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Knoxville Convention and Exhibition Center to be renamed

Chip Barry displays a proposed logo for the new name of the Convention and Exhibition Center. If approved by City Council the renovated facility may open in April. Photo by Mike Steely.



By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knoxville visitors, newcomers and many local residents have been confused for years about events being held at the Knoxville Convention Center. The problem is there are two "Centers" in the World's Fair Park just off Henley Street.

Separated by The Tennesseean hotel, the Knoxville Convention Center is the one on Clinch and the Knoxville Convention and

Exhibition Center is the one next to the historic L&N Depot below the Holiday Inn. The similarity in names might end soon when the Knoxville City Council gives approval of a vote of the Public Properties Naming Committee.

The committee, headed by council member Lauren Rider, met Wednesday afternoon to consider an application to rename the Convention and Exhibition Center as the "World's Fair Exhibition Center."

Built in 1982 for the World's

Fair the facility is undergoing renovations to help market the building. It's managed as part of the other "Convention Center" and the hope is the re-branding will end the confusion.

Chip Barry, chief of operations, submitted the suggestion to the committee and included a copy to Mary Bogart, convention center manager, and Kim Bumpas of Visit Knoxville. He spoke to the committee and introduced the suggested logo for the building.

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PHOTO BY DARIUS HARPER

The Morningside Heights Homeowners Association recognizes acts of heroism and kindness by plane crash responders Dexter Jordan, Jackquelyn Cox and Alyssa Cox-Lewis. From left to right: George Kemp, one of MHHA's Board of Directors, Jordan and granddaughter Kahleya Brown, Knoxville City Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie, Cox and Cox-Lewis.

Plane crash heroine: East Knoxville homes put in harm's way

By Steve Williams

"Thank God everybody is alive. But it never should have happened."

Those were the words of Alyssa Cox-Lewis, who was part of three families recognized by the Morningside Heights Homeowners

Association Feb. 10 for assisting at an East Knoxville plane crash site in December.

After the Bingham, Jordan and Cox families were awarded certificates "for acts of heroism and kindness," Cox-Lewis spoke out against pilot training methods used out of the small South Knoxville airport just across the Tennessee River.

"Different companies use Island Home to train pilots," said Cox-Lewis. "They turn the engine off and they simulate engine failure to test the pilots that they are training to see their response to it."

"Ideally, they would get the engine back on

and land the plane like normal. But essentially for about 30 seconds to a minute, they are engineless flying over our houses. And the failure of this plane (that crashed in East Knoxville) was caused by them being unable to start the engine again."

Alyssa added: "We've been doing it ... if you cut an engine over people's houses, it's only a matter of time before something happens."

Melvin Tate, president of the Morningside Heights Homeowners Association, called it

Continued on page 4

Sidewalks get City attention

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The City of Knoxville is moving ahead with an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Transportation to conduct a city-wide sidewalk study.

The Knoxville City Council will discuss the project in Tuesday's meeting and an agreement with TDOT in the \$160,000 plan of which the city will pay \$40,000 as its part.

TDOT and the city may also fund a \$1,050,000 sidewalk project along Atlantic Avenue with the city's share to be \$210,000.

The Pleasant Ridge Sidewalk Project at Wilson Road may also receive an additional \$46,718 to increase the contract with Adams Contracting, LLC, to just over \$735,000. The council may also discuss extending the deadline on completion of that project.

The council is also being asked to allow the mayor to enter into an agreement with Roger's Group, Inc., for a \$7.7 million contract to resurface city streets.

Councilmember Lauren Rider is suggesting Bob Whetsel to serve on the Knoxville Golf Advisory Committee. Mayor Madeline Rogero is requesting approval to reappoint Mike Fowler and Chuck Morris to the Public Arts Committee.

Rogero is also asking to reappoint Amanda Busby to the

Continued on page 2

Patti Bounds seeks re-election to school board

Last week Patti Bounds launched her campaign to run for reelection to represent the 7th District on the Knox County School Board.

Bounds, who is currently serving her second term as Chair of the Board, has made it a priority to visit all 89 schools.

Bounds joined the school board in 2014. The non-partisan election for the 7th District seat is set for May 1. Bounds has no opponent.

"I believe everyone has a

stake in the success of public schools. When schools are strong and students succeed everyone benefits. Together we are investing in the future of our children, community, and nation."

Bounds partnered with other board members and legislators to push for an end to K-2 testing successfully eliminating it for Knox County students.

As a board member, Bounds is responsible for helping

to oversee a \$471 million budget, which included a raise for certified and non certified employees last year.

If re-elected, Bounds plans to continue to ensure high student achievement, continue to improve KCS culture, and work to close the gap in disparities.

Bounds is a member of the Knox County Retired Teachers Association, Tennessee School Board Association, the National School Board Association,

serves on the Great Schools Partnership Board, serves on the YOKE Board, is a member of the Halls Business and Professional Association, is a member of the Powell Business and Professional Association, is a member of the Halls Crossroads Women's League and attends Calvary Baptist Church.

For more about information, check out: www.pattibounds.com.



Patti Bounds



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Duty to Render Aid

In the final episode of Seinfeld, the four main characters are sent to jail for a year for failing to render aid to someone getting mugged (if you have not seen it yet, I am not sorry, it aired 20 years ago).



By **Jedidiah McKeenan**
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There is a similar statute in Tennessee that requires that individuals render aid, so listen up to what I am about to tell you!

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated section 55-10-103 if a driver of a vehicle is involved in an accident and there is any damage to any vehicle or injuries to a person, the driver is required to provide to any other driver's their name, address, and registration number.

That's not all though! The statute goes on to state that drivers shall, "render to any person injured in the accident reasonable assistance, including the carrying, or the making of arrangements for the carrying, of the person to a

physician, surgeon or hospital for medical or surgical treatment if it is apparent that treatment is necessary or if carrying is requested by the injured person."

So is there a duty to render aid? Yes! However, the good news is that the statute does not state any punishment if you do not give aid, so if do not provide aid, thankfully you will not be facing a year in jail like the characters in Seinfeld. Having said that, I think we can all agree it's always a good thing to help those in need who you have the ability to help.

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

What are the secrets of winning campaigns?

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

With the Knox County Primary Election now two months away candidates for the May 1st election could take some tips from three newly-elected first-time Knoxville City Council members.

Gwen McKenzie, Lauren Rider and Stephanie Welch appeared together at the First District Democrats meeting last week and answered questions and commented on their victorious primary and general elections. Several candidates for county commission and the school board attended the meeting which was hosted by Reverend Harold Middlebrook.

The councilwomen openly discussed when and why they decided to run, how they organized their campaigns, and what they did during the campaigns— from publicity efforts by them and their volunteers to door knocking and telephoning. All three have not held public office prior to the election but all were active in their neighborhoods on issues and in campaigns for other candidates.

The three, part of five newcomers to council



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Councilmember Gwen McKenzie speaks about her recent campaign for Knoxville City Council. Rev. Harold Middlebrook watches as she and newly-elected councilmembers Stephanie Welch and Lauren Rider talk about their successful campaigns for office.

that also includes Seema Singh-Perez and Andrew Roberto, mentioned the importance of finding an effective treasurer and all three consider their positions on council a full-time job on top of their existing jobs.

McKenzie said that the work it takes as a council member is a "labor of love" and said that researching a resolution or vote on every issue is important. She said that time management is key as well.

Welch and McKenzie said their campaigns led to them becoming active on social media, which was new to them.

Rider, District 4 council member, said she had

been asked to seek office for several years.

"I spent ten years of saying 'No,'" she said.

All councilwomen said they had about a half-dozen close campaign workers and, at times, a group of 20 to 30 that assisted.

Welch, who represents District 1, said she used a voter list every day and discovered many people who were purged from voting. She said one of the most difficult things for her was asking for campaign donations. She said that one of the larger boosts for her campaign was a successful kick-off announcement.

McKenzie, who emerged from a field of 13 primary

candidates for the District 6 seat, said she didn't campaign on Sundays but visited various churches for service.

The three winners said their total campaign funds ranged from about \$17,000 to \$30,000 from contributions and money they put into the effort.

McKenzie advised that a candidate should pick three issues and stick to those during a campaign. She suggested ignoring negative comments and trying to have face-to-face conversations with voters.

Welch said she spent a week working on her message and then tried to keep her campaign from taking a negative position.

On campaigning Rider said, "You don't stop, it shows you are willing to work when you get into office."

All three women said they were apprehensive about the final vote and didn't realize their victories until the final vote count. Welch said that the victories by them and the two other novice candidates "galvanized" the voters and noted that now "so many other people are running" for county and state office.

Sidewalks get City attention

Cont. from page 1

Civil Service Merit Board and reappoint Ellen Lee and Mamosa Foster to the Board of Equalization.

Short-term rental legislation in Nashville could also be discussed and currently has a "place holder" on the agenda.

The police department is asking the council to permit the mayor to apply for and accept a five-year Law Enforcement and Behavioral Health Partnership for Early Diversion Grant from the federal Department of Health. The \$1,233,750 grant request requires a local contribution of \$416,250. The idea is to expand programs to divert adults with mental illness from the criminal justice system to community based services prior to arrest and booking.

The police department is also asking the council to approve a \$36,510 agreement with National Building Service, Inc., for janitorial services at four off-site locations.

Several agenda items are aimed at updating the City Charter dealing with Building, Electrical, Energy, Fuel Gas, Green Construction, Mechanical, Plumbing and Residential Codes.

On the consent agenda is the purchase of two benches for James Agee Park.

Commission increases gift allowance

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

An unexpected debate led to a split vote when the Knox County Commission considered raising the allowable gift to county employees from \$35 per event to \$50. Commissioner Carson Dailey had placed the motion and said in the Tuesday Work Session that the increase would put the employees in the same category as state employees and in tune with Tennessee ethics guidelines.

It might have been passed along quickly except for questions from Commissioners Hugh Nystrom, Dave Wright and Brad Anders. Nystrom said he didn't want the increase to look like a pay raise and asked about dinners or events where the ticket price is perhaps \$100.

Commissioner Wright asked the law director if he attended a Jimmy Buffet concert on \$250 tickets from his son what would happen. Law Director Bud Armstrong explained that family gifts are excluded and so are events where the employee is not appearing as a county employee.

Chairman Randy Smith, in talking about future ethics reforms, said he wished they had started the work session

with something that didn't involve money, adding he wonders how it will look to the public.

Smith also said that any change in the ethics standard would apply to all county employees, not just the commissioners.

The vote to approve the change was 8-3 with Smith, Nystrom and Anders voting "No." The amendment to the Knox County Code of Ethics says "gifts or anything of value."

The commission voted unanimously to pass on to the regular meeting today the First Reading of changing the Knox County Charter to permit an outside auditing firm to serve an undesignated length of time, to be reviewed each year. The matter may go on the ballot in August after two public hearings. The first of those hearings may be prior to the commission's March meeting.

Currently the outside auditor, Pugh CPA, is in its last four year contract and may not bid on continuing at the end of their contract. The current limit of eight years would give way to an open-ended agreement between an auditing company and the county.

Audit Committee Chairman Jim Morrison said that rather than

rotate the outside firm every four years the rotation of a partner in the firm could be rotated. He said that other counties do not regulate how long a company can serve as auditor.

Finance Director Chris Caldwell said the change to an unlimited contract would mean cost savings to the county.

Commissioner Anders said, "We really feel like we have confidence with what we have," referring to Pugh CPA.

The commission also discussed moving overseeing the duties of the Internal Auditor to the Audit Committee from the full commission.

Metropolitan Planning Commission Director Gerald Green addressed the commission in support of a Smith resolution to ask the state legislature to oppose any comprehensive growth plans. Green said that requiring a plan for growth beyond the city limits would be an "impediment" to controlled growth in the county.

"We need a plan for the county but can do that with sector plans," Green said. The decision now goes to the regular meeting agenda.

Green also said he can support a separate resolution that seeks state legislative action, to

permit the county to act as the final approval of current or future subdivision regulations.

"We see no issue," he said but added suggestions to the request for state rules on the powers of who controls subdivisions. Green said he suggests keeping the public hearings and also leaving the final plat approval with the planning staff.

Commissioner Anders said he applauds Green and his staff for their work on the matter.

Smith's resolution to the state lawmakers says that subdivision regulations currently become effective without a review or approval of the commission. The matter apparently came to the commission's attention with the MPC now requiring sidewalks in certain new subdivisions located near schools or near existing sidewalks.

Commissioner John Schoonmaker questioned the proposal to increase payments of the Board of Equalization members to \$125 a day and the chair and secretary's pay to \$135 a day. He asked that the Property Assessor attend today's meeting and explain the request.

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Publisher's Position

School Safety: Nothing More Important



By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
 publisher@knoxfocus.com

Last week both the print and electronic media reported on an incident at Holston Middle School. It caused a firestorm and called into question just how effective the school system's security procedures are. Had this incident not immediately followed the mass shooting at a Florida school, it might have gone unnoticed. Instead, it is, at the very least, disturbing and cause for concern on the part of parents and grandparents.

The incident involved a alleged shooting threat at Holston Middle School,

which caused the principal to telephone the suspected student's mother. Law enforcement was not notified and discovering the threat on their own, eventually found the boy thought to have made the threats. The principal at Holston, according to Superintendent Bob Thomas, did not contact any of the three entities as required by protocol to evaluate the threat. Since that time, teachers at Holston and at least one candidate for the Knox County Board of Education have rallied around Principal Kathryn Lutton.

As it turns out nothing bad happened, but the entire episode called into question a very serious matter: do school officials follow their own prescribed safety protocols and is the security effective? Keep in mind, Knox County taxpayers pay literally millions of dollars to keep our children secure in our schools. Sometime after the Sandy Hook shootings, the Knox County School system hired more than one hundred

security officers for each and every school in our community. Sad to say, but even this does not always guarantee the safety of our children as evidenced by the fact the security officer in Parkland never even entered the school when the youngsters were being gunned down.

Clearly every school system, especially in light of all that has happened, needs protocols and policies to be prepared for what we all hope will never occur. If protocols and policies are not followed in these instances, why do we have them? Not only do these policies and protocols matter, they are critical when the unthinkable happens. Quite unfortunately, in these situations there is a tendency on the part of the school system to operate in a defensive mode and assume an attitude to preserve, protect, and defend the system itself. Naturally, that same attitude does not lend itself to keeping the safety of the children first and foremost

in mind.

The Knoxville Police Department rushed to say school security is adequate. This ignores a statement made by Sergeant Jason Hill of the KPD, who said he believes there is a "flaw" in the Knox County Schools' security system. Hill said the Holston incident was "not the first time" law enforcement officials have not been notified of a potential threat in a timely fashion. Hill pointedly said there have been several occasions when the Knox County School system has known for "hours" of a potential threat and had not reported it to the proper law enforcement agencies. While giving the Knox County School system's security apparatus its approval, the KPD did say there needed to be some "tweaks" here and there.

A young man in Oak Ridge has been arrested and charged with making threats to "shoot up the school" and fortunately, the youngster claimed it was a joke, although he was

expelled. In that particular instance, the prospective threat was promptly and properly reported to law enforcement professionals. Another local young woman was later arrested for having made threats against another student.

Teachers and administrators are mere human beings, just like you and me. Like all of us, they can make mistakes and we ought to be understanding about those things. That being said, what is impossible to understand is why anyone would take it upon himself or herself to ignore the stated protocols to ensure the safety of our students. Even if the gamble should pay off, the wager involves the potential lives of children and that is too great a risk to take.

It is often said that some politicians never let a crisis go to waste. Apparently a candidate for the Knox County Board of Education used the incident to promote himself for public office. This is absolutely disgraceful. The people of

that district ought to keep in mind they have the opportunity to pass upon a candidate who shows less interest in the safety of students than self-promotion and wallowing in an opportunity to ingratiate himself with teachers and administrators at a school his child attends.

There is no excuse for any Knox County school personnel for not following to the letter the stated protocols and proper measures for reporting and evaluating any perceived threat to the students. At least in this instance, Superintendent Bob Thomas and the Knox County School system have the opportunity to fix the problems, reiterate there will be no future tolerance for failure to strictly adhere to stated safety protocols, and strengthen ties and improve cooperation with local law enforcement agencies. There may not be a second chance to do so.

Karns High School PTSA Launches Shoe Drive

Shoe donations to go to School Communication Technology

Karns High School PTSA is conducting a shoe drive through March 16, 2018 to raise funds for school communication technology. The

PTSA has partnered with Funds2Orgs, which will purchase the shoes donated. The money PTSA gets from the sale of shoes will go toward upgrading the school's communication technology. Anyone can help by donating gently worn or new shoes to Karns High

School. All donated shoes will then be redistributed throughout the Funds2Orgs network of microenterprise partners in developing nations. Funds2Orgs helps impoverished people start, maintain and grow businesses in countries such as Haiti, Honduras

and other nations in Central America and Africa. Proceeds from the shoe sales are used to feed, clothe and house their families. One budding entrepreneur in Haiti even earned enough to send her son to law school.

"We are excited about the shoe drive," said Beth Rhodes, KHS PTSA President. "We know that most people have extra shoes in their closets they would like to donate to us and help those less fortunate

become self-sufficient. It's a win-win for everyone," added Rhodes.

By donating shoes to the Karns High School PTSA, the shoes will be given a second chance and make a difference in people's lives.

Knoxville Convention and Exhibition Center to be renamed

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noting that the logo and the flags used during the 1982 World's Fair will decorate the windows at the center.

The building is more than 66,000 square feet and the \$2.1 million renovation includes a new heating and air system, roof repairs and new bathrooms. The rebranding will go before city council for approval of the naming committee's action.

"We'll be branding and marketing the Exhibition Hall in a different way," he said. The renovated building hopes to open in April and already there are

sporting events booked there. Barry said he plans to move two exhibit cases there and may invite the public to submit World's Fair items for display.

He said the floor space can hold 10 basketball courts and other courts for indoor sports practice and competition.

The new logo includes the flame from the original fair logo and committee member Molly Gilbert spoke up and said that her father-in-law, David Gilbert, designed the original flame for the fair.

Barry said that the Design Center and Visit Knoxville got together to

design the full logo which also includes a representation of the Rubik's Cube from the original fair, now on display above the center in the Holiday Inn.

He said there will be new directional signs at Clinch and Henley Streets and in the World's Fair Park.

Members of the Public Property Naming Committee include Rider, Gilbert, Paul Armstrong, Ronnie Collins, Mabrey Duff, Pat Harmon, Jim Johnson, David McGinley, Mary Nietling, Bryan Berry, Sharon Davis, Donna Hill, Betty Jo Mahan, and Amy Midis.

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Sheriff candidates to meet Face to Face campaign

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

One of the things that both candidates for Knox County Sheriff will have to face is the current policy of no face-to-face visits by relatives to inmates at the Knox County Detention Center and the rising voices who want a different policy.

Currently, inmates being held there can only have personal visits from their attorneys or clergy.

Relatives are restricted to video or phone visits there. The county made about \$70,000 last year as its part of a commercial company's installation there, which cost the county nothing.

Tex Pasley spoke to the issue last week at a meeting of the Knoxville Progressive Action Committee. Pasley, a Nashville attorney and activist with the No Exceptions Prison Collective, is in the city to push for changes in jail visitation and other prisoner rights. He and Face to Face Knox, local promoters of returning the detention center to allowing personal visits by family to inmates,

are determined to be heard by the two Republican Primary candidates for sheriff, Tom Spangler and Lee Tramel.

The proponents of face to face visits are planning to attend the South Knoxville Alliance meet and greet of sheriff and mayor candidates Monday at 6 p.m. at the Dogwood Elementary School. They plan to continue raising the issue when the League of Women Voters and the Society of Professional Journalists host a forum Tuesday, March 27 at 7 p.m. at the Knoxville Public Works Center at 3131 Morris Avenue.

While Deputy Tom Spangler has said he might consider the idea as an alternative to the current video visits, Deputy Lee Tramel has said the current system works well and has no plans to change it.

Rebecca Parr, a former county commission candidate and community activist, is promoting attendance of Face to Face supporters at those events.

"I will be happy to ask them where they stand," she said.

Parr said she recently had her

first visit with a relative being held in jail by using the computer system and said she "experienced first-hand the disconnect with my loved one the system provides."

"There was no way to see into their eyes or see their lips move in time. The image is a continuous series of still frames and on lag time. The impersonal aspect was very glaring and I left with knowing he must have felt it too."

"It is important to allow connections, especially during the period of pensive and sober reflection on the part of the inmate. This is the crucial time when we have to perhaps reengage them with family," she said, adding, "The current system of visitation negates that as a possibility and serves as a severe punishment to the families of the inmates."

Pasley said he's working with Face to Face Knox and the East Tennessee Peace and Justice Center on the matter. He said that family members who want to video-visit with inmates at the jail must make reservations to use the machines 24 hours ahead.

Video visits cost \$5.99 for 30 minutes and one half of that goes to the county's general fund. The other half of funds go to Securus Technology which operates similar systems in 2,600 correctional facilities around the country including Chattanooga. Sheriff J.J. Jones established the system in 2014 as a means to stop contraband getting into the jail.

Pasley charges that the amount of contraband has not decreased but assaults between inmates and guards has increased. He also said prisoners are charged to use tablets, telephones and for a prisoner's handbook which are issued to every inmate.

Jones went before the county commission recently and said he's purchasing 900 more tablets that will eventually produce revenue.

"It is just a policy. They could change it tomorrow or commission could pass a motion to allow visits back," Pasley said, adding that the Knox County Sheriff's office has no oversight group like Police Advisory and Review Committee that oversees complaints



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Tex Pasley of No Exceptions speaks to a local group about the effort to reestablish face-to-face visits with prisoners held in Knox County. A local group plans to confront both candidates for sheriff prior to the Primary Election.

filed against the City of Knoxville Police Department.

The Knox County Detention Center is the only official jail in the county and serves the City State and the UT Police Departments as well as the Sheriff's Office.

Plane crash heroine: East Knoxville homes put in harm's way

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"the Miracle on Groner Drive."

Even though the small plane crashed on top of a car parked in the driveway of the Bingham family at 1114 Groner Drive at 3:18 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 19, there were no fatalities or life-threatening injuries and the three men in the plane reportedly were taken to UT Medical Center.

"It was an act of God," said Tate. "It could have been a tragedy."

Tate praised those who reached out in the emergency situation, despite

what could have happened if the plane blew up.

"They just went right to doing their deeds," he said.

Gwen McKenzie, newly elected District 6 council woman, attended the recognition, handed out certificates to the honorees and saluted their brave action.

Dexter Jordan lives right across the street from the crash site.

"My first concern was 'OK, let's see if anyone's in the plane and are their okay?'" recalled Jordan.

"I called 911 and went immediately to the plane.

One of the guys was trying to get out of the plane at the time I got there. So I tried to help him out best I could."

Jordan said he saw Alyssa and her mom, Jacquelyn Cox, at the site.

"The community just was coming together," he said. "We were trying to do what we needed to do as far as getting water on the plane and getting the people out of the plane."

"I guess you just block out the danger of it," he added. "I know I did. You don't think about it, just

respond. There's a need and how can I help?"

Alyssa said she had been invited over to her mom's home, also on Groner Drive, for dinner.

"This (plane crash) you heard it and felt it in your bones," she said.

Cox-Lewis said her mom and step dad are both "ex-Air Force and have been around plane crashes." They went to the crash scene, got a hose and talked with members of Bingham family who were still inside their home.

One of the three men was

already out of the plane, but two were still inside, including one with head lacerations, said Alyssa, who assisted with getting the other two out and with injuries until paramedics arrived.

"You could smell gas in the air," said Cox-Lewis. "The engine wasn't going, but the battery was still going. You could still hear it try to rotate and click on."

"The biggest thing to me was getting everybody out and everybody away. There was a job to do. Be quick and be efficient."

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Expanding Science-Based Skincare Company Hits Greater Knoxville

Free Special Event Open to the Public

NASHVILLE, TN, February, 2018 — Pam Tillis, country music artist and member of the Grand Ole Opry, is the national spokesperson for Nashville science-based skincare company that is expanding to the Greater Knoxville area. Former residents of Fox Den in Farragut, Jim and Lois Elliott are the founders and will return to the area on March 3rd to meet with folks that are interested in becoming a RemeVerse independent Business Owner.

Entrepreneurs Tausha Price and Marcy Cox of Knoxville are on the Pam Tillis team and opened the Knoxville area for RemeVerse. They are leaders in the area and work with Pam on growing the company.

After being introduced to RemeVerse and using the amazing skincare products, they took a look at the business opportunity and jumped in. Passing out free samples and having their friends use them has led to a group of loyal customers in Knoxville. Some of their customers have now joined their team and are starting their own RemeVerse business.

"So many people in this area are interested in trying our free samples and learning more about our business opportunity, we just knew it was time to host an event where we can share RemeVerse with more new faces all at once," said Cox.



Tausha Price



Marcy Cox

Whether a new independent business owner just wants a little extra money each month or they have a long-term financial goal, each person can work at their own pace. Everyone is so excited because RemeVerse offers free training and abundant customer support. Many of the representatives have attended RemeVersity in Nashville for product and business training. All of the classes are free to representatives. Some have earned the designation of Certified RemeVerse Skincare Coaches. Now many of the representatives are working toward a company-paid incentive trip that will take them to New York in September.

"We are finding that men and women of all ages are looking for entrepreneurship opportunities," said Price. "Because RemeVerse offers high-quality, effective skincare products at a reasonable price, it makes it a business that is both fun and profitable."

FREE EVENT DETAILS

If you would like to receive free product samples or learn about the fun business opportunity, make a reservation to attend the **RemeVerse Knoxville Launch at Hampton Inn by Hilton, 9128 Executive Park Drive, West Knoxville on Saturday, March 3, 10:00 – 11:30.**

For more information or to register you can follow this link: <https://remeverse-knoxville.eventbrite.com> or call Marcy Cox at (865)216-2489.

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PHOTOS BY MIKE STEELY

The historic Dempster Building on Central Street has received a \$ 200,000 grant from the city for renovations. It served as company headquarters for George Dempster, inventor of the Dempster Dumpster.

Dempster Building and others get preservation grants

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

While it may not be the most beautiful historic structures in Knoxville, the old building certainly deserves a place among the most historic. The Dempster Building at 611 North Central Street was built in 1895 as a livery and was one of the first buildings in the Central Market Area of downtown.

By the 1920s it housed the Dempster Construction Company and the Dempster Motor Company, both owned by George Dempster. He not only served as mayor in the 1950s but invented the Dempster Dumpster and became wealthy through that and many companies and innovations he made during his life.

Dempster was the son of a Scottish immigrant who operated a gristmill on First Creek. In his youth George Dempster worked many hard labor jobs including operating a steam shovel on the Panama Canal project.

Dempster returned to Knoxville and went into business with his brothers in a construction company, building roads, railroads and same other projects in Tennessee and the surrounding states. The Dempster Brothers focused on heavy equipment and

in 1935 introduced the "Dempster Dumpster" which revolutionized the trash collection business.

Dempster entered politics in Knoxville as a Democrat and served as city manager and eventually mayor. Dempster was later active in creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He ran for governor in 1940 but lost to Prentice Cooper.

Dempster and his old enemy Cas Walker teamed up to successfully oppose an attempt to create a metro-type government between the county and city. He died of a heart attack in 1964 and was interred in the Greenwood Cemetery.

During his tenure as city manager and mayor Dempster was involved in the building of the Henley Street Bridge, viaducts and four public libraries and the purchase of Chilhowee Park. He hired the city's first African American civil service secretary and supported desegregation of the schools. His home in Fountain City still stands and is a notable historic site.

The Knoxville City Council approved the Dempster Building and five other projects to receive a total of \$544,153.60 from the Historic Preservation Fund



The Dempster Building on Central Street may not be the most beautiful of the city's historic structures but has its own unique features. The building actually stretches from Central to Broadway.

for the 2018-19 budget year. Work on the Dempster Building will include restoration and development of two, long-vacant buildings into a mixed-use development to include residential units and commercial tenants.

Other historic structures to receive city grant funds from the Community Development

Department include Baker Creek Bottoms, formerly the Sevier Heights Baptist Church, \$150,000; the former Tex Ten Printing Supplies at 1520 Washington Avenue, \$100,000; Architects Weeks Ambrose McDonald, Inc. at 30 Market Square, \$40,000; the Mabry-Hazen House and Meet Cottage at

Continue on page 2

Community Coming Together to Discuss the John Sevier Scenic Highway Corridor

The Governor John Sevier Scenic Highway Corridor Stakeholder Committee will hold their first community meeting to discuss recommendations for protecting the rural, scenic character of the corridor. The meeting will begin with a brief presentation at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 4, at SoKno Market at 2014 W. Governor John Sevier Highway. The presentation will be followed by an open house.

- Topics covered at the meeting will include:
- The existing designation of Governor John Sevier Highway as a State of Tennessee Scenic Highway and Parkway,
 - Historic resources and rural character preservation tools,
 - Assessment and options for current zoning, and
 - Assets and opportunities along the corridor using an interactive map.

Continue on page 4

Winners of the 36th Annual Orchid Awards Announced

On Tuesday, February 20, 2018, Keep Knoxville Beautiful hosted the annual Orchids Beautification Awards at the Standard, 416 West Jackson Avenue, Knoxville, TN. The event honored Knoxville's most beautiful properties by presenting awards in six different categories: redesign/reuse, outdoor space, new architecture, public art, restaurant/café/bar/brewery, and environmental stewardship. Additionally, the Mary Lou Horner Award was presented, as well as the Felicia Harris Hoehne Award being presented for the second time this year.

The winner for redesign/reuse was The Tennessean. The winners for outdoor space were Baker Creek Preserve and the Marble Hall and Pavilion at Lakeshore Park. For public art, the winner was the Knoxville Zoo, and for new architecture, the winners were East Tennessee Children's Hospital and the Knoxville Area Association of Realtors. The winners for restaurant/café/bar/brewery were Elkmont Exchange and So Kno Taco. Lastly, the winner for environmental stewardship was the City of Knoxville Public Works Building.

The Mary Lou Horner Award was presented to the Knoxville Botanical Gardens and Arboretum.

City of Knoxville Public Service Director, Chad Weth, presented Fran Nichols with the Felicia Harris Hoehne Award. This is the second year this award has been presented and was created to honor a person who exemplifies KKB's mission of making Knoxville a "clean, green, and beautiful" city.

Over 200 people attended the event, and guests enjoyed live music from the Old City Buskers, a silent auction, a specially brewed beer called "the Good Neighbor Orchid" provided by Balter Beerworks, additional drinks were provided by the Elkmont Exchange and Raddy's Liquor Center. Post Modern Spirits provided a specialty cocktail called "the Orchid" for guest. The night's guest speaker was Erin Gill, the City of Knoxville's Sustainability Director.

Keep Knoxville Beautiful announced that the

Continue on page 2



For Special Occasions!

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Fredda Valentine Temples began playing piano at 5 years old. Her repertoire includes hundreds of songs from a variety of genres. Her piano playing has influences of Bruce Hornsby, Jerry Lee Lewis & Floyd Kramer. Her singing has tones of Patsy Cline, Stevie Nicks, Karen Carpenter & Dolly Parton.

- Toured nationwide
- Appeared on The Nashville Network
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- Released a Faith CD featuring original songs

As a well-known local performer, her many venues include:
 Blackberry Farms • Celebrity Events • Charity & Civic Organizations
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 - Shirl Emmert, President Sevierville Hospitality Association

"The Star of Knoxville's favorite, Fredda Valentine Temples, continues to bring extraordinary talent and entertainment still today. Fredda always makes it a memorable event."
 - Mike Cheek, Star of Knoxville - Knoxville Riverboat

"There's something about the charisma she carries and the passion for her audience. When you leave, you will carry a part of her with you."
 - Theresa Corum, Resource Marketing





Kitchen Table Wisdom

My title is the name of a book I'm reading now by Rachel Naomi Remen, MD who is one of the earliest pioneers in the mind/body health field, and was one of the first to develop a psychological approach to people with life-threatening illnesses and educate their physicians about their needs. Let me quote some of her paragraphs.

"Everybody has a story. When I was a child, people

sat around kitchen tables and told their stories. It was not just a way of passing time, it was the way wisdom got passed along. Despite the awesome powers of technology many of us still do not live very well. We may need to listen to each other's stories again. Telling stories can be healing. Also, listening to stories can be healing.

Life is full of the unknown, full of wonder, full of mystery. Most books try to lead you out of mystery into mastery. This book leads us to recognize and move toward the mystery that is in every-day life."

An example of one of her stories. Actually, it's a parable:

"Shiva and Shakti, the Divine Couple in Hinduism, are in their heavenly abode watching over the earth. They are touched by the

challenges of human life, the complexity of human reactions, and the ever-present place of suffering in the human experience. As they watch, Shakti spies a miserably poor man walking down a road. His clothes are shabby and his sandals tied together with rope. Her heart is wrung with compassion. Touched by his goodness and his struggle. Shakti turns to her divine husband and begs him to give this man some gold. Shiva looks at the man for a long moment. 'My dearest wife,' he says, 'I cannot do that.' Shakti is astounded. 'Why, what do you mean, Husband? You are Lord of the Universe. Why can't you do this simple thing?' (I have shortened this story) Shiva drops a bag of gold in the man's path.

The man meanwhile walks along thinking to

himself, 'I wonder if I will find dinner tonight—or shall I go hungry again. Turning a bend in the road he sees something on the path in his way. 'Aha', he says, 'Look there, a large rock. How fortunate that I have seen it. I might have torn these poor sandals of mine even further.' And, carefully stepping over the bag, he goes on his way."

Do you understand the moral of this story? Many bags of gold are thrown in our path but we walk around them. Do you have a story? Tell it to anyone who will listen, around the kitchen table.

Thought for the day: Do not ask the Lord to guide your footsteps if you're not willing to move your feet. Anonymous

Send comments to rose-merrie@att.net or call 865-748-4717. Thank you.

Winners of the 36th Annual Orchid Awards

Cont. from page 1

2018-2019 "Community of the Year" will be North Knoxville. The 2017-2018 "Community of the Year" was East Knoxville, where KKB will continue to focus their efforts until June of 2018.

All proceeds from the Orchids Beautification Awards will go to benefit Keep Knoxville Beautiful's education and beautification programs.

The nominees were:

Redesign/Reuse

All Smiles Family Dental, the Asheville Highway Animal Clinic, Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum's Mule Barn, Market Square Parking Garage Bathrooms, Master Dry, McMillan Flats, The Ely Building, The Park at Fountain City, The Prince Building, and The Tennessean.

Outdoor Space

Baker Creek Preserve, the Cagle Terrace Garden, Fulton High School's Garden, Marble Hall and Pavilion at Lakeshore Park, St. John's Cathedral

Prayer Garden, and the Volunteer Boulevard Beautification.

New Architecture

East Tennessee Children's Hospital Scripps Addition, Gastrointestinal Associates Medical Building, KCDC Senior Living: The Residences at Five Points, Knoxville Area Association of Realtors, the South Knoxville Elementary Library Entrance, and the Volunteer Boulevard Parking Garage.

Public Art

Zoo Knoxville

Restaurant/Cafe/Bar/Brewery

Elkmont Exchange, SoKno Taco Cantina, and Steamboat Central.

Environmental Stewardship

City of Knoxville Public Works Complex and the Lakeshore Park Parking Lot

Spay / Neuter Your Pet

We had Hobo the Wonder Dog neutered before we brought him from the shelter. Hobo has no idea about spay and neutering, but what he does know—is love. I have heard many arguments for not spaying and neutering a pet but, these arguments fall short of reason. Hobo knows firsthand the tragedy of living on the streets and wants to help others avoid the uncertainty of street life.

Hobo's mission is to help spread the word of importance of spay and neutering your pets. The impact of altering your pet can be profound. With an estimated six to eight million unwanted pets ending up in shelters across America spay and neutering is vital to help reduce these numbers. Less than half of animals



By Howard Baker, RN BSN

in shelters find a loving forever home. That means three to four million animals are euthanized each year in this country alone.

Benefits of altering your pet far outweigh any risk or argument to the contrary. Spay and neutering is probably the most important decision one can make for the overall long-term health of their pet. There are statistics supporting neutered dogs live 18% longer than unneutered dogs. Spayed female dogs live 23% longer than non-spayed dogs. Many of these reports suggest that unaltered animals meet early demise caused by roaming exposing them to fights, being struck by automobiles, and other type trauma. However, non-neutered pets face certain

types of health issues and cancers associated with their reproductive system. So, for a happier longer living pet spay and neutering is proven to improve longevity and quality of life.

The Doris Day Animal Foundation was founded in 1978 by celebrity Doris Day and in 1995 she used her celebrity status and founded "Spay Day USA" now known as "World Spay Day." This worthy cause has helped spay and neuter more than 1.5 million animals in the first fifteen years. Hobo the Wonder Dog and I want to help the Doris Day Animal Foundation this year with a small donation to help sponsor an animal spay or neutering. This is a small gesture with great potential to help those in need. Please join us with a small donation to the Doris Day Animal Foundation or to your local shelter to sponsor one pet's low-cost surgery. Doris Day's 96th birthday

is April 3rd and Hobo the Wonder Dog will be sending her a special birthday card along with a small donation to World Spay Day. How better to celebrate this worthy cause and say Happy Birthday to Doris Day. Please celebrate by spay or neutering your pet or sponsoring a low-cost spay or neuter for someone else in need.

Happy World Spay Day is recognized on February 27th but can be celebrated every day! Happy Birthday Doris Day and thank you for a lifetime of work! If you would like to join Hobo the Wonder Dog and I by sending Doris Day a birthday card the address is below:

Doris Day Animal Foundation
8033 Sunset Boulevard,
Suite 845
Los Angeles, CA 90046

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Pass the Biscuits, Pappy!

W. Lee O'Daniel of Texas

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Every state in the nation has seen the rise of a particular politician who comes from nowhere to capture the imagination and votes of citizens; some are demagogues, others are reformers and many are just plain showmen. Wilbert Lee O'Daniel of Texas may have been a little bit of all three. The only man ever to deal Lyndon Johnson an electoral defeat, W. Lee O'Daniel was a salesman, marketing genius, songwriter, businessman, and for a time, a very successful politician.

W. Lee O'Daniel was born March 11, 1890 in Ohio, later moving to Kanas where he lived on a working cattle ranch. Eventually, O'Daniel made his way to Forth Worth, Texas where he worked for the Burrus Mills, a company that sold flour. O'Daniel showed his flair for showmanship when he was given responsibility for promoting his company's flour on the fledging medium of radio. W. Lee O'Daniel shrewdly hired musicians to form a band called the "Light Crust Dough Boys" to perform and sing to entertain audiences while selling his product. Several musicians rose to prominence after having been originally hired by W. Lee O'Daniel, including Bob Wills. After the Light Crust Dough Boys disbanded, O'Daniel had gone into business for himself, creating his own label of flour, O'Daniel's Hillbilly Flour. O'Daniel also quickly put together another troupe of performers, which featured his son, Pat. Pat O'Daniel and His Hillbilly Boys were soon heard on the airwaves regularly while Lee O'Daniel promoted his flour.

W. Lee O'Daniel soon won the nickname of "Pappy" due to a frequently heard phrase on the O'Daniel radio show; during the show, someone would cry, "Pass the biscuits, Pappy!" and it was not long before Lee was known as "Pappy" O'Daniel.

Pappy O'Daniel proved to be a skillful promoter of his product, mixing music and a steady flow of homilies to entertain his audiences, which were becoming enormous. Pappy was on the air at 12:30 p.m. every day and by the mid-1930s, O'Daniel was heard all across Texas. Pappy had a voice made for radio and his talented children joined the family business, which was as much entertainment as it was selling flour. The widespread exposure of Pappy O'Daniel made him famous throughout Texas and it was not long before Pappy's mild lectures on motherhood, the Bible and prayer for his adopted state caused listeners to suggest he seek the governorship. Pappy's ears perked up and he was soon lured by the siren call of politics.

O'Daniel announced his candidacy for governor in 1938 and his opponents considered him little more than a silly phenomena produced by radio. Pappy O'Daniel had never before been elected to anything and had no background to suggest he could be a successful chief executive. That meant little to the voters and Pappy traveled throughout Texas, speaking to gigantic crowds about his platform, which largely consisted of the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule. Pappy poured his vocal honey onto the proverbial political biscuit, adeptly adding a dollop of populist rhetoric to his speeches, favoring a monthly pension for the elderly. At the same time Pappy O'Daniel was promising pensions, he pledged to stop a sales tax, which would have of course brought in much-needed revenue to the state's coffers. Pappy's platform also included a promise to abolish capital punishment, a testament to O'Daniel's popularity with Texans, especially in the more rural parts of the state, at the time. Another of Pappy's unusual promises was to eliminate the poll tax, a tax O'Daniel himself hadn't bothered to pay. Of course Pappy didn't miss any opportunity while campaigning to mention the virtues of his own Hillbilly flour.

To the surprise of the political professionals, Pappy O'Daniel won fifty-one percent of the vote in the Democratic primary, crushing his twelve opponents. In Texas, Pappy was the new governor in all but name as the Republicans represented no challenge in what was then a one party state. Despite his promise to the contrary, once in office Pappy proposed his own version of the sales tax, which the legislature promptly defeated. O'Daniel found he could do little to enact the meager platform he had pledged to put into place once elected governor, but the legislature's intransience did little to affect Governor O'Daniel's personal popularity. He was reelected in 1940 easily and many legislators who had been scornful of the new governor and his administration found themselves defeated in the primaries. Had Pappy O'Daniel's attention not been diverted by events, he might have managed to pass some of his schemes.

What diverted Pappy's attention was the United States Senate. On April 9, 1941, U. S. Senator Morris Sheppard died suddenly of a brain hemorrhage and under Texas State law, a special election would have to be held to pick the late Senator's successor. It soon became readily apparent

*To my friend Jimmy Wiggins
W. Lee O'Daniel
March 29th 1948*



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Autographed portrait of Texas U. S. Senator W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel, 1948

Pappy O'Daniel himself coveted Sheppard's Senate seat. As governor, it was up to O'Daniel to appoint a successor in the interim and ever the showman, Pappy produced one hell of an appointee. O'Daniel, all smiles, announced the appointment of Andrew Jackson Houston to fill the vacancy. Not only was Houston named for one of the most famous Democrats of all time, but was also the last living son of Sam Houston, a true legend in Texas. Many professional politicians were astonished by O'Daniel's appointment of Houston. While certainly the son of Sam Houston, A. J. Houston had been a Republican, a Prohibitionist, and a Democrat. Houston was also eighty-six years old at the time of his appointment, making it almost certain he would not go to Washington, D. C. Senator Houston ignored the advice of his daughters and managed to attend exactly one committee meeting before dying five days after his eight-seventh birthday on June 26, 1941.

Pappy O'Daniel entered the Senate race and faced Attorney General Gerald Mann and a young Congressman from Austin, Lyndon Johnson. Johnson had first been elected to Congress in 1937 and had been regularly reelected every two years. Johnson was considered to be one of the more liberal members of the Texas delegation

and a supporter of the New Deal and Franklin D. Roosevelt. The President was not universally popular in Texas, especially with the elite businessmen and the new oil millionaires. Former Vice President John Nance Garner was himself a Texan and resident of Uvalde, Texas and had been adamantly opposed to a third term for FDR in 1940. Speaker Sam Rayburn and Congressman Lyndon Johnson were considered Roosevelt's most reliable allies in Texas and FDR himself did what he could to promote the LBJ candidacy. Billboards sprang up all across Texas in full color, featuring a beaming Roosevelt shaking hands with Lyndon Johnson.

Johnson's Senate campaign was lavishly financed by business interests close to the young Congressman; Pappy's own campaign was not wanting for cash, as he had the support of many who thought he could do less damage in Washington than he could at the State Capitol. Lyndon Johnson appeared to have won the Senate contest as the returns started trickling in, but the young Congressman was soon astonished to see Governor O'Daniel not only creep up on his vote totals, but finally surpass it. Pappy O'Daniel edged out Lyndon Johnson by a little over thirteen hundred votes; as it was a special election, there was no provision for a run-off election. Pappy had beaten two sitting Congressmen, the State Attorney General and a host of others to go to the United States Senate.

W. Lee O'Daniel won

the regular election to the Senate in 1942 without any significant opposition. It was to be the apex of his career and the start of a slow decline. O'Daniel made little impression inside the Senate, largely overshadowed by his senior colleague Tom Connally. O'Daniel's positions on issues became not only more conservative, but also more extreme. Senator O'Daniel opposed Franklin Roosevelt's bid for a fourth term in 1944 and was thought to be by many as a Republican in all but name. O'Daniel campaigned for a Republican Congressional candidate in a special election, adding to the concerns of suspicious Democrats. By the time O'Daniel's term expired in 1948, polls showed his support in Texas had dwindled to the point where it seemed certain he could not be reelected. Rather than risk defeat, Senator O'Daniel, who was becoming more and more obsessed with the threat of Communism in America, announced he would not seek reelection and added there was not likely much he could do to save the United States from internal Communism in any event.

O'Daniel returned to his business interests, which included a prosperous insurance company. Evidently Pappy's desire to hold elective office had not ended with his voluntary retirement from the Senate, as he declared himself a candidate for governor again in 1956. Pappy campaigned against the Brown vs. Board of Education decision by the

Supreme Court, which he considered to be nothing less than a Communist coup against the United States. Pappy naturally campaigned against the threat of Communism and ran third in the primary, although he managed to carry a total of sixty-six counties and accumulated almost 350,000 votes. O'Daniel tried again in the 1958 gubernatorial primary, but Pappy's day had come and gone. The once popular O'Daniel had the indignity of running behind the first serious Hispanic-American candidate in the governor's race and won only eighteen percent of the vote.

Pappy O'Daniel had gone from being one of the champion vote getters in Texas history to an eccentric. At his zenith, O'Daniel had won four statewide elections in as many years. As is oftentimes the case with those men of the people who manage to turn politics on its head, Pappy O'Daniel burned out rather quickly. He retired to his ranch and resumed his insurance business and had made significant investments in real estate.

W. Lee O'Daniel died May 12, 1969 at age seventy-nine. Pappy is enjoying something of a revival currently, in the form of the music he promoted on his radio show. Several CDs have been released in recent years celebrating the western swing sound Pappy O'Daniel helped to make famous. W. Lee O'Daniel's most lasting legacy was not what he accomplished for the people of Texas, but rather his music.



Picture of a lovely daffodil blooming during the warm days of February, courtesy of Bob Martin

The Flu Season

Wash your hands! Despite today's many advancements, the instructions that mothers have given children for years is still the best advice modern medicine offers to guard against flu.



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

This year's flu season has been brutal, snuffing out

the lives of so many precious children. Even adults have succumbed to the deadly strain of flu. According to media reports, the flu vaccine provides only a small percentage of effectiveness. Yet, health care professionals still advise getting the flu

shot since some effectiveness is better than none at all. I do not recall ever hearing of so many schools being closed for so many days during a flu season as this year. But, it is necessary to stop the spreading of germs and give school personnel time to disinfect the facilities.

The bad news is that experts predict flu season may extend to May! The good news is that May is

only a few weeks away. A taste of spring-like weather has already teased us with record-breaking temperatures in February. Before long, beautiful flowers such as the bright yellow daffodil shown here will be blooming all around us; and the flu season will be a distant memory. Blessings for good health to you and your family as we weather the remaining days of winter!

Here we go again

Another day brought another massacre of young people. Douglas High School suffered from the maniacal acts of a former student. In the end, seventeen persons are dead and as many have been wounded. The weapon of choice in the crime was an AR-15 rifle, a semi-automatic version of the military's M16.

The use of this weapon in no way protected anyone's family. Instead, the gunman used the assault weapon to mow down as many innocent students and teachers as he could in a limited amount of time. Perhaps he had a grudge against a teacher who had been in some way responsible for his expulsion from the school. Maybe he had felt bullied by another student, or maybe he just felt that the school had disrespected him



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

in some way. So, instead of dealing with such difficulties with the help of someone else, the killer decided to wreak havoc and slaughter as many individuals as possible.

Guess what! No excuse for killing is acceptable in this instance. What is even less acceptable is that his buying an assault rifle was easier than buying a handgun. Yes, he bought this weapon legally. The question is what in the name of sanity is this country doing by allowing an 18 year old to buy an assault rifle.

I defend the rights of individuals to own guns to protect their families or for hunting purposes. However, I will never believe that any person has the right to have possession of an assault rifle. The logical question is for what

purpose does anyone use such a killing tool? Hunting with it destroys the game that would be food. Target practice isn't much of a challenge when a weapon can disintegrate the object so completely. The only reason for owning a gun is that an individual is ready and willing to kill another human. The kicker is that a handgun or shotgun or single shot rifle can bring about the same results in the hands of a trained gun owner.

Yes, we need better mental health services provided for people. Of course, with the cuts in social services that have been proposed, giving that help might be difficult. Comprehensive background checks can help stem the flow of weapons to those who are not well enough to responsibly own one. Implementing stronger background checks is not an invasion of privacy. It's time for this practice when 97% of the American people are in favor of it.

At the same time, this country needs to look seriously at taking assault weapons out of circulation. This is not an invasion of anyone's rights to bear arms; it's action to remove guns from our society that serve no purpose other than to kill. America represents about 4.5% of the world's population, but we own nearly half of all the guns on the planet. Removing one type of weapon and the kits that can be used to make weapons semi-automatic will still leave plenty of guns for self-defense and sport.

The NRA would have us all believe that any attempt to limit guns is the first step in taking away all guns and our sacred rights. Logic tells us that simply isn't true. Trying to remove assault weapons from circulation and doing a better job on background checks are steps to make our world a safer place without firing a single round. We have nothing to lose but much to gain.

John Sevier Scenic Highway Corridor

Continued from page 1

"Governor John Sevier Scenic Highway runs the length of South and East Knox County. It's an asset to the community and has been designated a scenic highway by the State of Tennessee since 1971. Growth and development is changing the rural character of the highway. Concerned residents have requested that the County look at various tools to preserve the scenic, rural character of the corridor as the population continues to grow," said Knox County Commissioner Carson Dailey.

Dailey is leading this effort with the support of 18 stakeholder committee members. The committee began meeting in September of 2017 to discuss challenges and opportunities for future growth in the corridor. They are now reviewing recommendations, and feedback from the larger community is needed to assess the feasibility of these ideas.

MPC staff is facilitating the study and community meetings. If you cannot attend the meeting and would like to submit comments, please contact Liz Albertson at liz.albertson@knoxmpc.org or 865-215-3804. For more information about the study, visit www.knoxmpc.org/plans/small-area/johnsevier/.

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Eagles claim title, Sloan finishes perfect career at state tournament

By Ken Lay

FRANKLIN --- When Gibbs High School won the Class A/AA State Dual Championship earlier this month, Eagles coach Tim Pittman told his team that its job wasn't quite finished.

"After we won the State Duals, I had to go back and get the guys refocused," Pittman said. "I told them that we still had two weeks

of the season left. I told them that we could still win a traditional State Championship and I told the guys that they could all show what they could do."

The team listened to its coach and the Eagles won the traditional Class A/AA Title Saturday at the Williamson County Ag Expo Center.

Gibbs claimed its latest

championship with 179 points, finishing ahead of Forrest (126), Hixon (118), Signal Mountain (112) and Harpeth (108).

The Eagles had four individual champions and seven medalists in the three-day meet in Middle Tennessee.

Landon Adzima (132 pounds), Matthew Maxwell (145), Noel Leyva (160)

and Isaiah Brooks (170) all claimed championships in their respective weight divisions.

The Eagles' George Gilliam (138) and Elijah Lawson (195) both claimed third in their weight classes. John Pittman (113) and Joel Griffin (220) both posted fifth-place finishes.

Also in Class A/AA: Fulton High's Elijah Davis (152)

claimed an individual championship. He is the first-ever Falcons wrestler to bring a title back home.

In Class AAA: Halls High School added to the accomplishments of its traditional program. The Red Devils had a pair of medalists as Chase Brown (132 pounds) and Brent Buckman both posted runner-up finishes.

Bearden also claimed a pair of medals in the Mid-state. The Bulldogs got a second-place finish from Max Grayson (170 pounds). Bearden's Kyle Burns (138) claimed fifth in his division.

Hardin Valley Academy's Josh Pietarila became the youngest Hawks wrestler to medal. The sophomore was a Region 3-AAA Champion.

Continued on page 3

Gresham principal 'thrilled and proud' of accomplishments

By Steve Williams

Gresham came away with two major awards at this year's Knox County Middle School basketball tournament.

Three days before completing its "Cinderella" run to the school's first-ever boys championship, Gresham received the Sportsmanship award.

"This school's staff, coaches and players have exemplified great character, selflessness and perseverance," said co-tournament director Paige Ewing at the presentation of awards during a break between girls' and boys' semifinal games Monday night, Feb. 12 at Karns Middle School.

"Throughout the season, the basketball program at this school (Gresham) has been an inspiration to so many this year, and we are proud to have this school in our Knox County family.

"Thank you for your dedication to creating young men and women of character and for making this season 'Bigger than Basketball.'

That inscription - 'It's Bigger than Basketball' - is on the Sportsmanship award trophy.

Donna Parker, principal at Gresham Middle School, expressed her feelings Thursday, Feb. 22, about winning the two major awards.



Gresham Middle School received this season's Sportsmanship award.

"I'm so proud of our student-athletes," she said. "I'm so proud of our coaches, our community.

"It is more than basketball. It's been about character. It's been about sportsmanship. It's been about community and a team pulling together and functioning as a team. So I'm thrilled."

Parker, of course, was present both nights.

"I was there the night we received the Sportsmanship award and

won the championship.

"I was on the court. They were trying to hold me back," she laughed.

"It is about character and it's about how we treat each other and how we pull together as a team," added Parker. "And they embodied that, and I'm very proud of them."

ACADEMIC AWARDS: Earning highest team GPA for the season were the Farragut girls' team, the Farragut boys' team and

the Halls cheerleaders.

THE PAY OFF: "We worked hard, running up and down the stairs," said Gresham's Darian Bailey, the tourney's MVP. "It was hard work to get where we are. Coach (Joel) Sampsel told us what to do and it paid off."

Sampsel was in his first year as head coach at Gresham. He said he had coached at Grace Christian Academy years ago and then coached wrestling for awhile at Clinton High

School.

GRACIOUS: "Good for them," said 16-year Farragut Coach Randy Swartzentruber of the Gladiators' first title. "They played hard obviously and they got hot at the right time. We were too, I thought.

"It's been a real crazy tournament (with No. 7 and No. 9 seeds reaching the finals)."



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PREP BASKETBALL TOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Powell opens tournament play with a bang

Four Knox County teams won championships as boys' high school basketball tournament action got underway.

The Powell Panthers started things off with an eye-opening 66-58 win over Oak Ridge in the District 3-AAA finals.

Once-beaten Bearden topped Maryville 67-58 in the District 4-AAA title game, while Carter raced to an 81-54 win over Union County for the District 3-AA crown.

Perennial power Fulton fell to Alcoa 57-56 in the District 4-AA finals.

In Division II-A, Webb School stopped Grace

Christian Academy 44-19 in the East Region title game.

GCA bounced back with a 70-36 win over Clarksville Academy in a state first round game.

On the girls' scene, Bearden moved past Maryville 51-25 to capture the District 4-AAA championship.

In Division II-A, Webb School opened with a 52-35 win over Christian Academy of Knoxville and moved past Christ Presbyterian Academy 40-19 in the state quarterfinals to earn a trip to Murfreesboro.

Bulldogs complete perfect run to capture district title

By Ken Lay

LENOIR CITY --- When Bearden High School's boys basketball team played Tuesday night, it pulled off an improbable feat.

The Bulldogs, who notched a 67-58 victory over second-seeded Maryville, completed a perfect run in District 4-AAA. Bearden (33-1 overall) won 16 regular-season district games and beat William Blount and the Rebels to win the district tournament at Lenoir City High School.

Bearden, which suffered its only loss of the season to Columbus High School from Mississippi in late-December at the Arby's Classic in Northeast Tennessee, defeated the Governors 67-53 to open its district tournament run in the semifinals on Saturday, Feb. 17.

The Bulldogs didn't have their best game against William Blount and won despite having junior point guard Ques Glover battling the flu. Glover came off the bench to score 14 points and lead Bearden's scoring attack.

The Bulldogs played the Beavers Saturday night but results were not available at press time.

beat Blount County's Rebels and the Governors three times this season.

"It's hard to beat a team three times and every time we play somebody, it's like their Super Bowl," Bulldogs coach Jeremy Parrott said. "But we survived and advanced."

Bearden, by virtue of its first place finish, was guaranteed a spot in the Region 2-AAA Tournament. But now, the Bulldogs must win the next two games to reach the state sectional round and have a chance to make a second consecutive trip back to the Class AAA State Tournament in Murfreesboro.

"It's survive and advance and you know that your next game could be your last," Parrott said. Against the Rebels Tuesday night, Glover and Pember each scored 16 points.

Pember also pulled down eight rebounds. Roman Robinson added 15 points as he shot 5-for-7 from the floor and buried a pair of 3-pointers.

Brown scored 10 points and grabbed eight rebounds and Stephney scored nine points and had nine rebounds in the district championship game.

The Bulldogs played the Beavers Saturday night but results were not available at press time.

By Steve Williams

It was reminiscent of Carter High School's two high-scoring seasons under Joby Boydstone.

The Hornets erupted in the second half for an 81-54 win over visiting Union County to capture the District 3-AA championship at Jim Williams Gymnasium Tuesday night, Feb. 20.

Scoring 45 points after intermission, including 27 in the final period, Carter brought back memories of the Runnin' Hornets under Boydstone when they averaged 90 points per game in 2014 and 2015 to reach the state tournament.

"I think the style we like to play now is very similar to what we did with Coach Boydstone," said senior Adam Hurd, who was a freshman in Boydstone's last season at Carter.

That style is up-tempo and starts with defense.

Heading into the rubber match game with Union County, Hurd said, "We made it a point to say, 'If we get stops, we can get out in transition' and that's what we want to do - get stops first."



PHOTO BY DAN NEEDHAM

Carter High's Adam Hurd battles inside against Barron Nease of Union County in the District 3-AA tournament finals. Carter won the championship 81-54 and Hurd was named MVP.

The two teams had split their regular season contests, but the Patriots couldn't keep up when Carter started rolling

midway in the third period.

Hurd, who was named the tourney's Most Valuable Player, scored 22 points and chased down

11 rebounds to lead the way.

Josh Lecroy added 13 points, including three from 3-point range. Parker McNew battled inside for 12 points and seven boards. Ty Hurst contributed 11 points and six rebounds. Shawn Page finished with eight points in only 13 minutes of action after picking up four fouls.

It was Carter's 14th win in its last 16 games.

Barron Nease led Union County with 18 points and nine rebounds. Landan Oaks chipped in 13 points and Holden Headrick 10.

The title win advanced Carter (19-6) to the Region 2-AA quarterfinals against Scott High this past Saturday night.

"These guys right now are playing so well," said first-year head coach Aaron Carter.

"We want to be playing for a long time, and the way these guys played the second half - that's the goal and that's what they're capable of whenever they want to play."

Union County led 10-6 early, but Carter came

Cont. on page 4

Lady Bulldogs stifle Maryville to claim district title

By Ken Lay

LENOIR CITY --- Bearden High School's girls basketball team got a little defensive on Monday, Feb. 19. And that stifling defense netted the Lady Bulldogs a District 4-AAA Tournament Championship.

Bearden, the district's regular-season co-champion and the tournament's No. 2 seed, was locked in a tight game with Maryville and even trailed out of the gate. But the Lady Bulldogs cranked their defense into overdrive. They surrendered just four points to the Lady Rebels after halftime en route to a 51-25 victory at Lenoir City High School.

"We worked really hard on rebounding and boxing out," said Lady Bulldogs' sophomore forward Jakhya Davis, who scored 10 of her 12 points before halftime and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. "We work hard

every day on our defense."

That work obviously paid dividends for Bearden, which fell behind 8-2 early. The Lady Bulldogs, however, would bounce back to tie the game 11-11 when Davis converted a pair of free throws with 0.7 seconds remaining in the opening frame. Davis, who scored six points over the first eight minutes, would score the first bucket of the second stanza and give Bearden a 13-11 lead with 7:44 remaining until halftime.

After that, Bearden (24-7) would never trail or relinquish the lead again. The game appeared to be a microcosm of the Lady Bulldogs' 2017-18 campaign.

Bearden opened the district portion of its season 1-3. The Lady Bulldogs knocked off Lenoir City before losing three consecutive early-season league tilts to William Blount, Hardin Valley Academy and Kingston Pike rival Farragut.

But the Lady Bulldogs would go on to prove that you couldn't keep a good

team down. They were predicted by many to win East Tennessee's toughest Class AAA districts. And that's exactly what they did despite having to travel a sometimes bumpy road.

After the sluggish start, Bearden reeled off 10 consecutive regular-season league victories before handling William Blount and the Lady Rebels (21-7) in the district tournament. The Lady Bulldogs opened their tournament run with a 46-21 semifinal win over the Lady Governors on Saturday, Feb. 18.

Bearden, which lost three consecutive games to end last season, is allowing an average of 23 points per game this postseason. Meanwhile, its offensive attack remains balanced and somewhat potent.

Senior center Grace van Rij, an all-tournament selection, scored a game-high 15 points against the Lady Rebels. Tytiara Spikes added nine and Annaka Hall, a junior wing player scored five points off the bench.

Hall, who was also named to the all-tournament team,

has provided an offensive spark since returning from a recent hand injury.

Bearden coach Justin Underwood couldn't have been happier than he was after the championship game early last week.

"After we started 1-3 in the district, these girls really came in and committed themselves to working hard and getting better," Underwood said. "I'm really proud of these girls. Annaka has provided a spark for us. Getting her healthy was big for us. Jakhya and Grace played well inside."

"The girls all shared the ball well and they played well defensively."

The Lady Bulldogs' defense was especially stingy after halftime against Maryville. They Lady Rebels had just one field goal after halftime.

It came in the third quarter and it was a 3-pointer by Denae Fritz. The Lady Maryville's other point came from a foul shot from Lindsey Taylor, who finished the contest with seven points. The Lady Rebels made six 3-pointers in the game. Gracie Midkiff hit three and led Maryville with nine points.

Lady Rebels coach Scott West was frustrated by his team's effort after halftime.

"I really wasn't happy with anything in the second half," West said. "The way we played tonight, I could get five girls out of the YMCA and they could beat us."

"Bearden obviously wanted this game and we didn't."

The Lady Bulldogs and Lady Rebels both hosted Region 2-AAA Tournament Quarterfinal games Friday but results were unavailable at press time.

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Ice Dawgs notch shootout victory to advance to Moore Cup Final

By Ken Lay

The Bearden Ice Dawgs had to work a little overtime Wednesday night. But the work paid huge dividends.

The Ice Dawgs in the Knoxville Warriors were playing for a berth in the Moore Cup finals and it ended up being a classic game that couldn't be decided in 39 minutes of regulation and five minutes of overtime.

The contest went to a three-man shootout after being knotted at 1-1 after 44 minutes of intense and physical action and thanks to the work of a couple of freshmen, Bearden advanced to the Moore Cup Final tonight (Feb. 26) as it recorded a 2-1 victory and won the shootout by the same score at the Icearium.

West High School freshman Wyatt Young scored what would eventually be the game-winning goal when he beat Knoxville goaltender Blaine Moyers.

The Warriors had one last shot to extend the shootout and had one of their two top scorers, Sam

Hale, facing off against Ice Dawgs' freshman netminder Jobe King. King would win the battle when he stopped one of Knoxville's top marksmen and sealed a berth in the championship round of the Knoxville Amateur Hockey Association's High School League.

The win also netted the Ice Dawgs a spot in next month's Blue Division State Tournament to be held in Knoxville March 10-11.

"This is hard to describe," Young said. "I'm happy to be going to state and I'm happy to be representing my school I'm a freshman at West.

"Jobe was a big wall for us tonight and it was great to get that goal, it really put the pressure on Sam and it got us the win."

Bearden scored on its first attempt of the shootout as Jack Ingeneri buried the puck past Moyers.

Nick Mackle evened things for the Warriors before Young scored to for the Ice Dawgs.

King, a Karns High School freshman, stopped both Mitchell Bliss and Hale.

"It feels great to move on to the finals and to the state," King said. "I really believe in my team. I believe in my defense."

The Moore Cup final opens tonight (Feb. 26) with the Ice Dawgs taking on the defending state in Moore Cup Champion Farragut Admirals.

The Admirals are the three-time defending Moore Cup Champions. Should Farragut win it will hoist the cup. With a victory, the Ice Dawgs can force a winner-take-all game Wednesday night.

Faceoff for tonight's game is slated for 7:40 p.m.

In the semifinals, Bearden jumped to a 1-0 lead when captain Ben Baumgardner scored an unassisted power play goal late in the first period. The game's first marker came with 3 minutes, 11 seconds remaining in the first period while the Warriors were serving the only penalty of the game.

Knoxville tied the game early in the second frame when Bliss scored off an assist from Hale with 11:55



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Knoxville Warriors goaltender Blaine Moyers and a swarm of defenders protect the net from an attacking David Raleigh of the Bearden Ice Dawgs in last week's Moore Cup semifinals. The Ice Dawgs won 2-1 via the shootout to advance to tonight's championship round and to the upcoming Blue Division State Tournament.

left in the period.

Both Moyers and King were stellar between the pipes. Moyers made 27 saves during regulation and overtime. King had 15 stops during that stint.

The Ice Dawgs got five shots in the third period but Moyers was stellar. King had to make just one save over the final 13 minutes in regulation.

Knoxville and Bearden each had four shots in the overtime period.

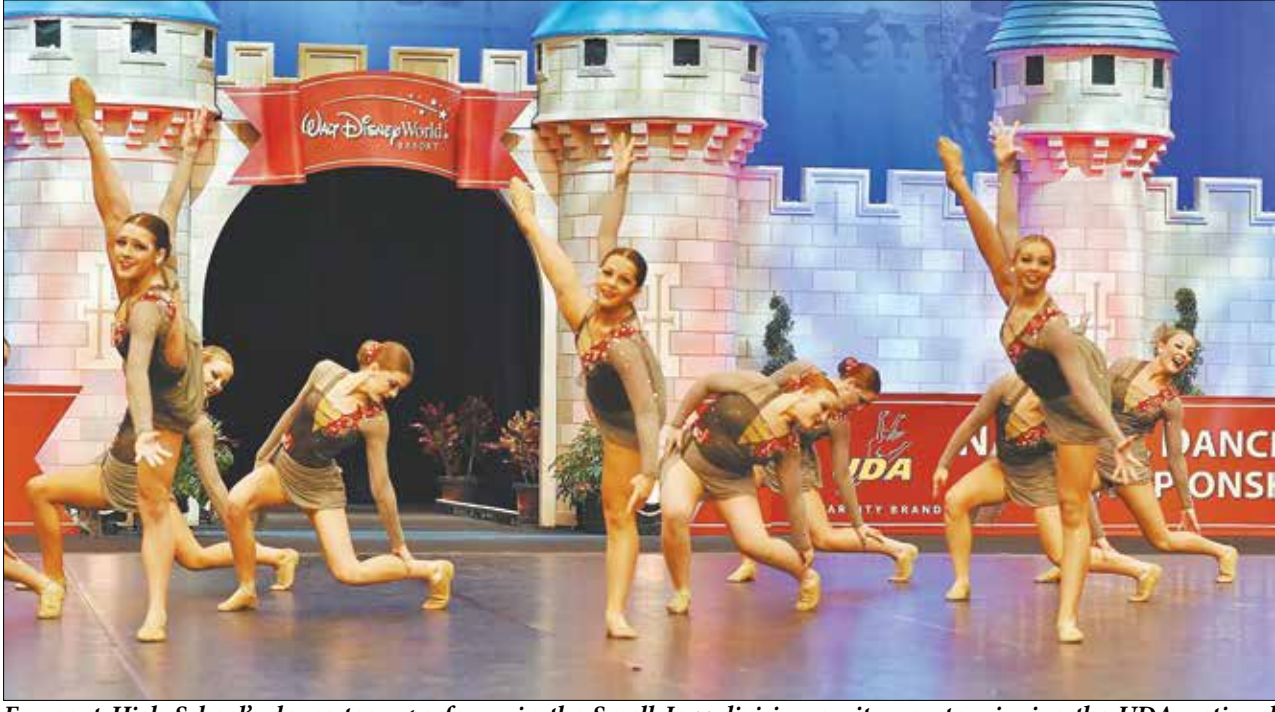
Ice Dawgs coach Mike Raleigh was pleased to see his squad move on.

"This was a great game and a battle between two great goaltenders," Raleigh said. "But what I liked the most about this game was that it was a clean game. Everybody was into it.

"The players were into it, the coaches were into it. The two benches were into it and the fans were into it."

King is looking forward to taking on the Admirals.

"It's going to be great. They're a great team," he said. "I play with a lot of the Admirals on the U-18 travel team."



Farragut High School's dance team performs in the Small Jazz division on its way to winning the UDA national championship earlier this month at Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

Eagles claim title

Continued from page 1 finished second in the 152-pound weight class.

In Division II: Grace Christian Academy had four medalists while Christian Academy of Knoxville boasted three.

Both the Rams and the Warriors had placers in the 152-pound weight class. Grace's Eric Beecham took fourth while CAK freshman Gavin Cagle came in fifth.

Other medalists for GCA included Tanner Thornton (126, third place), Garrett Lay (145, third place) and Nic Bass (160, sixth place).

At 132, CAK's Brendan Jarvis finished sixth. Matthew Chinique claimed fifth in the 285-pound weight class.

In the girls tournament: Hardin Valley senior Kenya Sloan claimed her fourth consecutive state championship as she won the title in the 160-pound division. The senior finishes her high school career with a perfect 87-0 record.

Halls High's Meagann Kiser finished third in the 119-pound weight class to claim her second straight state medal. Farragut's Chelsea Judy took fifth in the same division.

The Lady Admirals also picked up a medal in the 125-pound weight class as Hailey Stevenson claimed sixth. Gibbs High's Kimberly Garcia (150) finished fourth.

Farragut dancers take national title with 'powerful performance'

By Steve Williams

Farragut High School's dance team made history this year.

Competing in the Universal Dance Association's National Championships Feb. 2-4 at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Farragut captured first place in the Small Varsity Jazz division, which included a field of 77 total teams - the biggest division at the UDA event.

The FHS team also placed second in the Small Varsity Pom division, which included 62 teams.

"This year is the highest we've ever placed in team history," said head coach Adonia Adams.

The UDA nationals are the largest and most prestigious competition for high school dance teams in the nation.

While hundreds of teams

attend, the squads are divided out among 10 divisions, based on team size and style of dance. Teams are allowed to compete in a maximum of two divisions.

"Our Jazz routine was set to a version of 'What the World Needs Now,'" said Adams. "It was a powerful performance that showed just how strong our team connection is. Most of these girls have been dancing

together since middle school, so it was wonderful to see their years of hard work pay off."

Six of the team's 11 members are seniors - Tatum Allen (captain), Taylor Gee, Presley Packer (co-captain), Grace Reed, Olivia Rice and Mackenzie Wilcox.

The squad also includes juniors Shelby Elam and Brooke Thayer (co-captain), **Cont. on page 4**

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What is the Vols' ceiling?

By Alex Norman

In March, Tennessee's men's basketball team will play in the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2014. They also have a decent chance of winning the SEC tournament, something they haven't done since 1979.

Tennessee has swept their season series with Kentucky and Vanderbilt and beat Florida in their only regular season meeting. That's a 5-0 record against their biggest basketball rivals. I don't need to tell you that the Vols football team with 0-3 against those schools this past season.

Sophomore forward Grant Williams is averaging 16 points and nearly six rebounds per game. He will be a first team all-SEC pick, and just might win the conference player of the year award.

Head coach Rick Barnes has been named one of 10 semifinalists for the Werner Ladder

Naismith Trophy for Men's College Coach of the Year.

Heading into the last week-end in February, the Vols were 20-7, with a 10-5 mark in conference play. Tennessee stands alone in second place in the SEC. Remember, the Vols were picked by the media in the preseason to finish 13th. The conference has 14 teams so no, not much was expected of UT this season.

It's a likeable team with good kids that has played well above expectations. And except for James Daniel, everyone should be back for a serious run in 2018-2019. Daniel averages 21 minutes a game, sixth most on the team. He's only started two games this season.

But Tennessee has been in the national rankings every week for the past three months. They were 19th in the latest AP poll. The important metric though is the NCAA's RPI, in which the Vols are 11th. If they keep playing at a similar pace

as they have all season, Tennessee will be a top 4 seed in the upcoming NCAA tournament.

With all of this in mind, what is the Vols' ceiling this postseason?

It's a tough question to answer.

Let's look at both postseason tournaments.

In terms of the SEC, the Vols aren't going to be stuck playing in the early part of the schedule. Barring a complete collapse, they wouldn't have to tip off until the quarterfinals on Friday, March 8th. In prior seasons, the Vols played in the dreaded Wednesday first round games. So, they will have fresh legs while their opponents will have played at least one game and possibly twice.

A key for Tennessee would be if they could avoid Kentucky or Missouri in that quarterfinal game. It's tough to beat a team three times in one season, and the Wildcats will have their share of fans in St.

Louis. The Cats always travel.

As for Missouri, that's a team no one wants to play, especially in St. Louis, which will become the Tigers de facto home court. The Cuonzo Martin style of basketball not only isn't visually pleasing, but it's a bear to matchup with.

The Vols would be favorites against anyone they face in that quarterfinal. If not UK or UM in that game, they should make the Saturday semifinals and quite possibly win the whole darn thing.

As for the NCAA tournament, Tennessee is not going to be an easy out. They've played a tough schedule and won't be rattled if the games are close. But it really comes down to matchups.

Ten years ago, Bruce Pearl had arguably his most talented Tennessee team. They vaulted all the way to number one in the nation. But that group ran out of gas in the NCAA's, and got a brutal draw, even

as a two seed. They lost in the Sweet 16 to Louisville.

But eight years ago, the Vols were a six seed that got some breaks. The three seed Georgetown was upset by 14 seed Ohio, and Tennessee shot the Bobcats out of the gym in the second round. In the Sweet 16, UT got two seed Ohio State, a team they had played against in previous years. They weren't intimidated and pulled the upset. This was the Tennessee team that came within a Scotty Hopson free throw of making it to the Final Four.

Fast forward to today. The Vols have an experienced coach to go with a deep and now experienced roster. Tennessee can easily advance to the Sweet 16, barring an awful matchup in the opening round.

But no matter what happens in March, Tennessee fans need to enjoy the ride.

It's one they never expected to take.

Region semifinal at Alcoa could be a dandy

My favorite night at high school basketball tournament time has for years been the region semifinals.

This is the game, I believe, when the pressure is the thickest. A win

takes a little of the pressure off as it puts a team in the region finals and guarantees a sectional berth.

If things went according to the seeding in this past Saturday night's quarterfinal action in Region 2-AA – that is, if Carter took care of business against Scott High and Fulton turned



By Steve Williams

And on top of that, the game will have an interesting storyline as it will match veteran Fulton head coach Jody Wright against the Hornets' Aaron Carter, who at 25 years old has to be one of the youngest head coaches in the state.

I observed Coach Carter for the first time when his Carter team pulled away

back Northview Academy – the Hornets and Falcons will be squaring off Tuesday night, Feb. 27, at Alcoa in one of those semifinal pressure cookers.

Prior to this season, Carter's coaching experience included four seasons as an assistant coach at Rush Strong Elementary School just up the road a little

ways in Strawberry Plains and the last two years as an assistant at Cocke

County High School. "I love it here," said Aaron, a Grainger High grad. "These people are great. This community, they deserve it (the championship). The kids deserve it. And that's what makes it all worth it. It was awesome in here tonight."

The Hornets were impressive, particularly in the second half as they raced up and down the court much like they did in the days under former coach Joby Boydstone.

All that was missing was one or two of those windmill, throwdown slams by former Carter great and

current Tennessee standout Jordan Bowden. Adam Hurst, a senior leader on this Hornet squad, said he believes the region tourney will come down to Alcoa, Fulton or Carter winning it.

"We played Alcoa and Fulton in a Thanksgiving tournament at Central," he said. "We picked up the victory against Alcoa but fell short against Fulton."

Was it close? "No, we didn't play well," he remembered. "They got us pretty good."

But the way the Hornets played in the district finals, Hurst was feeling good

about his team's chances in the region.

"I definitely feel like we have a very good shot at winning the region," he said. Coach Carter also said he liked where his team was as February Frenzy ends and March Madness nears.

So, if you're looking for some basketball drama Tuesday night, check the schedule. There could be a 6 o'clock shootout between the Falcons and Hornets at Alcoa.

And it'll be the region semifinals!

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Hornets are runnin' again, claim District 3-AA crown

Continued from page 2

back to grab a 24-15 advantage after one period. The Hornets were on top 36-30 at halftime.

The Patriots continued to chip away and trailed by only two points (40-38) in the third period after Nease swished in a 16-footer from the left wing.

That's when Carter came alive, outscored Union County 14-2 and enjoyed a 54-42 lead at the end of the third period.

"In the huddle, we kept preaching, 'Keep playing, keep fighting,'" recalled Hurd. "This is a key point in the game and we need to take advantage of it. I'm sure glad we did."

The Patriots never got any closer and dribbled out the last 45 seconds of the game.

"I think the sky is the limit for this team," said Hurd. "We have unlimited potential. We've just got to capitalize on it and work and continue to improve. I think our season can end in Murfreesboro."

ANOTHER STEP: Carter girls lost to Gatlinburg-Pittman 69-62 in the finals. It was the first time for the Lady Hornets (18-6) to be in a championship game since 2000, said Coach Bo Lewis.

Carter made only four of 14 free throws, while G-P sank 26 of 37.

Sophomores Evie Depetro (16 points), Jordan Heifner (14) and Zarría Clark (12) led the Lady Hornets, who were scheduled to host Kingston in the Region 2-AA quarterfinals Friday night.

ALL-TOURNEY: In addition to Adam Hurd's MVP award, Carter boys named to the all-tournament team included seniors Josh Lecroy and Shawn Page.

Gibbs, which lost to Northview Academy 55-47 in the consolation game, was represented by

sophomore Caden Cupp and senior Steele Albino.

Girls' all-tourney honorees included Carter senior Taylor Webb and Clark and Gibbs senior Sierra Hucklebee. G-P sophomore Ivy Bales, who had a game-high 22 points in the finals, was chosen MVP.

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Farragut dancers

Cont. from page 3

and placed second in Small Varsity Jazz.

BEARDEN PREVAILS: Bearden High's dance team won the 2018 UDA national title in the Large Varsity Pom division and finished in fourth place in Large Varsity Jazz.

Earlier this school year, Bearden captured the state championship in the Large Varsity Jazz division for the fifth consecutive year.

<p>The award is based on attitude, careacter, grades, community service and performance as a person.</p>	<p>JOHN OGLE Christian Academy of Knoxville</p>	<p>JOSH GILDER Concord Christian School</p>
	<p>SEAN OGLESBY Central</p>	<p>PARKER HAUN Carter</p>
	<p>NIKOLA PESIC The King's Academy</p>	<p>K. J. HAWKINS Karns</p>
	<p>WESTIN REYNOLDS Powell</p>	<p>KEAGAN KATZ Gibbs</p>
	<p>ROMAN ROBINSON Bearden</p>	<p>CONNOR KUERSCHEN Knoxville Catholic</p>
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<p>AUSTIN SHULER South-Doyle</p>	<p>GARRETT BRICKHOUSE Farragut</p>	<p>EMORY LANIER Webb School</p>
<p>JERRY WILLIAMS Tennessee School for the Deaf</p>	<p>COPPER DE'WALT West</p>	<p>GRANT LEDFORD Grace Christian Academy</p>
<p>ZACH WYATT Seymour</p>	<p>ZACH FIRMAN First Baptist Academy</p>	<p>KOREY MULBERRY Halls</p>

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

The Law

Medical decisions are relatively straightforward because they emerge from facts and reason rather than emotion. We all have emotional and rational aspects of our personality, but errors often result when important decisions are driven by passion.

It may be risky to discuss the topic, but the passionate debate of gun control after the Florida school shooting swirls around us. Student survivors, understandably, cry out for gun control. Personally, I have no use for what has been labeled an "assault rifle" such as the AR-15. However, I believe in the rule of law and the Second Amendment. You should read it. And you might be surprised to learn that assault weapons were banned in the US between 1994 and 2004. During this period there was no difference in the number of murders.

It is surprising that so many people (including US Senators) apparently don't understand the difference between a semi automatic and a fully automatic weapon. So-called machine guns (fully automatic weapons), like the Thompson submachine gun carried by Tom Hanks in the movie Saving Private Ryan, have been banned since the 1930s, except in the military. These weapons continue to fire as long as the trigger is pulled or until the gun is empty. My 9mm pistol, like the AR-15, is a semi automatic firearm. These weapons fire one bullet each time the trigger is pulled, unless the semi automatic rifle is modified by a bump stock converter.

More disturbing than anything I've heard in the aftermath of the Parkland tragedy is that the murderer was brought to the attention of the FBI twice

in the months prior to the shooting, and nothing was done. A chief function of government is to protect citizens, and the FBI, the preeminent law force in the US, did not protect the Parkland students. Nor have the police and our leaders been able to stop the nightly murderous carnage in Chicago or NYC.

Every tyranny in history has begun by taking the means of self defense away from individuals. If you doubt me, research my contention. You may be surprised to learn that FBI statistics in 2015 showed 1,544 murders committed by knives, 624 by hands/feet, 437 by blunt objects and 252 by rifles such as an AR-15.

There are 300 million guns in the US. Many people don't own a gun, and others like me own several. Not surprisingly, I couldn't find any statistics on the number of guns possessed by criminals. It is unrealistic (and unconstitutional) to advocate getting rid of guns in the US. Our heritage is one of self protection in partnership with governmental agencies such as the police. We have laws to prevent gun sales to the mentally ill and criminals. Unfortunately, terrorists and criminals are not law abiding and will always find a way to obtain a weapon to empower their nefarious

schemes or to protect themselves from their lawless comrades.

Recently, a commentator asked whether guns are different now than fifty years ago? I don't remember school and church shootings when I was a boy. I think the real difference is that our civilization has devolved. Violent video games and Hollywood chainsaw movies cheapen life and make killing a game instead of real. And we removed the Moral Law of God from schools in 1962, substituting in His place relativism, situational ethics and now political correctness.

When is the last time you read the First or Second Amendments? The first ten amendments to the Constitution are the Bill of Rights which guarantee the rights of individual citizens. We hear much about the right to bear arms and separation of church and state. Did you know the latter is not in the Constitution? You doubt me? Read the Constitution and show me my error. As relates to religion, the First Amendment says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

In a 1947 Supreme Court case, Justice Hugo Black coopted a phrase from a letter written

in 1800 by President, Thomas Jefferson, to Baptists in Danbury, Connecticut. Jefferson wanted to assure them that the United States was not going to establish a state religion such as existed in England. Jefferson felt that "religion is a matter which lies solely between Man and his God." Thus Jefferson advised a philosophical "wall of separation between Church and State." Activist and SCOTUS seem to read the establishment part of the First Amendment and ignore the latter governmental prohibition of "prohibiting the free exercise" of religion.

So, where do we go from here? I believe in the rule of law just as I believe in individual freedoms which are protected by the law. Without laws the strongest person or the guy/gal with the biggest stick is the master. Similar abuses are possible in a democracy. A tyranny of the majority is exemplified by two wolves and a sheep deciding what they're going to have for supper.

Our American Republic is a form of government predicated on the rule of law. The founders of the United States understood the historical abuses of democracy. Benjamin Franklin said, when asked what type of government the Founders

had fashioned for the new country, "It's a republic madam, see if you can keep it."

I also believe in consequences for those who break the laws of our land. Too often it seems there are no consequences for disobeying the law either in the hood or in Washington. And it's not enough to go on a TV show and cry to say you're sorry. Dishonest FBI agents, those politically motivated in the Justice and State Departments, and the sleazy IRS and VA employees must be brought to man's justice.

I will leave you with several quotes to consider as the way forward for our country. The first comes from John Adams who said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." And Dwight Eisenhower said, "Recognition of the supreme being is the first, the most basic, expression of Americanism. Without God, there could be no American form of government."

Great leaders show us the way; we just need the courage to follow this advice and that of the Chronicler who shows us the way to heal our broken land (2 Chronicles 7:14).

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

The Final Week

The final week of Jesus' life has been called "Holy week." When it comes to the events recorded about this week, the writers slow down and give us much information. For example, thirty percent of the Gospel of Matthew is devoted to this week, while Mark gives nearly forty percent. Luke has around twenty percent, but when you add in the information contained about Jesus' journey leading up to the last week, sixty-two percent of the Gospel is focused there. In John, forty-seven percent is devoted to this



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

"Holy week" and beyond.

Jesus begins his final journey from Galilee to Jerusalem to be part of the week-long festival of Passover. Jerusalem will be bursting at the seams as several hundred thousand pilgrims flood the town for this important annual event commemorating Israel's freedom from bondage at the hands of the Egyptians. Jesus likely spent each night he was in Jerusalem at the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. They lived just outside of Jerusalem

at the town of Bethany. On Sunday morning, Jesus left Bethany and entered Jerusalem on a donkey where he was greeted by crowds of people waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" The people were quoting Psalm 118:26, a Psalm they would have known by heart as it is recited each year during the Feast of Tabernacles and the Feast of Passover. This particular Psalm was written to welcome home kings who were returning to Jerusalem from war campaigns. This Psalm was also understood to refer to the Messiah who would come and deliver

his people. On that "Palm Sunday," the people were hailing Jesus as their King.

The fact that Jesus is riding a donkey should not go unnoticed. It is the only time in Scripture we find Jesus riding a donkey. He always walked. He had just walked the ninety miles from Galilee to Judea. Why would he ride a donkey the last half-mile of his trip? This was a symbolic act dating back to King David. David always rode a donkey, not a horse. The donkey was known as a humble animal reflecting David as the shepherd King. Davidic kings from that time on rode donkeys or mules to identify with David. Jesus

was also fulfilling prophecy by riding on the donkey (Zechariah 9:9).

As Jesus rode into town, he began to weep. Jesus knew that the people would reject him and one day this great city and Temple would be destroyed by the Romans. Between 66 and 70 A.D., over a million Jews would be slaughtered and the city would be burned to the ground, just as Jesus had foreseen. Jesus urged his followers not to take up the sword, but to love their enemies.

On Monday, Jesus returned to the Temple and cleansed the Court of the Gentiles of merchants and money changers, who were taking

advantage of the worshippers. Jesus saw that the poor were being ripped off in the name of God. Jesus quoted Jeremiah in saying they had made the Temple a "den of thieves." By cleansing the Temple, Jesus had sealed his fate. He shut down business on the most lucrative week of the year. On Tuesday, Jesus returned to the Temple courts for a day of teaching. Jesus spoke a number of parables that pointed out judgment was coming due to the sins of the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law. Jesus condemned hypocrisy and commanded his followers to love.



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