



The Knoxville FOCUS

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December 24 & 31, 2012

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Q&A

Year in Review

Tasha Mahurin caught up with a few of the city officials who were sworn in this time last year to discuss their first year in office.

How would you characterize your first year in office? What have you learned? What do you look forward to as it pertains to serving your constituents in 2013?

Councilman Mark Campen:

The first year in office has been hectic, to say the least. Working full-time and helping my wife, Emily, raise our son keeps me busy enough, but I attend as many council related events and neighborhood organization meetings that I am able to get to. I have learned that I can't do it all and that it takes time and compromise to find sensible solutions to community and city issues. I continue to learn that you can't please everyone, all the time. I have a few ideas that I hope to take to people in 2013. There are some initiatives related to traffic calming, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian travel and litter control I plan to introduce or support in 2013.



Councilman Marshall Stair:

I learned the importance of building strong relationships with the city staff. We are so dependent upon the staff to deliver the services people expect and for reliable information on important issues. Thankfully, we have a tremendous staff and I am looking forward to working with them for the next three years. As for 2013, I look forward to continuing to focus on vacant and blighted properties throughout the city, beginning the redevelopment of Cumberland Avenue, and working on a long term solution to our budget crisis caused by our pension plan.



Mayor Madeline Rogero:

It has been a busy, challenging and rewarding first year. My staff and I, along with City Council, tackled difficult issues including pension reform, blighted properties and rethinking our approach to tourism and destination marketing. We continued our commitment to economic development and redevelopment, with several major commercial projects already



Continue on page 3

Remembering Dr. Kelley



The Emerald Youth Board honored Dr. Paul Kelley last December for his service to Emerald Youth and working for the Knoxville community for over 50 years. Pictured left to right are: Steve Diggs, Dr. Paul Kelley and Doug Kennedy.

By Sarah Baker
bakers@knoxfocus.com

Every teacher knows the famous words by Forest Witcraft: "One hundred years from now it won't matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much money I had in the bank nor what my clothes looked like. But the world may be a little better, because I was important in the life of a child." Significant in the lives of thousands of children, Dr. Paul L. Kelley made Knoxville a better place.

Dr. Kelley passed away on December 16, survived by his wife of 53 years, Norma; two sons, John and Lucas; a grandson, Lucas; and a slew of other family and good friends. "Dr. Paul Kelley was a great person, a great educator, and a great leader," says D.M. Miller, a long-time friend and colleague of Kelley. "You know how they say 'When J.P. Morgan talks, people listen?'" Well, when Paul Kelley

talked, people listened." "He was always on the students' side," says Miller. "They were his livelihood....his main focus."

Kelley earned degrees from Tennessee Tech, Northwestern, and UT. He taught at Christenberry Junior High, Fulton High School, and served as principal at South Junior-Senior High School and West High School. He went on to join the central office staff and to be appointed to the Knox County School Board.

Public education is not the only way that Dr. Kelley made a difference. He was also active with the Boy Scouts of America and the Emerald Youth Foundation. Because of Dr. Kelley's belief that education should not exclude children in special circumstances, Knox County Schools named their non-traditional high school at Knoxville Center Mall, the Dr. Paul L. Kelley Volunteer Academy.

Continued on page 2

FOCUS Weekly Poll*

In your opinion, will the coming federal tax increases hurt the economic recovery or help the economic recovery?

HURT 76.48%
HELP 23.52%

Survey conducted December 21, 2012.

* Focus Weekly Polls are conducted by an independent, professional polling company.

City prepared for winter weather

It was a mild autumn, but with winter officially here, the City of Knoxville's Public Service Department is prepared for the possibility of inclement weather. The department's snow plan for the year is now available at <http://www.cityofknoxville.org/services/snow.asp>.

The plan, updated during the fall of each year, details how the City responds to various types of snow and ice events, how it prioritizes City streets for treatment and the resources the department has to combat winter storms. There are also descriptions of what constitutes Level I streets - the ones carrying the greatest volume of traffic or that carry traffic to hospitals - along with maps and a list of frequently asked questions concerning the City's response to snowy conditions.

"Depending on the type of weather, we have up to 180 employees and 21 pieces of equipment ready to deal with it," said Public Service Director David Brace. "The snow plan gives us a template for setting priorities and letting everybody know what to expect."

City crews typically pre-treat streets with a salt brine solution, which helps prevent snow from bonding with the road surface and lowers the melting point, prior to the arrival of snowy weather. Pre-treatment, depending on the weather, can be done 48 hours prior to a snow or ice

Continued on page

Sarah Moore Greene to be honored in 2013 King Week

Since 1982, the MLK Commission has been organizing a special celebration each year for the Knoxville area to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The weeklong celebration focuses on providing education and leadership training for adults and youth and promotes reconciliation through peaceful conflict resolution. Part of the celebration also includes stories of racial struggles with emphasis on non-violence, equality and love.

The 2013 celebration will take

on a special emphasis of education and will embody the theme of "Intelligence plus Character." The guiding light for 2013 will be Sarah Moore Greene, Knoxville's leader in the civil rights movement and in the education of all children. Ms. Greene passed away August 15th at the age of 92. but her spirit and legacy will be the stimulus for this year's celebration.

The celebration will begin with an opening prayer service that brings together people of all denominations. That program will be held

at the First Christian Church at noon on Wednesday, January 16. The events the rest of the week will include the annual Leadership Awards Luncheon, a community forum hosted by OREPA, special training sessions for area teachers and youth, and a leadership educational symposium open for everyone.

Three of the celebration events emphasize the arts. The Knoxville Symphony Chamber Orchestra will perform a MLK tribute concert on the MLK Holiday, January 21; other

singers, dancers, and actors will present a special "night with the arts" program at Knoxville College; and fourteen Knox County art teachers will organize a display of original art in the Gallery of the Bijou Theatre emphasizing the life of Dr. King.

A highlight of the celebration will be the annual MLK Memorial Parade followed by the MLK Memorial Tribute Service.

More details are available at www.MLKKnoxville.org.

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Huckabee's words a sobering reminder



By Richie Beeler

Mike Huckabee upset some folks last week. The former Arkansas Governor and once presidential candidate made some comments in the wake of the horrific Sandy Hook tragedy that were not well received by many in our culture, in particular the liberal media and much of the religious community.

In the wake of the shooting, Huckabee asked why we should be so surprised when things like this happen since "we have systematically removed God from our schools."

Predictably, Huckabee's remarks were met with everything from outrage to bewilderment by a society reeling from such a heinous act of violence.

I would never use an event as unspeakably tragic as Sandy Hook to make an ideological point. And I don't think Mike Huckabee had that intent either. Huckabee was simply stating a Biblical reality that any self-respecting Christian should believe. The reality that when a society turns its back on God,

evil will reign.

I do not believe Mike Huckabee intended to suggest that Sandy Hook was somehow God's revenge against the public school system. But I do believe he was pointing out the unmistakable decline in the morality of American culture since the time that prayer was removed from public schools.

My reaction to the storm surrounding Huckabee's comments was one of bewilderment as well. I cannot imagine a Bible believing Christian being the least bit surprised at an event like Sandy Hook. That is not to say they shouldn't be emotionally jolted and deeply saddened by the inhuman nature of the crime. But to be genuinely surprised that something like this would happen reveals a misunderstanding that is fundamental to the spiritual condition of American culture.

America has lost its hold on the transcendent. That is to say, the average American today simply cannot connect the dots from God and spirituality to the events of everyday life. The notion of God, while once held as sacred and unquestionable even by our public institutions, has been systematically relegated to little more than a superstition held by those who still need religion

as a crutch.

Am I referring to the people of Newtown? No. Not in either case. I do not know those people. I do not know their hearts. I do not know their religious beliefs or the lack thereof. My heart breaks for them, as the heart of any Christ follower should. I am merely pointing out the decaying spiritual condition of America, which is always magnified in the wake of such an event.

To a Bible believing Christian, the only surprise should be that events like this don't happen all the time. Not because people particularly deserve it or because God is angry at any particular people. But simply because of the fact that when a society loses its hold on the connection between God and everyday life, evil begins to run rampant. The Bible could not be more straightforward than it is in the first chapter of Romans.

"Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-

haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy." (Romans 1:28-31 NIV)

No mercy. This phrase eerily brings to mind the actions of the young man in Connecticut who gunned down 26 unsuspecting victims in cold blood. It is the inevitable condition of a people who systematically remove God from their everyday lives and mentality. It is perhaps the defining statement of a society that mourns the unthinkable murder of 20 beautiful, innocent schoolchildren. Yet turns a blind eye to some 3,000 precious souls murdered in the safety of their mother's womb the very same day.

As I write this column on the eve of the holiest time of year, I am chilled to the bone by the echo of my very own words from a column two weeks ago. In my analysis of the call for stiffer gun laws in the aftermath of the Jovan Belcher murder-suicide, I observed this inevitable reality: more young people are going to die.

It is the inescapable downward progression of a society that can no longer connect the dots.

FOCUS Weekly Poll

In your opinion, will the coming federal tax increases hurt the economic recovery or help the economic recovery?



By Age	Hurt	Help	Total
30-49	77.59%	22.41%	58
50-65	78.06%	21.94%	155
65+	75.21%	24.79%	242
Total	76.48% (348)	23.52% (107)	455

By Commission District	Hurt	Help	Total
1	45.83%	54.17%	24
2	80.36%	19.64%	56
3	76.92%	23.08%	52
4	64.29%	35.71%	70
5	81.40%	18.60%	43
6	76.09%	23.91%	46
7	86.89%	13.11%	61
8	82.46%	17.54%	57
9	80.43%	19.57%	46
Total	76.48% (348)	23.52% (107)	455

By Gender	Hurt	Help	Total
Unknown	87.50%	12.50%	8
Female	75.34%	24.66%	223
Male	77.23%	22.77%	224
Total	76.48% (348)	23.52% (107)	455

Survey conducted December 21, 2012

City prepared for winter weather

Cont. from page 1 — open during storms, crews also respond to calls from the Knoxville Police Department and Knoxville Fire Department for emergency services.

Julie Andrews on turning 79



Rosie's World

"Sound of Music." If you sing it, it is especially hysterical!!!!

Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting, Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings, Bundles of magazines tied up in string, These are a few of my favorite things

Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses, Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses, Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings, These are a few of my favorite things

When the pipes leak, When the bones creak, When the knees go bad, I simply remember my favorite things, And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions, No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions, Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring, These are a few of my favorite things

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin', Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin', And we won't mention our short shrunken frames, When we remember our favorite things.

When the joints ache, when the hips break, When the eyes grow dim, Then I remember the great life I've had, And then I don't feel so bad.

I would like to thank everyone for the wishes and prayers, the visits and good thoughts through my time of injury and the holidays. Send comments to rosemerrie@att.net or call (865)748-4717. Thank you.

Remembering Dr. Kelley

Cont. from page 1 — officiated. If anyone would like to honor the life of Dr. Paul Kelley, memorials may be given to the Emerald Youth Foundation or the Kelley Fund for Music and Youth, c/o Emerald Avenue United Methodist Church. Reverend Dr. James Bailes

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The last word

I have been a public school teacher for fifteen years. The first time I taught Vacation Bible School I was probably 14 years old. I was a children's minister in my twenties, and I taught kindergarten camp at Ijams Nature Center. When I read about what happened in Newtown, the smell of crayons, playdough, and Elmer's glue flooded my sense memory, and I could not hold back the weeping.

In my kitchen hang various pieces of art my daughter has drawn over the years at different ages. My favorite is a picture she drew of the twin towers, fat blue marker strokes on red construction paper with planes that look like bumble bees. She was only five years old at the time of the 9/11 tragedy, but it affected her deeply. Almost as unbearable as the loss of life to me is the loss of innocence.

For the last week or so, we have been inundated with speculations, solutions, and blame. Yet, each and every answer we try to come up with seems empty and fruitless on its own. When 9/11 occurred, we really banded together. In the aftermath of Newtown, we should try much harder to do the same. This tragedy is not just about over access to guns or just about under access to mental health care. Most of all, I resent the idea that it is about God not being "allowed" in schools. The God I worship is everywhere, and He doesn't need legislative permission. Jonathan Martin, a

pastor in Charlotte, North Carolina, articulated my feelings perfectly when he said, "The idea that my God is a petulant tyrant who turns His back on children if He doesn't get enough institutional name dropping is offensive."

One of the best pieces of advice and comfort came from another spiritual mentor, the late Fred Rogers. "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.' To this day, especially in times of 'disaster,' I remember my mother's words," said Mr. Rogers, "and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers - so many caring people in this world." Perhaps if we do as he says, we can believe as Anne Frank did that "in spite of everything, people are really good at heart."

By far, the most comforting words I've found have come from the foreword written by Francois Mauriac regarding Elie Wiesel's Holocaust memoir, "Night:" "And I, who believe that God is love, what answer was there to give my young interlocutor whose dark eyes still held the reflection of angelic sadness that appeared one day on the face of a hanged child?...that the connection between the cross and human suffering remains, in my view, the key to the unfathomable mystery in which the faith of his childhood was lost? And yet, Zion has risen up against the crematoria and the slaughterhouses...We do not know the worth of one single drop of blood, one single tear. All is grace. If the Almighty is the Almighty, the last word for each of us belongs to Him."



'Caring Hands' quilters memorialize B&W Y-12 co-worker

The "Anita Quilt," a silent auction item in an East Tennessee company's 2012 United Way campaign, is much more than a beautiful bedspread. Made and donated by "Caring Hands," a group of six quilters who work at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, its story runs deep and wide. It could be considered a patchwork of acts of kindness—some giving back, some paying forward and some simply random.

A common thread in the story is former B&W Y-12 human resources employee Anita Stensaker, who died in December 2010 at age 74 following a massive stroke. Those who worked with her knew her as one of those folks who would "give you the shirt off her back."

Anita loved to shop and found it difficult to pass up a bargain, especially on things she thought were pretty. Shelves and nooks and crannies in her home were filled with items she had purchased not for anyone or any occasion in particular. She enjoyed being able to provide on

short notice something for whatever need arose.

In 2009 she was shopping at the company's annual United Way silent auction and admired a quilt made and donated by the Y-12 "Caring Hands" quilters. She did not buy the quilt, but seeing it gave her the idea to offer the quilters something they could use.

"Caring Hands" member Dottie Kelly said, "Anita called me to offer her fabric stash to our group. I asked her why she would want to get rid of fabric she might want to use after she retired. Anita laughed and said she had no plans to do anything with it."

Anita's longtime close friend and co-worker Vicki Wilson recalls that Anita also had no plans to retire. "She was tireless, an Energizer bunny," Wilson said. "She would break her neck helping the employee, talking with health care providers and getting necessary documentation. She ran circles around all of us in human resources. She went dancing the weekend she died. There'll never be another one like her."

The lady who went more than the extra mile for the employee gave showers for engaged couples and expectant moms. When she knew of a need, she responded with a gift. News of her death shocked and saddened many, including the members of "Caring Hands."

Kelly reflected, "Anita left us that fabric for a reason, and we had to do something special with it. We decided that the best tribute to Anita's generosity would be another quilt to benefit United Way agencies. We called it 'the Anita Quilt' from that day forward."

The group of quilters enlisted the help of a local professional quilter to help them decide on a pattern and to select the fabrics from Anita's collection. The "stacked brick" pattern they used for the "Anita Quilt" was a cross between the "flying geese" and "herringbone" patterns. The bricks in the pattern were all made from Anita's fabric.

There are 1,182 pieces in the quilt, and the quilters

Continue on page 4

Q&A Year in Review

Continued from page 1
under way or about to break ground. And we maintained our focus on a sustainable quality of life for all Knoxvilleans, from our Urban Wilderness Corridor in South Knoxville to improvements to parks and recreation centers across the city. We also made energy-efficiency improvements to City facilities, including a new solar array at the Knoxville Convention Center. Next year, I look forward to continuing our efforts with partners inside and outside of government as we work together to make Knoxville the city we want it to be.



Thank you, Knox County!

Thank you to Knox County for recommending Rural/Metro and to Knox County Commission for voting this past week to renew our emergency medical service to the county. We are honored to continue serving the citizens of Knox County.

Thanks also to the hard-working men and women of Rural/Metro, our local physician and hospital partners, and the community organizations and residents of Knox County for their support over the past 25 years.

Every day, we pledge to provide the best possible emergency medical service to our community.



When Seconds Count, Count on Rural/Metro

FOCUS MORE ON Seymour & South Knox

Visiting South Knoxville: Lake Forest

By Tasha Mahurin
mahurint@knoxfocus.com

"You don't have to drive an hour to feel like you are hiking in the Smokies. South Knoxville brings the experience right to your back door when you live in Lake Forest Neighborhood," said Lake Forest resident and President of the Lake Forest Neighborhood association Molly Gilbert.

The William Hastie Natural Area, part of the Urban Wilderness South Loop, is well known among area mountain bikers and nearby residents of South Knoxville. The natural area lies within the center of the Lake Forest neighborhood. According to many residents, the park has become a "town square" of sorts for those living along its edges.

The Appalachian Mountain Bike Club volunteered time to create trails for hiking and biking and are frequent visitors to the area. Residents are seen daily, in all types of weather, out walking their dogs or simply enjoying some fresh air. Wildflowers, animal tracks, and natural landscape features make for a great family hike without the long drive the Smokies.

"The neighborhood is getting more life and more residents. Homes here have so much character, and offer more square footage for less money and easy access to downtown," Gilbert

told The Focus. "It's perfect for young families and those with young children.

Gilbert added that the neighborhood offers a real family culture and a sense of community. Residents host neighborhood wide trick-or-treating, and,

during the winter months, droves of children can be seen out sledding.

The neighborhood has adopted the park and does a trash pick-up twice a year and the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club maintains the 3.5 mile trail system that runs through Hastie. Since the Urban



Pictured above: Audrey Gilbert, age 8, of Lake Forest Neighborhood picked up trash along pathways of the William Hastie Natural Park on Saturday, Nov. 3. Pictured below: a wildflower blooming in November helps illustrate the Park's natural beauty. The Lake Forest Neighborhood Association has adopted this city park since its inception and twice a year hosts a clean

up effort. The park is heavily used by mountain bike enthusiasts and is well maintained.



Wilderness opened two years ago, the trails are now well-marked and there are natural art installations along a

few of the paths.

"It is wonderful to the look of awe and wonder on the faces of my children," said Gilbert. "Just to get the kids away from screen time and outside enjoying the thrill of discovery of giant leaves, mud puddles and sink holes is inspiring."

'Caring Hands' quilters

Cont. from page 3

estimate they spent more than 200 hours sewing them together. Once they had pieced the quilt top, they hired another professional quilter to custom design and machine quilt the masterpiece.

Bidding on the "Anita Quilt" was active during the company's silent auction, and a gentleman determined to acquire it as a 50th-birthday present for his wife cast the winning bid. The quilt and other items in the auction netted approximately \$10,250 for United Way of Greater Knoxville.

Thus began a brand-new chapter in the already colorful "Anita Quilt" story. The winning bidder sent Kelly photos of the quilt in place on a bed in its new home and reported that his wife is ecstatic. Treasured by its owner, the quilt and its story could be around for generations.

And, in a way, Anita's generosity will be coming full circle. Because the "Caring Hands" quilters would like for Anita's family to have a memento of her gift, they are embarking on another project. They will use some of the remaining fabric from her collection to create keepsake pillows for each of her children, who no doubt know—better than anyone else—what a generous person Anita was.



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Knox County Commission approves emergency medical services contract with Rural/Metro

Knox County Commission unanimously approved a new contract for emergency medical services with Rural/Metro Corporation on Monday, December 17. This means that Rural/Metro, which has provided ambulance service to the citizens of Knox County for more than 25 years, will continue to be the responder for 911 calls. The contract approved today is for five years. It has two five-year optional extensions. "We are grateful for the confidence Knox County Commission and the citizens of Knox County have placed in us," said Rob Webb, division general manager of Rural/Metro. "We as a company and the men and women of Rural/Metro individually are extremely committed to providing the absolutely best service possible to our neighbors."

A seven-member evaluation committee appointed by the Knox County Purchasing Department studied proposals from three ambulance companies and recommended Rural/Metro as its top choice to Knox County Commission. Rural/Metro is the only one of the contenders to be accredited in Tennessee by the Commission on Ambulance Accreditation Services, an independent body that assures quality operations. Rural/Metro's proposed rates also were lowest. Rural/Metro's proposal contained written endorsements from scores of individuals and organizations including the senior executives of Covenant Health System, Tennova Healthcare, Summit Medical Group, Shannondale, U.S. Congressman John Duncan, Jr., state Rep. Ryan Haynes, state Rep. Harry Brooks, state Sen.



John Mills, pictured with (from left) Focus publisher Steve Hunley, John's wife Charlotte, and Kim Hunley) celebrated his 75th birthday amongst family and friends at the Carter Senior Center last week. Mr. Mills has served as Government Affairs Director for the East Tennessee division for Rural/Metro since 2008. Before joining the company, he served on Knox County Commission for 32 years with serving as Chairman six times and was elected as Chairman of the Board for six years. Mr. Mills also worked as a security consultant for UT.

Continue on page 2

Halls Businesses & Professionals celebrate the season

The Halls Business and Professional Association held their Annual Christmas Banquet on Friday, December 7, at the Beaver Brook Golf & Country Club in Halls. The guest speaker for the evening was Kimberly Scheibe Greene, Executive Vice President and Chief Generation Officer of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). She reflected on her experiences at TVA, her time at Halls High School and the holiday season with her family.

The Halls Woman of the Year was Janis Crye, President of the Halls Crossroad's Women's League and a retiree of over 30 years with TVA. The Man of the Year was popular Mark Duff, veteran principal of Halls High School. Troop 506 of Christ United Methodist Church presented the colors for the sold out event.

The incoming officers for 2013 were announced: President: Shannon Carey; First Vice President: Bob Crye; Secretary: Michelle Wilson; Treasurer: David Buckner; and Board Members: Brandon Burton, Sandy Cates, Ted Hatfield, Robert Hubbs, Karen Hurley, Ernie Joyner, Ryan Kelley, Sandy Liford, and Sue Walker.

The organization, composed of business, professional, and residents of Halls and the surrounding communities, holds the annual Christmas Parade, Good Friday Prayer Breakfast, and supports numerous community projects. The Halls Business and Professional Association holds a luncheon meeting on the third Tuesday of each month, 12 noon, at Beaver Brook Country Club, 6800 Beaver Brook Road.

Willie's Restaurant relocates to larger site

By Sarah Baker
 bakers@knoxfocus.com

The new Willie's Restaurant is now open in Seymour on Chapman Highway. The new location is larger, but still has the bright, friendly atmosphere that is one of owner Willie Laboy's specialties. They have been open a month, but customers are already raving about it. "It is exactly what we needed in Seymour," said Lisa Lusby. "We don't have a lot of choices out here, and we really needed a nice sit-down place like this. It's perfect."

Willie's menu has a lot of variety. It is the kind of place that before you order, you have already decided what you're going to order on your next visit, because you want to try everything. Guests have their choice of various pasta dishes and the garlic knots are gooey goodness served with an awesome tangy tomato sauce. The menu also includes grill-fired steaks and an array of seafood including salmon, grouper, trout, and scallops. The desserts are divine as well, including chocolate lava cake, carrot cake, tiramisu, and New York Cheesecake.

Willie and Leah Laboy are not only respected business owners;



Willie Laboy and his daughters Sarah, 8 and Megan 13, visit with customers.

they are also beloved members of the community. At their previous location in Seymour, they hosted several fundraisers for school and church groups. They've also sponsored Little League teams

and done a lot of community outreach.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Willie Laboy oozes positivity. Upon entering the restaurant he is greeted with several calls of "Hey Willie!

How ya doin'?" He takes a few minutes to stop at several tables and catch up with customers. His smile fills the room. It is obvious that he has not only invested in the community economically, but emotionally as well. Folks love this guy almost as much as they love his menu. Waitress Lydia Merritt moved to Tennessee from Florida to work for Willie. She said that he is like family. Many of the customers and staff project that feeling too.

If you live in Seymour and you haven't been to Willie's you need to fold up this paper and take it with you right now. You can read it there. Get going now! If you don't live in Seymour, you need to plan a trip out there as soon as possible. It is definitely worth the trip. It's also the perfect place to stop and eat on your way to or from Pigeon Forge. The menu is incredible, and you really get a lot of bang for your buck. The servers are pleasant and efficient. There is everything to like about Willie's. They're open Saturday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, and closed on Sunday. For more information call, (865) 773-0170

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Don't be grumpy

Well, like it or not, Christmas is here. I've heard lots of folks complaining that the day has come too suddenly. Unless I'm mistaken, Christmas comes once a year on December 25. It shouldn't be a surprise to anyone.

I've also noticed that moms are stressing out about presents for the kids, parents, friends, and even mailmen. On the other hand, most dads are oblivious to the endless lists of things to accomplish before Christmas comes.

So many people complain about the commercialization of Christmas. They declare that businesses have taken away the



By Joe Rector

religious parts of a wonderful season. It's ironic, however, that most of these folks who complain can be found in the middle of the crowded stores as they search for the perfect gifts for family and friends. Their houses are decked out in so many lights that Clark Griswold would be proud.

The economy sputters along as the effects of the worst recession since the 1930's begin to ebb. It's hard to believe that times are so tough when newscasts report that online spending alone will increase 17% to a total of \$43 billion. Black Friday spending reached a record \$59 billion, a 13 percent increase.

What's all this about? Well, for a native Tennessean it's nothing more than jabber. I love Christmas and always have.

There's something magical about this time of year. It comes from the feeling of "peace on earth, good will toward men." We humans whine a lot in our lives, but the closer Christmas comes, the more we show our good sides. Our talk is a bit softer; our attitudes a bit more tolerant; and our friendliness to all a bit stronger.

I'll bet everyone likes receiving presents. The excitement comes with the opening of the gift, not what's inside. We also get a thrill from giving things to others. A smile crossing a face or eyes opening wide or squeals of delight repay givers in full the money they have spent. It's at this season that giving to strangers is easier. Folks can be empathetic to the plights of others. That's why so many pull names from trees or take presents to

missions or orphanages or nursing homes. This wonderful time of year is as much about giving as it is receiving, something that doesn't happen the rest of the year.

Let's all make a promise to enjoy Christmas this year. Turn on the carols and other ol' favorites of the season. Let your voices loose and sing with joy those songs that have so long been a part of life.

Instead of dreading shopping trips, ease into them and enjoy the sharing of a wonderful season with all those others with whom you rub shoulders or stand in line. A smile to them might brighten up their days, and perhaps you can turn their frowns into smiles.

Hug every family member with arms of love and appreciation. No matter what little battles

have gone on during the year, let them go and reclaim the love of family. Keep in mind that no one is guaranteed another day. Is it possible that this is the last Christmas that you will spend with a loved one? Don't let it end without rekindling the love you hold for each other.

Above all else, remember the reason for this season of glad tidings. The God of all delivered unto us His son. It is on this Christmas Day that we all should give thanks to the Lord for His love and sacrifices. Our job each and every other day should be to return that love and devotion to others. That's all it would take for this world to straighten out.

Merry Christmas to all! I hope you experience the joy and love that come from family, friends, and the God of Heaven.

Pellissippi State's Strawberry Plains Campus pilots program for Second Harvest

Students from Pellissippi State Community College's Strawberry Plains Campus have teamed up with Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee and others to get healthy snacks into the hands of deserving elementary and middle school kids in Knoxville. This is the first time that college or university students have been involved in this type of partnership.

On Nov. 14 Pellissippi State students and staff sorted a pallet and a half of

food items, including juice, milk, fruit and vegetables, provided by Second Harvest. The goods went into plastic bags donated by Walmart. Then members of Chilhowee Hills Baptist Church stepped in to deliver the bags to Carter Elementary and Middle schools and to Sunnyview Primary School.

The snacks provide nourishment for six weekends for some of the students participating in Second Harvest's Food for Kids program. The program

includes 18 counties and makes available 500,000-plus meals to more than 10,500 children.

The student effort is in keeping with Pellissippi State's emphasis on service-learning, says Mike North, dean of the Strawberry Plains Campus.

"The idea came up after meeting with some Second Harvest representatives at a community breakfast," he said, "and we agreed we would give it a try at Strawberry Plains. Even though our campus has

only been open for a few months, our students are enthusiastic about reaching out to the community."

One of those students is Pierce Wender. "I enjoy helping people," said Wender, who is studying philosophy. "I've had plenty of people help me in the past, and it just feels good to pass it on."

Second Harvest is thankful for the extra hands. "It's helpful to Second Harvest that we only have to make one delivery," said Sam Compton, youth programs manager, "and it helps the schools because they don't have to do the bag packing. We are very excited about the possibility of continuing to work with Pellissippi State."

Annie Gray, a Pellissippi State faculty member, coordinates the Service-Learning program for the college.

For more information about Pellissippi



Service-learning volunteer Ashley Lawhorn sorts snacks for deserving children.

State's service-learning college at (865) 694-6400. For more information about Pellissippi opportunities, call the 6400.

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Knox County Commission approves emergency medical services contract with Rural/Metro

Cont. from page 1

Becky Massey, Sheriff J. J. Jones and the Knox County school system.

"We are extremely proud to once again be named Knox County's trusted provider of high-quality

emergency ambulance services," said Michael P. DiMino, president and chief executive officer of Rural/Metro Corporation. "The county conducted a comprehensive selection process to ensure citizens that the very best

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Burton K. Wheeler of Montana

Pages from
the Political
Past



By Ray Hill

rayhill865@gmail.com

Few members of the United States Senate had as colorful or stormy a career as Burton Kendall Wheeler of Montana. The fact Wheeler came to represent Montana in the Senate in the first place was an accident of fate, as Wheeler had been born in Hudson, Massachusetts on February 27, 1882. Wheeler had left Massachusetts to attend the University of Michigan law school. Burt Wheeler and his new law degree were headed to Seattle, Washington when he happened to disembark from the train in Butte, Montana.

It was while Wheeler was waiting for the next train that he engaged some locals in what he thought was a harmless game of poker and managed to lose every cent he had in the world. Burt Wheeler decided to remain in Butte to recoup his earnings and was soon a reasonably prosperous attorney.

Burton K. Wheeler was the sort of fellow who attracted attention and by 1910, Wheeler had been elected to the Montana legislature. Politics in Montana revolved around special interests such as the gigantic Anaconda Copper Mining Company. The mining barons were an undeniable fact of political life in Montana and Senator William Clark was one of the wealthiest men in the country; in fact, Clark's daughter Huguette just recently died at age 104, leaving behind a fortune of some \$400 million. Burton Wheeler was a fierce opponent of the mining interests and an advocate for the workingman. The mining companies happened to own several newspapers in Montana, which were of course expected to toe the company line and promote those politicians who owed their allegiance to the mining companies. Burt Wheeler relished his feuds with the companies and when he was named U.S. Attorney, he refused to indict any Montanan for sedition, which was rare during World War I. Wheeler was a candidate for governor in 1920 and the mining companies grew so alarmed one would have thought Wheeler's election was the end of the world. Wheeler lost to former U. S. Senator Joseph M. Dixon, himself an old Teddy Roosevelt Progressive Republican.

Despite having lost to Dixon in 1920, Wheeler ran for the United States Senate in 1922 and was elected. Wheeler's contrary nature was once again in evidence when he bolted his own political party to run on the Progressive ticket with Wisconsin U. S. Senator Robert M. LaFollette in 1924 against President Calvin Coolidge. Although the Progressive outran Democrat John W. Davis throughout much

of the country, especially in the western United States, it carried only LaFollette's Wisconsin. Wheeler returned to his Senate duties and faced former governor Joseph M. Dixon in the 1928 election. Wheeler won handily and by 1932 was strongly advocating the nomination of New York Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt for President. Wheeler was delighted by Roosevelt's election and supported much the New Deal legislation proposed in the Congress.

Wheeler's break with Roosevelt occurred when FDR proposed to enlarge the U. S. Supreme Court in 1937. Burton Wheeler became the unofficial leader of those Democrats in the Senate opposed to the packing of the Supreme Court. Wheeler was a shrewd and dangerous opponent and FDR's plan was thwarted and relations between the two men, which had been warm previously, deteriorated considerably. Wheeler's wife, Lulu, was a very direct and plainspoken woman and her acidulous comments about FDR reached the president's ears and they were anything but flattering, causing FDR to mutter darkly that Mrs. Wheeler was the "Lady Macbeth" in the Wheeler household.

Wheeler was enough of a national figure to be considered a viable candidate for the Democratic nomination for president in 1940. There was intense jockeying for position amongst prospective candidates while FDR shrewdly said or did little to indicate he would be a candidate for an unprecedented third term. Naturally, there was continual speculation Roosevelt intended to run for a third term and FDR himself insisted he wanted nothing more

than to return to his home on the Hudson River in Hyde Park. Wheeler's presidential candidacy evaporated when it became clear FDR would be "drafted" to run again by Democrats fearful of a ticket without the vote-getting prowess of Franklin Roosevelt.

The Montana senator's relations with FDR were further impaired by their differences over foreign policy. President Roosevelt watched with growing alarm as German dictator Adolf Hitler's appetite for new territory seemed to warn of war. Burton Wheeler was an isolationist, preferring for America to remain aloof from events in Europe. Wheeler's own opinions about foreign policy were quite likely the majority opinion in the country at the time and FDR had to play a careful and devious game to do what he could to aid the Allies once war had broken out.

Senator Wheeler became one of the most notable speakers for the isolationist organization America First, which was dedicated to keeping the United States out of the European war. Wheeler was perhaps only eclipsed by famous aviator Charles Lindbergh as a spokesman for isolationism before the United States was attacked by the Japanese Empire. Wheeler was one of the few senators with a national reputation and as Chairman of the Senate's Interstate Commerce Committee,

he began an investigation into the propaganda practices of Hollywood movie-makers. Virtually all of the heads of the big Hollywood movie studios were Jewish and Wheeler questioned why foreign-born citizens were attempting to alter American opinion and some tried to label Wheeler as an anti-Semite.

By 1941, Britain was barely hanging on against a determined assault by the Germans, but Burton Wheeler adamantly opposed any aid to Britain and insisted the United States follow a policy of strict neutrality. When Roosevelt's lend-lease program reached Congress in January of 1941, Wheeler was one of the loudest voices in Congress opposing the measure, saying if approved, it would "plow under every fourth American boy", a choice of words that especially infuriated President Roosevelt.

Less than two months before Pearl Harbor, Senator Wheeler opined he didn't believe the Japanese were "crazy enough" to dare a war with the United States.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, Burton Wheeler wisely voted for declaring war on the Axis powers and said it was the duty of every American to "lick the hell out of them".

Burton Wheeler strength back in Montana had remained largely undiminished by his foreign

policy pronouncements. Wheeler was annoyed when his Senate colleague James E. Murray no longer followed his lead on foreign policy questions. Wheeler had won the general election in his 1940 campaign with almost seventy-five percent of the vote and had barely even bothered to campaign. Wheeler's influence extended into the other Congressional races in Montana and gave birth to what was referred to as the "bipartisan machine", a combination of Republicans and Wheeler Democrats. Wheeler gave quiet support to eliminate those Democratic colleagues whom he considered interventionist. When Senator Murray was running for reelection in 1942, Wheeler again gave his support to the Republican candidate behind the scenes. Murray was barely reelected, a severe disappointment to Burton Wheeler.

By 1946 Wheeler's influence had ebbed and many formerly isolationist members of Congress found themselves in difficulty with their constituencies. North Dakota Senator Gerald Nye, a close ally of Wheeler, had been beaten in 1944. When Wheeler returned to Montana in 1946, he noted in his autobiography that he noticed a difference in the attitude of many Montanans toward him. Wheeler was facing a challenge in the primary from Leif Erickson, who was a former Justice

of the Montana Supreme Court and had been the Democratic nominee for governor in the 1944 election. Erickson was campaigning against Wheeler, telling Democrats Burt Wheeler was no longer the strong liberal he had once been. Senator Wheeler had seriously underestimated the appeal of Erickson and what he had originally thought to be yet another easy reelection campaign was clearly becoming a hard fought race. Wheeler's Senate colleague, James E. Murray, remembering Wheeler having tried to defeat him in his own reelection campaign, was supporting Erickson. Wheeler's investigation into Hollywood propaganda caused significant contributions to flow into Erickson's campaign coffers from California. Once considered to be so liberal that he had been labeled a socialist or worse, Burton Wheeler was viewed by many as being a reactionary Democrat.

Harry Truman, a good friend of Wheeler's while they served in the Senate together, tried to help his old colleague by sending a letter to the chairman of Wheeler's reelection campaign and decrying the "smear" attacks on Wheeler's record. FDR had his revenge on the Montana senator from the grave through the voice of his son James who endorsed Leif Erickson.

Although both camps confidently predicted victory on Election Day, Wheeler lost by about 5,000 votes and his defeat ended his political career. Still, Wheeler's bipartisan machine had its last gasp when Montana voted to replace Wheeler not with Leif Erickson, but a Republican, Zales Ecton.

Wheeler was encouraged to run for the Senate again in 1948 against James Murray, but he had settled into a very successful law practice in Washington, D. C. and refused. It was not to be the last time Burton K. Wheeler was urged to return to electoral politics; Montana Republicans tried hard to recruit the former senator as a candidate against Mike Mansfield in 1958 despite the fact Wheeler was then seventy-six years old.

Burton Wheeler had kept his law practice alive while serving in the Senate, but engaged in his occupation full time after his defeat in 1946. Wheeler opened an office with his son Edward and while he kept a vacation home in Montana's Glacier Park, he continued to live in Washington, D. C. until his death on January 6, 1975 at age ninety-two. Wheeler did not even return to Montana in death, as he was buried in Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington, but his legacy lives on in the Big Sky state where the University of Montana has a Burton K. Wheeler Center.



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana, 1940

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2012-2013 Team Members include: Captain: Rachel Mingle, Co-Captain: Shelby Smelcer, Co-Captain: Destiny Cunningham, D.J. Clark, Kristen Caughorn, Madde Jennings, Chelsea Denny, Sophia Griffin, Reilly Bonner, and Caroline Hood. The team recently accepted a check from Time-to-Shine Car Wash in South Knoxville. The funds will go towards competition fees and the purchase of new uniforms.

SDHS Dance Team shines on and off the stage

By Tasha Mahurin
mahurint@knoxfocus.com

"I have designed this team to be more about character than competing," South Doyle High School Dance team coach, Lacey Dixon, told The Focus.

Dixon, a special education assistant at South Doyle High School, graduated from the school in 1993 and recently marked her fifth years as the team's coach. She and the team's choreographer volunteer their time and expect the group of 12 high school girls to give back as well.

The team is in the process of raising money for new uniforms and competition fees. According to Dixon, the team fundraises for many reasons, but primarily, to make the being on

the team affordable so that any girl who wishes can participate.

"We work concessions, run car-washes and yard sales, sell Chick-fil-a calendars, beg, plead and borrow. The team will work any fundraiser we can find," Dixon said.

In addition to raising funds, volunteer work is part of being on the team. This year the team has fed the homeless at Knox Area Rescue Ministries, and volunteered at Boo at the Zoo and the Fantasy of Trees. They have also donated their old uniforms, spare shoes, and accessories to Project Dance, whose motto is "dancing with integrity to inspire."

The hard work and dedication has paid off. The SDHS dance team

won first place this year in the pom competition at the Tennessee Valley Fair, and will be competing January 26, 2013, in the Soffe Open at the Knox coliseum.

They also perform pregame at SDHS home football games and half time of home basketball games. The girls practice 3 days a week to learn a new dance for each game, and the team's motto is "shut up and dance." While the team consists of girls from all levels of dancing, Dixon relates that what matters most is the girl's level of commitment, and adds that when the team works hard they dance like professionals.

Rebels get defensive against Falcons

By Ken Lay

West High School's boys basketball team played a little defense against Fulton Friday night.

And the defense was enough for the Rebels to come away with a hard-fought 48-38 victory over the Falcons.

"I think both teams grew tonight," West coach Chris Kesler said. "This win was good for us and good for our confidence. I love to play Fulton because they're a great team. They force you to play defense and the force you to execute on offense.

"Tonight, I think our kids bought in to playing defense. That's the one thing that we talk about every day and we knew that tonight, we would be in for a battle."

The Rebels (5-4) indeed stepped up their defense against the Falcons (7-3). West surrendered just 11 second-half points en route to picking up a crucial non-league victory. The Rebels led 29-25 at halftime before using their defense to blow open a close game. Furthermore, no Fulton player scored in double figures.

West used an 11-2 third-quarter run to create just the separation it needed in a game that saw both teams endure offensive struggles early.

The Rebels, who clung to a narrow 15-12 advantage after the first quarter, also boasted a balanced scoring attack. Lawrence Fishback led West with 13 points. Sophomore Yasmond Fenderson added 12 points, including six in the fourth quarter. Trever Ferguson scored nine for the Rebels, who gave up just four field goals over the final 16 minutes.

Falcons' veteran coach Jody Wright wasted little time going back to the drawing board after his squad's third loss of the season.

"We've just got to get back to work and we've got to figure this out," Wright said. "It's my job to help these young men figure it out.

"We'll go back to school tonight and figure it out."

Fulton entered Friday night's contest on Sutherland Avenue after a 52-51 home victory Thursday night. The Falcons had to come back to beat the Admirals. That contest wasn't decided

Continue on page 2

Lady Falcons have enough to win at West, 72-55

By Ken Lay

Fulton High School girls basketball coach John Fisher wasn't particularly happy after watching his team notch an easy 72-55 victory at West High Friday night.

The Lady Falcons (8-2) held the upper hand throughout the game despite a hangover from a

narrow win over Farragut, one of Knox County's top teams, 24 hours earlier.

"I'm not overly pleased with our effort," Fisher said. "We had to come over here and play after we beat Farragut.

"Farragut is Farragut and we all know that. We did enough to win [against West] but we got into foul

trouble early but once we got rolling, we were just fine."

Fulton didn't appear flat early as the Lady Falcons jumped to an early 18-8 lead before center Jayda Johnson picked up three fouls before halftime and sat throughout much of the second frame.

Fulton survived the

adversity it faced. Despite the foul trouble, the Lady Falcons played their usual brand of tough pressure defense and scored several transition buckets. Fulton's offense was also balanced as four Lady Falcons posted double figures in the scoring column.

Victoria Griffin scored 21 points, including 14 in the

second half, to lead the visitors. Johnson, despite her early foul trouble, added 15. Nataya Roller finished with 13 and Tyanna Castle had 12 for the Lady Falcons, who led 35-24 at halftime and held a 58-43 advantage after the third stanza.

The contest's outcome was never really in doubt

after Fulton's initial first-quarter surge but the Lady Rebels had a pair of stand-out offensive performers. Brianna Tate scored 20 points and Shamray Butler added 12.

Tate scored 13 points after halftime while Butler was virtually silenced in the second half after

Continue on page 2

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Waiting on the College Football Playoff

By David Klein

Man, I can't wait till the college football playoffs start in 2014! There are tons of bowl games this year, 35 to be exact. A majority of these games don't feature name brand teams, a la Alabama, Notre Dame, Florida, etc. Some of these teams are no better than .500.

I mean the Heart of Dallas Bowl? A 6-6 Purdue team plays a 7-5 Oklahoma State team? The bowl games are pushing out the common fan interest in the games. If I wanted to see some mediocre games, I'd watch an NBA regular season game. These games just don't appeal to me, unless they are one of the five BCS bowls.

Following the 2014 season, four teams will be eligible to square off in a playoff environment. The number one team will play the number four team while the number two team will play the number three team. A week later, the winners of those games play for the championship. However, it still may not be controversy free. Which teams get selected if say, five teams go 11-1 and only one team is undefeated?

This year, the match up would have pitted Notre Dame against Oregon and Alabama vs. Florida, if taking the top four teams in the BCS into account. Then those winners would

play each other a week later. Not a bad playoff, but still two years away unfortunately.

Too many teams play meaningless bowls. The qualifier for going to a bowl game should be seven wins minimum; that's a winning record. Going 6-6 is flunking, an F.I bet when we see the playoff, we're going to see more teams schedule more difficult opponents during the regular season, because strength of schedule will be a factor in determining who gets selected.

Eventually, the playoff will have to grow from four to eight teams. There will be too many teams that have an argument as to why they should be among the four teams. In addition, there are six major conferences. The six conference champions from those leagues and two at-large teams from all the other minor conferences like the MAC or the WAC would play in this playoff picture. Then you would have the teams play in descending order, 1 vs. 8, 2 vs. 6, etc. Think of all the revenue this playoff would bring in.

I'll watch the BCS bowls this year, but will skip the other ones. I'm counting the days till 2014 when college football finally will have a playoff and can be settled on the field, not in the court of public opinion.

Rebels get defensive against Falcons

Cont. from page 1

until Micah Goss hit a pair of free throws with no time on the clock.

Wright, however, shrugged off the possibility that his squad was drained.

"There are no excuses," he said. "This was just a bad performance.

"You're not going to

beat anybody when you score 13 points in the second half. We took bad shots and when you take bad shots, you're not going to hit many of them."

Blake Golden and Kentel Williams scored six points each for the Falcons. Golden had three of Fulton's four second-half field goals.

Lady Falcons have enough to win at West, 72-55

Cont. from page 1

scoring 10 points before halftime.

The win culminated a big week for Fulton, which overcame a 33-18 half-time deficit against the

Lady Admirals and claimed a 58-56 win over Farragut Thursday night.

That home victory knocked Farragut (12-1) from the ranks of the unbeaten.



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Stagnant offense dooms Lady Devils against AC

By Ken Lay

Halls High School's girls basketball team had an offensive power outage Tuesday night and a stagnant attack resulted in the Lady Devils' first district loss.

Halls (4-6 overall, 4-1 in District 3-AAA) scored just eight points in the second half of a 32-18 district home loss to Anderson County.

The Lady Devils, who had trouble scoring all night had a 10-6 lead over the Lady Mavericks early in the second quarter. Halls, however, didn't score again before halftime.

And it was all downhill from there. Despite their struggles, the Lady Devils trailed just 11-10 at halftime.

"We just couldn't score tonight," Halls coach Randy Moore said. "Our kids played hard and they didn't quit.

"They played great defense but we just couldn't score. Our girls did a good job hanging in there and I was really proud of them for that."

The first half was an offensive struggle for both Anderson County (8-3, 4-1). But the Lady Mavericks managed to manufacture enough

points to hold the half-time advantage. The closed the second quarter with a modest 5-0 run before taking control of the contest in the second half.

Over the final 16 minutes, Halls got all eight of its points from reserve guard Taylor Moon. She hit two 3-pointers in the second half and scored the Lady Devils' last points with a bucket that pulled the home team to within 21-16. Her basket came with 7 minutes, 16 seconds remaining in the final frame and represented the first points of the fourth quarter.

After that, the Halls offense was completely shut down. Anderson County, however, finally got its offense clicking.

The Lady Mavericks, who led 21-13 after the third quarter, scored eight of their final points from the free throw line. Anderson County converted eight of its 12 foul shots in the final stanza.

Kaitlyn Cupples scored nine of her game-high 17 points after halftime for the Lady Mavs, who also five points from center Meghan Ellis, who scored four points in the second half.

Powell downs Bruins in epic battle of champs

By Ken Lay

It seemed only fitting that the most recent game in the Powell-Bearden middle school hoops rivalry would go down to the wire.

And that's just what happened early last week when the Panthers notched an epic 41-38 comeback victory at Powell Middle School.

The contest featured the previous two James A. Ivey, Jr. Memorial Middle School Tournament Champions. It also was a tilt between the two combatants in last year's title game won by the Panthers.

"The effort that our kids gave was one of the best that I've seen in 11 years of coaching," Powell coach Darin Courtney said. "It was as good as any effort as any that we've ever had."

That's high praise from a coach that has led the Panthers to three tournament titles in his first decade on the Powell sideline.

The Panthers may have nabbed a key Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference victory at home on Monday, Dec. 10. But Powell found itself down 8-0 early.

The Panthers, who scored the final five points of the opening quarter, were behind much of the game. Powell trailed after each of the first three quarters

before using a fourth-quarter surge to storm back and snatch a hard-fought comeback victory.

Panthers guard Amari Rodgers had a game-high 24 points for Powell, which trailed 32-27 after three quarters. Rodgers scored 19 points after halftime.

"This was just one of those great middle school basketball games," Courtney said. "It was just a battle and I was really proud of the effort that our kids gave.

"Bearden is a great team. They're talented and well-coached."

Rodgers may have been the brightest star of the night but he got plenty of help from a supporting cast. Reilly Hamilton, Rodgers' back-court mate, hit three 3-point jumpers before half-time to keep things close. Derek Reagan, another Powell guard, had all six of his points in the second half and Tanner Kesteron added four big baskets.

"Reilly Hamilton had three big 3-pointers in the first half and those shots kept us within striking distance," Courtney said. Derek had six big points in the second half and Tanner scored big buckets."

Bearden coach Ben Zorio credited the Panthers.

"This was a great game," he said. "But we didn't play all that well.

"You have to give Powell credit. We had a couple of turnovers late. No team really ever got a huge lead."

It was the Bruins' first loss of the season and Zorio said he and his team went back to the drawing board.

"I told my team after the game that we could use this as a building block and a wake-up call," Zorio said. "We didn't play that well but we did some good things.

"We had some trouble with their 1-3-1 [defense]. It was just one of those things. You know what's coming. We just didn't handle it. I think we'll use this as a positive."

Bruins center Tony Scott scored 14 points. Zach Harshey added seven. Dawson Anderson finished with six and Johnny McHenry had five.

Powell (12-0 overall, 8-0 in the KCMSBC) continued its winning ways after defeating the Bruins. The Panthers closed out the first half of their league schedule with wins over Gresham (45-36) and Karns (58-38). Powell finished off the pre-Christmas portion of its slate with a 48-28 victory at Seymour Wednesday afternoon.

Fast start propels Red Devils in district win

By Ken Lay

When Halls High School forward Taylor Bunch buried a late first-quarter long-range jumper to give the Red Devils an 18-2 lead, it appeared that a rout of Anderson County was all but sealed.

But there would be no mop-up duty on this night. Halls did manage to notch a key 63-51 district basketball victory over the Mavericks Tuesday night before a loud crowd at Halls High School.

The Red Devils never trailed but they had plenty of anxious moments.

Halls (10-1 overall, 4-1 in District 3-AAA) was absolutely dominant in the first half. The Red Devils hit six 3-pointers in the opening 16 minutes en route to opening an 18-4 lead by first quarter's end. Halls would expand its lead to 32-16 at halftime and appeared poised to record an easy win.

But the Red Devils got a little sloppy in the third quarter as they committed turnovers, took some questionable shots and missed several lay-ups. Further complicating things for Halls was the fact that Bunch and his front-court mate Josh Kirby were plagued by foul trouble.

"This has happened to us in a lot of our games," Red Devils coach Randy Moore said. "Our two big kids got into foul trouble and we missed lay-ups.

"We just got complacent. Every time we get a big lead, we get complacent. But tonight, we fought through it. We settled for a few threes and we didn't hit a high percentage of our shots."

The Mavericks (4-9, 0-5) were willing and able to take advantage of the Halls mistakes. Anderson County outscored the Red Devils 23-12 in the third

quarter and narrowed its deficit to 44-35 by quarter's end.

"They fought us hard," Moore said.

Anderson County's Ethan Hayes scored 12 of his game-high 22 points in the third quarter to spark the Mavs' comeback effort. He made sure that his squad had a chance to win in the final frame.

Halls, however, would re-establish control when senior guard and leading scorer Stetson Moore buried a 3-point jumper to make the score 49-41 with 6 minutes, 34 seconds remaining in the game.

Moore, the coach's son, finished with 20 points and hit five 3-pointers in the contest. Halls converted 10 shots from beyond the arc in the contest. J.J. Corvette, Bunch, Blake Burleigh and Peyton Booker also each hit 3-pointers in the game and Halls also

got some key minutes from junior Kenny White, who scored three clutch points down the stretch in addition to grabbing some key rebounds and giving a stellar defensive effort.

"I thought Kenny, Peyton Booker and Blake Burleigh gave us a great effort tonight. This was Blake's first game back since he injured his ankle in football season," Coach Moore said. "And when Kenny gives us the kind of effort that he gave us tonight, he can contribute.

"There are no easy wins in this district. Any district win is big and it's important to protect your home court."

Bunch finished with 14 points and Corvette added eight for the Red Devils, who put the game away late by hitting three of its last five foul shots.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Football success a big part of Knoxville High's legacy

Her last students walked through her halls over 60 years ago, and her facade now reads "Historic Knoxville High School." But she is more than a beautiful landmark. She remains a symbol of perseverance.

Many of her kids, like others throughout the nation, went to school during time of world war or the Great Depression or both. Some interrupted their studies to go and fight for their country, then came back to finish school. They persevered in what was a tumultuous time.

Knoxville High's classic, three-story school building, on the corner of Central Avenue and East Fifth Avenue, was built in 1910. But it looks like Norman Rockwell painted it there.

Some of Knoxville's most prominent citizens were KHS graduates.

In athletics, Knoxville High, according to Wikipedia, was known for many years as a powerhouse, winning a total of 13 state titles, six Southern championships in football, as well as national championships in 1930 and 1937.

For most of the first half of the 20th century, the high schools in Knoxville were KHS, Rule and Stair Tech. County schools included Central and Young. Central, in fact, was sometimes called "County" high school.

The original KHS building opened with 646 students in attendance. Enrollment quickly grew. An addition to the building in 1914 made it possible to increase enrollment to 1,337 students. KHS enrollment grew to just over 2,000 in the early 1920s and reached a peak of about 2,300 around the beginning of World War II.

Evans-Collins Field, the site of many football games in Knoxville for years until replaced by the present day Caswell Park softball complex, was named in honor of W. E. Evans, principal of KHS from 1917 until its closing in 1951, and longtime KHS football coach Wilson Collins.

One of Knoxville High's best stretches of football was the three-year period of 1929 through 1931. The Trojans lost only one game in 1929 with Captain Talmadge "Sheriff" Maples, an All-Southern honoree, and Kenneth "Stumpy" Needham leading the way. On Thanksgiving Day, the Trojans won over "their age-old rival" - County - 13-0.

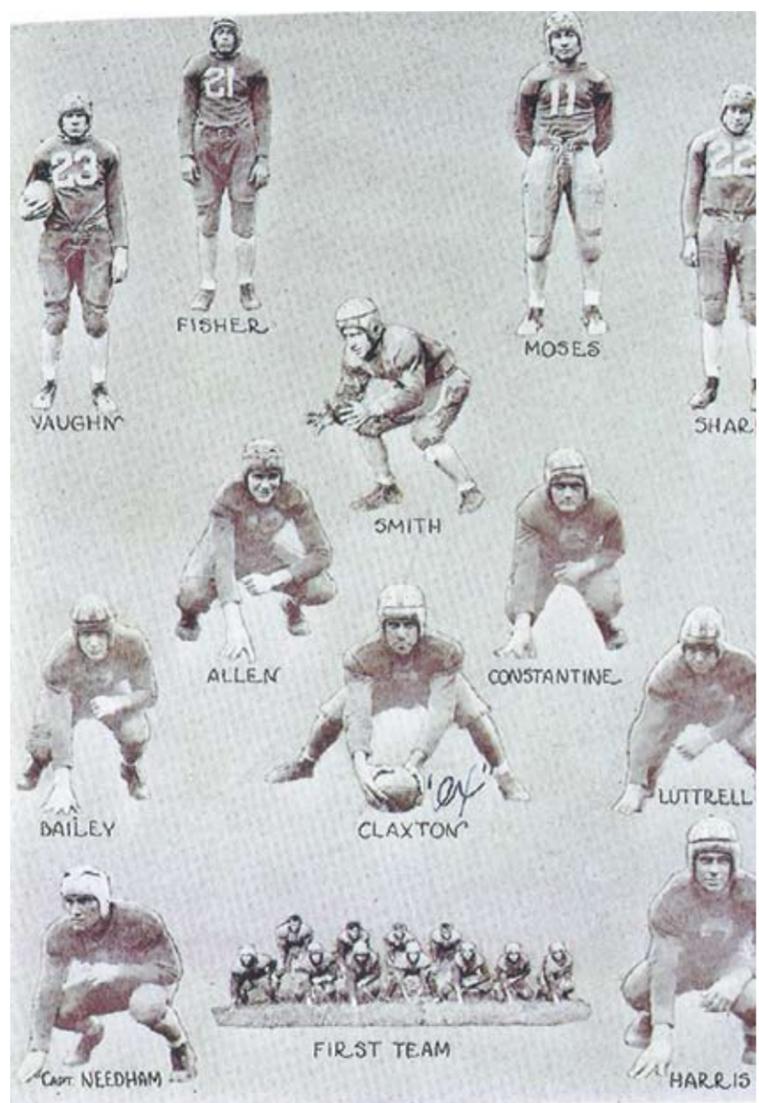
The 1930 campaign was extra special. The Blue and White hung up a 13-0 record and claimed its first national crown. The Trojans gave up only two touchdowns all season, outscoring their opponents by a combined total of 592 points to 12. KHS beat rival County 37-0 in the final game.

Listed as "football stars" on the 1930 team in The Voice, the name of Knoxville High's yearbook at that time, were Charlie Vaughn, Milo Fisher, Fred Moses, Red Sharp, Toad Smith, Charles Allen, Jim Constantine, Howard Bailey, James Claxton, Jack Luttrell, Jim Harris and Needham, the team captain.

With only four varsity members back in 1931, the Trojans, which entered several games as underdogs, still posted a 10-1 record and captured their fourth consecutive state title. Twenty-three players were awarded their football "K's" at the end of the season, including veteran guard Joe Foster, who also received the Henry G. Trent Trophy as the "most valuable man" of the season. Captain Sam Sharpe, outstanding halfback, was re-elected captain for the 1932 season.

Johnny Butler, known for making one of the greatest touchdown runs in University of Tennessee football history, was a star half back on Knoxville High's 1937 team. Sporting a 9-0 record, Coach Collins sought a "worthy opponent" for Thanksgiving Day game, one that would test his team in its pursuit of a national title.

That foe would be Newport, Ky., which had won the past two Kentucky state titles and also was known for its flashy offensive play. It was not unusual for the Kentucky team to



A page from the 1931 KHS yearbook recognized the "football stars" of its 1930 national championship team and also showed the "first team" in formation. It was high school football in the days when players did not wear face masks.

pass or lateral the ball three or four times in a play. Assistant coach Sam Jones said its style sometimes "looks almost like a basketball game" after scouting Newport.

Knoxville High beat the Wildcat team 14-0 at Smithson Field and earned the right to the national title the next week by completing its season with a 25-0 win over the Miami Stingarees in a game played at the Orange Bowl.

Butler and "quarter" Tony Carper were recognized as All-Southern on the 1937 team. Senior teammates, who also had been pictured in The Knoxville Journal prior to the Trojans' last home game, were end Larry Partridge, half back Elvis Wade, tackle Park Standridge, guard Willis Tucker, back Clifford Clendenen, back J. C. Reagan and tackle Joe Billig.

Knoxville High also was recognized as state champion in 1942, 1943 and 1944 in the Tennessee Litkenhous Ratings.

From 1945 through 1950, Knoxville High's combined record in football was 53-11-3.

The last KHS team, with Jones as head coach, was 10-1. Its starting lineup had a "forward wall" of Pete Monroe, Bob Fry, John Hall, Reaves Bingham, Joe Proffit, Jim Goins and Buddy Cruze. The "backfield" consisted of Edwin Taylor, Curtis Brown, Charlie Bales and Carl Corneliusen.

A review of the season in the Trojan yearbook included capsule game reports, including the lone 7-6 loss to Young High: "The Trojans were finally defeated by a determined bank of Young High Yellowjackets. High School's offense couldn't click against the bitter cold and the 'Jacket' line."

Knoxville High bounced back with a 20-7 win over Manual, Ky., and trounced Central 40-7 on Thanksgiving Day, 1950, in the annual "City-County Game." The game was traditionally played at UT's Shields-Watkins Field, but the last meeting ever between the two rivals, which reportedly attracted 12,500 fans, was played at Evans-Collins Field because of construction at UT.

Thus, the final review in the 1951 Trojan yearbook read: "Good old KHS finished her last football game in a blaze of glory."

Recalling KHS times in 1941 on and off the field

By Steve Williams

When driving west on I-40 through downtown Knoxville, one can see old Knoxville High School just off to the right.

Back in the 1940s and earlier, Knoxville High wasn't surrounded by the hustle and bustle of city life as it is today.

"That area was like a small community, a rural area," Bill Birchfield, a senior on the 1941 KHS football team, recalled recently. "There were lots of housing with the school in the center. A lot of families. It didn't have the city look to it at all. That was only found around the Tennessee Theatre area and in the Gay Street district."

Birchfield transferred to Knoxville High from Chattanooga Central during his junior year after his father had finished working on Chickamauga Dam and moved the family to Knoxville to start working on nearby Douglas Dam.

Birchfield said his sister, Bobbie, was a freshman and had to enroll at Young High, since Knoxville High had only grades 10 through 12. Bobbie became a cheerleader at Young and was rooting for the Yellow Jackets in the fall of 1941 while her brother was on the KHS team.

"We beat them 39-0 at Evans-Collins Field," said Birchfield. "I've got a funny antidote about that game, too. We started out by scoring 21 points without running a play from the line of scrimmage. We had a punt return for a touchdown, returned an interception for a touchdown and ran another punt back all the way. Hank "Slick" Fonde had the

Continue on page 4

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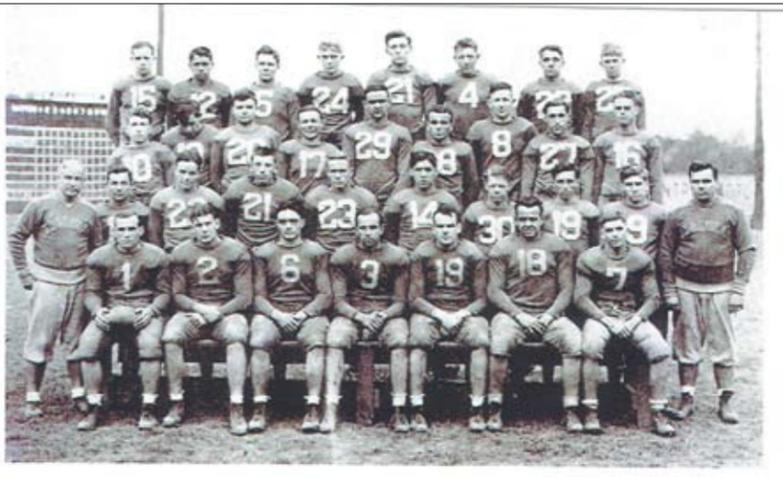
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Knoxville High School opened its 1930 football season with a 56-0 victory over Karns High and closed with a 37-0 victory over Central, thus attaining the third straight state championship and national title. The Trojans outscored their opponents 592 to 12 in 13 games.

Recalling KHS times in 1941 on and off the field

Cont. from page 3

two punt returns. He went on to star at Michigan."

Birchfield was a backup blocking back for the Trojans, playing behind Orvis Milner, who went on to star at UT.

"He kept my ass on the bench," said Birchfield, "and I returned the favor in basketball as we won the state championship. The state tournament was played that year at Maryville High in their new gym."

Bill Wright, who later in life became the head baseball coach at Tennessee, was a star on that state basketball championship team, said Birchfield. "We depended on him. He was our leader."

"Bill was a tremendous athlete, a standout in basketball and baseball. And he was a fine fellow all the way around. He went to Duke as a Marine recruit. He lettered in basketball at UT and then at Duke after his military service."

Birchfield, who graduated from UT in 1950 after 3½ years in the Navy, added that Buster Stephens was "another one of the best to come out of KHS" in football. "He was a tailback for General Neyland after being All-Southern in high school."

The Trojans only lost one game in 1941, a 7-0 decision to Central, said Birchfield, who recalled Gus Manning, former UT assistant athletic director, being a "star tailback" for Rule High. "We beat them handily, but our school was twice as big," he said.

Was there a popular hangout for Knoxville High students back in 1941?

"The Whittle Springs Hotel," answered Birchfield. "They had Friday night dances and would actually bring big bands in there. The Whittle Springs Hotel was a big hangout."

"Directly across the street (from Knoxville High) there was a drug store where all the kids also hung out. It had booths and stools."

What about after a big football game?

"Highland's Grill in West Knoxville," said Birchfield was the place. "It was behind where Long's Drug Store is now."

Wasn't that kind of far to go?

"We had automobiles and streetcars," laughed Birchfield. "Automobiles were always full of kids back then. Everybody had to chip in to pay for the gas."

"Gas was 15 cents a gallon, but nobody had 15 cents."

The Tyler Bray Era of Tennessee Football

By Alex Norman

How will Vols fans remember Tyler Bray's time at Tennessee? That's for history to decide.

Last week Bruce Feldman, senior college football columnist for CBSSports.com, broke the story that Tyler Bray would be passing up his senior season at Tennessee, and make himself eligible for April's NFL Draft.

This is not a surprise... and it might end up being a good thing for both Bray, and for Tennessee...

Bray arrived in Knoxville, with his family in tow, all the way from California in January of 2010. He was recruited to Tennessee by Vols head coach Lane Kiffin.

Within a couple of weeks, Kiffin would bolt from Knoxville to take the coaching job at Southern California, leaving Bray in no man's land. Actually, he really didn't have a choice, despite former Vols assistant coach Ed Orgeron reportedly calling those mid-term enrollees, telling them not to go to class the next day... but that's another story.

Bray stayed, and for the next three years he was the face of the Vols football program.

There were a few highs at Tennessee with Bray under center. There were the four wins over mediocre competition to finish the 2010 regular season, a victory over Cincinnati in 2011, and the defeat of N.C. State in the 2012 season opener.

But the lows... oh sweet mercy the lows...

There was the taunting. Who could forget the embarrassing "double-throat slash" directed at the North Carolina sideline during the 2010 Music City Bowl? That wasn't the only taunting Bray did during his college career, but it was the most memorable.

There were the off the field issues, including the beer bottle throwing incident and the jet-ski

ticketing incident. Neither of which were met with any significant penalty from then head coach Derek Dooley.

There was the disappointment in the Vols on-field performance. The Vols fielded a 13-11 record with Bray as the starting quarterback, but only a 5-10 mark in SEC play. There were no wins over a ranked opponent, and there were late game turnovers which cost Tennessee chances to beat rivals Georgia and South Carolina this season.

But Bray's legacy to many Vols fans begins and ends with November 26, 2011. On that day the Vols lost to Kentucky for the first time in 26 years. That defeat also kept Tennessee out of a bowl game. Bray (and former teammate Da'Rick Rogers) had reportedly told teammates that he didn't want to play in a lower tier bowl game.

Bray was the Vols quarterback... but he was never the Vols leader. So his decision to go pro should come as a shock to no one.

He leaves Tennessee in the top 5 all-time in many statistical categories, including passing yards, touchdowns and completions. Had he stayed one more year, he could have moved up further, perhaps even breaking some of Peyton Manning's marks...

But Bray had no desire to stay in Knoxville. He clashed with coaches, he criticized fans, he alienated teammates and at times he avoided the local media... which makes you wonder how he'll fare in the National Football League, where big city reporters aren't nearly as passive, and the protection Bray got from the UT sports information department won't be there.

But Bray will wow the scouts at the NFL combine. He's 6-6, with a cannon for an arm.

CBSSports.com projects him to go in the second round. This of course is preliminary, and a lot depends on whether other underclassmen like Georgia's Aaron Murray go pro as well, but it shows you how highly Bray is thought of in these circles.

If Bray came back for a senior season, could his draft stock go up? Certainly. But it could also plummet. Bray would have to learn a new system under new Vols head coach Butch Jones, and he isn't exactly known for his dedication to playbook study/film room work. And there's always the possibility for injury. Plus, there's the fact that most of his top playmakers are graduating or leaving early as well.

Bray is making the right decision by heading to the NFL.

And as far as Tennessee is concerned, this could be the best thing for them as well.

Bray leaving means fewer headaches for Jones. And it means he isn't stuck with an incumbent quarterback who probably wouldn't fit his system as well. Jones would work with him of course, but has preferred a more mobile quarterback in his previous stops at Central Michigan and Cincinnati. This seems to be a better fit for quarterback Nathan Peterman, who redshirted for the Vols in 2012. Justin Worley was the backup last year and highly regarded freshman to be Riley Ferguson will be in the mix as well.

That could make for a competitive quarterback competition, and bring out the best in all three players.

For the past three years at Tennessee, Bray's maturity was a serious issue.

But as far as the Vols are concerned... that's going to be someone else's problem now.

And if Bray can't grow up... his stay in the NFL will be a short one.

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The Doctor is in
a weekly column by
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The End of the World

Well, it didn't happen. I mean the end of the world didn't occur on December the 21st, 2012 as some thought the end of the Mayan long calendar suggested. I have to admit that I didn't put much credence in this doomsday scenario. After all, the Master said no one can predict the Apocalypse and anyone who purports to know the end times is...confused. Becky and I did have a nice bottle of champagne we were going to share on the night before The End, but instead we went to our neighborhood Mexican restaurant with the family. That was infinitely more satisfying. A more tangible crisis arose today (December

21st) when the Knoxville Focus' stalwart editor called me wanting to know, "Where is your essay, Dr. Ferguson?" Apparently, the arty-fartsy/writer part of my brain was confused. Marianne tactfully reminded me that it's next week that the Focus is closed. Dang, I hate it when I get the date wrong. So, if my thoughts seem more tangential than usual or you notice even more typos, forgive me because this essay is being written between stores as I'm Christmas shopping with Becky and Oakley. I'm not whining because I feel I'm blessed just like most of us. I'm healthy, I have enough of most things,

and I'm not in the hospital like several of my patients. On a talk radio show last week I heard a caller say that the real end of the world was for those families in Newtown, Connecticut. I remember the song "The End of the World" by Skeeter Davis and her questioning lyrics, "Why do the birds keep on singing...?" I can imagine those poor families asking that question this Christmas.

Several of my patients won't make it home for Christmas because they're stuck in the hospital. Perhaps getting better is what Santa will put in their stocking. But they're more fortunate than several of my other folks who won't see another Holiday Season due to terminal illness. George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life* wished he had never been born when misfortune piled up on him. Fortunately, his guardian angel, Clarence, saved George with a stroke of genius, earning Clarence his angelic wings!

This Christmas the flag is flying at half mast over Thistle Farms in memory of those kids

who won't be opening Christmas gifts. As I considered the murders of these innocent children, I recalled my feelings during the Newsome-Christian torture-murders. We want to know how these tragedies occur when we should be asking why they occur. I never thought I would hear President Obama echo the words of the conservative commentator Charles Krauthammer. Krauthammer is a psychiatrist as well as a journalist and concluded that there is a trinitarian explanation for the violence in Connecticut and America. He said that the problem is not just guns, but the culture of violence in video games and in Hollywood's oeuvre. And if you add the third component of mental illness you get a lethal recipe. I suspect Senator Diane Feinstein's proposed bill that will ban large clips of bullets for semiautomatic weapons will help, but if we as a society don't address the more difficult issues of violence in our culture and mental illness, we may feel better for awhile, but this will not solve the problem.

My patient came to see me with a sore shoulder. This was easy to figure out. As I discussed his diagnosis and his options, he gazed away and his mind seemed to wander. He quickly recovered himself and apologized for his wandering thoughts. He continued with tears in his eyes and a choked voice describing the recent death of his thirty four year. "My son had a tough life," he said. A lifetime of mental illness requiring heavy medication to keep him functional and mostly sane had taken a toll. "The medicines made him feel bad and changed his body, and were only partially effective." As a father and a grandfather I can't imagine the loss of a child and what this poor man and those parents in Connecticut are going through in this Christmas season. Sometimes the best medicine is to just sit there with the suffering because sometimes there is no explanation or other response for loss.

I've read that the principle reason atheists renounce a theistic cause for our existence is the theodicy

question. Succinctly, this holds that if there is an omniscient and omnipotent God, why does He/Spirit/Power allow innocent suffering? I'll spare you the six classical arguments to this conundrum and simply say that there is sometimes no good explanation. Sometimes the best explanation is a pragmatic one that recognizes the existence of evil and its wondrous antithesis that we celebrate at Christmas.

Some might say that this is a sop for my psyche. And I would retort that even though there are mysteries I cannot fathom, I still say The Way is better than man's way.

Doctor Ferguson is accepting new patients. His office is next to Fort Sanders Hospital.

For appointments call Keesha at 865-522-0326.

Do you have a question for Dr. Ferguson? Please e-mail him at jferguson@summithealthcare.com.

A Christmas Story

I started reading Christmas stories to groups when I was only 5 years old. I guess I've always had a knack for storytelling



because as I stood before my brother's 3rd grade class and read 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, I didn't realize that the book was upside down. Although my telling of Clement Clarke Moore's story was not verbatim, nonetheless, its spirit and meaning were very much alive. Because, you see, the spirit of Christmas resides in the hearts and

minds of children; written words will never express the true meaning of Christmas that lives within us. As a child I can remember our family going to the hospital cafeteria so that we could eat Christmas dinner with my mom when she was at work. Therefore, I am confident that I have had more holiday meals in a hospital than I have at home. That experience gives me an eccentric feeling of belonging to something that is in constant motion—never pausing or wavering from caring, giving, or helping another who is a little less fortunate.

As an adult I have felt the pain of seeing a mother dying of cancer on Christmas day as her 5-year-old son struggles to understand what dying means.

Then that same little boy returns on Valentine's Day bearing bags of candy hearts along with crayon messages of what nurses mean to him. During those times, I understand what nursing is and the impact we have on another life during moments of weakness when one's chin quivers under the weight of his world. I will never forget that somber day as I watched a little boy walk hand in hand with his father after their lives were changed forevermore. My drive home that day was filled with dark images flashing through my mind as I had become silent and numb in search of the Joy of Christmas.

I realize that happiness and joy does not come elaborately wrapped and placed under a tree, but

instead, comes from the heart and in a moment when we connect with what is really important in life. The gift of health is so fragile and precious, and yet most people take it for granted. The loss of health doesn't affect just the afflicted; it stirs many emotions and impacts many lives for generations to come. For me, the meaning of Christmas is about a smile, a chuckle in one's heart, the warmth of family, and being healthy. Take the time this holiday season to be kind to one another, to smile, to laugh, and to exchange good tidings.

Believe in the wonder, delight in the magic. Merry Christmas!

First Robotic Colon and Rectal Resections in Area Performed at Turkey Creek Medical Center

The first colorectal surgeries using daVinci robotic-assisted technology in the region have been performed at Turkey Creek Medical Center. Jay Young, MD, colorectal surgeon, used the minimally invasive technology to treat the first patient, a man from North Knoxville, who was diagnosed with diverticulitis.

His condition required a colectomy, which is a surgical procedure to remove all or part of the colon. The colon, also called the large intestine, is a long tube-like organ at the end of the digestive system. Colectomy may be necessary to treat or prevent diseases and conditions that affect the colon such as bowel obstruction, crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, diverticulitis, and colon cancer.

A second patient, diagnosed with ulcerative colitis, was the first to have a rectal resection performed by Dr. Young using robotic-assisted technology.

"Colorectal surgeries are some of the most difficult procedures to do in a minimally invasive fashion, which is why we are always striving to be on the forefront of new emerging technologies to assist us in these procedures," said Dr. Young. "Robotic-assisted surgery provides surgeons with a higher level of visualization, dexterity and therefore, accuracy."

Continued on page 2

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Faith

An Orange and White Christmas

I should have seen it coming. But, I did not. Jeanne, my friend since college days, always picks out the most perfect Christmas gifts for me. She has given me a beautiful wooden plaque with "Amazing Grace" engraved on it just as it appears in the hymnbook; an inspirational wall hanging of the Ten Commandments; and a favorite angel night light that fades in and out in an array of blues, reds, and greens. Christmas 2011 was no different.

Cleverly, Jeanne centered most gifts around a Tennessee theme.



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

It seemed appropriate enough since we met at The University of Tennessee years ago and have kept in touch ever since. I started opening a flurry of orange gifts. There was a roll of Tennessee duct tape, a well-designed Tennessee canvas tote bag, and an assortment of storage containers with the orange "T" logo. Each one was filled with individually-wrapped Tennessee mints--some in white wrappers with an orange "T" and others in orange wrappers with a white "T." But, the biggest box was yet to be opened.

When I lifted the lid, I saw the word "Wilson." "A basketball?" I asked out loud. I thought Jeanne had surely missed the mark this time. As I pulled it from under all the packing, I could not believe what I saw. She had nailed this Tennessee gift quicker than those Lady Vols can hit a three-pointer! Already engraved with Pat's name, the orange and white ball had something else written on it: "To Ralphine, Pat Summitt." What a treasured gift! The winningest coach in college basketball now leads the fight against Alzheimers. The awards for her work off the court are stacking up as quickly as all those championships and wins, and she deserves them

all. Thanks, Pat--and Jeanne!

In these days leading up to Christmas, America is grieving from another national tragedy in the murder of twenty-six innocent lives--twenty of whom were the littlest among us. Flags have, once again, flown at half-staff. Headlines have been heartwrenching--from the special prayer services held by area churches to the tributes paid to the victims by the National Football League (NFL) and the National Basketball Association (NBA). The slaughter of these Americans has even sparked a global response. May we be ever mindful of those with hurting hearts this Christmas season and keep



them in our thoughts and prayers. It is my Christmas wish that those touched by this recent tragedy--and all mankind--can find peace through the One whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. Jesus, the baby born in Bethlehem, the Prince of Peace, God's Son, the Saviour of the world--He is the greatest gift of all! Merry Christmas!

Pictured above: my Lady Vols basketball autographed by the legendary Coach Emeritus, Pat Summitt.

History of Christmas (Part Two of Two)

Last week's article began a discussion on the origins of Christmas. Much of the traditions we enjoy today go back centuries. The celebration of Christmas initially had nothing to do with Santa, elves, or a snowman named Frosty. Due to the pagan influences

of the day, there was a need to give Christian meaning to established popular festivals.

The beginning of Christmas dates back to the third century. This was a time of religious change for the Roman world as a whole. Emperors were no longer seen as gods but as ones "begotten of the gods." This can be seen with the Emperor Diocletian who called himself "Jovius." This meant that



By **Mark Brackney**,
Minister of the
Arlington Church
of Christ

he was associated with or represented Jupiter (the supreme god of the Roman pantheon). Along with this shift of the imperial cult came the third century development of solar monotheism - worship of the sun as a symbol of the ultimate god who is the source of all things.

This god was often identified with Apollo.

When Christian missionaries met these celebrations, they looked at them through cross shaped eyes and found ways to take them and Christianize them. Rome had done the same for generations. Although the birth of Christ had been celebrated from at least 98 A.D., Christians in the fourth century (by 354 A.D.), who were concerned

with the growing influence of this pagan cult, declared December 25th (or Jan. 7th in the old calendar), the winter solstice which represented the birth date of this god to celebrate the birth of Christ, the Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2).

The idea of Santa came from a third-century monk by the name of Nicholas, born near Demre on the southern coast of Turkey. He was imprisoned for ten years for refusing to worship pagan gods. He was freed when Constantine became emperor and legend has it that he inherited wealth but gave it all away to help the poor and suffering. He was known for bringing gifts to the children who learned their Bible lessons well. The transformation of him into a red and white cloaked jolly elf happened in America with the help of the Dutch. It wasn't long

before Washington Irving's History of New York has Saint Nicholas going house to house to reward the faithful. St. Nicholas turned into Santa Claus.

The poem "Santa Claus" appeared in 1821, describing him as a small man dressed in fur and driving a sleigh pulled by a single reindeer. Clement Clark Moore's poem, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, appeared a year later giving Santa eight reindeer. He was established as a toymaker and given the North Pole as his home in the 1860's and the red suit showed up in the 1880's. During the 20th century, Christmas was becoming increasingly more secular.

It could be that December 25 has become the worship of the materialism god, yet many Christians still celebrate a day to remember God coming to

the earth in the flesh. From the first century on, Christians shared a conviction that believers needed a constant reminder of great events of redemptive history. An example of this is the weekly observance of the Lord's Supper.

Whatever this season means to you, I pray it will serve as a reminder of the redemption found in the coming of Jesus. And to all the pagans out in this world, you can't have Christmas back, even if you want to name it something else.

Church Happenings

Beaver Ridge United Methodist Church

Beaver Ridge United Methodist Church, 7753 Oak Ridge Hwy (The Church With a Heart in the Heart of Karns) will start a new session of Weight Watchers on Jan. 2, 2013. These classes will go for 10 weeks. New or Renewing Members cost will be \$125, Continuing and Transferring Members cost will be \$120, and Lifetime Members Over Goal cost will be \$110. Lynda is a great leader and this group has lost over 600 pounds since starting last Feb. 2012! Payment must be made before the first meeting on

Jan. 2. Payments can be left at the Church Office in an envelope, please write "Weight Watcher" on the envelope. For more information please call Jane Damiano: 938-4768 or the church office: 690-1060

Fountain City Presbyterian Church

Fountain City Presbyterian Church, 500 Hotel Road across from Gresham Middle School, will have two services on Christmas Eve, December 24. The first service, at 5:30 p.m., is designed especially for children and children will participate in the service. Children of all ages are

welcome.

The second Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 p.m. This service will be a more traditional Candlelight service. Senior Pastor Max Reddick will have a special Christmas message and communion will be offered. All are welcome to join the congregation of Fountain City Presbyterian Church as we celebrate Christmas.

The normal schedule for Fountain City Presbyterian Church will change for December 30 and January 6. Worship services for those two Sundays will combine the normal 8:55 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

services into one worship service which will be at 10:00 a.m.

Knoxville Fellowship Luncheon

The KFL will not meet at the Golden Corral for their Tuesday luncheons until January 8, 2013.

Meridian Baptist Church

Meridian Baptist Church, 6513 Chapman Hwy, invites the public to see the David Johnson Chorus present "Come Celebrate Christmas" on Sunday, December 30 at 6p.m.

For information, please call 577-6617.

Mount Harmony Baptist Church

There will be a Singing on December 29 at 7:00 p.m. with Heart to Heart. The Church is located at 819 Raccoon Valley Rd NE, Heiskell, TN 37754. 1 mile west of I-75 at exit 117. Everyone is welcome to come.

Seymour United Methodist Church

There will be two candlelight worship services with Holy Communion offered at both 7 and 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Church offices will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and on

January 1.

The Wednesday evening "Fellowship Meals" will resume on January 9.

Next Sunday, Jan. 6th, being a first Sunday of the month, will offer the sacrament of Holy Communion at both services, plus the opportunity to share your blessings with local CROSS Ministries.

There is still plenty of time left for making those "Commitments" for 2013.

Further general information is available by calling the church office at 573-9711 or by visiting www.seymourumc.com.

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Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Youth 7:00 p.m.
Bus Ministry -
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First Robotic Resections

Cont. from page 1

Dr. Young said both patients are doing well, one going home after just three days. By using the daVinci system for minimally invasive procedures, patients can experience less blood loss and a quicker recovery.

"It's very unusual to be able to leave the hospital so quickly after a major surgery such as a colon or rectal resection. The robotic technology is certainly

helping patients recover faster and get back to their lives."

Turkey Creek Medical Center has two daVinci robotic systems used in a number of different surgeries in the areas of gynecology, bariatrics, urology, and gastroenterology. The facility is designated a Center of Excellence for Minimally Invasive Surgery in gynecologic surgery by the American Institute for Minimally Invasive Surgery (AIMIS).

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Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

Where Christ is Making a Difference in Our Lives and in Our Community

House to Home

UT Gardens December 2012 Plant of the Month: Euonymus americanus

Submitted by Jeran Guffey and Andy Pulte

Many plants in our gardens remain unnoticed most of the year. They seem to sit helplessly as green blobs in the landscape; however, when it's their time to shine they really pull out all the stops. Such is the case with *Euonymus americanus*, commonly known in some parts of the country as strawberry bush. In this part of the world, this euonymus is also known by the more down-home name "Hearts-a-Bustin." It's so named for the plant's unique four-lobed seed capsules, which open in September and early October to reveal a fiery-red collection of dangling

seeds from its interior. These seeds can persist late into the year and add splashes of red to the late-season landscape.

Strawberry bush is a sprawling, multi-stemmed shrub that grows from 4 feet to 6 feet high. As the plant matures, it becomes more erect and stems become thicker and more heavily branched. It has a lazy appearance and would be best left to its own imperfections in a woodland or naturalized garden. Native to the eastern United States, strawberry bush grows from zones 6 to 9 and prefers slightly acidic, shady sites. If it is planted in a sunnier spot, make sure it is mulched and watered well.

This plant can also handle somewhat drier, understory shady situations. Flowers appear in spring and are greenish-white and fairly inconspicuous.

Deer have been known to graze on this plant and seem to love the tender leaves and stems. Humans should take the red color of the seeds as a warning; they are known to be a strong laxative and cause severe diarrhea. In fact, this genus of plants in general is considered poisonous to humans.

Strawberry bush is prone to euonymus scale and crown gall. However, these problems are minor when compared with the susceptibility of other landscape euonymus like burning

bush (*E. alatus*) or winter-creeper euonymus (*E. fortunei*). With proper placement and care, *Euonymus americanus* is sure to add seasonal interest to the woodland garden as the days grow shorter and the year winds down.

Both of the authors are associated with the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture. Jeran Guffey is a junior from Knoxville, Tenn., studying landscape design, and Andy Pulte is a faculty member in the Department of Plant Sciences as well as an internationally certified arborist. The UT Gardens are located in Knoxville and Jackson and are a program of the UT Institute of Agriculture. Their mission is to foster



PHOTO BY JERAN B. GUFFEY.

Euonymus americanus, commonly known in some parts of the country as strawberry bush or "Hearts-a-Bustin," has fiery-red seeds that can persist late into the year and add splashes of red to the late-season landscape.

appreciation, education and stewardship of plants through garden displays, collections, educational programs and research trials. The gardens are

open during all seasons and free to the public. See <http://utgardens.tennessee.edu/> for more information.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

Invitation to consign - Two great auctions in January!

January will be an exciting month at Fountain City Auction with two important sales. Greg Lawson, owner of Fountain City Auction, will be hosting the Eighth Annual Advertising Sale on Saturday,



By Carl Sloan

January 5 at 10 a.m. This yearly sale is always a grand event not to be missed. Already there are hundreds of items on display from old gas pumps, porcelain signs, neon signs, folk art items, coin operated rides, machines of every kind, important and rare items as well as fun oddities of all sorts. These sales are a packed house event and always draw buyers from out of state as well as locals that attend so a good place to offer your items in this prime sale as long as space is available.

The second major sale will be Saturday, January 19 beginning at noon. This will be a live audience and internet sale event broadcast worldwide with many important items of interest. This high end auction will be offering

dozens of gold items from vintage jewelry to modern as well as gold and silver coins, rare watches, a pair of very rare Lalique table lamps from the Edsel Ford estate in Detroit,

rare civil war photographs, military items. Art glass, fine art pottery to include cat collection from England by Winstanley, Swarovski items, rare china items, art, important quilts, a 76 piece sterling flatware set by Wallace Sir Christopher service for 12, International service for eight in Prelude pattern, rare Watson Co sterling set Windsor Rose 70 items and the list goes on.

If you think you may have anything to contribute to either of these sales, we have limited space available and would like to hear from you. Just call Fountain City Auction at (865) 604-3468. Look for the Advertising Sale ad on B4 of this Focus! Have a blessed New Year and a warm hearted thanks for the past year.

Christenberry at Christmas

By Debbie M. Heck

One class at Christenberry has a very special treat each Christmas. The students are paid money (Christenberry Bucks) for completing their work, being at school on time each day, and behaving properly at all times. The students collect this money from the beginning of the year until December. All of this is made possible by the Farragut Embroidery Group, Halls Christian Church, and many other friends through donations. The students are allowed to shop for Christmas gifts for their families.

Every student makes a list of people for whom they need to shop. Every student has earned different

amounts of money. Each student must calculate how to divide up the money and get gifts for all of the family. This is a wonderful motivator for the students to "do the right thing" each and every day. It also teaches them math and they do keep up with their money! And, most important, they learn to give back to the people who take care of them.

Teacher Jackie Lawson and Educational assistant Katrina Lewis Hodge helped students with their shopping. One by one each is allowed to shop with special attention by these fabulous teachers. The selection was enormous and the children were so excited.



In addition, Carolyn Lewis (a retiree from Christenberry pictured above) came in to cook breakfast for the whole class, complete with bacon, sausage, eggs, waffles, biscuits and gravy. And much of this food was donated by another friend to Christenberry - Second Harvest. Mrs. Lewis cooked for three hours, preparing breakfast for everyone after they finished shopping.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

The Knoxville Focus wishes a very Happy 77th Birthday to our Faithful Focus reader, Louis Mouron, on December 27.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for participants in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Parade

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission is pleased to announce that information and the application to participate in the 2013 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Parade is now available on the MLK website - www.MLKknoxville.org.

Anyone interested in participating should read all of the information on the website and submit a completed application before the deadline. The coordinator of the parade is Mabrey R. Duff who can be contacted at tuxman1@bellsouth.net.

Harold's Tours Potluck

The public is invited to Harold's Tours Annual Potluck Dinner to be held Saturday, January 12 at the Halls Senior Center on Crippen Road. The meal and presentation will be from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and bring a covered dish.

Open auditions

Powell Playhouse auditions for the one act comedy "Louder, I Can't Hear You" will be held at the Powell Library on Emory Road on Thursday, December 27 from 4:00-7:30. Roles call for two teenagers, two women and two men. The production is scheduled for February 23 and 24 at Jubilee Banquet Facility.

BULLETIN BOARD

The Knox County Republican Party will be having their biannual reorganizational meetings. These meetings will be at their polling precincts on January 17, 2013 (unless otherwise scheduled by the precinct chair). If you would like to be a delegate, be at your polling precinct at 7:00pm. We will also be holding our Knox County Republican Party Convention at Central High School on February 2, 2013 at 10:00am. The Chairman of the Credentials Committee is Gerald Turner, 5812 Tazewell Pike, Knoxville, TN 37918. A contest must be filed with the Credential Chairman by 5:00pm on Tuesday January 29, 2013.

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- 1 (9-inch) prepared pie shell (unbaked)
- 1 cup grated Swiss
- 1/2 cup grated marbled jack
- 3 tablespoon grated Romano, plus 1 tablespoon
- 1/2 cup chopped medium onion
- 1 cup fresh broccoli florets
- 1 1/2 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1/4 teaspoons dried marjoram
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup half-and-half
- 7 or 8 cherry tomatoes

Preheat oven to 425 degree F.

Sprinkle the cheese over the bottom of the pie shell, then evenly distribute the onion, broccoli, and mushroom over the cheese layer. Mix the eggs and the spices together in a bowl. Add the milk and half-and-half and mix well. Pour over contents in the pie shell.

Cut the cherry tomatoes in halves and place, cut side up, in a ring on top of the mixture. Sprinkle the 1 tablespoon of Romano over top. Bake for 15 minutes. Turn oven down to 300 degrees F and bake an additional 45 to 55 minutes or until cake tester inserted in middle comes out clean.

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