

OPINION

- Columnists
- Letters to the Editor

Civics 101 ■ Guest Editorial by Emily Weathers Kennedy

In the '60s and '70s, which encompassed the span of my childhood, Loretto seemed like an idyllic place to grow up. We felt safe. We recognized that we owned the town as we walked or rode our bicycles with nary a care in the world first to school then to the drugstore for hamburgers and sodas. So when we cracked open our social studies books called Our American Heritage or We Choose America or maybe Build Our Nation, we got it. We were a part of something bigger, and these books were the key to figuring out what that something bigger was.

Some of us traveled, but mostly we saw America by scanning through our social studies books with their colorful photos of cities, towns, and fields of corn and wheat. I remember feeling proud to live in this country as I read of manufacturing in Ohio and agriculture in Iowa and Nebraska. Mostly I looked for my own way of life when the chapter turned to rural America.

When my girls were in school, I didn't ask how this area of study was covered like I did English, science, and math. I'm not sure why. Perhaps I thought it was a given that the same joy would be placed in social studies as it had when I was a girl. And we had traveled quite a bit, exposing the girls to other areas of the country. But, when their standardized test scores would come in, their social

studies grades would be the lowest of all. I puzzled over this because, hey, social studies just required memorization. Right?

Turns out, when time is crunched with other things like standardized testing or Red Ribbon Week, social studies gets the ax (though English and math usually are spared). Incredibly, as kids are losing their nation view, they also are missing a very vital part of our American experience. They have little to no clue of civics.

Today we have a citizenry who can't seem to fathom much of our country's history much less its government. I watched a YouTube video the other day published by a Texas Tech University student group called PoliTech that shocked me. An interviewer asked questions to fellow students like "Who won the Civil War?" and "Who did we defeat in the Revolutionary War?" The students could not answer even basic history questions. They didn't know politics either. One only got "Joe Biden" with a prompt of "Joe" after the question "Who is the vice president of the United States?" Needless to say, I was appalled.

Assuming the video was not edited, the statistics don't bode well for our youth. I wonder how in the world these kids got through elementary and high school without knowing basic facts about our country.

Which leads me to an even greater concern. In a recent AP article in the newspaper entitled "Iran confronts US about GOP letter" Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif joked that some U.S. legislators didn't understand their own Constitution, and he was right, sadly.

It would seem that ignorance of the governance of this country goes all the way to the top.

The 47 senators who signed that ill-timed and ill-advised letter to the leader of Iran most surely broke the law as much as they broke protocol. In United States v. Curtiss-Wright Export Corp. (1936), Justice Sutherland wrote in the majority opinion: "The President alone has the power to speak or listen as a representative of the nation. He makes treaties with the advice and consent of the Senate; but he alone negotiates. Into the field of negotiation the Senate cannot intrude, and Congress itself is powerless to invade it."

Those members of Congress who circumvented the law essentially threw a tantrum of epic proportions that still reverberates from here to the Middle East, harming sensitive negotiations that affect most of the world. It is as if they are unaware of the laws of this country or the Constitution.

Continued on A-5

Narcissistic Children: can they be stopped?

■ TYRADES!

Danny Tyree

One of my college roommates had a propensity for dismissing a rule (or someone else's interests) with "Pish posh! That's for lesser mortals!"

That came to mind when I read in "U.S. News & World Report"

about a study conducted by Utrecht University in the Netherlands. Researchers concluded that children whose parents overvalued them were more likely to develop narcissistic traits such as superiority and entitlement.

Wow! Imagine that! And the odds-makers were all betting that children whose parents overvalued them were more likely to crumble and float away in the Arctic Ocean!

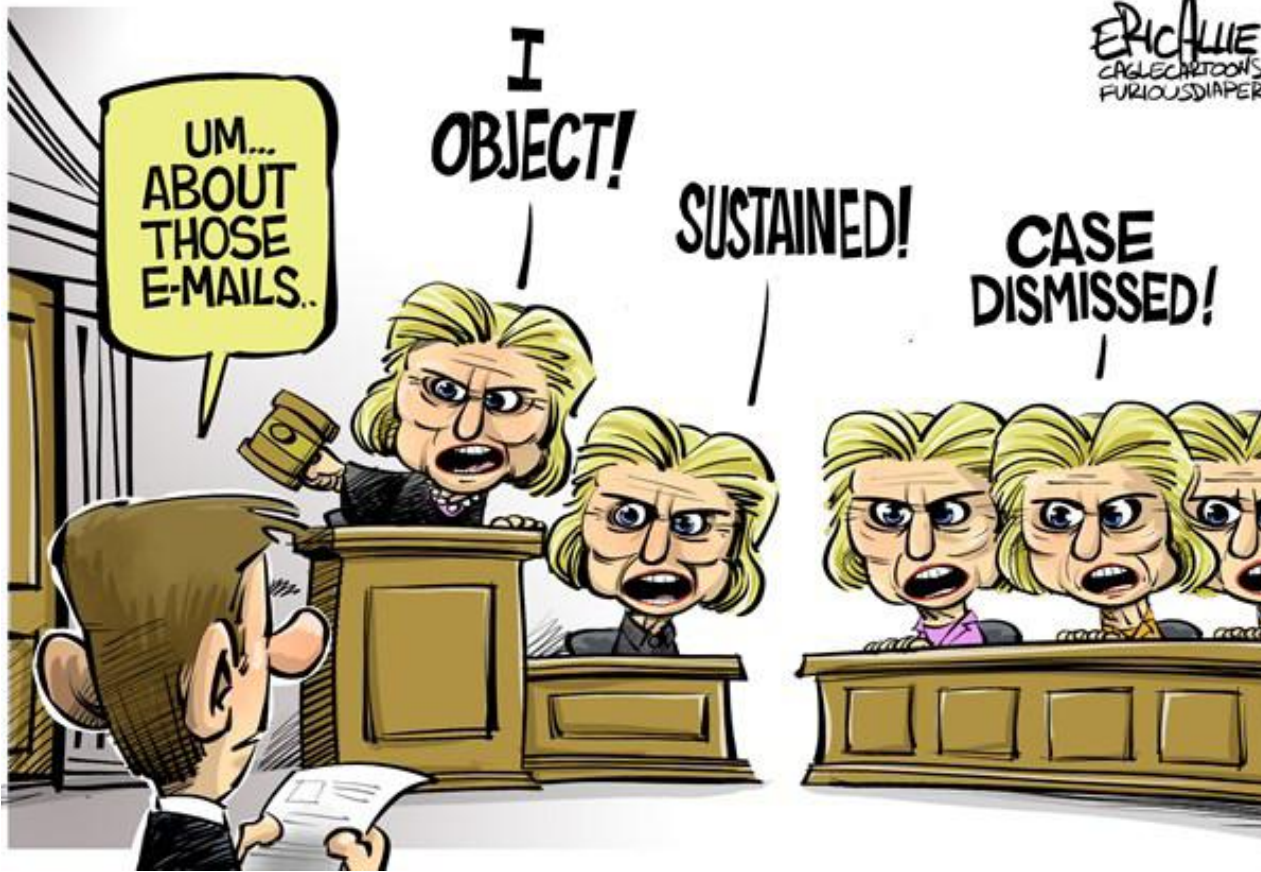
The study caused quite a stir, eliciting responses such as "Narcissism is un-American! People aren't supposed to be full of THEMSELVES – they're supposed to be full of empty calories! Super-size that?"

Others have remarked that it's not the responsibility of parents to make their offspring feel entitled. It's the job of community activists. ("You say those mean old cops slapped ice-cold handcuffs on you after you allegedly got caught red-handed butchering that family of five? I feel a protest coming on.")

More controversy: saying that a narcissist thinks he's God's gift to mankind is no longer allowed. For the sake of strict separation of church and state, a narcissist must be derided as "he thinks he is the culmination of a long and mutation-fraught evolutionary process."

What are some of the warning signs that you are creating a future adult who will feel he is above the law, lack empathy and react violently if he doesn't receive the "proper" recognition? The kid feels eminently qualified to be the first female president – even though he is neither female nor transgendered! Instead of being stalked by furtive strangers wearing a trench-coat, he is stalked by Oompa Loompas!

What drives parents to overvalue/overpraise their children? Perhaps it's competitiveness with their peers, or a misguided attempt to give the next



Capitol Hill Week in Review

■ State Senator

Joey Hensley MD

County Road Relief Act would return millions in road improvements to taxpayers

Legislation returning millions of dollars to taxpayers in the form of road infra-

structure im-



provements was approved by the Senate Transportation

Committee this week.

The "County Road Relief Act of 2015" changes the way Tennessee currently manages its State Aid Road Grant Program to make it easier for counties to access state funds to upgrade, repair and improve roads.

The legislation helps to unlock local money that has been sitting unused to help aid communities with making needed road improvements. Counties may have state road aid accounts, but cannot access those funds because they can't afford the match. The bill would affect all 95 Tennessee counties.

Currently, to receive funding through the State Highway Aid System, a 25 percent local match must be made by local governments. Senate Bill 1005 would allow a county to use state highway aid for a project, as long as they contribute at least two percent of the approved project cost or provide in-kind work as approved by the Department of Transportation. The legislation is particularly helpful to rural counties whom are struggling financially.

In other action benefiting rural counties this week, the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee approved legislation that I sponsored which lowers the threshold for job creators to receive Excise (F&E) tax credits. The purpose is to help job creation in the rural counties.

Currently, a business has to create 25 qualified jobs before it can receive F&E tax credits. Senate Bill 1282 would allow businesses in counties with a population fewer than 50,000, to have 15 jobs in order to receive the tax credit. Health and Welfare Committee approves my lifesaving "Right to try" bill

The Senate Health and Welfare Committee approved major legislation this week that would allow a terminally ill patient that has an advanced illness to try an experimental drug that has completed Phase I of clinical trials but is still pending approval by the

Death tax repeal is long overdue ■ Phil Kerpen

On April 13, 2005 the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly, 272 to 162, to permanently repeal the federal estate tax, also known as the death tax. But in the ten years since, they have all but dropped the issue. A stunning 236 of the current members of the House have never had an opportunity to vote on it. Fortunately, the Ways & Means Committee under Chairman Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) will soon consider a bill, H.R. 1105, written by Reps. Kevin Brady (R-Texas) and Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.) that would repeal the death tax. House leadership should bring it to the floor before April's tenth anniversary of the last such vote, because it's a winning issue both politically and economically.

Polls consistently show the death tax is hated by the American people. A 2006 study by two Yale professors, Mayling Birney and Ian Shapiro, did a comprehensive review of this issue. They said: "Many polls since the late 1990s have shown widespread public support for estate tax repeal, in the range of 60, 70 or 80 percent. Moreover, supporters appear to be spread more or less equally across income groups, contrary to what self-interest would predict."

The study's remarkable findings, which confounded the study's authors, belie the claim that strong public support for repeal depends on misunderstanding or misleading information. They found surprisingly high public support regardless of who asked the questions or how they were phrased.

Most recently, a November 2014 survey by Public Opinion Strategies that asked the neutral question: "Do you personally favor or oppose completely eliminating the estate tax, that is, the tax on property left by people to their family when they die?" found the public supports repeal by a typically robust 61 to 35 percent margin, with even a majority of Democrats supporting repeal.

Americans fundamentally do not believe that death should be a taxable event. The Founders of our country believed this so strongly that they included a clause in the U.S. Constitution that forbids seizing an estate at death as a punishment for treason. Yet, we now have a tax on the books that takes up to 40 percent of everything a person leaves to his or her children as a punishment for success, for achieving the American Dream.

The death tax punishes virtue and rewards vice. It tells older Americans: "You can't take it with you, and you can't leave it to your kids." So it discourages and punishes the traditional American virtues of hard work and thrift, savings, and investment, while it encourages lavish, reckless consumption.

That has serious economic consequences. A broad coalition of free-market and business groups organized by the Family Business Coalition recently noted in a letter to Congress that multiple recent studies show repeal would

Continued on A-5

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Published each Wednesday and Sunday at
 121 North Military Ave., P. O. Box 308, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464
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A Kid's Place Child Advocacy Center WISH LIST

Kid's Place Child Advocacy Center serves children who have been victims of sexual or physical abuse in Lawrence, Wayne, Giles, and Maury counties. Its mission is to ensure each child will not be further victimized. A cooperative, multi-disciplinary team delivers comprehensive services to the children and their families in a child-focused, neutral facility.

Due to the many needs of the families served at Kids' Place, the agency has opened a pantry that will be stocked with non-perishable foods and hygiene items. Families served are usually in crisis and in need of many resources including housing, food, transportation, clothing and counseling. The pantry will be open to families in need while they are receiving services at A Kid's Place.

Items may be taken to 614 West Point Road, Lawrenceburg. Call 766-2213 for more information.

ITEMS NEEDED INCLUDE:
 INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED SNACKS - JUICE BOXES/POUCHES - BOTTLED WATER - PAPER TOWELS - LIGHT BULBS - COPY PAPER - ART SUPPLIES - LIQUID HAND SOAP - PLAY-DOH - MAGIC MARKERS - JOURNALS - KLEENEX - DVD+R AND CDs(FOR RECORDING) - CLEANING SUPPLIES - LARGE & SMALL TRASH BAGS - INK PENS - SMALL & MEDIUM BINDER CLIPS - STAPLES - TAPE FOR TAPE DISPENSER - SHARPIE MARKERS - AA & AAA BATTERIES - AIR FRESHENER - DISHWASHER POWDER/TABS

Legislation to replace Common Core

■ Phil Kerpen

Lawmakers say no to allow federal standards in state education system by advancing House Bill 1035 out of the Education Instruction & Programs Subcommittee this week and will now move on to the full Committee, where it is scheduled to be heard on Tuesday, March 24. The legislation establishes a process by which the state will formally replace the controversial Common Core education standards with a new set of standards crafted solely by Tennesseans.

As amended, the bill specifies that Tennessee is fully in charge of creating its own educational standards and ensures that none will be imposed on the state by the federal government in the future. The bill establishes a Standards Recommendation Committee that will be comprised of ten members, with four appointed by the Governor, three appointed by the Speaker of the Senate, and three appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

In addition, the legislation requires the State Board of Education to cancel the "Memorandum of Understanding"

that had previously been agreed upon concerning Common Core State Standards.

Throughout the process of crafting these new education standards, House Bill 1035 provides multiple opportunities for public input and stresses transparency. Ultimately, the legislation will fully remove Tennessee from federal Common Core Standard guidelines while empowering Tennessee education professionals to craft new standards of educational excellence without undue influence from outside the state.

Heralded by proponents as the pathway to finally implementing Tennessee-based education standards in the state, supporters on both sides of the aisle agree this legislation will finally vanquish the Common Core standards that have drawn the ire of parents, teachers, school administrators, and advocacy groups nationwide over the last several years.

As always, I am truly humbled and honored to be your voice on Capitol Hill. If there is ever any issue I can assist with, please reach out to my office by calling 615-741-2190 or emailing me at rep.david.byrd@capitol.tn.gov. I look forward to hearing your thoughts, ideas, concerns,

Civics 101 . . . *Continued from A-4*

Perhaps it is time that elected officials be required to take a course like Civics 101 on the subject of America and her laws, pass a test, and prove themselves capable of governing this country before they are allowed any representational voice.

It is also high time our youth were taught proper civics classes again. Knowledge of the strata of our country, from cities to states to the federal government is vital to their taking an active part in where they live as adults. It is also essential that they have a grasp of their rights and responsibilities and can choose candidates based on real qualifications when, at the age of 18, they fulfill their civic duty to vote.

As Thomas Jefferson said, "The cornerstone of democracy rests on the foundation of an educated electorate." Emily Weathers Kennedy is a freelance writer, blogger, artist, photo stylist, and decorator. Her work is online and in product catalogs and her award winning kitchen design was featured in the September 2008 issue of Better Homes & Gardens. Emily has three grown daughters and lives with her husband, 3 dogs, 2 cats, and one brand new puppy on their farm in Loretto, where she was born and raised.

Hensley . . . *Continued from A-4*

Federal Drug Administration (FDA). I am the sponsor of Senate Bill 811 which would apply to terminally ill patients who have tried all other treatment options that are currently available as long as their physician has recommended it and the diagnosis and prognosis has been confirmed by a second physician.

Drugs and medical devices undergo three phases of clinical trials before they go to the FDA for review. The process can take more than a decade. Other than clinical trials, which are difficult to qualify for, the FDA has provisions for patients who want to access experimental drugs under its compassionate use program, but that process is also lengthy and time-consuming. The proposal now heads to the Senate floor for final approval.

Teacher Protection Act – The full Senate gave approval to legislation on Monday that would automatically provide teachers and student teachers with professional liability insurance. "The Educator Protection Act of 2015" would provide insurance coverage to about 78,000 full- and/or part-time teachers and 9,000 student teachers at no cost to the educators, so they do not have to worry about the liability of lawsuits during the course of their employment. Currently, teachers must find their own coverage if they are not protected by professional liability insurance provided by their local school system. Senate Bill 604 creates a special account within Tennessee Department of Treasury that would be invested by the Treasurer and administered by the state's Board of Claims to provide liability coverage. Governor Haslam has provided \$5 million in the state's budget proposal to pay for the program.

Hospital Assessment – The Senate Health and Welfare Committee voted to continue the annual Hospital Coverage Assessment for the 2015-2016 fiscal year by approving Senate Bill 125 this week. This action prevents more than \$800 million in potentially catastrophic TennCare cuts from taking effect on July 1, 2015. The cuts would negatively affect hospitals, physicians, patients and enrollees across the state. The assessment is used to draw down federal funds available through a Medicaid match program approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The bill's language ensures that the coverage assessment cannot be passed along to patients.

Beer Permits / Lawful Residents -- Legislation has been approved by the full Senate which requires a beer permit holder to be a lawful resident of the United States. Senate Bill 185 helps to ensure that counties can do the appropriate background check of the applicant before issuing a beer permit.

Regulation Freedom Amendment -- A resolution that aims to force Congress to pass a "Regulation Freedom" Amendment to the U.S. Constitution has received final approval in the State Senate. Senate [Joint Resolution 2](#) calls upon Congress to require that, whenever one quarter of the members of the U.S. House or the U.S. Senate transmit to the President their written declaration of opposition to a proposed federal regulation; a majority vote of the House and Senate is necessary to adopt it.

Contact the Lawrence County Advocate by mail, P.O. Box 308 L'burg, TN 38464, by telephone, 762-1726, or email, advocateeditor@bellsouth.net

Letters to the Editor

Starbucks, let's race together and sip overpriced coffee

To the Editor:

The Starbucks Survey shown below with ten questions is obviously a product created by Holier-than Thou Liberals. It is the same twisted thinking as the idiots that convinced Coca Cola to get rid of their old recipe and bombard the world with New Coke. That disaster like the Starbucks Survey failed to heed the age old advice, 'if it aint broke don't fix it!'

Every question on the Survey provides nothing to mend social evils, but it does attempt to shame folks for not mixing and mingling outside their own race as if that is the best way to define racism, prejudice, and/or bigotry.

YOUR RACE RELATIONS REALITY CHECK

WHERE DO YOU STAND? USE THESE CONVERSATION STARTERS WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

1. My parents had _____ friends of a different race.
2. I have _____ friends of a different race.
3. My children have _____ friends of a different race.
4. _____ members of a different race live on my block or apartment building.
5. I most often talk to someone of another race:
 - _____ At work
 - _____ Church
 - _____ Home
 - _____ Shopping
 - _____ School
6. In my Facebook stream, _____ % are of a different race.
7. In the past year, I have been to the home of someone of a different race _____ times.
8. In the past year, someone of a different race has been in my home _____ times.
9. At work, we have managers of _____ different races.
10. In the past year, I have eaten a meal with someone of a different race _____ times.

Death tax . . . *Continued from A-4*

create over 100,000 jobs, and that the tax is responsible for the destruction of \$1.1 trillion in capital. A new study from the Tax Foundation finds that the U.S. now has the fourth highest death tax in the OECD and that 13 countries have completely repealed their death taxes since 2000. They found repeal would boost the U.S. capital stock 2.2 percent, resulting in a net increase in federal revenues.

The bottom line is the death tax is wrong, and advocates of economic freedom shouldn't be afraid to say so and fight for full repeal. While liberal editorial pages and cable news talkers will shriek about it, the American people strongly support repeal. The House has a great opportunity to do the right thing by bringing H.R. 1105 to the floor for a vote, and, with the tenth anniversary of the last vote approaching, they should do so as soon as possible.

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Mr. Kerpen is the president of American Commitment and the author of "Democracy Denied." Kerpen can be reached at phil@americancommitment.org.

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Tyrades . . . *Continued from A-4*

generation a better chance in life. Or maybe they've always wanted a way to create MONSTERS without all the angry-villagers-with-torches-and-pitchforks stuff.

Parents seem oblivious to the unintended consequences of building their kids' confidence too high. It could lead to horrific exchanges such as "Mom, I got bored sorting paper clips at that v.p. job you got me. Here, let me perform a triple bypass on you."

Some people think it's worth having insufferable narcissists around just for the chance to see them get their comeuppance. You know, like the elitists who think they should be running our lives for us. ("My breeding and intelligence make me nearly superhuman – but can someone show me how to operate this plumber's helper? Turns out my stuff really does stink!")

I have this tongue-in-cheek routine with son Gideon in which I exclaim, "Remarkable boy!" when he performs some ridiculously simple task; but I also teach him things about himself and his fellow human beings that keep him well grounded.

Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Instead of being locked into one style of parenting, reevaluate on a regular basis. Keep refining your praise, encouragement and discipline until your child has a shot at being a well-rounded individual.

Yep, keep balancing self-esteem and humility until you get them juuuust right. Of course then the copyright cops representing the Brothers Grimm will show up with a lawsuit. ("Admit it! Robin Thicke helped you rip off Goldilocks! We're entitled to half the settlement!")

©2015 Danny Tyree. Danny welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades". Danny's weekly column is distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc. newspaper syndicate.

I prefer other races that have observed my treatment of them to be the judge of my Race Relations Reality and not some corporate hate monger. I suggest Starbucks should spend more time with the business of selling over priced coffee and less time offending the innocent.

The Innocent being mostly white folks and black folks that get along quite well except for the isolated conflicts that get endless exposure by Liberal Media; all fed by Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson, Barack Obama and numerous other 'rich' Blacks that thrive on keeping the hope of the hopeless confined to an Elite Black Plantation where ungrateful Black Barons rule. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is undoubtedly insulted and crying out to be heard from his grave.

It was Dr. King that spent his life seeking 'equality' for the Negro. Almost immediately after King was assassinated, upstart Reverend Jesse Jackson, Black Muslim leader Elijah Mohammad, and Black Muslim Anarchists Malcolm X, and Louis Farrakhan trashed Martin Luther King's plea for 'Equality.' Dr. King's hard won peaceful battle for equal treatment was replaced with a quest for Constitutional 'extermination.'

The Parallel Movements of Jesse Jackson and Muslim Extremists ignored Martin Luther King's success for 'equality' and raised the ante to 'exclusive' recognition of Civil Rights along with creative entitlements; Jesse Jackson invented the new term 'African American' which over time removed any chance of the Negro Race ever having the cherished pride of being an American without the enhanced identity. This naturally applies to all cultures and colors.

The conversation on 'Race Together' at Starbucks should begin with an explanation for the need to be set apart while at the same time claiming discrimination and prejudice?

Without this initial clarification there is no need for further discussion until Race Together has the common ground of Americans Together equally free and measured by content of character, period!

James Allen Whitehead



SINGING – Liberty Baptist Church, March 29. The church is located at Thretts Crossroads near Florence. Singing at 6 p.m. with the Chandlers.

PROPANE TANK FILL-A-THON – March 28 at Loretto American Legion, 8 a.m. till noon.

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY – Meeting at Fairview Church, Loretto, March 27, 6:30.

TVJ LINE-UP – Saturday, March 28, 6:30-9 a.m. city administration building. Featuring The Stand by Band, The Lances, Cristine Hall and the Chandlers.

REVIVAL – St Joseph Free-will Baptist Church, Bluff Rd, St. Joe. Sunday, March 29, 5 p.m. Monday –Friday April 3, 7 p.m. nightly.

LINDSEY GROVE CEMETERY – Annual meeting, Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

GOSPEL SINGING – Oak Grove #2 FWB Church, Sunday, March 29, 10:30 a.m. with Austin Newton. Lunch will follow.

SPRING FISH FRY – Crossroads VFD, Saturday, March 28, 11 a.m.- p.m. at the Crossroads Fire Hall. Plates \$8-\$13. Tickets in advance or at the door. All proceeds go to the fire dept.

BREAKFAST – West End Community Club, Saturday, March 28, 6:30-9 a.m. Adults \$6, kids \$3. Carry out available. More info 762-1867

GOSPEL/BLUEGRASS CONCERT – Weathers Family 7th Annual Concert. Crockett Theater, Featuring Wild Cat Ridge, Rocket City Ridge and Shades of Bluegrass. March 28, 6 p.m. Admission \$10, children

under 12 free. More info call 629-2285, 762-6055 or 629-2413

ST. JOSEPH ELEMENTARY REUNION – Sunday, March 29, 1-5 p.m. St. Joseph Civic Center. Please bring a refreshment. More info. 845-4141

SINGING – Lindsey Grove Church of God, Shoally Branch Road, Leoma. Sunday, March 29, 5 p.m. Bring your song and music and join in with us.

TENNESSEE Reconnect

March 28th from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Tour TCAT-Pulaski, get help with FAFSA and Financial Aid, and complete your application for admission.

The Tennessee Reconnect grant provides an opportunity for adults to learn a skill and earn a credential at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) tuition free.

BECOME WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE... TUITION FREE.

For more information visit www.tcatpulaski.edu

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