

POLITICS



Thursday morning, Gov. Bredesen came before a joint session of the Tennessee General Assembly to formally unveil reforms to the Basic Education Program. The BEP, a funding formula, currently determines first how much money a school district requires to adequately meet the needs of its students and then what portion of that money will come from the state gov-

ernment for each county.

In the coming weeks, the Tennessee General Assembly will probably spend a great deal of time debating and discussing the effects of the governor's proposal. But today I want to focus on the fact that we are having the opportunity to enter into the debate at all.

The BEP, for a variety of reasons, has been in need of a major overhaul for some time now; however, it has taken government leaders across the state coming together with a consistent message to encourage the governor to go ahead and begin resolving this issue. County Mayor Mike Ragsdale and his staff have been instrumental in this process. Mayor Ragsdale has met with the governor on several occasions to explain some of the problems with the BEP formula and how it too often shortchanges metropolitan school systems like the one in Knox County. The mayors of other metropolitan school districts have done the same. And today the governor has listened.

On the state level, Sen. Jamie Woodson, chair of the Senate Education Committee, has continued to push the need for BEP reform. Over and over again, she has advocated the need for reform and pointed out that if a problem exists and the governor knows the problem exists, then we should not continue to pour money into a flawed formula system. Instead, we must fix the system now.

Sen. Woodson has not been alone in the state capitol on advocating for reform to the BEP. Rep. Harry Tindell and Rep. Joe Armstrong have consistently pointed out a problem exists with the funding formula in the BEP during budget hearings held by the House Finance Committee. Additionally, the entire Knox County Legislative Delegation has consistently promoted the need to urge changes in the BEP. Rep. Gerald McCormick of Chattanooga and I have worked on developing BEP reforms recommended by the state school board.

Gov. Bredesen has listened and come forth with a program that will help fix the problems inherent to the BEP. I applaud this decision. The conclusion to be drawn from this is that when government officials work together, change can occur and problems can be solved. That is not to say that we will accept the governor's proposal as it has been presented. For example, Rep. Bill Dunn has been persistent in working to ensure that we require school systems to meet meaningful accountability standards so that we not only improve funding mechanisms but also improve results. We want to make sure we use the money in the manner that will be most effective to improving education in the state of Tennessee.

A great deal of debate must still ensue in the Tennessee General Assembly concerning the Basic Education Program. However, as a result of the combined efforts of Mayor Ragsdale, the Knox County Legislative Delegation and others, we now have a plan on the table and the opportunity to create positive change in the BEP system. The next step is to see that the state House and Senate come together to create a new funding formula in some form. This is good news for Knox County and I am sure you will be reading more about it in the upcoming days.

Things are rapidly progressing as we enter our last month of session. It is a busy time. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is any way I can be of service to you. It is best to call my Nashville office at 615-741-6879. It is an honor to be your representative.



Ruthie Kuhlman

Ruthie Kuhlman to be on the 2007 Ballot

By Charmin Foth

Ruthie Kuhlman has done many things in her 52 years, but her greatest love is family and community.

Ruthie is a native Knoxvilleian and met the man of her dreams, Russell Briscoe Kuhlman, in kindergarten. She grew up volunteering in the community through Teen Board. She attended Sequoyah Elementary, Tyson Junior High and West High. She went to Sullins College and UT. She has two children, daughter Hannah, who is married to Matt Gard and a son Briscoe who attends ETSU and is in the U.S. Air Force.

Because of her love of community Ruthie is running for County Commission in the 2007 election. Regardless of the district lines Ruthie want to help all of Knox County be the best it can be. She would like to help the schools get much needed funding and promote sustainable neighborhood development, to work with law enforcement to better protect our community and property.

Ruthie says, "I want an open and honest government. Whether you are in my district or not call me and I will help with any problems I can. That is what commissioners are suppose to do."

Ruthie is involved with several community and civic organizations; Mobile Meals, Alzheimer's, 2nd Presbyterian Church where she has been a church elder, Knox Heritage, 2nd Presbyterian Pre-School, Girls Scouts as a leader and a Girl Scouts Cookie Chair, she is a former Junior League member and has also worked as a public relations person.

Ruthie's biggest role model was her father Tom Stone who was a very loving, kind man who believed in his community and donated much of his time and money to helping those around him.

Her inspiration comes from her family and friends. They give her support. All the people she has met that agree the county government needs change also inspire her. Ruthie says, "I hope that I can be a part of that change."

Ruthie advises others, "Follow that voice inside, be happy with your choices, don't regret them. Don't ever say 'I wish I had done that.' Love the life you live and live the life you love."

Ruthie's favorite quote says a lot about what a fun and honest person she is. "Don't worry. Be happy."

Brogan's Breakfast Round-up with Anne McKinney

By Sybille Flemming

The Halls Senior Center was hopping to the tune of Anne McKinney's voice last Tuesday morning. Well-known financial educator and local radio talk-show host of "Well Preserved with Jim Brogan," Jim Brogan sponsored a Breakfast Roundup and brought Attorney Anne M. McKinney, voted Knoxville's top wills and estates attorney and her blessed voice to Halls, to share her expertise to a full room of attendees. With over thirty years of legal and tax experience, Mrs. McKinney shared the importance of being "well preserved" and the process of getting there. Mrs. McKinney brought along workbooks and a list of "Tips & Tactics for Wills & Trusts" for each attendee; all free of charge. While many of us avoid this "preservation" process, Mrs. McKinney shared with everyone how



Anne McKinney

The Haircolor Salon
at 1308 Wilson Road, Suite 106 in North Knoxville
Teresa Wesson
Hair color and cutting artist by appointment
National Colorist for Hair Excellence
865.688.8114

much easier it has become and the many tools available free of charge. If you missed the breakfast event at the Halls Senior Center, be sure to visit www.ammtaxlaw.com for more information and tune into NewsTalk 100 every Sunday morning from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. for Well Preserved with Jim Brogan.

OBITUARIES

ATWELL, CHARLES DOUGLAS

- age 75, died Wednesday, April 25, 2007 at Ft. Sanders Regional Medical Center following an extended illness. He was a member of Missionary Baptist Church and was a retired employee of Florida Steel in Knoxville after 22 years of service. Mr. Atwell was preceded in death by his stepdaughter, Kay Bailey. He is survived by his wife, Betty Atwell of Knoxville; stepdaughters, Joann Shelton and Sharon Rector both of Knoxville; stepson, Frank Tharp of Tupelo, Mississippi; 9 grandchildren; and a host of great-grandchildren. www.rosemortuary.com

EDGEMON, HERBERT F.

- age 77, of Powell, passed away Sunday, April 29, 2007 at Baptist Hospital. He was member of Lincoln Park Baptist Church. He was retired from East Tennessee Trucks with 25 years service. Herb was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert and Alberta Edgemon and grandson, Mark Adams. His survivors include his wife, Wanda Edgemon; daughters, Diane Major, Debbie Adams and Judy Noe and husband, Ron; grandchildren, Richard Major, Tracy Badgett, Scott Major, Matthew Adams, Katie and Andrew Noe; 4 great grandchildren; sister, Elizabeth Bennett and husband, Bob; brother-in-law, Don K. Ferguson and wife, Barbara; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. www.rosemortuary.com

FORKER, DEBBIE L.

- age 57, of Powell, died unexpectedly Monday, April 30, 2007. She was very patient and attentive to the needs her family, friends, neighbors and business acquaintances, always sending notes and cards for important events and occasions. Her caregiving nature served her in a career as a dental hygienist before she joined her husband in business and served as Vice President of Sawing Systems. Debbie was a lifelong animal lover who kept two beloved Chocolate Labrador Retrievers and filled her yard with bird feeders, bird baths and Bluebird houses. She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church. She was preceded in death by her father, William DePalo, Sr. Her survivors include her husband, Joel Christopher Forker; mother, Elsie R. DePalo of Neptune, NJ; sister, Kathy DePalo of Ocean, NJ; brothers and sisters-in-law, William & Debbie DePalo of Albuquerque, NM, Glenn and Judy DePalo of Shark River Hills, NJ; niece, Karie Ann; nephews, Lee and Chris; her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Janet Lukenbaugh Forker and Rev. Walter Frank Forker of Indiana; and brothers-in-law, Mark Andrew Forker of Indiana, Dr. Thomas Stephen Forker of Pennsylvania, Walter Jonathan Forker of Indiana and Neil Printz Forker of California. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the

MYERS, CLAUDE C. JR.

Believing, Belonging, Becoming Capitol Fund, c/o St. John's Lutheran Church, 544 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37917 or the Young-Williams Animal Center, 3201 Division St., Knoxville, TN 37919. Arrangements by Rose Mortuary Broadway Chapel.

age 72 of Knoxville passed away Monday morning at St. Mary's Medical Center after a long illness. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Fountain City. He worked for Tucker and Beverly Steel and also was a Welding Inspector for Hunt Company. Prior to his illness he was an avid outdoorsman who loved all sports. He is preceded in death by his parents, Claude and Elizabeth Myers, Sr.; son Claude Myers III; step son Mark Grimm. Survived by his wife Janice Myers; former wife Martha Bruner; son and daughter-in-law Rick and Barbara Myers; son Chris Myers; step son and daughter-in-law Mitch and Stacy Grimm; grandchildren Melissa Bailey, Kellie Myers, Jenna Myers, Hayden Myers, Cole, Cade and Cale Grimm; great grandchildren Stormie Bailey and Claudia Ray; sister Betty Strunk; several nieces and nephews. Gentry-Griffey Chapel.

PATTERSON, JOHN K.

age 82 of Knoxville, passed away Sunday, April 29, 2007 at Ft. Sanders Regional Medical Center. He was of the Methodist faith. He retired from Rohm and Haas after 37 years of service. He was a veteran of WWII serving in Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge and to the end of the war. Preceded in death by wife, Anna

HOLLAND, DON C.

age 69 of Knoxville passed away Monday, April 30, 2007, at his home. He was of the Baptist faith, veteran of the U.S. Navy and retired from the Army Corps of Engineers. Preceded in death by son, Kenneth Holland; parents, Calvin and Florence Holland; sisters, Helen and Ellen; and brother, Bruce Holland. Survivors include daughters, Shannon Holland-Gair and husband Ken, Diane Sutton and husband Charlie and Donna Holland; sister, Gladys Ybarra; several nieces, nephews and grandchildren; and best friends, Rick and Cherie Gatlin and children. Family and friends will meet 1:45 pm Friday, May 4, 2007, at Greenwood

Cemetery for a 2:00 pm graveside service with full military honors provided by the East Tennessee Veteran Honor Guard.

LOCKE, LOUISE OPRISCH,

age 88 of Knoxville, a devoted and loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother, passed into eternal rest on Thursday April 26, 2007 at NHC Farragut. She was a tireless and faithful member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church for over 60 years, a member of the St. Gerard Guild and the Ladies of Charity. Louise was a native of Steubenville, Ohio, daughter of the late Victor and Louise Gehlert Oprisch. She retired from The Kroger Company with over 25 years of service. Louise was also preceded in death by her husband, Bob Locke; son-in-law, Robert Love; brothers, Herman and Joseph Oprisch; sisters, Helen Oprisch, Cornelia Alvis and Marie Bucher. She is survived by her loving and devoted children: daughter, Vickie L. Love; sons and daughters-in-law, Gary and Mary Kay Locke, Greg and Mary Jane Locke all of Knoxville; her wonderful grandchildren, Robert Scott Love and wife Morgan, Laura Kandilikas and husband Michael, Jason Richard Love and fiancé, Stefanie Shea, Heather Alyce Locke and fiancé, John Cairney, Taylor Gregory Locke, Lauren Ashley Love, Megan Elizabeth Locke, Lindsay Danielle Locke. Louise was especially proud of her 5 great grandchildren, Avery, Jackson, John "Jack", Carter and Bennett; her loving sisters, Dorothy Harasick of Glendale, CA and Elizabeth Ann Owens of Steubenville, OH; brother, Carl Oprisch of Toronto, OH; and a host of nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Knoxville Catholic High School, Building Fund, 9245 Fox Lonas Road, Knoxville, TN 37923. www.rosemortuary.com

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age 72 of Knoxville passed away Monday morning at St. Mary's Medical Center after a long illness. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Fountain City. He worked for Tucker and Beverly Steel and also was a Welding Inspector for Hunt Company. Prior to his illness he was an avid outdoorsman who loved all sports. He is preceded in death by his parents, Claude and Elizabeth Myers, Sr.; son Claude Myers III; step son Mark Grimm. Survived by his wife Janice Myers; former wife Martha Bruner; son and daughter-in-law Rick and Barbara Myers; son Chris Myers; step son and daughter-in-law Mitch and Stacy Grimm; grandchildren Melissa Bailey, Kellie Myers, Jenna Myers, Hayden Myers, Cole, Cade and Cale Grimm; great grandchildren Stormie Bailey and Claudia Ray; sister Betty Strunk; several nieces and nephews. Gentry-Griffey Chapel.

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Jo Haynes Patterson. Survivors: daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Dr. Neil Robison of Spanish Fort, Alabama; son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Larry and Libbie Patterson of Sweetwater, Tennessee; granddaughters: Ariel Robison of Spanish Fort, Alabama, Dr. Amber Aragon of Washington, D.C., Chelsea Phillips of Oak Ridge, Zara Goodlaxson of Washigton, D.C.; special friends, Dr. Joe Smith and nurse, Marcia. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 4708 Papermill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919. Mr. Patterson's guest book is available at www.stevensmortuaryinc.com.

SMITH, DAVID HERMAN

- age 64, of Knoxville, passed away 6:15 p.m. Tuesday May 1, 2007 at U.T. Medical Center. David was a member of Lonsdale Baptist Church, where his grandfather, Harry L. Thornton was pastor for 20 years. He was a lifelong collector of comic books and historical memorabilia and loved going to the movies, reading and music. He worked in the University of Tennessee Catering Department for 35 years. David graduated from Rule High School and the University of Tennessee where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Liberal Arts and Masters Degree in Political Science. He loved everything about the University of Tennessee from the educational, to the arts, to the football and basketball teams. He was preceded in death by his parents, Herman Elbert Smith and Niree Christine Thornton Smith. Survivors: sister, Dorothy Smith; best friend, Wayne Heflin; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins in Knoxville and Tucson, Arizona. Mr. Smith's guest book is available at www.stevensmortuaryinc.com.

WORLEY, EVELYN MARGARET

- of Knoxville, died Wednesday April 25, 2007. Born January 18, 1924 in Palmyra, Indiana, she moved to Knoxville in 1933. A graduate from Knoxville Catholic High School and Knoxville Business College, she was a member and president of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. She had worked as a part-time dental assistant for years. She was a longtime member of Holy Ghost Catholic Church and was active with the Ladies of Charity and other community service groups up until the time of her death. She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends above all else, but was an avid cook, gardener, seamstress and bridge player throughout life. Mrs. Worley was an active leader in the Brownies and Cub Scouts for her children. She is preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Carl Worley; parents Herman and Agnes Gettlefinger; brother Earl Gettlefinger. She is survived by son and daughter-in-law, Brian Worley and Pat McNutt of Knoxville; daughter, Suzanne Marie Haven of Knoxville; grandchildren Tara Haven and Paige Worley; brother and sister-in-law Andrew and Chick Gettlefinger; sister and brother-in-law Norma and Ernest Tucker of Huntsville, Alabama; brother and sister-in-law: Herman and Nancy Gettlefinger. The family requests that memorials be made to Ladies of Charity, 1031 N. Central Ave., Knoxville, TN 37917. www.rosemortuary.com

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