners, social skills, and basic obedience training for your dog paves the way for traveling more places and acceptance of our dogs.

Hobo the Wonder Dog will visit The North Carolina Arboretum



again in the fall and we hope to see you on the trails of the Arboretum.

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# Everyone Needs Compassion



**By Mark Brackney,  
Minister of the  
Arlington Church  
of Christ**

One of the dangers of overexposure to social media and the news is that we become desensitized over time. The more pain we see or experience, the more difficult it is to care each time we are exposed to

something like the following: "Just found out I have cancer." I would likely respond to that post: "Oh, no. I am so sorry. Please know that I will be praying for you." Now that is not wrong for me to post that. I am truly sorry. But what if I met my friend for coffee and he says, "I just found out I have cancer. I am scared to death and don't know how to process this."

We start to talk about his fears and what things need to happen as far as further testing and treatment, what needs his family might have now and in the future. My face-to-face time with my friend (not Facebook) moves me to compassion in a much greater degree than reading a post on line. From a distance, it is easy to disconnect because we don't want to feel the pain. But when you are face to face, you are walking with the person. From a distance we care less.

Christ wants us to have hearts of compassion. The Greek word in the New

Testament for compassion is *splogchnizomai*. It means to be moved inwardly to one's bowels. During the first century when the New Testament was being written, the people believed that compassion originated from within your bowels because that was the deepest part of your body. But this word doesn't stop with an ache of empathy. It means you are moved to action. You can't just sit back and watch it. Compassion demands action. Caring is not "liking" a post, it is getting involved and loving someone. We can click all day long on the many posts we read, but clicking doesn't change anything.

When Jesus and the word compassion are found together in the Bible, Jesus gets involved. For example: "Two blind men were sitting beside the road. When they heard that Jesus was coming that way, they began shouting, 'Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!' Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him" (Mt. 20:29-30, 34).

Frederick Beuchner writes: "Compassion is the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy finally for you."

The more I focus on Jesus, the less I care about me and the more I care about others. Let us be like John the Baptist who said, "He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less" (John 3:30).



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Local florist Diane Storm from Abloom Florist delivered 84 Be Happy Bouquets Thursday to surprise residents at Williamsburg Villas Senior Living facility. Diane decided to deliver to Williamsburg Villas Senior Living because a lot of the members at the facility don't have family—but she's also paying a surprise visit to Christine Popejoy who owned Christine's Flowers for years. Storm was helped by Patrick Hogin, Peg Hart, Tracey Berkay and Judith Brock.

it. For example, breaking news announces another mass shooting. Nowadays we think, "Here it goes again; another tragic killing." And then we go on with our day. But do you remember Columbine High School in Colorado? That school shooting occurred on April 20, 1999. Our country was riveted to the horror of thirteen killed and twenty wounded. But today, we are quite frankly numb to these kinds of stories.

Let's say I see you post

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## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

### MISC. NOTICES

#### PUBLIC NOTICE:

Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization Technical Committee Meeting, August 9, 2016

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee will meet on **Tuesday, August 9th at 9 a.m.** in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, TN. Visit [www.knoxtrans.org/meeting](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meeting) for preliminary and final Agendas or contact the TPO if you would like a copy of the final Agenda. If you need assistance or accommodation for a disability please notify the TPO three business days in advance of the meeting and we will be glad to work with you in obliging any reasonable request.  
865-215-2694 or [dori.caron@knoxtrans.org](mailto:dori.caron@knoxtrans.org).

#### LEGAL SECTION 94

Knox County will receive bids for the following items & services:  
Bid 2412, Doors and Related Supplies, due 8/16/16;  
Bid 2413, Whiteboard Skins, due 8/18/16;  
Bid 2414, Gym Floor Repair, Refinish and Installation Services, due 8/17/16;  
Bid 2415, Roofing Supplies, due 8/19/16  
For additional information call 865-215-5777, stop by the Procurement Division, 1000 North Central St., Suite 100, Knoxville, TN 37917, or visit our website: [www.knoxcounty.org/purchasing](http://www.knoxcounty.org/purchasing). To bid on Knox County surplus items, go to [www.govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com).

#### NOTICE OF AUCTION

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