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Complaints about recycling center create sparks at council meeting

By Bill Howard

From the looks of its agenda, it appeared the Knoxville City Council's July 2 meeting would be a rather ho-hum affair. In fact, it ended - fittingly perhaps on July 4 week - with a bit of fireworks. After the meeting's usual formalities, several members of the Oakwood-Lincoln Park

Neighborhood Association took to the podium to voice their complaints. One - Wes Breitenbach - did so in a most demonstrable way.

At issue was Fort Loudon Waste and Recycling on Hancock St., a business that was very much in the news when it caught fire on May 1. The fire burned for two

days, forced evacuations, and threatened the health of nearby residents. According to Breitenbach, the place should have been shut down some time ago.

At the podium, Breitenbach chided the council for its inaction, and asked how long his association would have to wait. To dramatize his frustration, he

ascended the steps from the podium with a garbage bag, then dumped its contents - a variety of cardboard boxes and pieces - on the floor.

"People drive their stuff over (North) road, dump it, then go away," Breitenbach said. "Last year OSHA said they were in danger of having a fire, and then

a year later they had a fire. No one has yet been able to come up with a business license. They owe back taxes to the city and county. They've also been fined by OSHA and by TOSHA."

Investigations have confirmed that violations and lawsuits have

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Expand KAT bus service into the county? Council Seat C candidates respond

By Mike Steely
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The Knoxville Focus has been asking candidates for At-Large Seat C several questions. Their answers are being shared with our readers. We've been focusing on the five candidates for the seat currently held by Councilman and Vice Mayor Finbarr Saunders because only two of them will emerge from the August 27th Primary and advance to the November General Election.

Following the primary The Focus will be asking all the Knox County Council candidates questions as well. Here's this week's question to the five Seat C candidates:

Would you favor expanding KAT bus service into the county? Please explain.

Amelia Parker: Yes, it is an investment that should be shared between the county and the city because both city and county residents would benefit. Additional public transportation options should be explored as well such as light rail. As Knoxville looks to the future and the growth anticipated, we must expand our vision of the possibilities. How is it possible to grow but still move around a city with ease? What makes sense for the blueprint of our city? What will best preserve our environment and lower our carbon emissions? What investments do we want to make now that could be a game changer in the quality of life our residents are able to lead 50 years from now? How we plan for and invest in mass transit now and as we go through Recode and other planning processes will have a significant impact on the

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PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Knoxville City Mayor Madeline Rogero and other dignitaries cut the ribbon marking the re-opening of the newly-renovated Performance Lawn at World's Fair Park. The lawn was opened for Thursday's Festival on the Fourth but closed afterwards. It will be re-opened on Aug. 1.

Ceremony marks the re-opening of World's Fair Park Performance Lawn

By Ken Lay

The City of Knoxville hosted a ribbon-cutting Wednesday afternoon to celebrate the renovation of the Performance Lawn at World's Fair Park.

The ceremony was held just one day before the lawn temporarily opened for Knoxville's annual Festival on the Fourth, a staple in East Tennessee for years.

After the July 4 festivities, the park closed and Knoxville City Mayor Madeline Rogero said that the lawn is projected to re-open on Aug. 1.

The lawn had been closed for renovation

since January as a \$2.5 million effort to update water and electrical services.

New sod and pervious paver hardscaping were also added and the area around the entry gates was expanded.

Rogero and Vice Mayor Finbarr Saunders were present on the hot afternoon ceremony along with representatives from the Public Building Authority, the city's Special Events Office and the various contractors who worked on the project.

"We're extremely blessed to have a park like this in Downtown Knoxville," Rogero said. "Most cities don't have a place like

this downtown. It's close to [the University of Tennessee's] campus.

"Last year, 158,000 people came to events here and that's not counting friends and families that came here to just enjoy the park, to throw Frisbees or footballs or those who used it for fitness activities. We're happy to have this open for the Festival on the Fourth. After the festival, the lawn will close so the construction can be completed and it will open again on Aug.1. We have some more things to

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Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs: Jobs are First and Foremost

By Amy Box Fellhoelter

If there is one thing the East Knoxville Community Meeting does well, it's keeping its members and community well informed of the priorities and initiatives of elected officials those candidates running for city offices. In a series of candidate-highlighted events, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs was welcomed to the fourth meeting of its kind by moderator Michael Covington at the Burlington Public Library last Monday.

The mayor's message was

about the priority of creating and retaining jobs in Knoxville. He explained, "The reason I believe that is so important is because good jobs solve a lot of other problems." He spoke for more than 30 minutes primarily about this topic but touched on the issues of education, literacy, substance abuse, and detention and jail populations also.

"Jobs is the key to creating an environment which is friendly to business, promotes entrepreneurship, and rewards success. The best way to do that

-- especially in attracting and retaining quality businesses -- is through workforce developments ... which is education and getting people ready to go into jobs and to go into life," said Mayor Jacobs.

"We have the world's foremost research laboratory at ORNL in our backyard, University of Tennessee here in Knoxville itself, and TVA that combination is unmatched virtually around the world so we can compete with anyone from the Silicon Valley to the Research Triangle in North

Carolina. We have the capability to more than compete in that market," stated the mayor. He clarified the big driver for these areas is innovation and our area has the capability of doing just that, especially since the world is moving more toward an innovative economy and less toward a manufacturing economy.

An example the mayor gave of this innovation created in Knoxville is the world's first-ever 4D printed car which sits in a showroom floor off of Hardin Valley Road because of the technology

achieved from ORNL. Knoxville has companies making the theoretical become practical as with Manufacturing Demonstration Facility, and Mayor Jacobs fully expects the creation of a 4D printed house to follow suit in the future.

He outlined that one way to move our economy in this direction is looking at our curriculum for young people to be sure it includes a broad range of Career Technical Education (CTE) courses, particularly coding and

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What Are the Laws Regarding Breastfeeding in Tennessee?

When a mom is breastfeeding their child in public, that act is generally considered socially acceptable in this day and age. It may not be that commonplace, and it may seem a little unusual, but it is legal. In fact, there are a few laws in Tennessee that specifically speak as to the legality of breastfeeding in public in Tennessee.

By Jedidiah McKeenan
attorneyknoxville@gmail.com

There are actually three Tennessee laws that specifically address breastfeeding. Tennessee Code Annotated sections 68-58-101, 68-58-102, and 68-58-103. Every single one of these laws is very short. Let's dive in to them and see what they say.

68-58-101 is titled "Right to breastfeed in any location" and states, "A mother has a right to breastfeed her child in any location, public or private, where the mother and child are otherwise authorized to be present." Okay, so this basically states a mom can breastfeed anywhere unless she is trespassing somewhere. It is probably unlikely that she would be trespassing with an infant in tow, so mom can probably breastfeed anywhere she wants.

68-58-102 is titled "Breastfeeding not to be considered criminal offense," and states, "The act of breastfeeding shall not be considered: (1) public indecency; or (2) nudity, obscene, or sexual conduct." Alright, so this law reinforces the idea that breastfeeding is legal and it is not a criminal act. The legislature even went so far as to specifically state in this laws that it is not a criminal offense to breastfeed in the actual title of the law.

68-58-103 is titled "Preemption of local ordinances," and states "A unit of local government shall not prohibit breastfeeding in public by local ordinance." So here, Tennessee legislatures state in no uncertain terms, "we do not care how conservative a county or city you want to be, you are not banning moms from breastfeeding in public and you are not charging them with crimes for doing such." That is it. Those three laws are the sum and the whole of the Tennessee laws on breastfeeding.

Jedidiah McKeenan is an attorney practicing in Knox County 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.

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs: Jobs are First and Foremost

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robotics. As one of the innovative capitals of the world, equipping Knoxville students for the trades is key since for every four people who leave the trade industry, only one person is qualified to take their place.

The mayor explained our CTE classes are as good as the expertise of the CTE teachers who teach them which varies by school and class. Ideally, having a CTE high school of its own that would be centrally localized and on a bus line would expand the opportunities for students interested in learning the trades. He spoke of these classes including partnerships within the plumbing, construction, robotics, coding and programming fields so classmates can take part in apprenticeships as they are learning CTE skills. This will ensure young people are ready for work once they complete a program of courses. He also spoke of bringing back CTE courses to the middle school level, which Gov. Bill Lee supports as well.

The mayor personally viewed the Rule High School site and spoke with Knoxville College as potential locations for a future CTE facility. "The trades field is a game changer, especially for our at-risk kids," added the mayor.

Competing in the marketplace includes increasing the literacy rates in Knox County which sit at forty percent for the third-grade benchmark test. The mayor encouraged the audience to read as a family, use the Beanstack Tracker app, and sign up for Read City USA, an initiative he started to get Knoxville reading.

A question and answer time



PHOTO BY AMY BOX FELLHOELTER.

Tailor Edward Tucker III, founder of Fashions for Men, spoke to the crowd at the East Knoxville Community Meeting before the mayor was introduced.

followed that included talk of: indigent care budget cuts; "adulting" classes; the use of Vivitrol medication in a program to rehabilitate inmates in accord with sponsors; behavior health funding; and the Knox County growth policy.

Others in attendance were candidate for Knoxville City Council District 5 Charles Al-Bawi and candidate Hubert Smith who is running for City Council Seat-C. Moderator Covington drew attention to Knoxville Botanical Gardens Executive Director Jim Richards, Cherokee Health Center CEO Dr. Dennis Freeman, Lynn Beal from Magnolia House, tailor Edward Tucker III of Fashions for Men, and Executive Vice President Ashley Burnette of Home Builders Association of Greater Knoxville.

The EKCM and the East Knoxville Business and Professional

Association will host a City Council Candidate Forum on Saturday, July 20, 2019, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Vine Middle School. The event, inspired by 6th District City Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie, will be moderated by 1st District School Board Representative Evetty Satterfield. It will follow a 60-minute format in which each candidate will have sixty seconds per question to answer.

The next EKCM event will welcome Sheriff Thomas Baylor as its keynote speaker on Monday, August 5. For more information about this organization, email knoxvilletnneighborhoods@gmail.com, or visit the East Knoxville Community Meeting Facebook page.

To learn more about the mayor's literacy initiative, visit Readusa.com.

Complaints about recycling center create sparks at council meeting

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plagued the company for years.

"The city hasn't given us

a plan," Breitenbach said. "We've been asking for a plan for when this is gonna get cleaned up. If you look

at the regulations by which the city requires a business to operate, they're in violation line by line of every single one with the exception of one, (which is) they haven't blocked the roads."

Mayor Madeline Rogero agreed the situation was difficult.

"We are obviously aware of the concerns of the neighborhood, the complaints that they brought here today," she said. "Our law department and inspections and fire department operations chief have been working on that issue. There are processes (you have to go through) when a business owes back taxes."

"OSHA has their own rules and regulations. We are concerned about the effects on the neighborhood, and we're doing all we can to make sure the cleanup goes properly."

Rogero acknowledged the residents' right to be frustrated.

"They don't want the business in the neighborhood, I understand that," she said. "But that business is properly zoned for the neighborhood. That is an industrial zoning so they have a right to be there. And so we can't just shut

them down. I understand the concerns of the neighborhood and they have many valid concerns."

Recode and Greenway updates

Early in the meeting Rogero announced that Draft 5 of the Zoning Ordinance (Recode) submitted by council and the planning commission will be on the agenda of the council's July 16 meeting.

"It was discussed and amended at special-called council meetings on May 14 and May 30, then postponed for over six weeks to give the public time for review," she said. "After the July 16 meeting, the next chance to review, amend and vote is July 30."

The summary can be found at recodeknoxville.com


One of the resolutions approved authorized Rogero to "execute an agreement with CDM Smith, Inc. for amount not to exceed \$362,375 for design of Phase II of the Northwest Greenway Connector Project."

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Publisher's Position

Leftist Hypocrisy Out of Control



By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
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explanation. "If we agree that, as a general rule, violence is a tool like any other that can, and sometimes should, be wielded in an attempt to quell further violence, then once the Antifa activists determined that Ngo's speech is violent, it is both logical and consistent that they would use violence to thwart him. This is bad news for just about everyone."

This means free speech in opposition to progressive dogma constitutes violence in the minds of these people and one's mere presence is reason enough to use violence. I simply cannot understand why more Americans are not deeply disturbed over the images of masked marchers beating people for having a contrary political view. Today, we frequently hear politicians and journalists fling the accusation of Nazism, concentration camps and

other vestiges of Hitler's brutal and evil regime. Yet they seem not to recognize it when they actually see it. Nazi Storm Troopers wandered the streets of Germany terrorizing Jews and others at will, a collection of thugs who were state sanctioned to beat up, vandalize or otherwise harass those who did not have the approval of the state.

Andy Ngo, gay and a person of color, is certainly receiving different treatment by much of the media than Jussie Smollett who apparently faked his own beating in Chicago. The words "hate crime" were flung about with abandon back then, while many of the same people say Ngo deserved what happened to him. Progressives talk of unity and claim for themselves the mantle of "tolerance", but the images of masked marchers hurling objects, insults and vile profanities at a conservative young

journalist of color put the lie to that. The images have gone viral online and are nothing less than sickening. Ngo's crime seems to be his continued exposure of manufactured hate crimes. The video shows Ngo being surrounded by masked attackers who pummeled, punched and poured a "milkshake" over him. As Ngo fled, one Antifa member threw an object at his back.

The warriors of Twitter, supposedly representing popular opinion are bereft of common decency, much less civil decency. A state of lawlessness seems to be just hunky dory if it is in support of leftist views. Everyone, right or left, should have the human decency and intelligence to condemn the use of violence well before it gets out of hand. What is happening is a segment of our population is condoning the use of violence to stamp out political

opposition. That is, of course, a road to totalitarianism and anarchy.

Law enforcement seems reluctant to do anything in an age when the police are accused of inciting rioters and violence by doing their jobs. Americans certainly have the unfettered right to assemble peaceably, meaning the right to gather and protest is not absolute. The idea that attacking an unarmed person whose views one doesn't agree with is somehow noble or mighty fine should be horrifying to any American. There was a time when many leftists supported anti-masking laws. The idea that anonymity grants one the right to do whatever he wants is appalling. That was the idea behind those states that banned the use of masks of the Ku Klux Klan. Many Klan members claimed their right to wear a mask was constitutionally protected free speech, an argument

now employed by some who support Antifa. Right or left, no organization should countenance wearing a mask while protesting. The hypocrisy is as astonishing as it is vile. If a protest is peaceful why would one object to showing his face?

For the moment, this is still America and we should all act like Americans. One congresswoman has suggested those who make fun of public officials online should be charged with a crime. Free speech is under assault, which is the path to dictatorship. Violence breeds hatred quicker than anything I can think of and we will lose our country as a result. Irrespective of our political views, none of us should condone the use of violence.

What was done to Andy Ngo really was a hate crime. Let us recognize it and call it what it is and denounce it.

Too Many Recode Missteps?

By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
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a sign on each of the 73,000 properties affected. The planning commission said it would cost too much to do what has been done for decades.

In the second of three city council workshops on Recode the city council decided they would "notify" property owners about Recode even though they made it very clear they did not have to because of their December 2018 ordinance. And what did they do? What was mailed supposedly to all 50,000 property owners was a one page notice that told people to go to the website <https://recodeknoxville.com> and to enter their address so they could find a complex zoning map and try to understand what Recode would do to them. It was a time consuming homework assignment that most people threw in the trash can. It did not say that their taxes might increase if they were upzoned. It did not say that their neighbor could build a one story apartment in their backyard violating the previous setbacks. It did not say the new Mixed Use

apartments would have greatly reduced parking which would create parking conflicts within established neighborhoods. It said nothing. It was not open and transparent.

On April 23, Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero signed a Special Called Meeting public notice of the Knoxville City Council to hold the first of two votes on Recode on May 14 at 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon. One little problem, in the 347 words in the public notice the word "Recode" was not mentioned.

On July 2 the city issued a press release stating that city council will meet on July 16 and review the updated worksheet of council-initiated revisions and take action as appropriate; review the updated worksheet of staff-initiated revisions and take action as appropriate; and review the planning commission June 13 amendments and take action as appropriate. Then if council is ready to vote on Recode, a vote will be held. This is what the city calls proper legal notice. Why will the city not have proper notice on Recode?

Late Friday The Knoxville Focus has learned of as many as three lawsuits that may be filed against the city for possible violations of state law and the city charter. At press time none of the attorneys wished to comment on pending litigation.

Article VIII, Section 801(B)(1) of the City Charter requires the city to have 5- and 15-year development plans, "updated annually" by March of each year. There is no record in the minutes of city council meetings since 2017 that this has been done.

The charter reads: "The fifteen- and five-year plans, updated annually, shall be submitted to the council before its second regular meeting in January of each year. After conducting public hearings on such plans, the council shall adopt the plans, after making any amendments or revisions council considers appropriate, by not later than the first regular council meeting in March of the year."

"In addition, the mayor shall have the metropolitan planning commission prepare a one-year

development plan which delineates the city's proposed land use development pattern for a succeeding twelve-month period and is based upon the development goals and objectives specified in the city's five-year development plan. The one-year development plan shall provide the basis for zoning of all properties within the city limits."

Furthermore, 801(B)(5) states that after the comprehensive development plans are adopted, then the Zoning Ordinance is to be amended accordingly: "Following the annual update and adoption of the city's development plans, the council shall amend the city's zoning ordinance to conform it to the updated development

plans in accordance with procedures prescribed by general law."

So if the city doesn't have valid 5- and 15-year development plans, then it essentially doesn't have a valid one-year plan, and the city can't adopt Recode or make any other Ordinance amendments, because any such changes are supposed to conform to the updated development plans. Another misstep? If so, how did this get past the city law director, city council's attorney, and city council members Andrew Roberto and Marshall Stair who are both lawyers?

There's one thing about it. These multiple missteps have made Recode about as clear as mud.

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CORA Seymour: Taking care of our community is what we do best

Serving an entire community is a pretty tall order, but this guy seems to be up for the challenge: meet Jim Silvestri, physical therapist and clinic manager for the CORA Physical Therapy Seymour location. Jim has only been a member of the Seymour community for just over 8 months, but has been helping patients recover from painful orthopedic issues for over two decades.

Last year, Jim made the move from Louisiana to Tennessee and decided to partner with CORA Physical Therapy, a leading provider for outpatient physical therapy in the Midwestern and Southeastern United States. When asked why he chose this particular organization, Jim said, "Having operated my own practice for 10 years, I wanted to partner with a company who shared not only my commitment to patient care,

but also professional development. CORA offers my employees more opportunities for continuing education and career growth, as well as the potential to deliver innovative treatments to our entire community by making our services accessible for all. CORA's resources, such as co-pay deferment programs and accepting most insurance plans, allows me to take care of the people in this community, and I am thrilled about that."

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Jim lives in Seymour, is an active member of the community, and spends his time off enjoying the outdoors. He loves to meet his neighbors, so stop in or call today to schedule a free discovery visit and see how Jim and his team can get you back to the life you love.

CORA Physical Therapy – Seymour is located at 11719 Chapman Highway, Seymour, TN 37865. The phone number is 865-773-0480.

Come meet Jim and team at the Open House event on Thursday, July 11 at 4 p.m. Food, drinks, raffle, and more!



Expand KAT bus service into the county? Council Seat C candidates respond

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quality of life in Knoxville for generations to come.

Bob Thomas: I have been involved in the past with meetings to consider extending the KAT route to the Cedar Bluff Road area. There are a lot of workers that live in South Knoxville but they work around Cedar Bluff in the fast food industries and other restaurants. Many must walk to Cedar Bluff every morning after getting off the bus at Walker Springs. In the meeting with KAT, I was educated regarding the difficult logistics and considerable expense in extending the route. I do believe it warrants and deserves more study to determine where the need is greatest, and what would work financially and logistically.

David Williams: Let's take care of business in the city first. More roads and neighborhoods need to be served. If done then you would not see so many virtually empty busses. Work with businesses to offer incentives to ride the bus. Arrange bus tours of the city to point out areas of historic importance. Let's involve the young people. A senior Transportation class at UT could make this their project. Their prospective would be valuable.

Hubert Smith: Expanding service to the county is not a flip-of-the switch. Expanding service to the county will require Knox County Government being a financial contributor. Not since the Ragsdale Administration, which provided funding for seniors to ride free, has

the county been a participant in public transportation. The answer to the question starts with Knox County. With their financial participation, then I'm open to the discussion about exactly where in the county would benefit from public transportation. My first look would be to the Town of Farragut, where there is economic vitality, and a connection to jobs that need to be filled, and people that need a way to get there who do not have reliable transportation. This is a vital role that public transportation plays that's often overlooked. I'm eager to take part in the conversation.

I have personal experience of serving on the Knoxville Area Transit Citizen's Advisory Board, and the Knoxville Transit Authority Board of

Commissioners, which is the policy-making body for the City of Knoxville for all ground transportation that includes taxicabs and limousines. I have experience in the field and not just opinions that uniquely qualifies me to comment on the subject and to be elected to city council.

Amy Midis: KAT previously operated three express routes that

provided service to Knox County. This was costly and resulted in low ridership. The express routes were discontinued and replaced with a five-year plan that focused on local routes within Knoxville. These local routes are less expensive to operate and are designed to serve the businesses and residents within the city. I believe that every vibrant,

dynamic city should provide alternative transportation options for its residents. KAT's operating budget is largely supplemented by city tax revenue. If we are to extend service, I believe our tax dollars should be spent to promote additional routes within the city and not Knox County.

Ceremony marks the re-opening of World's Fair Park Performance Lawn

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improve." The mayor added that the changes will make the Performance Lawn, located on the south end of World's Fair Park, will make things better for performers as well as for those who attend the various events, fundraisers and concerts held at the venue annually. "We're here today to mark the re-opening of the newly renovated Performance Lawn at World's

Fair Park," Rogero said. "These improvements will make it better for the performers and the attendees who come to the various events here. We're very excited about this.

"We have a new irrigation system and Bermuda grass and I've been assured that this drains."

In year's past, the lawn didn't drain and the city had to place straw on the lawn to keep it from being

virtually destroyed on rainy and subsequent days and that left things extremely messy.

"I remember the days when we had to bring in straw because this never drained well," Rogero said. "Now, things will be better for everyone who uses the lawn, for performers, for attendees and for those who come here on a daily basis to enjoy the park and enjoy the weather."



HISTORY peeking at YOU

On the right side of this photo of Knoxville Salvage Company is an echo of earlier days. "The Knoxville Paper Company" sign can be seen on the building. Many, many older buildings in our area have been repurposed but now and then an earlier use of the structure can still be seen. (Photo by Ronnie Collins)

All around Knoxville the city's history is winking at you although you may not have noticed. Here and there on some of the older buildings, if you look closely enough, you can see the past appearing as faded or painted-over business names or advertisements on the brick walls.

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Getting to know Randy Pace

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville Focus is featuring citizens in our community, sitting down with them for an informal chat, so our readers can know them better. This week's featured citizen is Randy Pace, whom you may know as the new chairman of the Knox County Republican Party. You probably don't know he's a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer. He's also a former Councilman and Mayor of Medford, NJ.

How's your position as Knox County Republican Party chairman working for you? Was it what you expected?

It's all and more than I expected—a great opportunity for me and Knox County. There's a lot to accomplish. I've been active for the better part of five years. I quickly found about a month and a half in that I needed to adjust my timeline on what I thought we were going to accomplish. We've got a lot to do and most of the volunteers are not retired



PHOTO BY HUGH NYSTROM.

Republican Party Chairman Randy Pace chats with Knoxville Focus Reporter Mike Steely as *The Focus* continues to talk with interesting area folks.

like I am. I have the time to dedicate to it, unlike several past chairmen.

You defeated former state representative Eddie Smith for the position?

After Eddie announced, I received nothing but encouragement. Several individuals approached

me and said that although he was in the contest they supported me. They said they told Eddie that I was the direction the party needed to go.

We're going to continue to support him. We've got a big tent and I don't want to shut anybody out. People need to get a better

understanding. To be a regular, routine Republican voter is one thing. To be an actual member of the Republican Party is something entirely different.

How has your position affected your family, business or other interests?

I served in public office

before and my family is full aware of my political involvement. My wife, Patti, has been very encouraging. My children grew up in our house and know what I am and what I do. They have their own thoughts and opinions but, at the end of the day,

Continue on page 4

PYA Announces new Equity Principal

PYA has announced that Valerie Rock has been promoted to Equity Principal, effective July 1, 2019. In addition, seven other teammates have also been promoted throughout the Firm.

As part of the Firm's Clinical Advisory Services team, Rock specializes in physician coding, reimbursement, and regulatory compliance. She has been with PYA since the merger with GatesMoore in 2012, and became Senior Manager in 2017. With more than 15 years of experience in healthcare consulting, Rock has assisted numerous clients with hospital-employed physician compliance and audit program development, physician and laboratory compliance program advisory support, non-physician practitioner compliance, and Medicare and Medicaid regulatory compliance and reimbursement methodologies. Rock is credentialed through the Health Care Compliance Association as Certified in Healthcare Compliance and through the American Academy of Professional Coders as a Certified Professional Coder.

Rock's experience has culminated into an ability to assist clients, such as healthcare investors, from hospitals to private equity (PE) firms, in assessing their compliance risk in potential acquisitions of physician practices. She has garnered the trust of large health systems, PE-backed healthcare management firms, and their attorneys with her practical and honest approach to educating investors, physicians, hospitals, and regulators on important matters regarding compliance risk and appropriate healthcare billing.

"The Firm owners recognize Valerie as a hard-working, helpful teammate who cares about her

Continue on page 4

Former developer looks to donate land in Woodland Heights

By Ken Lay

The Woodland Heights Subdivision has long held a special place in Paul Shirley's heart.

Now, he's looking to give back.

Shirley, a 97-year-old World War II veteran, built the first homes there during the Eisenhower Administration and he still owns a parcel of land there. The land is located above Cedar Lane in Inskip and was assessed at a value of \$7,000.

Shirley is hoping that the neighborhood's

homeowners will develop and beautify the land or build a swimming pool or park so it can host community events there.

"If you, as homeowners, would like to form an Association of Homeowners for Woodland Heights, this land would be given to the group for a beautification to the land," Shirley said in a letter received by The Knoxville Focus late last month. "Your association could use this land and make a beautiful area to show your love for the subdivision and for

Knoxville."

In the letter, Shirley said he would match funds up to \$500 for the project but in an interview last week, he said he would double that and donate \$1,000.

He once lived in the neighborhood and a street there, Paula Drive, is named after his daughter. Shirley now lives in the Timbercrest Subdivision in West Knoxville and his daughter now resides out of state. But the North Knoxville neighborhood remains special to both.

"I built 30 homes there the first year," Paul said. "I built 60 homes there in three years.

"They have a nice piece of land there and when you have a homeowners association the neighbors will help you when you need to get something done. They have land there, where they could build a swimming pool or where they could build a park, or a place to have community gatherings."

Shirley has since started the West End Church of Christ Kindergarten and Knoxville Christian

School, located at Snyder Road in the Town of Farragut.

But Woodland Heights remains close to his heart.

"That was what put me on the map," he said. "My daughter [Paula] lives in South Carolina but the neighborhood is special to her.

"She takes great pride that she has a street named after her and she still comes here and goes back to look at the houses from time to time."



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AROUND TOWN with Ronnie Collins

The history of 'Dew at ETHS

"It'll tickle yore innards" is the slogan describing the newest featured exhibition at the Museum of East Tennessee History, "A (Hillbilly) History of Mountain Dew."

What a lot of people don't know is that Mountain Dew was invented here in Knoxville, Tennessee. In 1946 two brothers named Barney and Ally Hartman showed off their soft drink at a Gatlinburg convention. The trademark became official in 1953. It originally was to be used as a mixer with liquor. The name was a joke of the brothers that when mixed it resembled Tennessee moonshine. It was not originally very popular in the Knoxville area, so the brothers reached out to Charlie Gordon of Tri-Cities Beverage in



By Ronnie Collins

Johnson City. In 1960 Tri-Cities manager Bill Bridgeforth changed the flavor to citrus-lemonade.

"It took off like a cat hit on the tail with a hammer," according to Bridgeforth. Today Mountain Dew is the third largest "liquid refreshment brand."

The exhibit will be on display through January 20, 2020. The exhibit has over 200 artifacts showing off the drink's history. The exhibit features a 1900 carbonation machine from Roddy Coca-Cola. The museum is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. On Sundays it is open 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. It is a wonderful exhibit with lots of memorabilia. It includes a history of the founding members and several video displays.



By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

My earliest memories of America's beautiful symbol was in school classrooms. They were usually mounted on a wall, and every morning we stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. I also remember early summer mornings at Vacation Bible School. Everyone lined up outside at the front of the church. Older students would be asked to carry the American flag, the Christian flag, and the Bible. It was a huge honor to be selected! When the piano music started, two rows of teachers and youngsters marched inside the church with the pastor and those carrying the flags and Bible



American flag on Liberty Island, New York, courtesy of Meteorologist Bryce Williams.

leading the way. To most citizens, the American flag is special. As a child, I did not fully understand Old Glory's significance. I do now. The first American conflict I remember was the Vietnam War. Shortly after my high school years, the war ended. I distinctly remember when the pastor of our small, rural church called and asked us to go to the church and ring the church bell. Our country has just

celebrated another Fourth of July holiday with parades, cookouts, and flags. We are blessed to live in a country called America where we can enjoy so many freedoms because of the many men and women, past and present, who have fought for and defended them. We live in a different time than when my generation marched into Vacation Bible School, however. New issues face our nation. One thing that has not changed

is God's Holy Word. Today, it is even more important to remember the words often quoted from the Old Testament. In our unsettled times, they bear repeating. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." II Chronicles 7:14 (KJV).

Summer Boobos

A quick swipe of the hand to rid a deck step of water ended with a painful outcome. The stained wood evidently was offended and fought back with a splinter. The darn thing felt like a 2 X 4 as it lodged in the first joint of my thumb. I dug around but couldn't dislodge the splinter. A trip to the doctor proved fruitless as well since the PA worried about damaging a tendon. So, I visited TOC and



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

Dr. Renfree. He dug and tugged and removed the nasty thing, and only after a couple of more visits to him did he pronounce my thumb better and free of any infection. It was just another one of the many summer boo-boos I've had throughout the years.

As a boy, going barefoot when warm weather arrived was standard. Of course, like any child who tramped around a country yard filled

clover, my foot squished a bee. I squaled as if I'd been shot. Mother came to the rescue. She removed the stinger and then applied a paste of baking soda and water. Before long, the pain subsided enough for me to return to play.

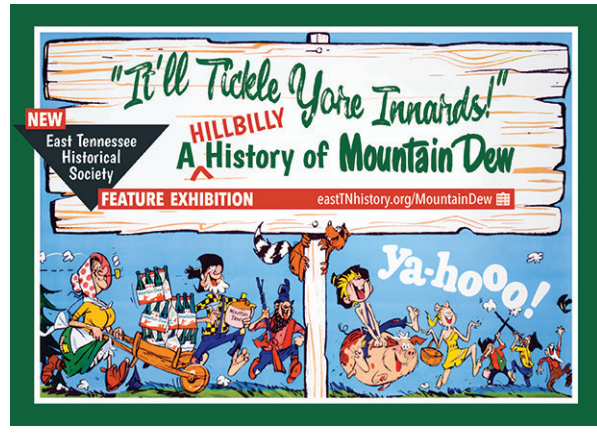
Jim and I always searched for things to do in the summer. We'd pull out Daddy's tools and work away to build something. We had no idea what the final product would be, but that made no difference. However, at some point, one of us would take an unfortunate step and drive a nail through our tennis shoe and into our foot. Again, the injured boy would scream bloody murder, and again, Mother came to the rescue. Part of the agony of stepping on a nail was the realization that a trip to the doctor for a tetanus shot was coming. The day's fun abruptly came to an end.

Not as painful, but every bit as agonizing, were the extra things we brought home from blackberry picking. Sure, we'd wear a few bloody spots from briars, but by the evening, the real problem began. Chiggers always managed to find an unprotected spot to burrow under our skin. The itch was maddening; Mother painted

the spots with fingernail polish in an effort to get rid of the intruding critters.

Every summer, both Jim and I knew that we'd have at least one bout with poison ivy. We were highly allergic to the stuff, and no matter how carefully we watched for the plant, the oils from it would somehow wind up on our skin. When we were little, we cried as the itching spread across arms and legs. On some occasions, the stuff infected our eyes, and they were swollen shut. Gallons of calamine lotion covered our skin, and Mother would fan us in an effort to keep us cool to keep the itching to a minimum. We boys knew that at some point a trip to the doctor for a cortisone shot would come, and as much as we hated needles, we knew that the injection would more quickly stop the poison ivy's creeping across our skin.

As long as I manage to get outside during the summer, I'll pull some "bone-headed" stunt that will end in some kind of wound or itch. Still, summer is my favorite time of year, and I'm willing to risk a few boo-boos to enjoy the weather and the season. My goal is just to be a bit more careful and smarter for the rest of the season.



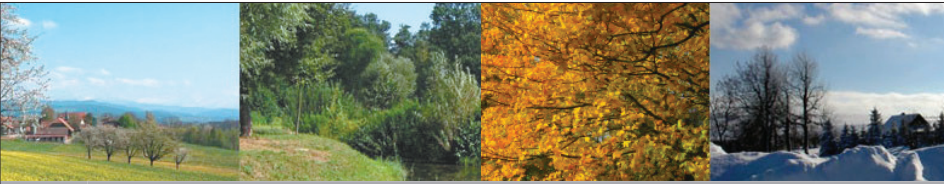
The Mountain Dew exhibit will be open through January 2020. The Museum is located in the East Tennessee History Center, 601 South Gay Street, Knoxville, TN 37901. For more information about the exhibition, visit www.easttnhistory.org.

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Crump Goes To Congress, IV

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Edward Hull Crump, leader of the Shelby County political machine and congressman from Tennessee's Tenth District, had been a strong and early supporter of New York governor Franklin D. Roosevelt for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1932. Crump was one of several prominent Tennesseans who worked hard for Roosevelt's nomination, including senators Kenneth D. McKellar and Cordell Hull. The Tennessee delegation to the 1932 Democratic National Convention loyally and enthusiastically backed Roosevelt on every ballot. Later, inside the White House, the most important supporters were those who had backed the President before the convention. E. H. Crump had been one of those early supporters and had supervised the formation of a Roosevelt for president club in Shelby County. Historian G. Wayne Dowdy, who has written much about Crump's correspondence, records the Memphis Boss sending a letter to Roosevelt's secretary seeking information on the governor's accomplishments. Crump informed the secretary it was his intention to "perfect an organization for Governor Roosevelt for president." It took the normally efficient Louis Howe six weeks to respond to Crump's letter. Howe sent along a book, which was a recent biography of Roosevelt published for the campaign. Clearly annoyed, Crump waited six weeks before sending another letter. "Was there any good reason why it should have taken you more than one month to reply to what I thought was a very courteous letter based on my sincere interest in Governor Roosevelt?" Crump wanted to know. That frank communication brought a direct reply from Franklin Roosevelt, who invited the Memphis Boss to come to New York for a personal visit. Crump was unimpressed and replied, "I am going along for you, inasmuch as I started out that way. However, I must be perfectly frank in saying that, in the light of the gratuitous treatment I received, I just cannot accept your invitation." From Crump's perspective, he was not merely some petty politician, but headed the powerful Shelby County machine as well as a sitting member of Congress. Crump had no intention of being taken for granted, nor would he stand for being treated condescendingly. Finally realizing he and his staff had offended the Memphis congressman, Franklin Roosevelt fired off another letter reassuring Crump he very much wanted his support. "I am indeed grateful to you for all that you have done. I should much like to have a good talk with you before you go to Chicago," Roosevelt wrote in anticipation of

the Democratic National Convention. "Can you not run up to see me either in Albany or in Hyde Park...? There are many things I should like to talk over with you." Congressman Crump agreed, replying, "I will endeavor to see you before the Chicago Convention at your Hyde Park home." Along with McKellar and Hull, E. H. Crump played a crucial role in winning Franklin Roosevelt the Democratic nomination for president. Yet it would have been quite unlike the Memphis Boss to forget the casual treatment he had received from FDR and Roosevelt's staff. As the Democrats began the fall campaign against President Herbert Hoover, Crump asked Roosevelt to make a campaign stop in Memphis. After considerable speculation in the news media, Roosevelt finally told Crump it would not be possible for him to make an appearance in Memphis. That did nothing to make Crump feel more warmly toward Roosevelt and the Memphis Boss had not forgotten it when he joined the other members of the Tennessee Congressional delegation visiting the newly elected president at the White House. Crump recorded what happened in a letter to his second-in-command, Frank "Roxie" Rice. Evidently Roosevelt teased Crump, saying his "presence reminded him of his campaigning days before the November election when I was terribly provoked because he did not make a trip through Tennessee as I wished. I promptly replied 'have you any censure for what I did for you in Chicago?' With a smile he said 'no' and after further referring to me as a good Tammany Hall Tennessean he added that I usually got results."

Crump intended to get results in Tennessee for the general election. Having repaired his personal and political relations with Tennessee's senior United States senator, K. D. McKellar, Crump backed former State Treasurer Hill McAlister for the Democratic nomination for governor. McAlister had been strongly supported by Senator McKellar and Crump had delivered a tremendous majority for the candidate in Shelby County. Both of McAlister's opponents for the nomination, former governor Malcolm Patterson and Lewis Pope, had injected race into the campaign, complaining about Crump's machine and that of Nashville Mayor Hilary Howse "herding" black voters to the polls. Pope had run very strongly in many of Tennessee's rural counties and McAlister had won the nomination largely in the urban counties. Lewis Pope claimed he was the rightful nominee after the votes of African-Americans was subtracted



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

E. H. Crump of Memphis.

from McAlister's vote totals. When Hill McAlister was legally certified as the Democratic nominee for governor, Pope refused to accept the verdict of the state executive committee and launched an Independent campaign for the governorship in the general election.

Crump was himself a candidate for a second term in the House of Representatives and he and his political organization worked hard for Hill McAlister in the general election. The Shelby County machine also avidly supported the candidacy of Franklin Roosevelt. E. H. Crump had become an issue during the Democratic primary and the Memphis Boss was the whipping boy of both the Patterson and Pope campaigns. Lewis Pope, who had run less than 10,000 votes behind Hill McAlister in the primary, saw no reason to change tactics. Pope insisted he was the true Democratic nominee in the general election as only a "conspiracy" between Crump and Mayor Howse of Nashville had kept him from winning the primary.

With tens of thousands of Tennesseans suffering from the Great Depression, there was genuine enthusiasm for Franklin Roosevelt. Crump joined Senators McKellar and Hull in campaigning for the Democratic ticket. Lewis Pope's Independent campaign fell short and he ran third behind McAlister and Republican John B. McCall. A few weeks after the general election Crump held a telephone conference with governor-elect McAlister before leaving for Washington, D. C. As Crump prepared to leave for the Capitol, he announced his support for fellow Tennessee congressman Joseph W. Byrns to succeed Speaker of the House John Nance Garner, who had been elected Vice President with Franklin Roosevelt.

Hill McAlister had not even taken the oath of office before "Roxie" Rice was denying there had been a break between the Congressman Crump and the governor-elect. The

Nashville Tennessean tried to create friction between Senator McKellar and Congressman Crump over McKellar's candidacy to become Democratic National Committeeman for Tennessee. A reporter asked Crump if he would back Mitchell Long of Knoxville for the post. "Is Long a candidate?" Crump asked. McKellar acknowledged he had received support all across the state following the death of former governor Benton McMillin. "Since that time, I have received letters and telegrams from a majority of the state committee saying they wished to vote for me," McKellar said. The Tennessean charged Crump was supporting Long after having publicly complained about the senator naming his brother Postmaster of Memphis. Clint McKellar had been assistant postmaster for years and the senator felt his brother deserved the promotion and insisted the family connection should not impede Clint's well-deserved advancement.

Irrespective of Crump's support, McKellar was named Democratic National Committeeman. Crump used his office to press the Attorney General to prosecute Luke Lea. Crump complained about "the delay and dillydallying which has characterized the handling of the government's prosecution of Luke Lea." Lea, owner and publisher of the Tennessean, had been indicted by a federal grand jury for having violated banking laws. Much to Crump's displeasure, in spite of having been indicted, the former senator's case had yet to go to trial.

With President Roosevelt's selection of Cordell Hull to serve as Secretary of State, Governor McAlister was immediately faced with the decision of appointing a senator to serve until a special election could be held in 1934. Congressman Crump immediately said he had no interest in the appointment or attempting to influence the appointment. "The appointment is entirely up to Governor McAlister, and

I am not making any recommendation," Crump said. When asked if he would accept an appointment to the United States Senate, the Memphis Boss replied, "We have one senator from West Tennessee now, and under the custom that has been followed, there can be but one appointment from the same grand division of the state. The appointment will necessarily come from Middle or East Tennessee." Crump was, of course, correct and Governor McAlister quickly named Nathan L. Bachman to Hull's vacant Senate seat.

While Crump exercised little influence in Congress, his organizational genius was readily apparent when the House of Representatives elected a new Speaker to succeed John N. Garner. Henry T. Rainey of Illinois was the ultimate victor while Tennessean Joseph W. Byrns beat William Bankhead of Alabama by a single vote to become the new Majority Leader. Evidently it was Crump who masterminded a combine that elected both Rainey and Byrns.

With the Republican administration of Herbert Hoover gone, E. H. Crump became a reliable vote in Congress for FDR's New Deal. Yet Crump was considerably embarrassed when a grand jury in Shelby County returned indictments against three former officials, including A. P. "Tony" Walsh, who had resigned as Commissioner of Finance December 31, 1932. J. H. "Jack" Hessen had been the City Treasurer of Memphis until his position had been eliminated, likely at Crump's direction. The third indictment involved M. D. Sabin, a bookkeeper in the Memphis city engineering department, who stood accused of embezzling \$6,000. Congressman Crump made a hurried trip back home to Memphis, not because of the indictments, but to visit with his ninety year-old mother and sons. Accompanied by Mrs. Crump, the Memphis Boss intended to return to Washington, D. C. before Congress adjourned in time to sail for Europe in June.

Remaining in Memphis for a mere twenty-four hours, Congressman Crump returned to the Capitol by airplane.

Crump remained much interested in patronage matters in Tennessee, although perhaps not to the extent that Senator McKellar was and there was likely some jealousy on the part of the Congressman. McKellar was the chief dispenser of patronage in Tennessee through the New Deal. Secretary of State Cordell Hull, while denying any interest in political patronage in his home state, did indeed have a voice in killing the candidacies of several prominent Tennesseans. Lonnie Ormes, who had once served as Senator K. D. McKellar's secretary, coveted the U. S. Marshal's post for Middle Tennessee, but was opposed by Hull. Ormes had also been McKellar's campaign manager in his first race for the United States Senate. Congressman Crump lined up behind Ormes and the Secretary of State was urged to withdraw his opposition to Ormes. While Senator McKellar was not keen upon appointing anyone personally objectionable to Hull, he did eventually appoint Ormes to the post, although it took several years for the Secretary of State to drop his objection.

Politics and patronage were less on Crump's mind as he and Mrs. Crump toured much of Europe during the summer of 1933. The Tennessean observed it "would take a Dutch lawyer to follow their movements but they have seemed recently to be dividing their time between Germany and Switzerland..." Crump's interests were watched over by "Roxie" Rice in Shelby County, while his efficient secretary, Marvin Pope, watched after the Congressman's Washington office.

As E. H. Crump enjoyed his sojourn in Europe, his enemies made the most of peddling gossip the Memphis Boss would do his best to unseat Senator McKellar in 1934. Crump paid them no mind at all.

Cedars of Lebanon State Park is welcoming

If you're headed to Nashville or beyond and looking for a cabin or camping area then you will find Cedars of Lebanon State Park welcoming, friendly and different.

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

lodge that can hold 80 people, and eighty miles of hiking trails winding through the trees.

Botanists noticed a special ecosystem there in the 1940s. The natural

rock gardens form glades where the ground sits atop the limestone rock. The park has sinkholes and caves, one of which is open to explore or tour. Nineteen rare and endangered plants grow there and no place else in the world.

My wife and I camp in the park now and then, enjoying the large camp sites which come equipped also with a metal fire pit, grill, and large level spaces. Each also has a picnic table and many are located near the bathhouse.

The sites are so large that even the largest RV can park in most sites and there are pull-through sites



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Camp sites at Cedars of Lebanon are large and have electric and water hook ups, a fire pit and a grill. Most sites are level and there's lots of space between campsites. There are three campgrounds, many shade trees, and modern bathhouses.

available along with sites for the handicapped. If you're not into RV or tent camping there are also cabins available for rent.

Although the swimming pool was closed for repairs when we were there recently there are weekend events including a Birds

of Prey demonstrations, games, tours of Jackson Cave, a Butterfly Garden, lectures by naturalists, etc.

There are various hiking trails, a disc golf course, a riding stable, playgrounds, an assembly hall, a gazebo, a nature center, an RV dump station, laundry,

snack bar, meeting rooms and a camp store. The park rangers are helpful, informative and friendly.

The campgrounds and park are far enough off the highway and interstate to be quiet and relaxing. The park is about two hours west of Knoxville.

The city of Lebanon is interesting. It is located back north across the interstate and has the national headquarters for Cracker Barrel Restaurants. Many different restaurants are at the Lebanon exit along with lots of standard motel lodging.

The town began in 1801 and is the home of Cumberland University. One of the graduates was Cordell Hull, the noted Secretary of State who was awarded the Noble Peace Prize. Lebanon has a history museum, the Jimmy Floyd Center, the Don Fox Wading Pools, and many music videos and movies have been produced featuring the city.

You can find Cedars of Lebanon State Park on the internet. The park is located at 328 Cedars Forest Road just off Highway 231. You may call the park at 615-443-2769. There's no charge to enter the park and camping is inexpensive, plus camping offers a senior discount.

Randy Pace

Continued from page 1

they're finding their way. They're all very supportive. I can't do it unless I have their support.

Tell us a bit about your family.

I have an 18-year-old son who goes to Pellissippi and I have a 23-year-old daughter who goes to UT Chattanooga. My wife is a cyber security professional. She worked for a defense contractor in New Jersey.

What brought you to Knox County?

My wife came here to help set up a new company. They wanted her to go to Texas but then offered to open the office in Oak Ridge. She said that was a conversation she'd need to have with her husband.

When she called me I said, "Go home to Tennessee, let's go." I'm from Newbern, outside Dyersburg. It was a financial decision; the taxes in New Jersey are ridiculous. I've lived in seven states and have been politically active on some level all my life but the majority of my life I spent in the Navy, 24 years.

How did you get involved in Knox County politics?

Doug Dewar, the husband of Suzanne Dewar, the party vice-chair, lived a couple doors down from me. He was walking their dog and I happened to be out front, having been in the house a week. I got my flagpole up and had a Medford Township flag underneath the American flag. He asked about the flag and I told him it was a parting gift and I told him I had served in public office. He said, "What party?" and I said, "Republican." He said, "You'll love my wife."

I met Suzanne a couple weeks later at the West Knox Republican Club. She took me by the hand and introduced me to everybody. I have taken out the trash, organized events, and whatever needed to be done.

What are your hopes for Knox County?

Just as a resident of Knox County I want to see the city and county utilize technology and embrace a larger swath of potential. Let's make this the best place in the country to live. We've got some of the best and brightest people in the country living in Knox County. Our potential is unlimited and it is an all-hands-on-deck effort. We've got to learn to get along with other people to benefit our community.

What is your main accomplishment in your life so far?

I'm married to the smartest women I've ever met. I cherish her and she cherishes me. I am truly blessed in basically every part of my life, the relationship I have with my wife and children.

What is the one thing in your position that you find the most satisfying?

The education part of it, teaching people about their government. If you don't know what's going on or how it works someone else is going to make that decision.

If you had one thing to do over in your life what would that be?

I identified a problem with the community I lived in and went at it like a bull in a china shop. I kicked the door open screaming and hollering—not in a literal sense but I was very inflexible. I alienated a lot of people. I made a lot of enemies but ultimately drew them back when we got things turned around. My biggest regret is I am impatient.

What is your favorite meal or place to dine?

I love a fresh salad. I hate paying \$14 or \$15 for a salad but if it's a good one I don't mind. That's my eating out. I am quite the cook, I don't mind telling you. There really isn't anything I can't prepare like a great grilled salmon or sea bass.

PYA Announces new Equity Principal

Continued from page 1

colleagues, our clients, and our values," said PYA President Marty Brown. "Her commitment to personal growth is a significant accomplishment, having started in the role of Consulting Coordinator and demonstrating true grit to reach this achievement."

Rock also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and is a small group leader and coach at 12Stone Church.

Additionally, PYA is proud to

announce the promotion of the following professionals, also effective July 1: Kathryn Good, Audit & Assurance Senior Manager; Trevor Brown, Audit & Assurance Senior Manager; Becca Cox, Human Resources Manager; James Ferguson, Audit & Assurance Senior; Dwight Tarwater, Consulting/Strategy & Integration Senior; Colby Terry, Consulting/Strategy & Integration Senior; Emily Grover, Consulting/Compliance Advisory Project Coordinator.

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Hall tapped to coach Central High Golf

By Ken Lay

As the vice president of Knoxville's chapter of the PGA, George Hall feels he has the responsibility to grow the game he loves.

And that's why he took the job as Central High School's golf coach.

"There was a need there," said Hall, who formerly coached golf and softball at Halls High School. "There have been some good players at Central but the program has fallen down.

"It's my job to get it back up. The good Lord gives us all skills and one of the skills that he's given me is the ability to work with and teach kids."

As the assistant teaching pro at Three Ridges Golf Course in North Knox County, Hall teaches both youth and adult golfers and views his new job with the Bobcats as an extension of his job in golf.

"As the vice president of the Knoxville chapter of the PGA, I have a responsibility to grow the game," said Hall, who replaces Tony Patterson as Central's coach. "I have a youth team and I teach both kids and adults how to play golf.

"I'm good with kids and I enjoy the game of golf and it's great to get a chance to build a high school program."

While the Bobcats have had their share of golf stand-outs in recent years, Patterson had lamented the program's lack of numbers lately.

But Hall said he's going to look to boost interest in the program in the near future.

"You can't tell me that in a school as big as Central, that you can't find kids who want to play golf," Hall said.

He'll obviously look to find some potential golfers in the halls at Central, but once the school year begins, he's going to be making trips to the school's feeder schools.

"I'm looking forward to getting back into coaching in high school and re-establishing some of my old relationships,"

Cont. on page 2

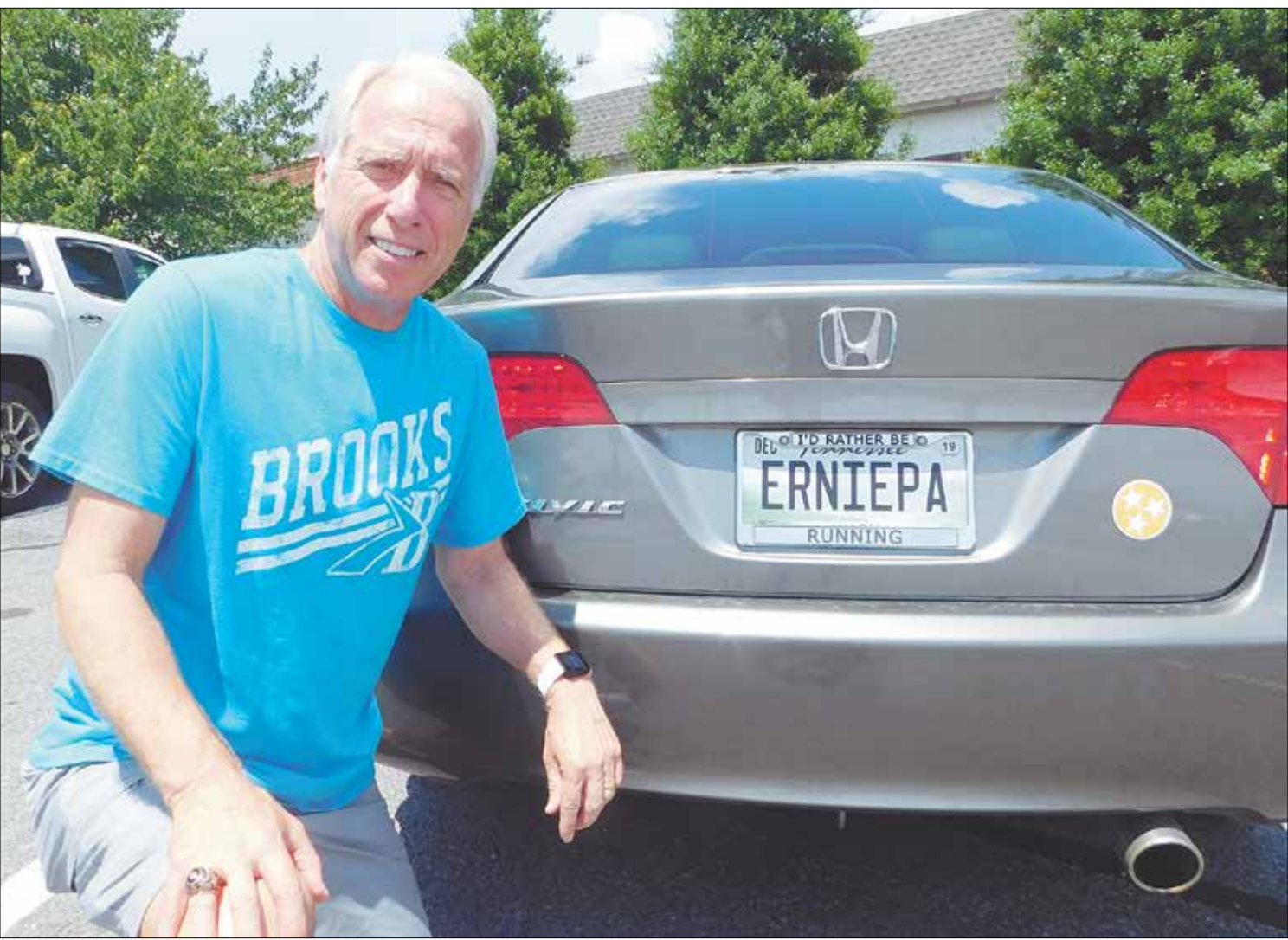


PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Ernie Brooks shows his "ERNIEPA" license plate, which also reads "I'd rather be running." Ernie plans to do more of that after retiring from a 41-year career with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley.

Twist of fate launched Brooks' career with Boys & Girls Clubs

His retirement 'marks the end of an era'

By Steve Williams

Ernie Brooks couldn't find an opening for a teacher's position in physical education after graduating from Tennessee Tech University in 1977.

But fortunately he found another job that autumn that would lead to him becoming the longest consecutive full-time employee in the history of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley.

"I didn't know anything about Boys Club," recalled Brooks last week. "But for some reason, I bought a Sunday newspaper and in the News Sentinel there was a story about the aquatic director, Steve Moore, resigning at the Boys Club."

Applications for the position were being accepted.

"I had my water safety instructor's certificate from Red Cross, some aquatic background with lifeguarding and lifesaving, and

the required Bachelor's degree," said Brooks.

"I made a phone call and the lady encouraged me to come and interview. And Mr. (Hal) Stephens ended up hiring me (on Oct. 12, 1977) and I was Aquatic Director for five years."

Brooks would go on to hold many positions in his 41 years with the organization and was Major Gifts Officer for fund-raising when he retired May 31 this spring.

But it took a twist of fate to launch his career.

"If I hadn't noticed that article in the paper, I wouldn't have thought about applying at the Boys Club," he says, looking back.

In addition to Stephens, Brooks served under the organization's three other leaders - John Lee, Lisa Hurst and Bart McFadden, the current President & CEO.

Cont. on page 4



Ernie Brooks with his three grandchildren at the Kids One Mile Fun Run, part of the Fireball 5K Race event Wednesday night July 3. Left to right are Sullivan, Vivienne and Adelaide. Sullivan, who will turn 6 in August, and Adelaide, 8, wear their numbers for the kids' run. Vivienne is 2. Start and finish was at the UT Ag Campus, after running out and back on Neyland Drive.

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Hall tapped to coach Central High Golf

Cont. from page 1

he said. "I'll go into Gresham Middle School and to our elementary feeder schools. There are good players at Gresham."

Hall is a retired educator and he's been out of the classroom for a decade. But he's always been a teacher, whether it be in the classroom, on the softball diamond or on the golf course.

"When you teach golf, you are teaching people who want to be taught and want to learn," he said.

"In the classroom, you're teaching people who don't necessarily want to learn.

"Old coaches never retire, they always keep coaching. They always keep teaching. When you teach golf, the first thing is that you want to make it fun especially for kids. But golf is like anything; the better you are at it, the more fun you're going to have at it."

Hall looks to help his students improve as he instills good practice habits.

"I'm goal-oriented," he said. "Some people just go out onto the driving range and just hit.

"You want to make sure that a kid is safe, you want to make sure that your players become better than they were yesterday and you want to provide leadership and guidance for them."

Area Soccer Players named to THSSCA All-State Teams

By Ken Lay

Bearden High School recently won the Class AAA State Championship and the Bulldogs enjoyed a truly dominant 2019 campaign.

So it was no surprise that Bearden had four players to make the Tennessee

High School Soccer Coaches Association's All-State Team, which was named Friday, June 30.

The Bulldogs had senior forward Carter Turner make the squad, along with junior goalkeeper Holden Giesecke, senior defender Everett Hauser and senior midfielder

Collin Lewis.

Farragut won the District 4-AAA and Region 2-AAA Tournament titles. The Admirals also defeated the Bulldogs during the 2019 regular season.

Farragut had three seniors named to the team: midfielder Dillon Bihlmeyer, midfielder Pablo

Herrera and forward Wesley Jeter.

Meanwhile, Karns High School made its first-ever trip to the Spring Fling in Murfreesboro. While the Beavers had a short stay in the Class AAA State Tournament, they enjoyed a breakout season.

Forward Edson Castro

and defender Matthew Brummitt made the team.

Hardin Valley Academy forward Angel Garcia was also selected.

In Division II-A: Christian Academy of Knoxville midfielder Sam Klauer and Webb School of Knoxville forward Cameron Fowler received all-state honors

Maryville nips Karns 11-9 in District 6 Little League finals

By Steve Williams

Like it does about every summer, it came down to Karns versus Maryville.

The boys from Blount County came out on top this year, rallying for an 11-9 win over host Karns in a close and exciting District 6 Little League championship game Friday night.

"It was a good game," said Karns Head Coach Bobby Currier. "They probably just made more plays than we did."

The victory was the second for Maryville over Karns in the tournament. The team in Red had edged the guys in Blue and Gold 6-5 in eight innings in their first matchup at Athens in the South Division finale of the district.

The top two teams in the South and North Divisions came to Karns to determine the District 6 champion and representative in this season's State Little League tournament, which will get underway July 20 at Bristol.

The Tennessee state champion will advance to the Southeast Regional with dreams of winning there and advancing to Williamsport, Pa., to play in the televised Little League World Series.

MBSHC (Mooresburg, Bean Station, Hancock County) and Grainger were the top two teams from the North Division.

Trailing 9-8, Maryville rallied for three runs in the top of the sixth inning and then held Karns scoreless in the bottom of the last inning to claim the championship banner.

Noah Hardin led off the Maryville sixth with



PHOTO BY DANNY DUNLAP.

Karns' Bryson Bringle slides in on a play at the plate in Friday's District 6 Little League finals. Maryville rallied for an 11-9 win to advance to the state tournament.

a double to left field and later raced home for the tying run when a pitch went past the catcher to the backstop.

After giving up a base on balls, Karns' Neels Schoonbee, who relieved starter Matthew Champion in the fourth, got the next two batters out, but Cole Hendrickson lined a double into the right field gap to score Tyler Davis and break the tie. Jake Farmer followed with a single to shallow right field to bring in an insurance run.

Karns tried to come back in the bottom of the sixth. With one out, Joe Currier reached up and poked an infield hit between first and second. However, Maryville right fielder Seth Breeding made a great catch of Joey Wilson's hit

down the right field line and fired to first base to double off Currier and end the game.

Karns took a 3-2 lead in the first inning before the game was delayed for an hour because of lightning in the area. When play resumed, Maryville went ahead 5-3 in the top of the second, but Karns came in and put five runs on the scoreboard to grab an 8-5 lead. Conner Madden had a two-run triple and Schoonbee a two-run single in that explosion.

Maryville tied it with three runs in the fourth, but Karns scored one run in the fifth to retake the lead. Champion and Ben Styles led off with back-to-back singles up the middle and Champion scored on an overthrow to first when Maryville tried to convert a

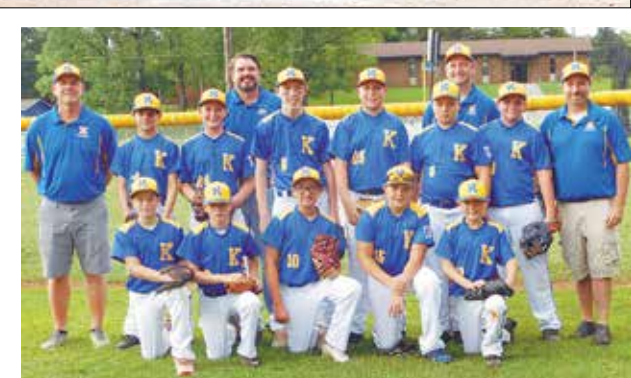


PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Karns' 12-year-old Little League All-Stars finished in second place in this year's District 6 baseball tournament, falling to Maryville 11-9 Friday night at Karns. Left to right, Front row - Aidan Murphy, Ben Styles, Neels Schoonbee, Joey Wilson, Joe Currier. Second row - Assistant Coach Damon Styles, Conner Madden, Bryson Bringle, Matthew Champion, Chase Laney, Wyatt DeRoche, Cash Hawn, Head Coach Bobby Currier. Third row - Assistant Coach Bryan Bringle, Assistant Coach Chuck March.

doubleplay.

Karson Hard got the mound win in relief.

"He did well," said Coach Currier. "We just didn't get timely hits. They got it done in the top of the sixth and we didn't."

But overall, Currier was proud of his team and its

effort in the tournament.

"They were fantastic," he said. "They played about as hard as any team I've ever coached.

"We came up short, but it was a good experience.

"I'll take this team and play with them anywhere."

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CAK's Mozingo pulls the plug during TSSAA Dead Period

TSSAA Dead Period Rule – No coaching, observing, or contact between coach and players in sport involved. There is no practice, no open facilities, and no weight training/conditioning. The Dead Period, which is to be observed by all schools, was June 23 through July 6 this year, a total of 14 days.

By Steve Williams

For the Travis Mozingo family, there were a couple of other rules during this year's TSSAA Dead Period. Read on and you'll see what they were.

"We spent a week of Dead Period at a cabin in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (Eagle Harbor area)," emailed Mozingo, the Christian Academy of Knoxville head football coach. "Truly a wilderness.

"No cell, Wi-Fi, etc.

"Did some fishing and other outdoor endeavors."

Coach Mozingo also attached a photo of the Steelhead Trout that he caught on Lake Superior with some friends.

Just how was it living without Wi-Fi and cell phones for a week?



Travis Mozingo, CAK head football coach, shows off a Steelhead trout he caught on Lake Superior during the TSSAA's Dead Period.

"We stay so "plugged in" to electronic devices, it's a little disconcerting at first (especially for my teenage children)," replied Mozingo, "but after a day or so, you realize how nice it is to be 'off-the-grid.'"

BACK TO NORMAL: The Clark Duncan family has traditionally taken a vacation during the TSSAA Dead Period, but last year stayed home to welcome the South-Doyle head coach's newborn grandson to the family.

This year, however, Shepherd "Shep" Hayes Hennigan, who celebrated his first birthday on June 25, was on vacation with the Duncan family in Florida.

READY EDDIE: Veteran Farragut Coach Eddie Courtney said he spent most of his time at the school, trying to get everything organized and ready for summer workouts and practice schedules.

"I also did some work on facility upgrades," said Courtney. "I did however go home earlier and worked around the house."

Courtney guided the Admirals to a Class 5A state championship in 2016.

COMING UP: The "unofficial" start of the 2019 football season kicks off Friday with the Knoxville Football Officials Association's annual Media Day event and Scholarship Golf tournament at Three Ridges Golf Course.

High school teams can start practice in helmets and shoulder pads on July 22. First practice date in full pads will be July 29. The season's first contest dates will be Thursday Aug. 22 and Friday Aug. 23.

Hunter, former A-E standout, says he will play at UT-Martin

By Steve Williams

Chris Hunter announced a new destination in his football career and college education on July 4 when he said he would be leaving Sunday for UT-Martin.

"I'll sign when I get there," said the former Austin-East High standout, who played on the Army prep school team at West Point, N.Y., last season.

Hunter (6-2, 230) said he will play linebacker for UT-Martin. The Skyhawks are members of the Ohio Valley Conference and compete in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS).

"I felt like they had a lot of faith in me and they want me to come in and play right away," said Hunter, who noted that the Skyhawks will play games at Florida and Kentucky this coming season.

UT-Martin, plagued by injuries, slipped to 2-9 overall and 2-6 in conference play last year. It was the Skyhawks' first losing season under Head Coach Jason Simpson, who has posted an 80-68 overall record and 63-42 OVC mark in his 13 years at UT-Martin.

Hunter was inducted into the United States Military Academy on July 16, 2018.

Chris, who was Austin-East's male Student-Athlete of the Year in 2017-18, also was a basketball standout for the Roadrunners. He excelled in the classroom too, compiling a grade point average in the 3.3 range and scoring 28 on the ACT.

He also played on the prep school basketball team at Army.

When Hunter announced in February that he was leaving Army, he also said he was considering going to Independence Community College in Kansas, a junior college football program.

The football team at Independence was featured on the third season of the television documentary "Last Chance U."



South-Doyle High Head football Coach Clark Duncan and wife Karen hold one-year-old grandson Shepherd Hayes Hennigan's hand at Santa Rose Beach, Fla., on a recent vacation trip during the TSSAA Dead Period.

Watching the US Men's National Team in Nashville

By Alex Norman

It's the beginning of July. Hockey and basketball are done. Baseball is in the middle of their annual brutal march to late October. Football camps don't open for a few more weeks.

Thank goodness for soccer.

The other day I was trying to find a way to pass the time when I got an alert on my phone that the US Men's National Team was playing in the Gold Cup semifinals in Nashville and that tickets were still available.

Their game against Jamaica was to be played on July 3rd. Knowing that I had the next day off for the holiday, and that I had a full tank of gas, I figured... why not?

In a way, this is the beauty of America as we celebrated Independence Day. The freedom to pick up, hit the open road and go. No one was going to stop by and ask for papers in Cookeville! So

off I went.

I honestly have trouble remembering that there was a time that really isn't that long ago when you had to purchase tickets to an event at the proper box office. Instead, I kept my eyes glued to Ticketmaster and Stubhub throughout the day. Prices fluctuated but eventually I secured a ticket for around \$43. I was playing poker with the prices and lost when StubHub cut off ticket sales an hour before kickoff, much to my dismay. I had to buy them from Ticketmaster, which always angers me. A \$32 ticket turned into a \$43 ticket because of service fees and other absurd additions.

This is the kind of thing that keeps people from experiencing sporting events in person. Why pay these prices when you can sit at home, not deal with traffic or parking, and have a fridge filled

with the appropriate beverages and just watch the game of choice on television?

The scene in Nashville was a fun one, with soccer fans dressed in red, white and blue up and down Broadway. Nashville has grown so much in the last 10 years it is barely recognizable anymore. They simply can't build apartments, condos and hotels fast enough. This growth certainly brings with it serious issues, but overall it has put Nashville on the map nationally as a must see destination. I can remember covering the Lady Vols at an SEC tournament in Nashville a little over a decade ago. Times have changed.

In the late 2000s Nashville and Birmingham were extremely similar in size and climate. Today, Nashville has left Birmingham in the dust. From sporting events to concerts to conventions to businesses moving to the area,

Nashville is the "it" city these days nationally. No wonder all those bachelorette parties happen in Nashville!

This all said, I'm not sure I could live in Nashville. It's getting too expensive and too packed. It's a memorable place to spend a weekend, but that's about it for me. Knoxville is much more my speed.

But I digress...

Wait, I was supposed to be writing about soccer!

The US Men's National Team has played in Nashville a bunch of times over the years, but didn't break 30,000 in attendance for this game, which caused some hand ringing among the soccer community. Well, fans didn't even know the US was playing in the semifinals a few days before. It was a late 8:30 (CT) kickoff. And it was a holiday week too. The idea that this will hurt Nashville's

chances to host a World Cup game when the US, Canada and Mexico host the 2026 event is high comedy. You want to show the world a good time? Put a couple of games in our capital city.

The game was fun to watch, even with a lightning delay that lasted about an hour. The USA got two second half goals from wonderboy Christian Pulisic on the way to a 3-1 victory, earning them a spot in the Gold Cup finals against rival Mexico. Pulisic is only 20 years old, and will play for Chelsea in the English Premier League next season. Pulisic is the future of American soccer. Hopefully some of the other youngsters that are starting to get their chances will propel the USA to success in the future.

After the game I made the drive back to Knoxville. Nashville was fun. But it was good to be home. Go USA!

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Twist of fate launched Brooks' career

Cont. from page 1

"Ernie's retirement marks the end of an era," said McFadden.

Other positions Brooks held include: Physical Director, Unit Director, Vice President of Marketing, Vice President of Volunteer Services, Vice President of Support Services, Vice President of Corporate Relations, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships and Executive Director of Boys & Girls Clubs in Tennessee.

"Ernie has impacted thousands of young lives since joining our organization in 1977 and his achievements will not be forgotten," added McFadden.

Brooks also saw changes along the way. The Boys Club on Caswell Avenue became the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Knoxville in 1990 and then the organization became the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley in 2002.

"It was certainly rewarding - from the first 15 years with the Club in the trenches so to speak, working day in and day out with the children and the parents - to later positions I held," said Brooks.

"Studies out there and alumni verify the fact that Boys and Girls Clubs do save lives and do make a huge difference in the lives of a lot of kids. I just feel fortunate to have been a

part of it."

The BGCTNV put together letters sent in complimenting Brooks' integrity, dedication, work ethic and being a true professional and there was an underlying theme among them.

"I'm proud of that," said Brooks, "because I know if I did all those things right,

I was doing the right things for the kids, too."

Brooks looks forward to spending time with his wife Pam, a retired elementary school teacher, and their family that includes three grandchildren.

Ernie also wants to continue officiating UT track and field and remain

involved with the Optimist Club and other activities.

"I really want to challenge myself to get back into the best competitive running shape that I can," said Brooks, 65, a lifelong distance runner who finished second in the 1500-meter run in his age division (65-69) of the Tennessee

Senior Olympics two weeks ago in Nashville.

"My ultimate goal is to qualify for the Boston Marathon in 2021. We'll see how it goes and how my body holds up."

He ran his last marathon (26.2 miles) in New York City in 2002.

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Dr. Jim Ferguson

Remembrance

Memories are strange things. My wife Becky can recall the relationships of friends and family down to a third cousin once removed. And I can recall the Hebrew kings of the Bible and the history of Ancient Greece and Rome. Arguably, this may be somewhat of a “man thing” because women are by nature more nurturing and in tune with all connective relationships of family and friends. It’s not that I don’t care, it’s that we all have “gifts differing.”

In my Sunday school class we’re reading a book and series about Jesus Christ by John Ortberg called “Who Is This Man?” I can heartily recommend the book’s excellent prose and compelling story of the most influential person in history. At one point, Ortberg recalled the old Disney song “It’s a Small World” which took me back in time to consider memories. (I’ll bet you’re

now having trouble getting this irritating song out of your mind!)

I once read a scientific paper which said memories are most easily imprinted in the mind when associated with smells or sex. From an evolutionary perspective, I can imagine this might confer some survival benefit. Anatomically, the olfactory nerve which transmits smell enters the brain in a region known as the amygdala and hippocampus. And since this area of the brain processes neural inputs and then projects the signals to various other areas, it is understandable why smells are associated with memory imprinting.

Personally, I think Disney’s song “stinks.” I would love to delete the song from my memory; I can do this with useless computer files. And apparently, so would Ortberg and everyone in my Sunday school class. Unfortunately, or

fortunately, the human brain works differently than a computer memory chip or electronic circuitry.

When we learn skills or memorize something those memories are formed by making new neural connections in the brain. Electrical wiring done by an electrician usually does not short-circuit. And formed neural connections don’t break down in the absence of disease. Once you’ve learned an irritating song or how to ride a bicycle, you don’t forget.

In my church we often recite the Apostles’ Creed, first used in the late 4th century A.D. Like millions of other Christians I have committed this foundational statement of beliefs to memory. We sometimes use other statements of faith and recently we used a “modern affirmation” which reads “we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ” by the Holy Spirit.

America’s Independence Day is more than a day on July 4th each year for barbecue, watermelon and fireworks. It should be a day of remembrance of the “toils and tears and treasure” expended to produce the unparalleled freedom and prosperity in the United States. As a friend’s father, General Stillwell, once said, “Freedom is not free.”

Like rituals in church,

national celebrations help us to focus and remember our heritage. And I needed a dose of patriotism! The litany of negativism by the media and Democrats denigrating President Trump, the military, and the police wears on the soul of a “deplorable” like me. The New York Times says America is not great, it’s just “OK,” though people are dying trying to come here. I’m not aware of thousands trying to cross the border into Venezuela, Russia, China or North Korea. The “cultural jihadists” spit in the face of citizens, threaten bakers and companies like Nike, and make the streets of Portland, Oregon unsafe by allowing anarchists like antifa a free pass.

In 1924 a man in prison wrote a book and formulated the notion of the “big lie.” Stated simply, a lie told boldly and often enough will cause people to believe the lie because the common man cannot imagine such duplicity. The author of the book was Adolf Hitler and his book was “Mein Kamph.”

Trump made Independence Day July 4, 2019 special for me. Admittedly, in other years I have given lip service in remembrance of our national heritage and the sacrifices of others. President Trump is indefatigable and resolute

in his opposition to the “new Democrat” Party’s socialism, intolerance, and assault on Americanism. Perhaps our President should be more genteel in his Tweets, but Jesus had harsh non-PC rhetoric for hypocrites and the elitist ruling class of his day (Matthew 23).

In his speech before the Virginia assembly in 1775, Thomas Paine had harsh words for those unwilling to sacrifice. Paine was a patriot who knew that appeasement of wrong does not make the world safe. And America finds herself in troubled waters with nuclearization of Iran, hegemonic aspirations of Russia and China, and the “little rocket man” of North Korea who has nuclear weapons and missiles to deliver them. All of these players are emboldened by our political strife in the once United States of America.

My “trash” reading is science fiction. I recall a SF yarn entitled “Old Man’s War,” where futuristic technology afforded “seasoned citizens” new bodies paid for by military service on distant planets. If they survived their tour of duty, the rejuvenated seniors got to live out the life of their new bodies. Obviously, a far-fetched scenario, but it strikes me as more reasonable than sending 18 year olds around the world to die

for neocon or elite globalist aspirations.

In 1900 the progressive Republican President, Theodore Roosevelt, said, “Speak softly and carry a big stick.” As I have said before, President Trump was not my first or second choice, but he was infinitely superior to Hillary Clinton, and I have come to appreciate his dogged resistance to anti-Americanism. I sometimes wish he would speak more softly, but I voted for Trump to oppose the status quo of Washington.

A dozen years ago a friend asked me to name the branches of the US government. Obviously, this was a trick question because everyone knows there are three branches - executive, legislative and judicial. However, he argued for a fourth branch, the administrative state also known as the deep state.

I now realize my friend was right, and so is Trump to oppose this vast network of unelected denizens of the Washington swamp. Trump is right to oppose the elitist establishment, the dishonest media and those who think they know better than We the People.

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

KCHD announces 2018-2019 N.E.A.T. Approved Sites

N.E.A.T. (Nutrition Education Activity Training) is an after-school program designed to teach children about the importance of healthy eating and an active lifestyle. The program reaches more than 1,200 children at 39 sites in the Knoxville and greater Knoxville area.

N.E.A.T. Approved is a designation given to sites who adopt nutrition- and physical activity-related policies and best practices that helps create a healthy after-school environment. The designation is a tiered system, where the level of achievement determines a site’s award status: Bronze, Silver or Gold. This year’s list of approved sites is below.

“These afterschool sites have made health a priority,” said KCHD Nutritionist Megan Rodgers. “There have been marked improvements in menu

offerings. Staff are role modeling healthy behaviors. Parents are even noticing that their children are requesting more healthy foods. Afterschool programs have the opportunity to help children establish healthy habits at a young age, and N.E.A.T. Approved sites are leaders in the healthy after-school time frontier.”

When a child attends afterschool care at a N.E.A.T. Approved site, they are given a healthy snack or meal and offered more opportunities to be active. During the 2018-2019 school year, twenty-five afterschool programs in Knox County achieved N.E.A.T. Approved Gold status, the highest recognition level, ten sites achieved Silver status and one site achieved Bronze status.

In 2016, the Knox County Health Department received a highly competitive, three-year

Project Diabetes grant from the Tennessee Department of Health, to implement N.E.A.T. and other health promotion efforts focused on reducing diabetes and obesity in the community.

According to the CDC, there is a link between healthy eating, physical activity and improved academic achievement of children, which includes many factors such as academic performance, attendance, behavior, concentration and memory. This evidence shows the importance supporting the effort to provide children with the opportunity to be healthy both during the school day and during out-of-school time.

To learn more about N.E.A.T. Approved, visit KCHD’s website: <https://www.knoxcounty.org/health/neat.php>.

2018/2019 N.E.A.T. Approved Sites

Gold status, 25 sites

- Emerald Youth Foundation
- The Restoration House
- Knoxville Parks and Recreation
- Christenberry Recreation Center
- SHADES of Development
- Brickey-McCloud Elementary
- Karns Elementary School
- Mt. Olive Elementary School
- New Hopewell Elementary
- Powell Elementary School
- Sunnyview Elementary School
- YMCA
- A.L. Lotts Elementary School
- Ball Camp Elementary School
- Bearden Elementary School
- Beaumont Magnet Academy
- Blue Grass Elementary School
- Cedar Bluff Elementary School
- Farragut Intermediate School
- Green Magnet Academy
- Halls Elementary School
- Hardin Valley Elementary School
- Northshore Elementary School

- Pleasant Ridge Elementary School
- Rocky Hill Elementary School
- Sarah Moore Greene Magnet Academy
- Shannondale Elementary School
- Spring Hill Elementary School
- West Hills Elementary School

Silver status, 10 sites

- Boys and Girls Club
- Halls/Powell
- Haslam
- Middlebrook
- Montgomery Village
- North Ridge Crossing
- Vestal
- Walter P. Taylor
- Western Heights
- Great Schools Partnership
- Dogwood Elementary School
- University Assisted Community Schools
- Inskip Elementary School
- Bronze status, one site**
- Great Schools Partnership
- Norwood Elementary School



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