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Mobility, safety discussed at Hardin Valley forum

By Nick Skoda

An open house-style public forum was held on Tuesday, January 15 at Hardin Valley Academy regarding proposed changes to Hardin Valley mobility, for both motorists and non-motorists.

The meeting was held to gauge public opinion on matters that are important to the occupants of Hardin Valley and the abutting areas.

The roads and areas that are being studied and will be revisited with a plan of action are: Hardin Valley Road all the way to Hickory Creek Road; Everett Road at Yarnell; Yarnell Road at Campbell Station; Lovell Road at Hardin Valley and Pellissippi Pkwy; Solway Road.

After a recent survey was conducted, receiving feedback from 795 respondents, it was determined that the top five comments regarding the issues surrounding these roads and areas are congestion during school drop-off/pick-up and rush hour, that the roads are too narrow, that there is poor lighting and visibility, general congestion and the lack of shoulders.

Two examples of comments were, "Yarnell is too narrow and needs to be widened for growth to happen," and at the hard bend in the road just as Hardin Valley Rd becomes Hickory Creek Rd it was said that "removing the bend in the road will lead to excessive speeding unless a

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PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

The Powell Panthers' Ayden Greene breaks away for a shot against Vine in Thursday night's Knox County Middle School basketball tournament championship game at South-Doyle Middle School. Greene scored 18 points as Powell defeated the regular season champion Golden Bears 56-48. Please see story and other tourney coverage in Sports & Recreation, Section C.

Commissioners may decide who pays Pension Suit lawyers

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Commission meets in work session Tuesday to possibly decide which county department pays the \$165,000 lawyer fees in the settlement of the suit against the Knox County Retirement and Pension Board. The commission meets on Tuesday because all City-County offices were closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday.

Two items are on the agenda, both presented by the finance department, and both with a blank space for the account that would be charged. Some of the commissioners have said in past meetings that the law department should foot the bill since it initiated the original suit.

But the commission voted to settle the dispute, prompted by County Mayor Glen Jacobs, and then voted to hire an outside firm to represent the county in the settlement.

One resolution calls for attorney fees for individual and class defendants, \$97,500, a mediator fee of \$3,150, and the outside counsel of Arnett, Draper and Hagood, LLP in the amount of \$48,895.

The second resolution calls for reimbursement of attorney fees previously paid by current or former sheriff's department employees for attorneys in the amount of \$17,562.60.

If the debate on the fees echoes previous discussions the commission may split on a vote to designate which department will be paying the fees.

The commission is also
Continued on page 3

Board decides to continue Career Magnet Academy

By Anne Primm

Chairwoman Terry Hill called the Wednesday January 16, 2019 meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. Councilwoman Stephanie Welch and Dr. Anthony Wise of Pellissippi State Community College were present.

Eighth District board member Mike McMillan made a motion to change to the agenda to move discussion of the Career Magnet Academy from the last item on the agenda to the first item on the Regular Agenda.

Representative McMillan then called on Deputy Law Director Gary Dupler, whom he had enlisted along with Superintendent Bob Thomas to work with him in formulating a motion to present to the board regarding CMA. The motion read as follows:

Approve programmatic changes as implemented in the 2018-2019 school year for Career Magnet Academy and re-allocate the current magnet budget of the CMA to provide marketing material, increased recruitment, and a modest

sign for the campus in an amount not to exceed \$5000. Additionally, upper administration is to report to the Board on CMA's recruitment and marketing progress at the March and May Board Work Session meetings.

Three speakers spoke in public forum in favor of keeping the school open before the board took a roll call vote which ended in an eight to one decision to continue operation of the school. Hill cast the dissenting vote.

Fourth District

Representative Virginia Babb questioned McMillan about Principal Hawn's request for a name change for the school. McMillan and Dupler agreed that this was a separate issue that would need to be brought before the board for approval.

The next item up for discussion was 2019 Legislative Priorities. Public forum speaker Caitlin Nowell, seventh grade Language Arts teacher at South-Doyle Middle School, addressed the board about keeping TNReady as the state

evaluation tool. Nowell said that even though this product has its issues, it is based on the Tennessee Standards. The Tennessee Standards are the guidelines teachers have been using for nearly two decades and to change now would really upset teaching and learning.

Teacher Evaluation was the next legislative priority. The board wanted to urge the legislature and the State Board of Education to develop sound guidelines for teacher evaluations that incorporate

local educator input and more accurately represent teacher performance.

The final topic of discussion was the role of ACT (ACT Suite of Assessments) and/or SAT in lieu of End-of-Course Exams. After discussion with Knox County School Superintendent Thomas and other school personnel, the board decided not to address this issue at this time and to wait until more information is available about the ACT Suite of Assessments which is still under development.



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What is an Easement?

You may have heard of the legal term "easement" and may even know that it is a term related to property. However, you may not know exactly what this term means.

An easement is the ability and right to legally use and travel on someone else's property without actually owning that property.

Let me give you some common examples. A government entity may buy an easement on someone's property so that they can build a sidewalk along the front of someone's property. You still own the property on which the sidewalk is placed, and the government may have even paid you so that you would allow them to install a sidewalk, however, if the government has an easement, they are allowed to use that sidewalk and they probably purchased the right for the general public to use the sidewalk as well.

Another common easement is for power lines for



By Jedidiah McKeehan
attorneyknoxville@gmail.com

utility companies. Utility companies need to run their power lines across the countryside somehow, so they will buy an easement from property owners in order to allow them to do so.

Easements can run for varying lengths of times. They can last "in perpetuity," meaning without end, or it can be for a set period of time, like 20 years, or 50 years.

To bring it full circle though, an easement is a right to use property without actually owning that property.

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

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Although city council members Mark Campen and Lauren Rider tried to get a decision postponed until the Animal Control Board could meet, the Knoxville City Council voted to go ahead and change the city's stray cat policy.

Tuesday's second and final reading, dealing with a proposal that came through the police department, will now permit the Young-Williams Animal Clinic to trap, spay, immunize and release "community cats" back into the neighborhoods where they were caught.

The proposal had seen disagreement from animal control members during the first reading of the proposal but Janet Testerman, CEO of Young-Williams, said the policy would send the cats back healthier than when caught and will decrease the overall feral cat population.

Currently the city policy is to trap, spay and immunize stray cats with hopes of rehoming the animals. Those not adopted are euthanized. Testerman asked the council to help them "get off the hamster wheel." She added, "It's not

just better for the cats, it's better for the community."

Campen asked for a four-week delay to give the animal control board a chance to discuss the proposal and make a recommendation. He said that board spent months debating a policy on "chickens in the city" before making a proposal to the council. He said that the longer life of stray cats means more destruction of other wildlife, like birds, in neighborhoods.

Rider told the council they were getting an ordinance written for one side with nothing from the other. She said she felt the council was being "rushed and pushed" into passing the change.

Councilwoman Stephanie Welch noted that there is a \$200,000 grant to help implement the new policy and suggested that a designated staff member be assigned to coordinate the program.

Vice Mayor Finbarr Saunders said he would also like to hear from the animal control board but added, "They could have come tonight and we need to move forward."

Campen's motion to delay a decision failed 6-3

Trap, neuter and release of stray cats approved



Young-Williams Animal Shelter CEO Janet Testerman told the Knoxville City Council that the new policy dealing with stray cats will decrease the population of those animals.

with Marshall Stair voting with Campen and Rider. Then Testerman told the council that if issues arrive after passage of the policy those issues can be re-evaluated as the program is underway.

The final vote saw only Campen and Rider vote "No."

In other action the council heard from Erin Gill, director of sustainability, who reported that about 205 of the city's street lights have been converted to LED and few complaints have been

received. She said that citizens can notify the city if the lights are too bright or flooding their house with light and a shield can be placed on the lights. She also said the city's KUB bills are seeing a decrease already with the use of the new lighting. About 29,500 street lights will eventually be converted to LED bulbs.

The council voted to add \$435,000 in the LED contract with Service One, upping the total cost to \$1,535,000 and extending the deadline until April.

The Old Pan Am Gas Station

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

Are you old enough to remember those gas stations that would not only come out and fill your car's fuel tank but also wipe your windshield or check your tires? Things have changed but there are some of those "ghost" filling stations left.

A day's drive in our area can bring you by some of those old stations. Some have been converted to offices or stores but many sit abandoned and unused for years. Locally we have the Airplane Filling Station, restored for us to view or visit on Clinton Highway. But there are others in our state and region that deserve a glimpse.

My wife and I usually take Asheville Highway when we're headed to Kodak or the Smoky Mountain tourist towns of Sevierville, Pigeon Forge or Gatlinburg. The "Asheville" in the highway name is because, at one time, that was the



The empty Pan Am Gas Station near Strawberry Plains is typical of those early filling stations that have long since closed or are being reused for other businesses.

main two-lane route into North Carolina. Highway 25 splits in far East Knox County and the right spur becomes Asheville Highway and the left becomes Andrew Johnson Highway.

Along Asheville Highway are interesting places like Strawberry Plains, Carter schools, the Carter Community Center, and Paschal Park with an old water mill. We take the highway to the Douglas Dam Road and turn right and drive over the hilly route to Kodak and then left to the flea market or the Smoky Mountain towns.

Along this route is an old abandoned gas station I've noticed often and, when the idea of doing a story about former filling stations, it came to mind immediately.

The former Pan Am gas station in Strawberry Plains has that "rounded" art deco look that so many buildings built in the early 1900s had. The abandoned station still stands, cluttered with scrap and discards. Located at 795 Asheville Highway the old building is small but beautiful for its age. Pan Am Gas disappeared when Amoco bought that company. The former station is near the turn for the Ashway Speedway on Shady Road.

Donna Phillips is the librarian at the Parrott-Wood Library in Strawberry Hills and I've worked with her on previous stories, always finding the folks there active, community minded, and knowledgeable. She was able to find the contact information for

the owner of the station, Ray Underwood.

"I'll be 84 on February 11, I try to stay busy," Underwood told me. "The station was built about 1929 and my family got it in 1935. We sold gas but we also sold groceries, hardware and plumbing. There's a lot more to that old building in the back of it.

"It had been a beer joint. I worked there for 42.5 years and closed it in 2004. I've had folks wanting me to open it again but the building is in too bad a shape. I had the place sold for a Dollar General Store but they went busted.

"My daughter helped me there as well as my brother-in-law. After we closed there were two gas pumps there but some rogues stole one of them."

"I still farm and stay busy," he said.

Above the old station, on the sign that stretches the length of the roadside of the building, are faded letters that read "Underwood and Sons."

There are other abandoned or renovated filling stations in our area. My wife and I were returning from a visit near Harrogate recently and I chanced to stop in Tazewell to once again visit the beautifully restored Gulf Station there.

Tazewell is just about an hour north of Knoxville off Highway 25W. The Rose Gulf Station, built by Carson Rose in 1930, operated until 1956. The city of Tazewell restored the station in 2001 and the building now holds a small museum. The station has authentic gas pumps and signage. It's located just off Highway 25W, one block from the highway on Main Street.

Of course Knoxville's Airplane Filling Station is notable and a landmark easily seen or visited on Clinton Highway. Ownership has passed from the preservation association who restored it to Knox Heritage and rightfully so. Now the historic structure, complete with signage and the

authentic gas pumps, can live on and be enjoyed.

Unfortunately we've lost one of the most unusual gas stations in the Knoxville area. The King Gas Station, built in 1931, stood along Kingston Pike about a mile from Dixie Lee Junction. Over the years the building, built of field stone, has fallen apart. I remember visiting there years ago when most of the old structure was still standing and I took photos of the concrete plaque on the pillar there.

Just as I was completing my story about old gasoline filling stations I was informed there's another restored and preserved filling station in Maynardville, but that's another story isn't it?



The Rose Gulf Station in Tazewell, like Knoxville's Airplane Filling Station, has been completely restored and now houses a small museum.



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Mobility, safety discussed at Hardin Valley forum

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roundabout or three way stop is put in place.”

Upon entering the gymnasium at Hardin Valley Academy, attendees were shepherded around the perimeter of the gym where there were large poster board displays set up on easels.

Some of the displays had information such as the survey results and some had satellite images of the aforementioned areas.

Attendees were given small round stickers and were encouraged to place the stickers on the poster boards in specific, outlined areas that

were of concern to them.

The outlined areas of concern were traffic signal, safety, pedestrian, roundabout treatments, congestion mitigation, access and connectivity and bicycle.

In a presentation, there were nine examples of potential improvements mentioned.

They were traffic signal timing adjustment, potential new traffic signals, crosswalks and other pedestrian improvements, greenways, sidewalks and other pedestrian or bikeway connections, roundabouts and traffic circles, acceleration / deceleration lanes, turn lanes, additional

shoulders and addition of warning signage.

Hardin Valley’s tremendous growth was also stated in the study, citing that between 2014 and 2018, 1,300 new building permits were issued.

90 percent of them were single family residential and the other 10 percent were commercial and multi-family developments.

There was also a vague timeline offered moving forward with this project.

There will be another public and stakeholder meeting in February along with a prioritized project recommendation list that will be complete by late February to early Spring.



PHOTO BY NICK SKODA.

Citizens view the displays in the gym and highlight their areas of concern with stickers

By late Spring, the conductors of this study want to have a finalized document.

The overall goal for this study and potential

restructuring is to create “an efficient and effective motorized and non-motorized transportation network in Hardin Valley. For more information

about the project, including detailed satellite images, visit www.knoxplanning.org/plans/small-area/hardinvalley.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero talks with E911 Director Alan Bull prior to the quarterly meeting of the Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Communications Board. Bull is leaving the position and the board is beginning to look for a new director.

Commissioners may decide who pays Pension Suit lawyers

Cont. from page 1

being asked to approve a contract with Gresham Smith and Partners for a Greenway Corridor Study. The \$300,000 is mostly funded by grant money. The study will look at long range improvements for greenways on Northshore, Beaver Creek, Chapman Highway and part of the Governor John Sevier Highway.

Also on the agenda is a motion to honor Rick Dover and Dover Development for the Historic Knoxville High project being named America’s best senior living renovation project. The motion comes from Commissioners Justin Biggs and Hugh Nystrom.

Commissioner Carson Dailey, who has been recovering from a second knee operation, is being named along with Laura Nolen and Lynn Jessee to the agricultural extension committee.

South Knox County may get some attention as the school system is proposing slope and construction easements on county property at 801 Sevier Avenue at South Knoxville Elementary School.

Maynardville Highway may be approved for street lighting improvements in a \$149,207 contract with Progressive Electric, LLC. and funds from Homeland Security of just over \$352,000 may be approved for the training of 16 counties in

the Tennessee Homeland Security District 2 which includes Knox County.

Chairman Nystrom is asking for a vote of support of the state general assembly’s effort to drop any requirement for a comprehensive growth plan in Knox County.

The merit council is asking to be permitted to name an alternate member for absent regular members of that group. Commissioner Larsen Jay wants a discussion on the Northshore Safety and Connectivity Project.

The planning commission is asking for a code change to classify lot requirement for hotels, motels and transient mobile home parks.

E-911 Board seeks new director for Emergency System

By Mike Steely
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The search procedure for a new director for the Knoxville-Knox County E-911 services was approved Wednesday when that board met. Knoxville Fire Chief Stan Sharp, chairman of the personnel committee, introduced the job description and proposed vacancy announcement. He also discussed the process that will be used.

Sharp told The Focus that Director Alan Bull, hired initially as interim director and then as director, has been three years in the position. Sharp said a five-member search committee will be formed and make recommendations to a selection committee which will review the recommendations and choose someone to recommend to the full board. He said someone must be chosen by July 1.

Board member John Fugate asked that management experience be included in the qualifications and Knoxville Police Chief Eve Thomas suggested requesting public service experience as well.

The board approved the start of the process to pick a new director.

Sharp also recommended adding Brad Anders to the finance committee and said that when a new citizens representative is selected that he or she would serve on the personnel committee.

Howell asked for and received a motion to notify employees that the current retirement plan is switching to the state retirement system. He said the notification needs to be official in a letter and needs the transition of funds to be authorized.

Board member John Fugate, chair of the finance committee, reported the system is in good shape with a surplus. The board also learned that the headquarters, at 605 Barnard Avenue, is switching to an all LED lighting system, which should pay for itself in savings over the next 6.5 years.

They also learned that the roof of the building at the Halls radio tower has been damaged and needs replacement shingles. The equipment there is apparently not harmed and \$4,000 to \$6,000 is anticipated in repairs. Fugate moved to add that to the board’s budget and it was approved.

Ted Hotz of Pugh and Company reported on the ongoing audit and said

there was “no unusual issues.” He said the system has assets of \$20 million and assets of \$14 million. He said the system is in a “very healthy position.”

The board then discussed the current Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) System needing to be updated. E-911 Director Bull said the computers are “aging out” from their beginning in 2013 and need to be updated to use the Windows 10 operating system.

He said users were asked if the CAD system should be completely new or updated and said “updating” was the reply. It might take about nine months to totally update all the agencies that use the system at a cost of about \$2 million, or about \$150,000 per agency.

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero said that before approving the update she would like to see the estimate on the project. She asked that that information be supplied before the board’s next meeting on April 17.

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Historic Zoning Commission approves Taggart Building for overlay

By Nick Skoda

A recommendation for a designation of an H1 overlay, which is an historic overlay, for the Taggart Building at 3415 N. Broadway was made at the Historic Zoning Commission meeting January 17.

This recommendation will be forwarded to City Council where a decision will be made on whether or not to rezone.

"Is this worthy of this designation as an historic landmark?" was the question for the Historic Zoning Commission.

The Taggart Building backs up to the Lincoln Park neighborhood at the corner of Rider Ave. and served as the Lawson-McGhee Library in the 1940s.

It's an art moderne building, a style

verging on the heels of art deco in the decade prior to World War II.

At the time of construction, this was seen as an innovative and forward looking design.

After speaking with Aaron Pennington, the architect working on the project, the Historic Zoning Commission board members unanimously agreed to recommend that the Taggart Building be given the H1 overlay in accordance with the standards of the Secretary of the Interior's ten standards for historic buildings, entitled "The Illustrated Guidelines For Rehabilitating an Historic Building."

The next City Council meeting is February 12 where a decision will be made on the Taggart Building.

Keep Knoxville Beautiful Announces 2019 Orchid Awards Nominees

On February 28th, 2019 Keep Knoxville Beautiful will host its annual Orchid Awards dinner, honoring Knoxville's most beautiful properties, public spaces, and public art. Awards will be presented to winners in seven different categories: Environmental Stewardship, New Architecture, Outdoor Space, Community Garden, Public Art, Redesign/Reuse, and Restaurant/Café/Bar/Brewery.

The nominees for Environmental Stewardship are the Gastrointestinal Associates Medical Office Building, Cumberland Avenue Corridor Project, Knoxville Convention Center, and the Tennessee School for the Deaf High School and Dining Hall.

The nominees for New Architecture are the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart Jesus, Hardin Valley Middle School, Gastrointestinal Associates Medical Office Building, KCDC's Five Point Phase 2, Tate's School Multipurpose Building- "The Barn", the Ken and Blaire Mossman Building, Regions Bank-Northshore, Tennessee Cancer Specialist, Gibbs Middle School, Greater Knoxville Dermatology, and Hardin Valley Internal Medicine & Urgent Care.

The nominees for Outdoor Space are the UT Volunteer Boulevard Streetscape, Dogwood Elementary Nature Trail, the Cumberland Avenue Corridor Project, Central Filling Station, Hyatt Place Downtown Rooftop. The Mill and Mine, Waterfront Drive, Jackson Avenue-Old City Redevelopment, Fort Dickerson Park Entrance, and The Mabry Hazen House.

The nominees for Community Garden are the Christenberry Outdoor Classroom, New Hopewell Community School, Marble City Community Garden, All Saints

Catholic Church Community Garden, and Saint John's Prayer Garden.

The nominees for Public Art are the Clinch Avenue Pedestrian Ramp- Firefly Mural, KNOX Letters at the Knoxville Convention Center, Karns Senior Center- 1 Karns Mosaic Mural, State Street Garage sculpture, Gay Street Viaduct to Jackson Avenue steps mural, and Right Angle Reply (Tall Grasses) at the Knoxville Botanical Gardens.

The nominees for Redesign/Reuse are Knoxville High Independent Senior Living, Cowan Cottage, Loch and Key Productions, The Tombras Group, The Press Room, Kefi, the Cumberland Avenue Corridor Project, Hyatt Place Downtown Knoxville, Chesapeake's West, The Orangery Village, The Mill and Mine, Maple Hall, KYBRA Athletics, The Swift, and Bliss Clothing Store and Cruze Farm Ice Cream (Miller's Building).

The nominees for Restaurant/Café/Bar/Brewery are Full Service BBQ, Kitchen 919, Kefi, Central Filling Station, Chesapeake's West, Maple Hall, The Parlor, and The Swift, and Bliss Clothing Store and Cruze Farm Ice Cream (Miller's Building).

Keep Knoxville Beautiful will announce the winners of the beautification awards at the Orchids Awards Dinner on Thursday, February 28, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at The Press Room, 730 N. Broadway. The evening will include live music, a complimentary beer and wine reception, a signature Post Modern Spirits cocktail, dinner, and the awards ceremony. Mayor Rogero and a special guest from Keep America Beautiful will be the speakers for the night.

For tickets, please visit www.keepknoxvillebeautiful.org/orchid-awards/

Parking under James White Parkway Bridge and the South Waterfront

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The growth of South Knoxville along the river was highlighted in agenda items that were passed by the Knoxville City Council Tuesday.

One resolution, a zero-dollar agreement between the city and the state of Tennessee, approves parking under the James White Bridge along Island Home Avenue between the bridge and the railroad right-of-way. The office of redevelopment requested the agreement. The approved additional parking is to accommodate the growth of businesses along Sevier and Island Home Avenues and the increased use of nearby Suttree Landing Park.

Another resolution authorized Ergon Terminaling, Inc. to permit a barge mooring cell on the river along the shore at 3209 Island Home which is part of the Ijams Nature Center. A separate resolution involved right-of-way easements on 43 properties for the Sevier Avenue Streetscapes Project.

The South Waterfront



People have been parking beneath the James White Parkway Bridge along Island Home Avenue and now that parking is legal. The city and the state agreed to permit parking there to ease parking along Sevier Avenue as the South Waterfront continues to grow and be redeveloped.

is growing as fast or even faster than expected. From the huge retail and apartment complex going up at the site of the former Baptist Hospital Bridge all the way down Sevier Avenue to the Island Home neighborhood, the area has new business investments and prospective businesses looking at the area. Businesses along the road between the former hospital site and Island Home include Echelon Bicycles, Alliance Brewing, Honeybee Coffee, City Lights Bar and Grill, Hard Knox, Bee's Knees Hair Salon, Uncle Lem's Outfitters, South Landing Cross Fit, Thee Print Shop, the

Landing House and South Coast Pizza. There's also a weekly Food Truck Park there and a strip mall going up to house boutiques, a health club, restaurants and sports outfitters.

The waterfront project has three phases and includes the three-mile stretch along the river opposite downtown in a twenty year plan of public and private partnerships.

Dawn Michelle Foster, director of the city's redevelopment department, told The Focus that the under bridge parking came at the request of Sevier Avenue residents and businesses to ease on-street parking there. She

said the city is also preparing to seek right-of-way agreements with 43 property owners there for the planned Sevier Avenue Streetscapes Project. That project, expected to be completed this year, is for curb cuts, LED street lights and intersection improvements and stretches from Davenport Road to Island Home.

Growing with the riverside area the Southside Waterfront Neighborhood Association recently elected new officers. Don Browder is president, Kevin Jeske-Polyak is vice president, Andrew Jeske-Polyak is secretary-treasurer and Terri Durbin is communications director. The organization, according to the office of neighborhoods, stretches from City View Apartments at River Walk Apartments to 303 Flats.

The Old Sevier Community Group represents the neighborhood east of the former Baptist Hospital.

"Sevier Avenue is considered the Main Street for the Old Sevier neighborhood," Foster told the council. The right-of-ways purchase is estimated at \$815,000.

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Students from Shannondale Elementary School celebrate at the conclusion of the Covenant Kids Run kickoff race at Zoo Knoxville on Jan. 27, 2018. Pictured from left: Anna Lee Castleberry, Kaylee Reed, Ava Curtis, Maddie Hinton and Caroline Reed.

City accepting community agency grant applications

The City of Knoxville is now accepting applications from non-profit organizations interested in receiving Community Agency Grant (CAG) funding for Fiscal Year 2019-20, which begins July 1, 2019. Through Community Agency Grants, the City provides funding for both capital and operating purposes to a number of arts organizations and social service agencies. Last year, the City allocated \$1.6 million in grant funding to 68 organizations for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, approved by City Council in spring 2018.

Qualifying non-profits will be those that operate within the City of Knoxville and have been in operation for at least five years. Community Agency Grant funding applicants will choose between "Arts and Culture" or "Community and Social Services" and download the appropriate form at www.knoxvilletn.gov/citygrants.

Arts and Culture organizations granted funding this fiscal year include museums, fine arts organizations, and groups that present and promote the performing arts and cultural experiences from a variety of heritages and backgrounds. Current recipients of funding for Community and Social Services include local organizations that support the physical and

mental health and well-being of city residents.

"Community Agency Grant funding helps area non-profits provide programs and services that respond to our residents' needs and enrich their lives," said Jennifer Searle, Special Program Manager for the City of Knoxville.

Providers of services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness may apply for a Homeless Grant, starting Friday, Feb. 1, via the City's Community Development Department at www.knoxvilletn.gov/development (look under "Current Grant Opportunities").

Submission deadlines for both the Community Agency Grant and Homeless Grant programs is Friday, Feb. 22, at 4 p.m. The City will not consider any application postmarked or received after the deadline. An optional informational meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 31.

For additional information about the City of Knoxville's Community Agency Grant program, or to obtain an application, visit www.knoxvilletn.gov/citygrants or contact Jennifer Searle at jsearle@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-2267.

Let the children run wild at the Covenant Kids Run!

Covenant Kids Run officially underway Jan. 26 at Zoo Knoxville

Children from across East Tennessee will kick off the Covenant Kids Run with a 1-mile event at Zoo Knoxville on Saturday, Jan. 26, to start their personal marathon.

The event, part of the Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon, encourages children to complete a 26.2-mile marathon over two months beginning with the run at Zoo Knoxville.

Each child receives a mileage log to track miles of walking, running or the exercise equivalent, such as 30 minutes of active playtime, leading up to the Covenant Kids Run in downtown Knoxville. Any physical activity counts towards the marathon goal.

The children will complete the last mile of their marathon together on Saturday, March 30. The Covenant Kids Run starts on the Clinch Avenue Viaduct near the SunSphere, continues through the Fort Sanders neighborhood and ends back at World's

Fair Park.

"This event brings the serious considerations about physical fitness, self-esteem and confidence in children to light in a way that is so much fun," said Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon Race Director Jason Altman. "Bring your children to the Covenant Kids Run kickoff this year at Zoo Knoxville and get excited about working with them to set goals as the kids work up to the finale in March. We're excited to see all of the

Continue on page 2

Hit writer Jerry Salley to lead January 26 songwriting workshop

Jerry Salley, reigning Bluegrass Songwriter of the Year, will lead a songwriting workshop from 10:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 26, at Lane Music in West Knoxville, 9648 Kingston Pike.

In addition to his awards in bluegrass, Salley has earned Grammy and Dove Awards for his work in country and gospel music. He also is a chart-topping recording artist and producer and serves as Creative and A&R

Director for Nashville's Billy Blue Records and Billy Jam Records.

"We look forward to gaining Jerry Salley's insights into songwriting and the music business," said KSA President Bobby Johnston. "As time allows, he also will critique a verse and chorus of one song from each participant and perform some of his own hits."

Billboard Magazine has called Salley "one of Music Row's greatest veteran tunesmiths." Over

500 of his songs have been recorded, with sales totaling more than 17 million records worldwide.

Salley has written songs ranging from Sir Elton John's only single to appear on the Billboard Country Chart ("Where We Both Say Goodbye" - a duet with Australian artist Catherine Britt) to a gospel song so popular it has been included in church hymnals ("His Strength Is Perfect").

His songs have been recorded

by country music legends Loretta Lynn and The Oak Ridge Boys and some of today's biggest country stars such as Chris Stapleton, Reba McEntire, and Brad Paisley.

The Knoxville Songwriters Association-sponsored workshop is open to a limited number of non-members for \$15 that can be applied to KSA's \$30 annual dues. To sign up, email lauver100@aol.com or call (865)671-0432.

The Knoxville Songwriters

Association is East Tennessee's largest and most inclusive songwriting organization. Founded in 1983, the group helps area songwriters develop their musical talents and understanding of the music business.

KSA meets each Tuesday at the Fountain City Library, 5300 Stanton Road. A jam session at 5 p.m. is followed by a meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. that includes writing lessons and song critiques.

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Celebrating 18 Years!

Let the children run wild at the Covenant Kids Run!

Cont. from page 1

smiles against the wild and beautiful backdrop of Zoo Knoxville."

The kickoff run at Zoo Knoxville will begin at noon. The cost is \$20 per child and covers both the Jan. 26 event and the Covenant Kids Run on March 30. Families can register in advance at knoxvillemarathon.com or on-site at the zoo starting at 10 a.m. the day of the event.

The registration fee also includes free admission to the zoo for the race participant and one accompanying adult for the day of the run. Any additional guests with the child will receive half-price admission.

Children in eighth grade and younger are eligible to

participate in the Kids Run. Each child that participates in the Covenant Kids Run on March 30 also will earn one point for his or her school in the Fittest School Challenge, a competition among area schools. Schools register for the Covenant Kids Run and provide a total student enrollment count. The top five schools in the small school (fewer than 300 students) and large school (301+ students) categories with the highest percentage of student participation in the race win prize money and a Fittest School Challenge plaque.

"We want to encourage healthy habits and a strong self-image through the Covenant Kids Run," Altman said. "Setting a big goal, then seeing how



The youngest wave of kids, some accompanied by parents, take off at the start line of the Covenant Kids Run kickoff race at Zoo Knoxville on Jan. 27, 2018. The 2019 Covenant Kids Run kickoff race will take place on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019.

it can be accomplished one step at a time is empowering."

In case of inclement weather Jan. 26, please visit www.knoxvillemarathon.com for updates. The makeup date for cancellation due

to inclement weather will be Saturday, Feb. 2.

Emeritus Missionaries Remember Christmas in Spain

They met in Michigan, though both couples were from Tennessee. Missionaries Howard and Joyce Nighbert Clark were on their first state-side assignment in 1986. The Clarks shared their need to have someone pastor their church when they took their next stateside assignment in December 1988. Longtime Wallace Memorial Baptist Church Pastor Jim McCluskey and his wife, Lib, expressed interest.



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

Mass or Misa de Gallo. This was held in the largest church in the Spanish speaking world. It was dedicated to Mary-Virgin del Pilar and had beautiful ceilings painted by the famous painter Goya. The highlight of the Christmas Eve service was the beautiful singing by the boys' choir. The priest held a small doll representing Jesus. As the long line of worshipers went forward to receive communion, each would kiss the "doll."

As the Clarks shared more about their years of service in Spain, the different customs of Spain's Christmas celebrations became even more evident. Not long after going to bed on Christmas Eve, they heard a knock on their third floor apartment door and were invited downstairs to spend Noche Buena (Christmas Eve) with some new friends. The custom was to stay up all night eating, talking, and playing games. They learned that Christians of

all faiths attend services on Christmas Day regardless of the day of the week, and the baby was never added to the Christmas scenes until Christmas Day. Though many children received gifts both for Christmas and 3 Kings Day, the largest and most important was 3 Kings Day. Children would sit on a king's lap to tell what they wanted. During the parade, the kings rode on camels as they waved to the children.

The Clarks served 16 years with the International Mission Board, eight of those in Zaragoza (northern Spain) and eight years on the Atlantic coast in Rota (southern Spain). "We had shared with the McCluskeys that Christmas trees were not a part of the custom in Spain, so Lib brought a suitcase and pulled out her tree already decorated and left it for us," Joyce said. "We have enjoyed using the Christmas tree for the last 30 years whether we are at home or away." This year, the treasured little tree that has traveled from Tennessee to Spain and back again made its way with the Clarks to Middle Tennessee for their Christmas celebration!

Whole Lot of Changing Going On

I'm sometimes awed by the differences that exist in this world compared to the one that existed just ten years ago. That's how long ago it has been since I retired from teaching. I swore when I left that I would never return, another instance where I've had to eat my words. So much has changed in the world in which we live, and sometimes I feel as if I don't belong.



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

Cell phones are like cockroaches. They are everywhere, but unlike the bugs, kids can't keep their hands off them. Even when I give instructions to put them away, students sneak them out. The new earbuds can be hidden behind long hair so that students can listen to music. Their thumbs glide across the screen as they send text messages to fellow students, parents, or sweethearts.

The last year I taught, few students had phones. They weren't allowed to be out during school, and if they were, teachers confiscated them and turned them into the office. On the second offense, parents had to come to school to pick up the phones from the office.

Continued violations could lead to the phones being taken for the rest of the term. Students have tablets now. They are streamlined and lightweight; kids can easily carry them in backpacks. Unlimited space is available for storing documents, videos, and games, and simple thumb drives offer more space than older computers ever had. Smart boards are used in classrooms and can project notes from a teacher, videos, and sound.

When I left teaching, computers were bulky. The towers sat on the floors or on desk tops. The machine took up most of the desk. Only the most fortunate people owned laptops. As for teaching, classrooms were just being equipped with whiteboards to replace chalkboards. Perhaps one or two special teachers had primitive smart boards. Projecting things required an overhead projector, and the bulb blinded teachers and burned out quickly. Grades were stored in gradebooks and then transferred to computer programs that demanded too much work.

Doors are locked

everywhere in schools. Security is tight with good reason. Too many attacks on children occur each year, and those who would do harm many times come from the outside. Schools practice lockdowns, and students know exactly what to do during those dry runs.

We had a couple of fire drills and a tornado drill each year. The window shades were opened, and the classroom doors were unlocked. School wasn't the first choice to visit daily for kids, but at least it was a safer environment. Sure, fist fights occurred, and every so often, classrooms were under lockdown as the police brought in dogs to search locker bays and cars for drugs. However, the daily fear of an attack didn't exist.

What does console me is the fact that high school students haven't changed all that much. They still enjoy the time they have with friends. Many of them arrive at school half asleep and grunt at each other or parents who drop them off at the front door. The snarls on their faces remain as they enter classrooms. Teens still roll their eyes at adults when they tell corny jokes or come up with clever puns. During class breaks and lunches, those sleepy-eyed, ill-tempered beings transform into happy, energetic folks who seem to thrive off contact with their peers.

I still don't miss the routine of teaching. Burn out came after 30 years, and I'm just not interested in going back to the daily grind. Still, I can enjoy reacting with kids in small amounts. Their excitement, energy, and love of life always make me feel a little younger and livelier. I only wish I understood the new things that they consider parts of daily life.

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Tennessee Governors & the Path to the US Senate Part Seventeen

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Following the unexpected death of Senator Estes Kefauver, jockeying to run in the 1964 special election to serve the remaining term years of Kefauver's term came down to Congressman Ross Bass of Pulaski and Governor Frank Clement. There seemed to be some possibility incumbent senator Herbert Walters of Morristown might run, but few thought it likely. Walters had been Tennessee's "Mr. Democrat" for decades and aside from one term in the Tennessee House of Representatives, the seventy-one year old millionaire businessman had never run for elective office. Walters had been a stalwart of Senator Kenneth McKellar's political organization and the Morristown Democrat had warmly supported Frank Clement against Governor Gordon Browning in 1952. The personal relationship between Herbert S. Walters and Frank Clement was as warm as their political rapport.

Another possibility was former governor Buford Ellington. Ellington had been Clement's Commissioner of Agriculture throughout much of Governor Clement's six-year tenure during the 1950s. Indeed, Buford Ellington was able to win a multi-candidate gubernatorial primary largely on the strength of the Clement political organization in 1958. Yet, there was a permanent chill between the two men. Whether Ellington was pondering the possibility of running in the 1964 special election for the U. S. Senate, or perhaps eyeing the seat of Senator Albert Gore was unknown.

Clement waited to see what Walters would do, while Congressman Ross Bass crisscrossed the state in a series of "nonpolitical" speaking engagements. When Bass spoke at the Madison Kiwanis Club at the Patterson Restaurant, the topic was largely civil rights. "We in Tennessee are moving now to insure that all races can live together in a peaceful community," Bass told the Kiwanians. "And I believe the whole nation should." The Congressman went even a bit farther, telling the members of the audience, "If a man is a citizen of the United States, I believe he should be afforded the opportunity of using all the facilities of the public community."

"We send men of all races overseas to fight for our flag, and all are accepted everywhere they go in foreign countries. It should be the same in America," Bass said. The Congressman referred to

President Lyndon Johnson, who a couple of months earlier had assumed the presidency after John F. Kennedy had been assassinated in Dallas. "If we don't support Johnson on civil rights --- which is inevitable anyway --- we don't deserve a Southern president for another hundred years."

As Congressman Bass told reporters he would make a "final and irrevocable" decision about the Senate race by February 17, 1964, newsmen quizzed him about the other potential candidates. When asked who he thought his opponent would be in the Democratic primary, Bass replied, "Either the governor of Tennessee or someone of his choosing." When asked whether Senator Walters might run, Congressman Bass said, "The governor's influence will have some bearing on his decision." "What about former governor Buford Ellington?" one reporter yelled. "I don't think he would run unless he's the governor's choice," Bass retorted.

Ross Bass had defined the Senate race in Tennessee to largely one depending upon Frank Clement. Yet the governor was virtually silent on the topic of the Senate race. Clement had made no overtly political moves since the death of Estes Kefauver. There were those who firmly believed the governor would not be a candidate in the 1964 special election, preferring to wait until the expiration of his term in 1966 to be a candidate. Whoever won the 1964 special election for the United States Senate would have to run for a full six-year term again in 1966. Therein lay the dilemma for Frank Clement. If he chose not to compete in the 1964 senatorial campaign, he would remain governor for another two years, but he also risked the possibility the incumbent would be almost impossible to beat by 1966.

Neither Congressman Ross Bass nor Governor Frank Clement paid much attention to Tennessee Republicans. No Republican had ever been popularly elected to the United States Senate in Tennessee's history. Yet there was reason to believe the GOP might be a factor in the 1964 election. Young William E. Brock had surprised Tennessee Democrats when he won the 1962 election after Wilkes Thrasher, Jr. defeated incumbent congressman James B. Frazier, Jr. in the Democratic primary. All three of East Tennessee's congressional



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Senator Ross Bass at his desk, circa 1965.

districts were occupied by Republicans in 1963. Nor was the growing strength of the GOP confined solely to East Tennessee. Congressman Clifford Davis, the last vestige of the old Crump machine in Shelby County had quite nearly been toppled from office by a Republican in the 1962 election. Perhaps even more troubling was the fact after Frank Clement had won the 1962 gubernatorial nomination inside the Democratic primary, he had faced an independent challenge from William R. Anderson, former Captain of the famed Nautilus submarine and Republican nominee Hubert Patty. Clement had won a bare majority in the general election, while Anderson won a third of the statewide vote. While Republican nominee Patty had not been a threat to Clement's triumphant return to the governor's mansion, it was plain to see the ties that had so tightly bound many Tennesseans to the Democratic Party were binding ever more lightly.

The home folks in Ross Bass' city of Pulaski evidently were certain the congressman would be a candidate for the U. S. Senate as they gathered at a \$10 per plate dinner at the Pulaski Elementary School. While he did not declare his candidacy, Bass told cheering supporters, "I would like to announce to you that I will not be a candidate for re-election to the House of Representatives." Bass heavily promoted his work on behalf of the first significant cut in the income tax in the country's history while his supporters passed around bumperstickers reading "Ross Bass for U. S. Senate." Just a day before Ross Bass was to make his formal announcement of candidacy the Nashville Tennessean ran a profile of his wife, Avaneil. Avaneil Bass was a beautiful woman, as a former Powers model would likely be; however, Mrs. Bass was quite an accomplished woman and served as her husband's Chief of Staff in Washington. The

fashionable and intelligent Avaneil Bass would prove to be quite an asset to her husband.

True to his word, Congressman Ross Bass officially announced he would be a candidate for the United States Senate on February 17, 1964. Bass said he would be a candidate for the seat once held by "my late beloved friend and colleague, Sen. Estes Kefauver." Bass cautioned his supporters he would still remain active in the House of Representatives and was a warrior in President Lyndon Johnson's war on poverty. His senatorial campaign would be "secondary" for such causes. "I would be in Washington to cast my vote on such measures," Bass told his supporters. "We have pockets of poverty here in Tennessee which must be wiped out and I'll do my part on the issue." Speaking at the Andrew Jackson Hotel in Nashville, Bass said his experience in the House of Representatives would be invaluable to Tennesseans in the Senate. "It shall be my purpose to represent the people of Tennessee with vitality and vigor --- to protect and promote their interests and purposes at the national level in government...I am running for the Senate to broaden my base of public service --- not for any political power or self-purpose; not to defeat anyone because of personal dislike; but because of a continuing ambition and desire to serve all the people of my beloved native state of Tennessee."

Congressman Bass drew applause from his audience when he predicted President Lyndon Johnson would be overwhelmingly reelected. Saying he knew LBJ quite well, he found himself "compatible with President Johnson's ideals, and I will have no problem working for his programs in promoting the interests of Tennessee."

Following his announcement of his candidacy in Nashville, Bass flew to Memphis where he opened his West Tennessee campaign. The congressman claimed the

support of the late Senator Kefauver's backers; while attending a luncheon in the Bluff City, Bass endorsed a plan dear to many Memphians. Bass said he would support the plan to open Tennessee as an international seaport via the Mississippi River from New Orleans to Memphis. A few days later Ross Bass was in Knoxville, speaking on the University of Tennessee campus to enthusiastic Young Democrats.

Back in Washington, D.C., ultra-conservative Virginia congressman Howard Smith was attempting to slow down the civil rights bill. Smith shrewdly sought to include women's rights in the bill, saying he wished "to prevent discrimination against another minority group, the women." Congressman Emanuel Celler of New York snorted women were not a numerical minority. In a sugary voice, Smith agreed with Celler that women were indeed not a numerical minority, yet that simply made their plight all the worse. Smith cautioned his colleagues, "I just want to remind you here that in this election year it is pretty nearly half of the voters in this country that are affected, so you had better sit up and take notice." Congressman Ross Bass jumped up and declared, "I am for women. I want the record to show that I am for both the unmarried and the married women."

It was consideration of the civil rights bill that Senator Herbert S. Walters used as much of the reason he would not be a candidate when he made his announcement the last of April 1964. Speaking at a news conference, Senator Walters said, "I could not, in good conscience, even attempt to divide my time between this important legislation and a campaign."

Walters did use the occasion to denounce press reports he had some kind of arrangement with Governor Clement not to be a candidate for the U.S. Senate. "I want to say as strongly and emphatically as I can...there is no truth whatsoever to

these stories," Walters snapped. "There is not now and never has been any so-called 'deal.'" Walters, who described his political philosophy as being somewhere between that of highly conservative Virginia Senator Harry F. Byrd and ultra-liberal Minnesota Senator Hubert Humphrey, said he would not back either Bass or businessman M. M. Bullard as his successor in the U. S. Senate. Walters had come out against the civil rights bill, but so had Tennessee's senior U. S. senator, Albert Gore.

Not long before Walters made his announcement he would not be a candidate for the U. S. Senate, the senator had said he was still considering a campaign. Ross Bass was one of those who promoted the idea there had been some kind of understanding between Frank Clement and Herbert Walters when the former had appointed the latter to succeed Estes Kefauver. When asked by reporters whether he thought Clement would run for the Senate, Bass replied, "I don't know whether Gov. Frank Clement will run. It just depends on whether Walters made a deal with him for the appointment."

The Tennessean, profoundly opposed to Frank Clement, promptly published a scathing editorial claiming Senator Walters had been "shoved out" in anticipation of a "Clement grab" for the senatorial nomination. Perhaps even more hurtful was a devastating political cartoon on the Tennessean's editorial page depicting the arm of Governor Frank Clement, clothed in a suit of dollar signs, grasping for the Capitol dome. The Tennessean furiously lamented the same Senate seat once occupied by Estes Kefauver had become an object "in a disgraceful power play" by Governor Clement.

The race for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate in the 1964 was about to begin in earnest.

Lost places in our state

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

There are places in our region that were once important trade centers, ports or towns that simply disappeared. Some by rising waters of TVA lakes, some by a failing local economy and closing coal mines, and some by changing roads, railroads or dwindling populations.

Some towns like Fountain City and Park City disappeared only because the larger city next door, Knoxville, gobbled them up and their local governments disappeared. The community of Farragut feared the same would happen to them and they organized their own town.

One county to totally vanish was James County, southwest of Knoxville, which simply became so bankrupt that it disappeared and was gobbled up by surrounding counties. Organized in 1871 from bits of Hamilton and Bradley counties it lasted for 48 years and died in 1919.

Named for Rev. Jesse James, a Hamilton County preacher, James County had about 5,000 residents who lived in county towns such as Ooltewah, Harrison, Apison and Collegedale.

Located along the Tennessee River the county also included ferry sites named Vann, Fields, Tennor, McCalley, Daughtery and Blythe.

The James County economy was based on agriculture and never produced enough revenue for the jurisdiction to continue. The county was reabsorbed by Bradley and Hamilton counties.

Years later the creation of the TVA's Chickamauga Lake flooded the towns Hamilton and Vannstown causing them to disappear.

Other East Tennessee towns to

disappear as a result of rising lake waters included Morgantown, Dallas and Grantsboro. Loyston went underwater also but reemerged nearby on higher ground, as did Bean Station.

The town of Loyston was in Union County and was swallowed by the waters of Norris Dam. Founded by John Loy the town had a post office, several stores, and was located near where Mill Creek empties into the Clinch River. Established in the early 1800s Loyston had a foundry and about 70 residents.

As floodwaters of the dam forced people to higher ground, several settled in what became known as New Loyston near the intersection of Highways 61 and 170. The old town site is now under the waters of the lake, along the shores of Big Ridge State park in a section called "Loyston Sea."

Montgomery, in Morgan County, thrived from 1818 until 1870. Originally located 13 miles west of Wartburg, the town was rebuilt 1.5 miles west of Wartburg due to the formation of Fentress County. By 1870 the town property there, except for the jail, was sold and the county seat moved to Wartburg.

It may be one of the few towns to disappear because of political changes. Today only Montgomery Road and Old Montgomery Road recalls that a town was once located there.

Port Royal, near Adams, Tennessee, was one of the earliest trading ports in middle Tennessee. The community grew up around the river port there and today the community, except for a few buildings, has vanished into a state park. Founded in 1797 along the Red River many of the foundations and older bridges exist for the pleasure of park visitors. The abandoned settlement is located off Interstate 24 north of Clarksville.

Knoxville College Reopens Chapel



PHOTO BY VIVIAN SHIPE

Cutting the ribbon to rededicate the McMillan Chapel at Knoxville College recently were Judith Tolbert, trustee from Fairbanks, Alaska; Dr. Keith Lindsey, interim president of Knoxville College; Dr. Dasha Lundy, trustee; and Dr. Johnny Ford, trustee from Tuskegee, Alabama.

The historic black college, founded in 1875 and built by former slaves and students, was recently accredited for classes. The school promises renovated classrooms to be ready for fall enrollment.

The accreditation came back in May from the Tennessee Higher Education

Commission. The college will offer associate degrees in art, math, natural science, social studies and the humanities.

Repairs are currently ongoing at the administration building and courses are also being offered online.

St. Mary's health care legacy continues

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

First the Baptist Hospital just across the Henley Street Bridge closed, making way for a huge apartment and retail center now under construction.

Then St. Mary's Hospital was sold and became Mercy Health Partners before being purchased by Tennova, which eventually announced that the flagship hospital on East Oak Hill Avenue off Broadway is closing. The city is talking with Tennova to purchase that large facility for possible use as the police and fire headquarters.

Tennova is already transferring several departments to its North Knoxville and Turkey Creek locations.

The closing of St. Mary's (or Tennova Physicians Regional Hospital) has hit those North Knoxville residents that relied on the hospital. Located just behind Fulton High School, the large complex has a unique and interesting history. For many, many residents St. Mary's was their closest full-medical facility

and now their trips to the hospital, for patient care, emergencies, or visitations, will be a much longer drive.

St. Mary's began through the efforts of the Sisters of Mercy of the Cincinnati Province. In 1928 Daniel DeWine donated land for a Catholic hospital. Raising money for a new hospital was difficult during the Great Depression but the Sisters of Mercy opened the hospital in 1930.

Over the years St. Mary's expanded several times in the original location and other hospital sites were acquired. The Cincinnati Province re-organized its health care ministries and formed Mercy Health Care System. The Sisters joined their hospitals with Mercy and became Catholic Health Partners in 1997.

The hospital continued to expand and became the St. Mary's Health System with seven local facilities. In 2008 St. Mary's merged with Baptist Health Systems to form Mercy Health Partners, within the Catholic Health Partners

system.

In 2011 the hospital system was sold to Health Management Associates, Inc. a system located in Naples, Florida. St. Mary's at the time of the sale operated six hospital sites. Those Sisters of Mercy living on-site at the original hospital were permitted to continue living there and serving at the hospital.

With the sale of St. Mary's, the Diocese of Knoxville founded St. Mary's Legacy Foundation to support the ministry founded by the Sisters. The foundation then funded the purchase of St. Mary's Legacy Mobile Clinic which still provides health care, education and charity in an outreach program serving more than 5,000 regional families.

The original hospital became known as Tennova Physicians Regional Hospital. The City of Knoxville plans to purchase and renovate the sixteen-acre hospital complex in a \$40 million commitment.

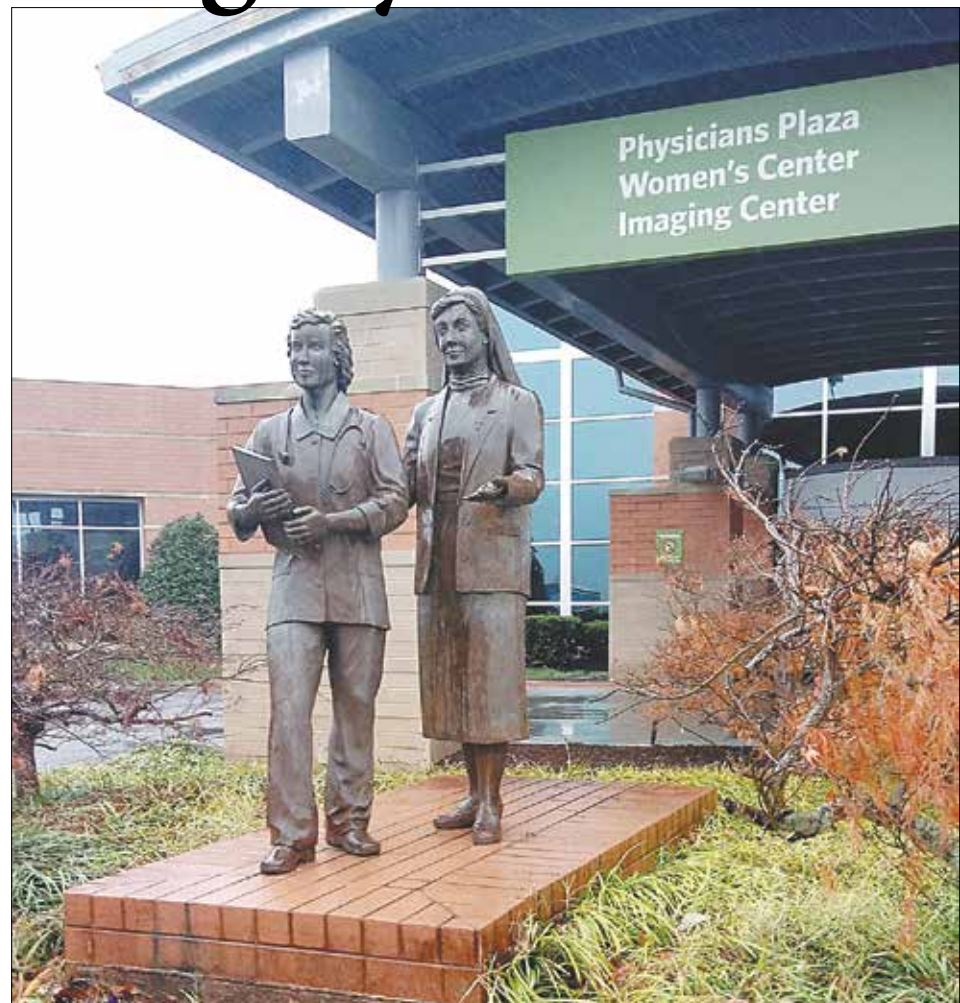


PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Although the Sisters of Mercy no longer own or operate the former St. Mary's Hospitals the statues of a nun and health care professional continue to stand just outside Tennova's North Knoxville location off Emory Road. Many of the services from the closed Tennova Physicians Regional Hospital have been transferred there or to Tennova's Turkey Creek hospital.

A Heart of Flesh

When Ezekiel writes his letter, the children of Israel are in captivity in Babylon. Ezekiel, along with 10,000 other Jews, were exiled there by Nebuchadnezzar in 597 B.C. He was married, had a house of his own, and served as a priest. While in Babylon, he received the call to become a prophet of

God. As a priest-prophet, he ministered to the exiles who longed to return to Jerusalem. Unlike other prophets of God, Ezekiel was directed to act out in prophetic symbolism God's message to the exiled people.

At first, Ezekiel's prophetic message was one of divine



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

judgment by God upon the nation due to their disobedience and idolatry. Ezekiel foretold the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem which came to fruition on August 14, 586 B.C., when the city and temple were burned. Ezekiel's words were harsh and heart-rending. The only hope Ezekiel was commanded to share with the people was that they should live at peace in Babylon and with God during their exile.

Sadly, for Ezekiel, after being informed by God that Jerusalem would fall, he was told his beloved wife would soon die (24:1-14). The delight of his eyes would be taken

from him like the delight of Israel's eyes, the temple, would be taken from them. Ezekiel was told not to mourn openly for his wife as a sign for the people not to mourn openly for Jerusalem (24:15-27).

After word came that Jerusalem was destroyed, Ezekiel's message changed to become one of hope for his people. Chapters 33-48 contain words of encouragement that they would experience spiritual revival and restoration. The time was coming when spiritual Israel would have a glorious future as God's kingdom in the world. It is in this context that Ezekiel shares the following message from God: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a

heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26).

The Hebrew word for "flesh" (bawsawr) refers to the fleshly body that we have. However, if we look at the root word from which bawsawr comes from, we can more clearly see what God is talking about. It comes from the Hebrew word basar that means "to be fresh, to announce, preach, show forth good tidings." God wants to take our old heart of stone and replace it with a heart that is soft and pliable. The word "heart" comes from the Hebrew word lebab that refers to our feelings and will. It refers to our intellect and even to the center of our very being, or who we really are.

Like the ancient exiled Jews, we need to let God change our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh.

Allow God to mold you into the very being of love that he wants you to be. Let God work through you to be a bright light that points people to Christ. The evidence of receiving a heart of flesh by God is revealed by your actions. The fruit that flows from your life will show what is inside of you. Paul told the Galatian church what having a heart of flesh looks like. He wrote about the fruit of the Spirit being manifest in your life: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). If God has given you a heart of flesh, then this is the fruit that you will be showing to others.

Big second half nets title for West Valley girls

By Ken Lay

A perfect record stayed intact for the West Valley Middle School girls basketball team.

The Lady Wolves also won the James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Basketball Tournament Thursday night.

But it was perhaps the toughest test of the season.

"It was what I like to call a slop game," West Valley coach Josh Ballard said after his squad notched a 42-27 victory over third-seeded Karns before a packed and spirited house as South-Doyle Middle School. "When I stay it's a slop game, I mean that Karns is a good team and there's a reason they went 13-2 in the [Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference] and finished tied for that second seed"

"They're good and they play great defense. They force you to take quick shots and they rebound."

The Lady Beavers (19-3 overall) finished in a second-place tie with Halls but the Lady Demons captured the No. 2 seed by virtue of their regular-season win over Karns."

The Lady Beavers were stinging out of the gate as they held West Valley to just five points during the



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS.

The West Valley Middle school girls basketball team won the James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament with a 42-27 victory over Karns Thursday night at South-Doyle. Both the Lady Wolves and Lady Beavers advance to Sectionals which open Saturday, Jan. 26 at Hardin Valley Middle School.

opening six minutes. Trouble was, Karns managed just two points of its own in the first quarter.

But it was evident that the Lady Beavers came prepared to battle and they weren't going to go quietly.

"I'm proud of my girls," Karns coach Paige Ewing said. "We came out and we stuck to our game plan. The

good thing is that we're not done and we get to move on [to the East Tennessee Sectionals]."

The Lady Wolves, the Lady Beavers and Farragut Middle (which defeated Powell 46-28 in the third-place game on Thursday afternoon) all advance to the sectional tournament on Saturday, Jan.

26 at Hardin Valley Middle School.

Pairings and game times were not available at press time.

Karns more than held its own against West Valley early in the title tilt. The Lady Beavers were 11-10 when Judea Taylor buried a 3-point shot with 1 minute, 15 seconds remaining

before halftime.

Avery Treadwell, West Valley's eighth grade post player who was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, made a layup with 17.2 seconds left in the second stanza.

Karns kept her in check early as she scored just five points before halftime. But she would finish the

contest with 15 points to lead all scorers.

Brinley Murphy finished with 10 points (all after halftime). Annalise Bishop added six and Sharon Wilson scored five points in the game.

Wilson, Murphy and Bishop all joined Treadwell on the all-tournament team along with Judea Taylor (who led the Lady Beavers with 10 points), Sammy Taylor and Javiana Pendergrass.

Murphy said that the Lady Wolves didn't panic when they were embroiled in the defensive struggle that was the first half.

"We're a family and when we get down, we play like a family," she said. "We just have to do whatever it takes."

Treadwell agreed.

"We just stick together like glue," Treadwell said. "It's not all just me. We even have people who don't play [in games] who push us in practice and that's why this team is so good."

Ballard noted that he was pleased with the way his team responded after halftime.

"We came out in the second half and we started playing ball," he said.

Powell outlasts Vine 56-48 for Knox County boys' title

By Steve Williams

The 1-2 punch of Brice Burkhart and Aiden Greene and a productive supporting cast propelled No. 3 seed Powell past Vine 56-48 in the Knox County Middle School boys basketball tournament finals Thursday night.

The regular season champion Golden Bears stormed back from an 18-point deficit to take the lead midway through the fourth period, but didn't have enough energy left to overcome a late surge by the Panthers.

Powell veteran coach Darin Courtney praised the play of tourney MVP Burkhart (20 points) and Greene (18 points, including four 3-pointers), but also talked about the important contributions from Casen Huffaker (11 points) and Emmett Burns (shot blocking).

"Huffaker won the game for us," said Courtney. "He didn't score in the last game. A lot of times

he gets two points, four points. But he had a good all around performance tonight, getting big put-backs and making a 3. A kid that plays his hardest at all times made the plays that you have to have to win a championship.

"And Burns, with all his blocks, you don't see his points a whole lot. But early in the game, it set the tone for us to get a lead. It was just a complete team effort."

Bryce Jarrett chipped in five points and joined Burkhart and Greene on the all-tournament team.

Messiah Ward fired in 23 points, including three treys, to lead Vine. Markeis Barrett and Marcellus Jackson added eight points apiece. All three earned all-tournament honors.

Powell, which avenged an early season overtime loss at Vine, will carry a 23-2 overall record into Tennessee Middle School Athletic Association sectional play, which starts Saturday, Jan.

26, at Hardin Valley.

Vine, which went 15-0 in league play, and West Valley, the third place finisher in the tournament, also advance to the TMSAA sectional. This will be the first year for Knox County teams to play in the state event.

Rebound baskets by Huffaker and Burns gave Powell a 4-0 lead in a fast-paced, but low-scoring first period. Jackson's jumper on a fast break gave Vine its first points with 3:37 on the clock. A 3-pointer from the right wing by Ward gave the Bears their first lead (5-4). The first period ended in a 7-7 tie.

Trailing 11-9, the Panthers outscored Vine 11-0 in the final 2:50 of the first half. Jarrett, Greene and Huffaker each hit from 3-point range and Burkhart added a layup.

Powell continued the run with nine points at the start of the third period. Burkhart connected from top of circle and on a layup. Huffaker stuck in a rebound

and Greene turned a defensive pick into a layup to make it 29-11.

Ward drilled a 3-pointer at the 4:20 mark to get Vine going and totaled 16 points as the Bears outscored Powell 20-5 to pull within five at the end of the third period.

A floater by Ward gave Vine the lead (35-34) with 4:28 to go. Huffaker answered with a layup to put Powell back ahead and the Panthers never trailed again.

Leading 42-40 at crunch time, Greene drilled a 3-pointer and then blocked a Vine shot on the other end of the floor.

Burkhart sank a free throw, Burns blocked another shot inside and Burkhart drove for a basket to make it 48-40.

With the clock almost down to one minute and Powell holding the ball, Greene snuck in for a layup and was fouled. His free throw made it 51-42. Vine **Continued on page 2**



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS.

Vine's Markeis Barrett goes up for a shot as Powell's Emmett Burns (50) defends in the Knox County Middle School championship game Thursday night. Powell won, 56-48.

The award is based on Attitude, Careacter, Grades, Community Service and Performance as a Person.

BOYS BASKETBALL (Honorees for Weeks 1 and 2 of 2018-19 season)

- Austin East - LaRon Dixon
- Bearden - Tyler Nordin
- Berean Christian - Jacob Dunn
- CAK - Griffin Parker
- Carter - T.J. Simmons
- Catholic - Presley Patterson
- Central - Terrohn Jackson
- Concord Christian - Josh Gilder
- Farragut - Will Brown
- First Baptist Academy - Jack Brown

- Fulton - Keithon Foster
- Gibbs - Shawn Park
- Grace Christian - Ethan Vaden
- Halls - Riley Lloyd
- Hardin Valley - Preston Foster
- Karns - Logan Crawford
- Powell - Desmond Billingsley
- South Doyle - Hayden Lowe
- TSD - Loranze Currie
- Webb - Charlie Wyrick
- West - Allan Bivens
- Johnson University - Taylor Gilpin

Powell outlasts Vine 56-48 for Knox County boys' title

Cont. from page 1

couldn't get any closer than eight.

"We spent so much energy getting back in it," said Vine Coach Jerel Heyward, who guided the Bears to the Knox County tournament title in 2017. "Once we got back in the game, we couldn't make the two or three plays to get over the hump."

It was Courtney's fourth county tournament championship in five title appearances in his 17 years at Powell. His teams also have won five regular season crowns.

PATH TO FINALS: Powell defeated Gresham 70-56 and Vine moved past Whittle Springs 59-39 in the quarterfinals. Powell topped West Valley 52-29 and Vine edged Farragut 37-34 in the semifinals.



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

Powell's Casen Huffaker holds the gold basketball and teammates signal "We're No. 1" after the Panthers' 56-48 win over Vine in the Knox County Middle School tournament finals. That's veteran head coach Darin Courtney sharing the moment in between Huffaker and Ayden Greene. The tourney title was Courtney's fourth in his 17 seasons at Powell Middle.

Lady Admirals, Wolves win consolation titles, advance to sectionals

By Ken Lay

Two area middle school basketball teams punched their respective tickets to the East Tennessee Sectionals last week.

Farragut's girls and West Valley's boys claimed third place in the James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament and the consolation victories clinched bids to the Sectional Tournament, which opens Saturday, Jan. 26 at Hardin Valley Middle School.

This season marks the first time that teams from the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference have moved on and had a chance to play for a sectional and state championship.

The state championship games will be in Murfreesboro early next month.

The Lady Admirals will join

Karns and KCMSBC champion and undefeated West Valley in the girls tournament this weekend.

The Wolves will join regular-season champion and conference tournament champion Powell in Northwest Knox County Saturday.

"This is historical for all of these teams because we all get a chance to play for in the sectionals and play for a state championship for the first time," Farragut coach Susan Davidson said after the Lady Admirals defeated Powell 46-28 Thursday at South-Doyle Middle School. "Tonight, we had a total team effort."

Annie Priest, a seventh grader, set the tone for the Lady Admirals early. She scored the first four points of the game. She would finish with nine. She also had 12 rebounds and nine steals.

Aubrey Stackhouse led the Admirals with 10 points and made the all-tournament team along with Priest. Carly Vining also had nine points for Farragut (16-7).

Stackhouse also had six steals and Vining had seven rebounds. Addison Pressley had six steals.

Powell's Alaina Schroeder had 18 points to lead all scorers.

In addition to helping the Lady Admirals advance, the win also avenged a 33-23 loss to the Lady Panthers during the regular season.

"Powell is very good and they beat us by 10 points just before Christmas," Davidson said. "My hat goes off to Alaina Schroeder. "She's a great player."

While the Lady Admirals got defensive in their most recent win, it was a first-quarter shooting

barrage that propelled the Wolves (20-4) to a 45-28 victory over Farragut (15-8) Thursday night.

West Valley jumped to a 20-6 lead early and never looked back.

Jake Poole scored 15 points to pace a balanced offensive attack for the Wolves. Lucas Nordin added 10. Noah Karnowski had eight and Nelson Karnowski finished with six.

West Valley coach Noel Landrum said he's glad to moving on to the sectional tournament.

"I think it's great to be going to the sectionals for the first time," Landrum said. "I think I would've been really disappointed if we would've lost tonight."

"I really love this team and I'm glad to get to coach them for at least another week. I'm just not ready to say bye to them yet."

Alex Doeger led the Admirals

with 10 points while Griffin Mashburn and Karaaz Johnson scored six each. Dallas Carbaugh finished with five.

Despite seeing his team close the season on a losing note, Farragut coach Randy Swartzentruber said he was pleased with the 2018-19 season.

"They did a good job and they made shots," Swartzentruber said. "We really didn't do that good of a job tonight but we're happy with our season."

"It would've been nice to have won this game and move on. But I told the guys that we should really remember our [tournament] wins against Northwest and Bearden and our game the other night [a 38-34 loss to Vine]. Those are the best games we played this season."

Lady Panthers outlast Austin-East for home win

By Ken Lay

Powell High School girls basketball coach John Fisher was the first to admit that his team had a subpar offensive outing when it tangled with a pesky Austin-East squad early last week.

"We didn't shoot it good and when you don't shoot it good, you just try to do the best you can," Fisher said after the Lady Panthers nabbed a 56-45 non-district victory over the Lady Roadrunners on Monday, Jan. 14, at Powell's Jeff Hunter Gymnasium. "We didn't shoot good and Austin-East played hard and we had chances to put them away but we really just couldn't do it."

"But we made plays when we had to make plays."

Despite suffering through shooting woes and prolonged offensive droughts, the Lady Panthers (15-4) made 11 shots from beyond the 3-point arc and got 29 points from Bailey Trumm.

Powell never trailed in the game but for the Lady Roadrunners, it was another near miss and another game where a solid effort couldn't quite produce a victory in a season where wins have been few and far between.

Austin-East has been competitive enough to hang around but with last week's setback to the Lady Panthers, the Lady Roadrunners dropped to 3-10 on the season.

"We've been in every game that we've played this season, but we just haven't been able to finish," Austin-East coach Anthony Anderson said.

Powell got off to a fast start and its first five successful shots came from long-range. The Lady Panthers got three 3-pointers from Bailey Trumm in the opening frame. Her sister, Reagon, had one and Savannah added another in the opening frame to help Powell open a 19-12 advantage by first quarter's end.

Reagon Trumm had the only 2-point field goal for the Lady Panthers in the inaugural stanza. She also made a free throw. Taylor Rodgers also added a foul shot to help the home team open its first-quarter lead.

From there, Powell would maintain the upper hand in the game but the Lady Roadrunners would pull to within 44-38 by the end of the third stanza thanks to a modest 16-10 run in the quarter.

The surge was culminated when Trinity Turner scored as time expired in the third frame.

Austin-East pulled to within four points twice over the final eight minutes. The Lady Roadrunners got to within 44-40 when Larriana Bullard scored with 6 minutes, 5 seconds remaining.

Powell then took a 47-40 lead when Parker nailed a 3-pointer at the five-minute mark. A-E scored the next three points to make it 47-43 before Powell closed the game on a 9-2 run.

Parker scored 14 points for the Lady Panthers while Reagon Trumm added nine.

Bullard led the Lady Roadrunners with 17 points.

Roadrunners survive physical test at Powell

By Ken Lay

Austin-East High School boys basketball coach Marcus Stanton knew exactly what to expect when he and his Roadrunners made the trip to Powell last week.

And he and his team got it.

"Powell always plays hard and they won't back down from anybody," Stanton said after Austin-East survived a scare and claimed a 53-44 victory on Monday, Jan. 14 at Jeff Hunter Gymnasium. [Powell] coach [Gary] Barnes always does a good job with his team.

"He does a good job, no matter where he is."

The contest was competitive and things got a little chippy early as Riley Bryant, of the Panthers, picked up a technical foul in the first quarter and the Roadrunners' Jahion Foster was whistled for one in the second stanza.

"We just have maturing to do," Stanton said. "We have a veteran team but we need to mature. We need to grow up."

The Roadrunners, who were locked in a 10-10 tie

early with the Panthers, matured enough to pull away after the two teams slugged through an even opening quarter.

The game was physical in nature and that was what Stanton wanted to see.

"Powell is a very good very physical team and they're the kind of team that we need to see," he said. "That was a big win for us, especially over here, because Powell is a good team and this is a really tough place to play. I'm proud of my guys. Nothing is easy for us but I'm proud of my guys for hanging in there and making plays."

The coach certainly had plenty of reasons to be pleased as the Roadrunners improved to 15-2 with the hard-fought win.

After the even opening stanza, the Roadrunners outscored the Panthers (10-8) 17-11 in the second quarter to open a slim 27-21 advantage by halftime. Austin-East continued to build its lead. The Roadrunners led 45-30 heading into the fourth quarter.

The Panthers, who played catch-up all night after falling behind, never trailed by

less than nine points over the final eight minutes.

The Roadrunners opened a 52-38 lead when Wesley Allen converted a free throw with 3 minutes, 33 seconds left in the game. That would be Allen's only point of the game but it would seal the game.

Austin-East boasted a balanced scoring attack as it ran its trademark up-tempo.

"We love to run and we invite other teams to run with us," Stanton said. "We're a small team and we're not going to be bigger than any team we play."

"We have to run and use our speed."

Foster scored 16 points and was the only Roadrunner to post double figures in the scoring column.

But he would get plenty of help from his supporting cast. Derion Battle scored nine points. Laron Dixon added seven and Ronney Pierson finished with six.

Bryant led Powell with 13 despite being whistled for three fouls in the first quarter. Lance Davis had 11 and Jake Majors scored nine.

It's KeKe for 3 as former Lady Falcon lifts UK to win

By Steve Williams

Former Fulton High standout KeKe McKinney enjoyed a big moment Thursday night as a member of the Kentucky Wildcats' 16th ranked women's basketball team in a 64-60 win at LSU.

With the game tied, McKinney, a sophomore, hit a 3-pointer with 20 seconds to go, giving the Cats the lead for good. KeKe was hugged by teammates on the court as she flashed a big smile after the game.

According to her biography on the UK athletics site, "KeKe is an all-around athlete that can play multiple

positions and really defend the post or the perimeter ... Loves to play fast and get up and down the floor ... Became a vocal leader on the team in her rookie season ... Very active on the glass and can finish through contact in the post ... Chose Kentucky over Tennessee and Mississippi State."

As a freshman last season, McKinney played in 30 games with 17 starts, averaging 20 minutes per game. She averaged 4.7 points and 3.7 rebounds per game.

This season McKinney, who wears No. 3, has



It's 3 for No. 3!

KeKe McKinney, former Fulton High standout, nailed a big shot in Kentucky's win at LSU Thursday night.

started in all 19 of Kentucky's games. In a recent 73-71 win over Tennessee in Knoxville, she played 27 minutes. Although she didn't score against the Lady Vols, she had five rebounds, two assists and

one steal.

Going into the game at LSU, she was averaging five points and five rebounds per game and had a team high 21 blocked shots and 21 steals.

Catholic's Humphreys finishes sixth in state bowling

By Steve Williams

Austin Humphreys of Knoxville Catholic made the Top 6 in this year's TSSAA Division 1 individual bowling state tournament at Smyrna.

Humphreys, a senior, bowled semifinal games of 208, 202, 204 and 218 for a 1,713 total to place sixth in the final standings, but lost to Rhea County junior Phillip Rogers 208 to 178 in Ladder Match No. 1.

Humphreys had averaged 220.3 in the quarterfinals, with a game high of 254.

Meanwhile, Bearden senior Corey Ramey rolled a 276 game and averaged 209.0 in the quarterfinals. In the semifinals, Ramey had a four-game total of 1,550 and did not advance further.

In girls' state individual tourney action, Bearden junior Kristy Dean and South-Doyle sophomore Lucy Edwards did not get past the opening round. Dean averaged 160.3 in her four games, while Edwards averaged 127.5.

In TSSAA sectional boys team play last week, Region 2 runner-up Bearden lost at Greenville 21-6 and Region 2 champion Sevier County defeated Cherokee 20½ to 6½, while in the girls matches, Region 2 champion Sevier County rolled past Dobyns-Bennett 22-5 and Cherokee eliminated William Blount.

Valiant effort comes just short for Bobcats

By Ken Lay

Central High School boys basketball coach Andy Hill might have seen his team come up a little short against Oak Ridge but he didn't have too many complaints.

"These kids have done everything that we've asked of them," Hill said after the Bobcats came up on the short end of an 84-77 District 3-AAA decision against the Wildcats Tuesday night in Fountain City. "They've done everything we've asked and more."

Central (12-8 overall, 7-3 in the district prides itself on being a hard-nosed blue collar defensive oriented basketball team and for three quarters of Tuesday night's contest, the Bobcats were just that. But some struggles in the second stanza pushed Central away from its identity.

Central, which trailed 17-11 at the end of the opening frame, found itself trailing 41-28 by halftime as the Wildcats (15-4, 7-1) torched its defense for 24 points in the second quarter.

"If you ask us what kind of team we are, we'll tell you that we're a blue collar team," Hill said. "We'll tell you that we're going to sit down and defend for 32 minutes."

"But in the second quarter, we got away from our identity. We sat down but we didn't guard them."

The Bobcats would recover in time to make things interesting late. They out-rebounded the Wildcats 38-37 and cut Oak Ridge's lead to 80-75 when Sean Oglesby knocked down a long-range jumper with 39 seconds remaining.

But Oak Ridge would pull away thanks to some crucial late free throws.

Oglesby finished with 21 points for the pesky Bobcats.

"Sean Oglesby played really well tonight," Hill said. He got plenty of help.

Tevon Summers scored 13 points. Ahmad Belton Jr. and Shawn Stacy added 12 points apiece. Jalen Andrews finished with 10 points while Demetrien Johnson had nine. He also pulled down 14 rebounds while Belton Jr. grabbed seven.

All that, however, wasn't quite enough for the Bobcats to notch a comeback victory at home.

Marcus Smith scored 23 points and had seven assists for Oak Ridge and gave Central's defense fits.

"He's a nightmare to guard," Hill said of Smith, who slashed through the lane and scored at will all night long. "They're really

hard to keep out of the paint.

"They're the best team around here at getting long rebounds and running the ball down your throat."

Joe Kesterson made six 3-pointers and scored 18 points for the Wildcats. JaVonte Thomas scored 15 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, Herbert Booker had 14 points and eight boards.

Oak Ridge coach Aaron Green wasn't pleased with his team's finish but wasn't about to throw the win back.

"I thought we defended them well in the first half, but not so much in the second half," he said "But Central is a good team and this was a big win for us on the road."

"We're small and we have to, what we call, gang rebound and we didn't do that well in the second half."

Central High's Jalen Andrews (20) attempts a jump shot over Oak Ridge's Jonathan Milloway in Tuesday's District 3-AAA game in Fountain City. Andrews scored 10 points but the Wildcats outlasted the Bobcats 84-77 to take sole possession of first place in the league. Photo by Luther Simmons.



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Enjoy this Tennessee team

By Alex Norman

It's a shame that we rarely know that we are experiencing the good times until they are gone.

But I have a secret for you. The good times for Tennessee's men's basketball program are right now.

Back in 2015, then-Tennessee athletics director Dave Hart had to fire head coach Donnie Tyndall due to NCAA violations stemming from Tyndall's time at Southern Miss, which came on the heels of NCAA violations stemming from Tyndall's time at Morehead State. (But remember, Hart said the vetting of Tyndall was good!)

Hart replaced Tyndall with former Texas head coach Rick Barnes, who was booted after 402 wins and 17 seasons in Austin. It was to Hart's good fortune that Barnes was available to help clean up the mess from his hiring of Tyndall.

The first two seasons for the Vols under Barnes weren't exactly memorable. Tennessee went a combined 31-35, and heading into the 2017-2018 campaign the Vols were picked to finish near the bottom of the SEC. But Tennessee shocked the basketball

world by winning a share of the conference title, and finishing the season 26-9. They were a basket away from a trip to the Sweet 16 as well.

With all of their key players returning, expectations were high entering the 2018-2019 season. And so far, they have not disappointed one bit. At the time this article was written, the Vols were 15-1, and ranked #3 in the nation. Their lone loss was an overtime affair on a neutral court to then-second ranked Kansas.

Last Tuesday they pounded Arkansas 106-87 in a game that wasn't really that close. Tennessee's starters scored 56 points and the bench chipped in 50. That's an absurd balance for a basketball team.

Currently, there are six Vols that score in double figures. In their first four conference games, they have outscored their opponents by a total of 100 points, including a 41 point white-wash of Georgia. Against rival Florida, the Vols went into a hostile environment, withstood some early hot shooting from the Gators, and still won by 11 points, their first victory in Gainesville since 2012. Against former Tennessee coach

Cuonzo Martin and Missouri, the Vols outmuscled the Tigers on the way to an easy 24 point romp.

Need the Vols to win with inside play? National player of the year candidate Grant Williams (18.8 points/7.8 rebounds per game) is a matchup nightmare. Kyle Alexander (10.2 points/7.7 rebounds per game) is a force down low as well.

We haven't even mentioned Admiral Schofield (17.7 points/6.3 rebounds per game), who can beat you near the glass or on the outside. He leads the Vols with 36 made 3-point field goals this season.

On the perimeter, Jordan Bone has become one of the best point guards in the country, leading the team with 101 assists (6.3 per game). Lamonte Turner is working his way back into the lineup, and scored a team high 21 points against Arkansas. Jordan Bowden had 19 points against Arkansas. The decision for Barnes to move Bowden from the starting lineup earlier in the season had paid dividends.

High flying Frenchman Yes Pons is a fan favorite that plays terrific defense. John Fulkerson has done

a lot of the dirty work and shown a lot of improvement.

This team has an eight man rotation that rivals any squad in the country. They are high on experience and low on ego. They have a future hall of fame coach.

And darn if they aren't a likable group. Fans have gravitated to this bunch of players like none since perhaps Bruce Pearl's first couple of teams. It's a stark contrast to the closed off nature of Jeremy Pruitt's football program.

Look, Tennessee is going to lose some games. The second half of their conference schedule is tough, with two games against Kentucky and a regular season finale against Auburn. There's no guarantee that this team wins an SEC title, nor gets to the Final Four for the first time in program history.

But that shouldn't take away from what this is... one of the best times in program history to be a Tennessee fan. And after a decade of ineptitude across the board in that athletic department, you never know when something like this team will happen again.

This could be a very special year for basketball

Vols

The excitement seems to be spilling over for the Tennessee men's basketball team this season. And I can understand why. I don't believe I ever have felt so confident about the Vols' chances of winning every time they step on the hardwood.

Thank you Rick Barnes and staff and of course the guys making it happen.

By Steve Williams



As I tuned in the telecast of the Arkansas game last week, ESPN's halftime crew was raving about our team:

"How good is Tennessee?"

"Championship good."

The No. 3 Vols indeed are among the elite of college basketball this season, with a chance to move up even higher in the polls this week.

Such recognition is wonderful, but it doesn't mix well with Barnes' coaching philosophy of constantly looking for things to work on to get better. Tennessee outscored the Razorbacks 106-87 that night, but Barnes pointed out his team was outscored in the second half. And even after that, he warned last week, "There's still a long way to go."

And he is so right.

It's January and March Madness is light years away on the basketball calendar. As fans, we don't have far to look back and see that a great season can end in a single game, as it did in that second round loss to Loyola-Chicago in the NCAA tournament last year.

Basketball, as you know, is really a tournament sport, and when the Big Dance starts, only one of 68 teams can go 6-0 and kiss the gold ball. All the others, no matter how good they are, will eventually trip over their feet and fall.

In the meantime, we can enjoy this season's journey, which looks so promising. Not only is this a talented team, it is one that appears to be packed with top character guys from one end of the roster to the other. And that means a lot. In my coverage of sports through the years, I have often seen character make the difference when two teams are equally talented.

Right now, we can say this looks like one of Tennessee's best teams ever. But I don't think we can fairly compare teams from different eras.

The late, great Ray Mears had one of the nation's best teams in 1966-67, but it was a different game back then. They didn't have a shot clock or a 3-point line.

Also, the NCAA tourney field of teams was about half of what it is now, and only the SEC champion made the bracket. That '67 Mears team lost in a region semifinal game and finished ranked No. 8 in the country. It went 15-3 in the conference and finished with a 21-7 overall record.

Mears also had two teams in the Ernie and Bernie era that were great ones and ranked No. 7 in the country during the season, but both were eliminated in the first round in 1976 and 1977.

Even before Mears took over the UT program, Coach Emmett Lowery's 1958-59 Vols ranked as high as No. 5 in the national poll but didn't qualify for the NCAA tourney. My guess would be it was Kentucky which took that spot.

Don DeVoe's 1980-81 Vols ranked as high as No. 8 during the season and finished ranked No. 15, losing in the region semis.

The 1999-2000 team Jerry Green coached was ranked No. 5 during the season and No. 11 in the final poll. It too was ousted in a region semifinal. The following season, Green's team was ranked No. 4 during the season but lost in the first round.

Coach Buzz Peterson was a likeable guy but couldn't win enough games. He did though leave the cupboard stocked with a lot of good talent and Bruce Pearl had the recipe to put the Vols back in the national spotlight. His 2007-08 team won at Memphis in a battle of No. 1 vs. No. 2 to take over the top spot in the rankings. The Vols went on to post a 31-5 record, but lost in a regional semifinal game.

Two years later, Pearl's Vols were ranked No. 8 during the season but ended up ranked No. 15, losing 70-69 to Michigan State in UT's first and only Elite Eight appearance.

Cuonzo Martin's 2013-14 Tennessee team was unranked but got on a roll in the tourney and advanced to the Sweet Sixteen before bowing to Michigan 73-71.

As I researched UT's greatest teams and seasons, I ran across a very interesting note ... Did you know the first ever Tennessee men's basketball game was played on Jan. 22, 1909? That's right. Tomorrow will mark the 110th birthday of the UT program.

Over all those years, the Vols have been in the NCAA tournament 21 times and have a 20-22 record. That's nothing to brag about. But maybe this season will turn out to be very special. Until then, enjoy.



Jake Renfree (far left) enjoys time with USA teammates Drew Bosley, Katelynne Hart and Kelsey Chmiel on trip to Stirling, Scotland.

Renfree enjoys cross country relay and trip to Scotland

By Steve Williams

His team didn't win, but Jake Renfree had a lot of fun.

Most likely going to Scotland and running in the Simplyhealth Great Stirling Run on Jan. 12 will be a memory he will never forget.

"I had a lot of fun running the relay," said Renfree, back home in Knoxville last week. "It was something I had never done before: a relay on a cross country course. But I think the event suited me well and I had an incredible team to hand off to."

The Knoxville Catholic senior was named to the USA Junior team and his teammates were Drew Bosley, Katelynne Hart and Kelsey Chmiel. They placed second among junior teams in the 4x1500 relay, finishing in 18:11. They were fifth overall. Team Europe was the winner of

the junior race with an 18:08. The junior team finished only 10 seconds behind the senior group.

"The last leg came down to the wire but Team Europe just edged us out by three seconds," said Renfree. "Either way, my team was happy and I was pleased with the race."

"Stirling was beautiful and everyone I met was very nice. I was able to meet several pro athletes as well and was able to get some of their perspectives on racing and training. It was an incredible honor to compete for team USA and I was very fortunate to have been given this opportunity."

Catholic Coach Sean O'Neil added that 1500 meters is an unusual distance for a cross country race.

"They were all used to running 5K's, so it was a bit of an adjustment, but they all ran well and it was an

amazing event," said O'Neil.

"Jake said it was like they were celebrities over there, and they had groups of kids following them around after the race. He was really impressed with the whole experience, and especially enjoyed getting to talk to the professional athletes there."

BACK INDOORS: Renfree, a Notre Dame signee, was scheduled to race in the invitational mile at the Virginia Showcase Indoor Track meet at Liberty University Friday.

"We're hoping he runs well enough to get an invitation to the Millrose Games in New York in February," said O'Neil. "A time of 4:15 will qualify him automatically, but that will be tough to do his first time racing the mile since June."



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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Lost in modernity

There are many reasons I left traditional medicine. For more than four decades I cared for patients in my office and then, when necessary, followed them to the emergency room or the hospital. I have jokingly told patients I could take out their appendix, but they would probably never be quite the same again. The Apostle Paul observed that we all have "gifts differing" and operations should be done by experienced surgeons, not internists. Nonetheless, I managed hospital patients with pneumonia, heart failure, stroke, cancer and even issues of palliative care.

Unfortunately, all but one of the internists I shared medical call with, left hospital practice, and at sixty-three years old I was faced with the prospect of every other night and every other weekend on call. When I began medical practice forty years ago, I shared every third night medical

call with two other internists and we went to three hospitals to care for patients. I've had patients needing my attention simultaneously in three emergency rooms. But I was younger then, and with the world changing I surrendered to modernity. Now, hospitalists (strangers) take care of my patients when hospitalized.

A recent story in the New York Post (January 16, 2019) is making the rounds and caught my eye. Entitled, Alarming burnout is making doctors want to kill themselves. If you're concerned that your doctor is among the 44% who are so stressed out that they are considering leaving medicine, perhaps you should read the article which reports the annual WebMD/Medscape survey. The principle issue is "paperwork." Actually, it is paperless Electronic Medical Record (EMR) keeping. I understand

what these frustrated doctors are reporting because I made the quantum leap to EMR before my retirement from traditional practice. It was tough, but I did it. Unfortunately, according to my colleagues still in the system, data entry requirements have risen exponentially since I left traditional medicine five years ago.

Late in my medical career, patients would occasionally come to me from well respected doctors in the community. When I inquired why they decided to change doctors I was told, "He never looked at me, just typed on the computer." Another said, "He never touched me." Of course these are anecdotal reports, but in the WebMD survey one third of doctors report they get exasperated with their patients. And "14% say they make errors they wouldn't normally make" as they "point and click" on the computer screen for EMR data entry. The survey is especially alarming in that one in seven doctors have contemplated suicide. Fifty percent of urologists and neurologists report burnout. The happiest group of doctors? Plastic surgeons. They didn't survey concierge medical doctors like me. I'm off the grid, out of EMR and happy caring for my patients.

A noted cardiologist in

Knoxville once sent me a letter detailing the salient points in a patient's care but apologized for the fluff in the accompanying voluminous EMR notes. He wrote the letter stating his concern that the fluff might obscure the important points. Recently, one of my patients fell and broke her leg while vacationing in Florida. She had a tough time with surgery and bleeding and even had to be readmitted to the hospital from a rehab center after a seizure. She finally made it back to Knoxville, and "that's when the fight began."

As her internist, I needed the operation note and the two summaries of her hospitalizations - perhaps a total of six pages. I spoke with two of the doctors caring for her in Florida explaining what I needed and why. In 1996 The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) was passed by Congress to protect patient confidentiality, but also to facilitate the exchange of relevant medical information between doctors. The Florida doctors referred me to the hospital medical records department and then the rehab center did the same. Finally my request was referred to a medical records company in Pueblo, Colorado. I've yet to receive the appropriate

records because bureaucracy and bureaucrats now control much of medical care. I haven't given up, but you should ask yourself if your doctor has the time or impetus to doggedly fight for your records and sift through them for the relevant data amidst the fluff.

These days much of my practice is through my iPhone. My patients and I communicate by phone, email, Skype, text and I make house calls. There are no intermediaries. My patients see only me, except when hospitalized. However, even then I visit them just like their minister hopefully does.

I've gone back to paper charts which can't be hacked. I no longer need a fax machine - still used everywhere - because I use an app on my iPhone called eFax. I have access to an excellent medical library on my smartphone with UpToDate, a constantly updated compendium of medical knowledge. I spend lots of time with my patients because I'm not limited to the twelve to fifteen minute visit. And Big Brother doesn't review my notes which are nonetheless complete, yet succinct. When I was kid, my general practitioner kept my records on 4X6 note cards. I chose internal medicine as a pragmatic discipline between general practice

and subspecialty care such as cardiology. The records I dictate on my iPhone and then print are certainly more complete than note cards, but have far less fluff than a six to seven page EMR note generated to maximize charges.

EMR was supposed to help doctors and patients. But, like the lines, "you can keep your doctor" and "your health coverage is going to cost \$2500 less a year," it is another fabulously expensive government mandated boondoggle. Recently, I read on the Internet - so it must be true - that 20 years ago there were three support staff for every physician. Now, there are sixteen support persons per doctor. ER doctors now have scribes who accompany them and take notes to complete the EMR note. This improves a doctor's efficiency and increases billable charges. And we wonder why medical care costs are going up.

Aristotle once said, "This younger generation has no respect for its elders, and is going to the dogs." Perhaps it's been going that direction for 2400 years. Or was the sage envisioning Beto O'Rourke and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez?

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

Trees Knoxville Giving Away Trees

Trees Knoxville's Tree Give-Away is Saturday, January 26, 10 a.m. to noon or until the trees are gone. The Knoxville Botanical Garden is hosting this give away at 2649 Boyd's Bridge Pike. Use the Boyd's Bridge Pike entrance to the Knoxville Botanical Garden. The give-away is open to residents and businesses of Knoxville and Knox County, who may obtain up to five free trees (different species) to plant on their private property.

A variety of native trees species are available: black gum, redbud, red maple, bald cypress, swamp white oak, and tulip poplar. The trees will be comparable in size to those sold at retail stores. Those who get trees

will also receive instruction on how to plant and care for their trees.

While Knoxville and Knox County have a greater tree canopy than many other urban areas, parts of the city and county need more trees, especially within the inner-city neighborhoods of the city and in newly developed areas. Trees Knoxville aims to increase the tree canopy of Knoxville and Knox County by encouraging property owners to plant and care for trees.

Trees have great value to cities and property owners. Besides their many water and air quality benefits, trees also increase the value of homes: comparable homes with trees sell for nearly 20% higher than

a home without trees.

"Fall and winter is the best time to plant trees in our region," said Tom Welborn, chair of Trees Knoxville. These trees planted at this time will have more time to develop their root systems, and with proper planting and care, they will have a higher survival rate than those planted in the spring."

The opportunity for Trees Knoxville to give away trees is made possible through the support of Pattison Sign Group. Trees Knoxville also thanks the Knoxville Botanical Garden for sharing its grounds for this event.

For more information, contact Trees Knoxville at treesknoxville@gmail.com.

Free Winter Gardening Classes at Seymour Branch Library

Free Wintering Gardening Classes, sponsored by the Seymour Farmers Market, will be held the last Monday nights of January, February and March from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Come to the community room entrance on the left side of the Seymour Branch Library, 137 W Macon Lane.

Please leave a message at (865)453-0130 to RSVP to secure seating; please include contact information so the organizers can reach you in case of inclement weather.

Topics to be addressed are:

January 28: "Water conservation and produce contamination via water sources"

Plants need water to grow. By planning methods to conserve water, gardeners can better deal with the seldom dependable weather. Some of the designs which help with low water availability, such as raised beds, porous material

for pathways and amending soils with organic material, will also be useful in cases of excess water.

Placement of gardens is another consideration in dealing with less than ideal water conditions and is important in ensuring the wholesomeness of the produce from the garden. Contamination of lettuce via water has caused several episodes of illness recently. It is important to consider sources of water, application methods when watering and in preparing produce to bring to table.

Alan Bruhin, UT Agricultural Extension agent will present the program.

February 25: "Pesticides and Pollinator Protection"

When are pesticides (and fungicides) useful? What are their toxicities for humans and for pollinators? How can they be applied to limit toxicity?

Alan Bruhin, UT Agricultural Extension

Continue on page 4



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Japanese Dry Landscape Gardens Lecture to be held January 24

Learn about Karesansui Gardens

The University of Tennessee Arboretum Society and the Oak Ridge Friendship Bell Advisory committee present "Japanese Dry Landscape Gardens Around the World and in Oak Ridge" on Thursday, January 24, 7:00 p.m. at the UT Arboretum auditorium.

Karesansui garden expert, Martin McKellar, a retired Ph.D. from the University of Florida International Center and longtime volunteer in the Karesansui gardens at the Harn Museum, will be presenting the program. Having made over a dozen trips to Japan to study and create dry gardens, Dr. McKellar will share his knowledge on the history of these gardens.

Dr. McKellar explains that the gardens became part of Japanese culture during the 9th through 12th centuries. The large stones represent mountains, the raked gravel represents water.

"Austere in their simplicity, often created in a contained area, these gardens emphasize the beauty of emptiness and tranquility. They provide important aspects of tranquility in the design of public buildings and private homes. The creation and maintenance of such gardens are considered aids to meditation in Buddhist practice," said McKellar. "Each of the elements - stones, gravel, trees - has its own spirit. The design of the garden becomes a dialog between the spirit of the designer and the spirit of each of the elements."

This is a free program and no registration is required. For more information on the program on January 24, call 865-483-7277. To learn more about this program or the UT Arboretum Society, go to www.utarboretumsociety.org

*The Friendship Bell Advisory Committee will be offering two, 4 hour training sessions on Saturday,

Free Winter Gardening Classes

Cont. from page 1

agent will present the program.

March 25: "Seed Saving and Seed (and plant) swap" Did you know that Seymour has a seed library? Come learn why and how to save seeds. The Seymour Farmers Market will have seeds available from its library, as well as encourage participants to bring extra seeds and plants of their own to swap.

UT Gardens' January 2019 Plant of the Month

Camellia

Submitted by

Susan Hamilton, Director of the UT Gardens

Camellia is a shrub prized for its showy flowers in the South's winter landscape and its glossy evergreen leaves that stay a deep, shiny green all year.

These woody plants, which can be rounded shrubs or rangy 20-foot trees, are native to Asia. When they first started gaining in popularity in America in the 1800s, they were thought of as hothouse bloomers or the darlings of the Southern garden because the Japanese camellia (*Camellia japonica*) is only cold hardy to about 10 degrees. After decades of breeding with species from South Korea and Japan, hardier varieties are making their way north and there are plenty of camellias that perform reliably well in Tennessee. Blooms can be as large as 5 inches across with yellow centers or full in the center with rounded overlapping petals, much like a rose.

More than 30,000 cultivars of camellia have been named and introduced according to the American Camellia Society. Depending upon selection, they

can vary from blooming in the fall, winter or spring. Plants are rated as being early flowering (prior to January 1st), mid-season flowering (January through February) and late flowering (March or later). Keep in mind that bloom time can vary depending on environmental factors in your landscape such as sun, soil condition and water. Once in bloom, flowers can last for a period of 4 to 6 weeks but a hard freeze can burn the blooms, thus shortening their show. Bloom colors include shades of pink, red, lavender, white and even multicolored. Selections can also vary in size, growing to a height of 10 feet to 15 feet tall with a spread between 6 feet to 10 feet wide.

Camellia likes an acidic soil (a soil pH below 7.0) with plenty of moisture and good to excellent drainage is essential. Water as needed in summer and in

times of drought. Camellia will benefit from being fertilized in the spring with a fertilizer labeled for acid-loving shrubs. It thrives in a partial-shade location or a location with morning sun and afternoon shade, and it makes a good, large specimen plant. It can also be used in mixed screens in the garden. Only if needed, prune camellia within two months after it has finished blooming since next year's flower buds will soon begin to develop.

Camellias of old were famous for their lack of winter hardiness (to just USDA Cold Hardiness Zones 7-9 or 0 to 30 degrees Fahrenheit), but the group known as the Ackerman Hybrids buck that trend. William L. Ackerman with the USDA (now retired) bred a series of interspecific crosses between *C. oleifera* and *C. sasanqua*, *C. hiemalis*, or *C. vernalis* selections. Many,

not all, are identified as the Winter series because they bloom in the fall into very early winter.

Being reliably hardy as far north as USDA Cold Hardiness Zone 6 (-10 to 0 degrees), this group is better equipped to handle the cold. Petals are shed individually when bloom is completed, eliminating the tiresome task of dead-heading for the gardener.

I recommend having not just one camellia in your garden but a couple that are known to flower at different times during the fall through spring seasons. This way you can enjoy having a bit of 'flower power' in your landscape when it is least expected!

For more information, check out the International Camellia Society online at <http://camellia-ics.org/> or the American Camellia Society at <http://www.camellias-accs.com>.

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