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Inskip Rezoning Passes

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The remainder of the Inskip neighborhood saw quick action by the Knoxville City County Thursday on what was to be the first of two readings, but Councilman Mark Campen moved to pass it on an emergency. The change, from R-2 to a more restrictive R-1 and R-1A, was recommended by the Metropolitan Planning Commission and supported by the Inskip Neighborhood Association and had been delayed by

applications by several home and property owners to remain R-1.

The R-1 zoning will remain in effect for those who asked and they will not need to apply for a "Use on Review" in order to sell or convert their properties for apartments, condos or duplex developments.

Campen represents the area and said the passage also excludes 24 mixed density properties.

In other action, the council voted to name **Continue on page 2**

LEUTHOLD KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN FOR KNOX COUNTY TRUSTEE



PHOTO BY JENNY FARMER

Candidate for Knox County Trustee Craig Leuthold, right, and father, Frank Leuthold, greet Dr. Robert Orr at a recent reception at Club Le Conte.

By Focus Staff

In a reception held earlier this month at Club Le Conte, Craig Leuthold officially announced his candidacy for Knox County Trustee in the upcoming May 2014 Republican Primary Election.

"It has been an honor to serve as your Knox County Trustee for the past four months. I thoroughly appreciate the confidence that has been placed in me and the opportunity to serve the citizens of Knox County," he stated.

Leuthold cites his degree in finance from the University of Tennessee and 16 years working in the Knox County Trustee's Office,

followed by three years of service in the Knox County Property Assessor's Office, among his qualifications for the position.

"Through this time, I met many members of our community and had the opportunity to learn what citizens are looking for in a place to live, work, and raise families," he stated.

Leuthold also served on Knox County Commission for eight years, with two years as Vice-chairman and two years as Chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee. Most recently, he served as the chair of the 28-member Knox County Charter Review Committee in 2012.

Four months ago, Leuthold was appointed to serve as interim trustee by Knox County Commission.

"In the four months since my selection as Trustee I have accomplished the following: provided leadership and stability in the office, reorganized the office based on resumes and job evaluations- which will save Knox County over \$300,000 annually, and collected more revenue with fewer employees," he writes in a letter announcing his candidacy.

The reception was well attended and featured a sizeable host committee.

Dear Readers,

The staff of the Knoxville Focus would like to wish everyone a safe and joyful Christmas and New Years.

The Focus and Focus Weekly Poll will resume after a holiday break on Monday, January 6, 2014.

See you next year!
Best,
Marianne Dedmon,
Editor

City Reveals New Plans for Lakeshore Park

By Tasha Mahurin
Tasha@knoxfocus.com

After the closure of the Lakeshore Mental Health Institute in 2012, the State of Tennessee relinquished control of Lakeshore Park to the City of Knoxville. The institute had provided mental health care to the area for 126 years. The announcement of the closure was met with public outcry and concern over what was to become of the property.

The City of Knoxville recently unveiled plans to transform the property into an expanded community park. At a public meeting held last week residents got a closer look at the city's plan to transform the 180 acre site. More than 100 citizens and 5 city council members attended the public meeting held at Deane Hill Recreation Center.

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Final Appeal Against Apartment Development January 22

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Local home owners have one last chance to stop the large apartment development that was approved last week by the Knox County Commission. The 6-5 vote followed the Metropolitan Planning Commission's recommendation for the rezoning of about 172 acres of farmland on Emory Church Road and Pellissippi Parkway, moving it from Agricultural to Planned Residential.

The Board of Zoning Appeals "Use on Review" hearing will hear the appeal in Wednesday, January 22.

Wayne Kline, representing nearby homeowners, told the county lawmakers that the

Huber Properties/Clear Water Partners planned development ignores low density in the surrounding area, that five units per acre was too large, there would be a traffic problem, and that MPC staff ignored provisions in the general plan for hillside and slope restrictions.

MPC Director Mark Donaldson said that the hillside restrictions, adopted by the commission, were not a requirement but a recommendation.

Opponents are charging that the MPC recommendation for 324 apartment units is based on the total acres at the site and does not **Continue on page 2**

NFLer takes children on holiday shopping spree

By Tasha Mahurin
Tasha@knoxfocus.com

Knoxville native and former NFL player, Chad Pennington, took a group of East Tennessee children on a holiday shopping spree last week at the Target in Powell.

The group consisted of 65 children who are in the care of the Helen Ross McNabb Center's residential services program. The children enjoyed a 90 minute shopping spree for themselves and their family with the help of donations from Pennington's 1st and 10 Foundation.

"This is an incredible experience for these children,"

says Helen Ross McNabb Center CEO, Andy Black.

Pennington and wife, Robin, created the 1st and 10 Foundation in 2003 with the mission to build stronger communities by funding programs and institutions that seek to improve quality of life throughout southern West Virginia and the Tri-State area, East Tennessee, and South Florida. This is the eighth year the Penningtons have provided holiday presents and parties for children in residential and foster care programming in East Tennessee.

"Positive and meaningful opportunities like this

will truly last a lifetime. I am grateful for the Pennington's generosity and friendship towards children served by the Center," Black added.

A Heisman Trophy finalist, Pennington led Marshall University to a perfect 13-0 season in 1999. He was chosen by the New York Jets in the first round of the 2000 NFL draft. In 2008, Pennington was signed by the Miami Dolphins, where he led the team to what has been hailed as the greatest turnaround in NFL history.

In April of 2007, Pennington was a recipient of a JB Award presented by James Brown of CBS Sports' The

NFL Today show. This award recognizes NFL players who exemplify leadership, dedication and commitment to team and community.

Six years later, although they currently reside in Lexington, he and Robin continue to be generous benefactors to their hometowns of Knoxville and Madison, West Virginia.

The Center will begin its 65th year this year, and its mission remains clear and simple; "Improving the lives of the people we serve." For more information, visit www.mcnabbcenter.org or call (865)6379711.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Lee Landers and Chad Pennington.

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Inskip Rezoning Passes

Continued from page 1

Sheila Wittke and Jim Idol to the Board of Directors of Community Television.

They also recognized and honored retiring Deputy Fire Chief Roger Byrd for 40 years of service. Chief Stan Sharp spoke in honor of Chief Byrd and Mayor Madeline Rogero named last Wednesday "Roger Byrd Day" in Knoxville.

A resolution exercising a renewal option of the contract between the City of Knoxville and SMG Management for management of the Knoxville Convention Center to extend the contract through June 30, 2016, also passed.

Also passed was the authorization of the Mayor to execute an agreement with Health Care Solutions to

provide pharmacy benefit management for the city workers compensation program, with the cost estimated at \$275,000.

Councilman Dan Brown said that passage of another resolution, for a bus shelter in his neighborhood, "was badly needed." The city thanked Emanuel Bailey, on behalf of the Carpetbag Theatre, for donating 76 square feet for the bus shelter.

Vice Mayor Nick Pavlis announced that a workshop will be held on January 30th to discuss the new sign ordinance, which has been in the works for several months.

Councilman Marshall Stair announced that the Public Property Naming Committee will meet on February 6.

Focus on the Law

Powers of Attorney

A Power of Attorney ("POA") is a document that authorizes someone to make certain decisions on your behalf. Depending upon the wording of the POA, this authority can be related to finances, property, or even healthcare decisions. The person giving the authority is known as the "principal." The person receiving the authority is known as the "attorney in fact." An attorney in fact is NOT the same as a state licensed attorney and may NOT represent the principal in court.

An attorney in fact has a fiduciary relationship with the principal regarding all actions that the attorney in fact takes under the powers of the POA. This means that the attorney in fact must act with the principal's best interests in mind. The attorney in fact should use his or her "best judgment and discretion" on behalf of the



By Sharon Frankenberg, Attorney at Law

principal. The attorney in fact has a duty to adequately account to the principal or to any legal representative of the principal appointed by the principal or the court (like a conservator.)

Without specific authorization in the POA document, he or she should not make gifts on behalf of the principal or transfer property for less than market value.

A POA may be very specific and limited to one particular transaction or type of transaction. For example, the principal may sign a POA for his or her spouse to attend a closing, execute a deed and closing documents to sell a house while the principal is out of town. When the transaction authorized by the POA is completed, the attorney in fact has no more authority to act on the behalf of the principal. Also, if the principal becomes incapacitated the POA becomes ineffective.

Powers of attorney may also be durable. The POA must have precise language in it to make it a durable power of attorney. The value in a durable power of attorney is that it continues to be valid even after the principal becomes incompetent. Without a valid durable power of attorney, an incompetent person cannot conduct business or make decisions. His or her assets might need to be liquidated or a new insurance policy might need to be obtained. The only way someone can obtain the authority to act on the principal's behalf at that point is to bring a conservatorship proceeding in court. This is an expensive and time consuming process which could have been avoided with the execution of a durable power of attorney.

A Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare is needed when you are unable to make healthcare decisions. You may choose someone to be your attorney in fact

for healthcare decisions. This person must obviously be someone you trust and someone who knows your wishes. The statute controlling durable powers of attorney for healthcare has very specific requirements for content and how the document must be witnessed. Not having a durable power of attorney for healthcare may also require the bringing of a conservatorship proceeding. Like a durable POA for business decisions, a durable power of attorney for healthcare is an important tool for planning for your future.

Obviously, this article is general in nature. You should consult an attorney if you have any questions regarding your individual situation.

Sharon Frankenberg is an experienced attorney licensed in Tennessee since 1988. Her office number in Knoxville is (865)539-2100.

Final Appeal Against Apartment Development January 22

Commissioner Sam McKenzie was one of the six commissioners to vote for the apartment development. Photo by Dan Andrews.



Cont. from page 1

consider the slope, hillsides four and five-story apartment buildings would block their view and place them in a shadow, also said that the area is above a large limestone formation with caves and sink holes.

Bill Waters, representing the Benson family, said his clients would not see the sun in the afternoon because of the height of the proposed buildings.

A letter from the current property owners was read into the record, stating that their family has owned the farm since 1901 and have

lived there for five generations. The letter also said that they can no longer care for the property and that selling it was a difficult decision and they only had one offer to buy it.

John Huber and other advocates said they plan to improve the intersection nearby, set aside acres not developed, build a marina, and provide a public parking area.

Following a couple of hours of speakers, pro and con, the matter went to commissioners and Commissioner R. Larry Smith urged the commission to

stick with the MPC recommendation.

"These are our professionals," he said, adding that the efforts by both groups "are one of the best organized group efforts I've seen in my 7 and 1/2 years." He concluded, referring to the proposed complex, "It will be first class."

Commissioner Sam McKenzie said the situation is one of "generational differences" indicating that younger adults prefer apartment living and took exception to one claim that apartment dwellers would not have boats or use the marina.

Commissioner Amy Broyles quizzed Donaldson about the hillside and slopes being considered in the total useable acres and told the meeting she opposed the zoning because of the density and marina.

Commissioner Mike Brown said that although he has known John Huber a long time, he felt they "have been led down the road" on the issue.

"MPC did a good job, they vetted it," McKenzie said.

Commission Chair Tony Norman said "John has done a good job. I have a few problems with it, problems with the marina. I'm in favor...it's a real good example of the professionals working with John (Huber)."

In the final vote, 5-4, Commissioners Broyles, Brown, Hammond, Shouse and Briggs voted "No" and Commissioners McKenzie, Smith, Ownby, Wright, Anders and Norman voted "Yes."



Stacey Brandau
389-1094



Betty Cooper
599-2870



Doyle Hensley
207-8972



Kim Litton
567-9138



Garry Long
599-1861



Page Pratt Miller
548-1968



Dave Roberts
621-3673

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What's in the Bag?

It had buttons for its eyes and a red felt tongue. The little blue and white teddy bear has survived years of house cleanings. When other keepsakes were eventually discarded, the little blue bear always found its way back into our home and my heart. It was one of my Christmas gifts in 1964.



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



PHOTO BY LOIS ZACHARY

Mother remembers the day it came to our house. My brother was a second grader at the time. One afternoon, he jumped off the school bus as usual. Dressed in rolled-up blue jeans, he was carrying books, his metal Roy Rogers lunchbox, and a brown paper bag. It was the brown paper bag that caught our mother's eye. "He held it tightly at the top," mother recalls. "He went straight to his room. None of us knew what was in it and we did not ask."

Christmas morning revealed the mystery. It was a hand-made teddy bear. A classmate's mother had made the bears for Christmas. It was not until I was writing this column that I learned who created this treasured gift. "Lois Zachary made the bear," Wayne told me. "I got it from David, her son." David is now deceased. I would not have known Lois then, but I do now. She is a long-time neighbor. Mother said she still does not know how Wayne came up with the money to pay for it. My guess is that it was ice cream money he saved. "David may have given it to Wayne," Lois told me. "I gave alot of them away." Neatly stitched and stuffed, the tiny gift was unusual and special. It still is.

I have learned gifts come in different packages. In my writing, I often mention the words on my favorite wall plaque. They are

always worth repeating: "Every day is a gift." In the glow of red, blue, green, and yellow lights, I enjoy the warm aroma from a hazelnut-scented candle and listen to the "Little Drummer Boy" playing softly. I look at those five simple words and cannot help but think about nineteen Arizona firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty and a Kentucky state trooper gunned down while picking up debris on the highway. I think of a young father fighting illness. I think of the homeless veteran we gave food and gifts each year only to learn he passed away just weeks ago. I think about a dear and special friend in a hospital across the state and the childhood friend I called on to bring her own East Tennessee touch to him. Our God does, indeed, work in mysterious ways!

The greatest gift was born in a manger over 2,000 years ago on Christmas Day. The Christ child came to bring hope to a dying world. We call him Saviour, Master, and Prince of Peace. He was crucified and buried, but defeated death when he rose from the grave three days later. His name is Jesus. May we all find renewed hope in the midst of our daily struggles because of Christ—the reason we celebrate Christmas. Merry Christmas and blessings for the new year, and may all of your days—your gifts—be wrapped in God's love.

Commission Report: McIntyre's contract approved on consent

By **Mike Steely**
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Consent items on an agenda are traditionally non-controversial items that often have been discussed by a group. Last week's Knox County Commission meeting ran through a large number of "consent" items which included one that had potential for some discussion.

Added to the consent items, which included everything from charging \$25 for cremation permits to accepting \$67,1000 for gonorrhea testing for juveniles booked at the Richard L. Bean Juvenile Service Center, was "approving a Contract of Employment between Knox County Board of Education and Dr. James P. McIntyre, Jr." as superintendent.

All of the consent items passed with a voice vote of the commissioners, in one motion, without any opposition.

Other consent items of note that passed included:

- Approving the lease of 25,765 square feet at Pellissippi State's Strawberry Plains Pike campus for use as a magnet academy and contracting with K&F Construction for \$2,772,037 for construction of that school.
- Awarding a bid to AFD Industrial Filters for HVAC filters, for up to \$250,000.
- Contracting with Melton Collision Center and Joe Neubert collision Repair Centers for body shop painting and repairs for the school



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Superintendent McIntyre at last week's Knox County Commission meeting.

- maintenance and operations department.
- Contracting with DPM Enterprises, not to exceed \$ 110,000 annually, to provide carpet cleaning for the schools maintenance and operations department.
- Approving a grant of \$16,120 with the Tennessee Emergency Management for Homeland Security for first responder equipment and training for the 16 counties in our area, including Knox.
- Approving a professional services contract with Barber McMurry Architects of \$ 256,000 to design and engineer the new Regional Forensic Facility on Sullins Street.
- Approving a lease agreement with UT Medical Facility for 13 months for the current Regional Forensic Center.

City Reveals New Plans for Lakeshore Park

Continued from page 1

New plans for the park include additional parking, the inclusion of a natural amphitheater, trail extensions, additional views of the Tennessee River, and state of the art playgrounds, among others. The addition of a dog park and a farmer's market are also mentioned in the plan.

Knoxville based market research firm U30 conducted an independent survey of 500 Knoxvillians to gage community support of the project.

"I think having a place that is so beautiful and left as natural

as possible is a great asset and a respite in the heart of all of the hustle and bustle in West Knoxville. We are very fortunate to have this park," one respondent said.

Additionally, The City of Knoxville also hopes to demolish 13 buildings that comprised the Lakeshore Mental Health Institute. The demolition of these buildings will allow space for 3 additional soccer fields and 3 new multi-purpose fields.

"With 4 kids under the age of 13, we could do something fun for the whole family every day at Lakeshore," another added in

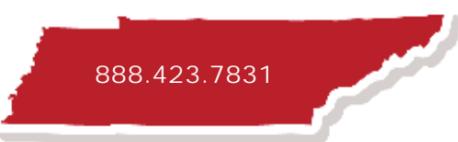
response to U30's query.

With an estimated \$60 million price tag, the completion of the project is pending funding. The city has made it clear that a substantial portion of the funding will come from private sources.

Over the next month, further public comment will be taken on the new master plan, and he plan will not be implemented until it is approved by Knoxville's City Council.

The Focus will continue to follow this story as it develops both in print and online.

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FOCUS MORE ON Seymour & South Knox

Seymour parade rolls despite rain

More than a thousand spectators lined Chapman Highway Saturday, December 14 to see The 20th Annual Seymour Christmas Parade. Hosted for the first time by the Seymour Area Chamber of Commerce, this year's parade was themed "Star Spangled Christmas" in honor and memory of local veterans.

The rain didn't hinder the 3:00 p.m. roll out with the Seymour High School Marching Band taking the lead, along with Alan Williams of Local 8 News (WVLT) as Grand Marshal, the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department, and over 100 floats adorned with the good ol' red, white, and blue and festive Christmas decorations.

Judging took place on the parade route where the judges meticulously

reviewed each registrant of the parade.

First Place winner: Marty Loveday and Associates

Second Place winner: Stock Creek Baptist Church

Third Place winner: Sons of Confederate Veterans

Honorable Mention: Knob Creek Baptist Church

Best Use of Theme: Union Valley Baptist Church

There was an Award Winners Presentation and Veterans Recognition gathering held to acknowledge these special parade participants last week.

"We would really like to send special thanks to Valley Grove Baptist Church, where the parade was staged. Their staff was gracious and helped the Chamber make it a most memorable event for our community. We would also

like to thank Alan Williams for serving as Grand Marshal, the Seymour High School Band for their outstanding performance, John Linsenbigler and the staff of Seymour Volunteer Fire Department for their assistance with traffic direction, KD Photography Services for making sure we had lasting memories of this year's parade, Woodmen of the World for donating the flags given to the spectators, Indeed Marketing, Inc., for all of our artwork and marketing, and to ArtCraft Printers for printing the posters to distribute throughout the community." said Rachael Campbell, President, Seymour Area Chamber of Commerce.

The parade ended in the Seymour Kroger parking lot, by which time the elated spectators

had their pockets filled with candy, treats and American flags. "We hope that all the entrants enjoyed participating and all the spectators enjoyed watching this year's parade as much as we enjoyed presenting it! We are already looking forward to next year's parade and we hope they are too!"

As this year's parade host, the Seymour Area Chamber of Commerce is honored to provide all of the proceeds from the parade to needy families in the Seymour area. Please visit the Chamber's Facebook page for more information and pictures of the winning floats: www.facebook.com/seymourareachamber and <https://www.facebook.com/kdphotosvs> for all the exciting photos from the day's event.

Steeldrivers to headline Sevierville festival

Sevierville's Bloomin' Barbeque & Bluegrass (May 16 and 17, 2014) festival has announced the entertainment lineup for its tenth annual event, including a headline performance from rising bluegrass supergroup, The SteelDrivers.

Festivities and music get underway in downtown Sevierville, Tennessee on Friday, May 16 at 5p.m. with a live performance from Grammy winning and national fingerpicking champion, Bill Mize. The Jeanette Williams Band and Jimbo Whaley & Greenbrier will follow Mize before Russell Moore & Illrd Tyme Out close out Friday night's show.

On Saturday, the festivities get started with 13-year old banjo phenomenon Willow Osborne, five-time IBMA vocalist of the year Dale Ann Bradley and Chris Jones & The Night Drivers, led by SiriusXM Bluegrass Junction show host Chris Jones.

Bloomin' BBQ & Bluegrass is a family-friendly event featuring the biggest names in Bluegrass music, up-and-coming artists on the Hard Rock Café Community Stage, the nation's top BBQ cook teams in the Bush's Best Tennessee State Championship Cook-Off, and the Mountain Soul Vocal Competition honoring the songwriting of Sevierville's favorite hometown girl, Dolly Parton. Learn more at www.BloominBBQ.com.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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Commissioner
Mike Brown



Merry Christmas!

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Kelly Berry
Director of Community Outreach & Aftercare

Jeffrey Berry
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PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS.

Mayor Rogero speaks before breaking ground on Bishop Street.

New ETHDC Homes Coming to Lonsdale

Mayor Madeline Rogero joined officials from the East Tennessee Housing Development Corporation December 19 to break ground on two new houses that ETHDC is building on lots in the Lonsdale neighborhood.

The two lots are located at 3425 and 3435 Bishop St. The homes are expected to be priced at \$110,000. They are currently planned as three bedrooms, two baths, and approximately 1,176 square feet.

ETHDC is a private, non-profit agency funded by the City of Knoxville as a Community Housing

Development Organization. It receives federal funds through the City to construct quality, energy-efficient homes for first-time, low-income home buyers. It has maintained a targeted, sustained effort in the Lonsdale community over the past several years.

By providing Energy Star Homes, ETHDC not only offers residents a well-built house, but also features that ensure buyers monthly savings on utility costs. When compared to renting or living in an older home, these savings can be significant.

Scarecrow Foundation ready for new year

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

"No one should go to bed hungry."

It's a simple statement that everyone can agree with, yet we still have hunger. Jimmy Buckner and the Scarecrow Foundation are doing something about it. Over the past couple of years the non-profit group has organized and sponsored dozens of events and, in 2014, are hoping for even more.

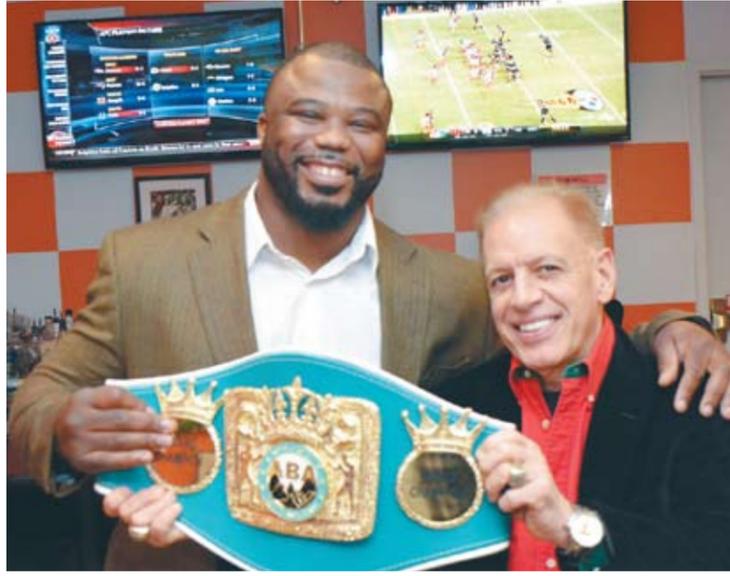
For each event, be it "Downtown Derby," "Gator Hator Week," or others, the Scarecrow Foundation organizes and promotes the events with the proceeds going to local groups working to feed the hungry.

Buckner said the last two years have been a work on "Branding" the organization, which has no headquarters or staff. Everyone is a volunteer, including professional and business people, organizations, local celebrities, etc. Many people become "Scarecrow Ambassadors" and among them are folks like heavy weight boxing champion Alonzo "Big Oz" Butler, Spanky Brown, Eric Baker, and many more.

"Entertainment with a Purpose" is Scarecrow's motto. Buckner said he gets lot of cooperation from the University of Tennessee and that many events attract young people from campus who can quickly get involved in helping to feed hungry people.

"They can touch hunger, on the front lines," he said.

A couple of projects in 2014 will include a fund raiser for Scarecrow



Recently, Alonzo Butler visited Doc's All American Grille (pictured above with Dr. John Staley). Butler is an ambassador the Scarecrow Foundation, which promotes "entertainment with purpose." The organization's primary goal is to end hunger in America. They work together with local athletes, musicians, comedians, and civic and business leaders to raise awareness and funds for other local non-profits also committed to fighting hunger.

that has not been done before. "We haven't asked anyone for anything (in the past)" he said.

Another project being considered is a website and promotion of a "Scarecrow Diet.Com" that will encourage and guide people toward improving their health as they also volunteer at local hunger agencies.

"It will be our first national program," he said. There's also talk of an idea called "Scarecrow Stables" that would involve horse racing with Scarecrow silks being worn by jockeys.

Scarecrow supports existing

organizations, like The Love Kitchen and others, who provide food for the needy, homeless, and the hungry.

Last year's events included Hip Hop for Hunger, Downtown Derby Week, Gator Hator Golf Classic, Scarecrow Madness, Scarecrow Fantasy Football, Scarecrow Poker Classic, and the Scarecrow Bowling Classic.

"No one should go hungry, it's as simple as that," he said.

You can get involved by calling (865)250-3313 or go to www.scarecrowfoundation.org.

What traffic fatality signs don't tell us

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

You know you've seen those large fatality signs over our interstates, displaying the total number of traffic deaths in our state, comparing this year to last year. Oddly enough the number killed last year has gone up occasionally. Every wonder why?

If it happened last year wouldn't it remain the same?

The number of deaths displayed on the signs reflect the number of people killed in highway or road wrecks as of the

date you see them. So, if three deaths took place on December 24th last year (2012) those three would not be counted and displayed until Dec. 24, 2013.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol announced recently that 198 people died in alcohol related crashes in the state so far in 2013. The previous year the total was 295 and the year before that the number was 259. State trooper cars will be displaying red ribbons over the holidays, part of the Mothers Against Drunk Driving "Tie One On

For Safety." campaign. Two years ago 28 people were killed on Tennessee roadways due to drunk driving.

Overall Knox County saw the second highest number of road fatalities so far this year, a total of 55 deaths, second only to Davidson County, but an increase in Knox of seven fatalities.

The deadly bus crash on I-40 near Dandridge this year saw 8 deaths, some of them passenger in the bus, the number of deaths in bus wreck jumped from 8 last year to 13 so far this year. The number

of deaths in large truck crashes remained about the same.

According to the Tennessee Department of Safety, as of Friday, Dec. 13th, 940 souls left this earth so far this year, compared to 970 last year. What those figures don't tell you is there was, so far, a slight decrease in the number of teen drivers involved, 83 instead of 110, but the number of senior drivers involved has increased, from 187 last year to 206 this year.

Could it be the senior death rate on our roads is

because there are more seniors now driving? The "boomers," make up about 27% of our national population now and certainly a much higher number of drivers and boomers, those 65 or over, drive 17% more often than the others. The figures reflect not only "boomers" but also those older seniors who continue to drive.

Urban traffic deaths have increased from 453 to 490 while deaths on rural roads dropped from 517 to 450. The number of pedestrians killed increased by 10, from 65

to 75 while the number of pedal cyclist remained at 8 for both years.

Although the number of motorcyclist killed remained about the same, 138 and 132, the number of ATV riders jumped from 10 in 2012 to 16 this year.

August saw the largest number of road deaths during this year but December saw the least.

The lesson in all these statistics is slow down, be courteous, be careful, and don't drink and drive. And, if you are 65 or older, be more careful.

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Halls Business & Professional Christmas Banquet

The Halls Business & Professional Association held their Annual Christmas Banquet on Friday, December 6 at the Beaver Brook Golf & Country Club in Halls.

The guest speaker for the evening was John Becker, anchor for WBIR-TV. John reflected on his experiences making the award winning series "Services and Sacrifices," the Honor Air Program, his political weekly roundtable, his love of pets, and holidays in Knoxville.

The Halls Woman Of The Year was Terry Carr, a teacher at Brickey School for 34 years and recently co-chair of the Halls Crossroads Women's League "Closet," providing clothing for those in need in our area.

The Man Of The Year was Judge Dale Workman, retiring this year after 30 years in public service in Knox County. He has served a law director, and circuit court judge, as well as serving as chair of the Dogwood Art Festival, and numerous

other community organizations.

The incoming officers for 2014 were announced: President Bob Crye, Vice President Pam Johnson, Secretary Michelle Wilson, Treasurer David Buckner, and Board Members: Sandy Cates, Ted Hatfield, Robert Hubbs, Karen Hurley, Ernie Joyner, Sue Walker, Travis Woody, Denise Girard, and Shannon Carey.

Presentation Of The Colors was by Troop 506, of the Christ United Methodist Church in Halls.

The Halls Business & Professional Association is composed of business, professional, and residents of Halls and surrounding areas. It holds the annual Christmas parade, Good Friday Prayer Breakfast, and supports numerous community projects. Meetings are held at noon on the third Tuesday monthly at the Beaver Brook Golf & Country Club in Halls.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

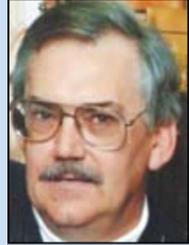
Take a last look. The former Baptist Hospital, just across the river from downtown, changes hands today. The buyers, Blanchard and Calhoun, plan to start demolition in February, making way for a hotel, retail businesses, and a river walk. The main hospital building will come down, as will the motel, but some buildings will remain.

A Surprise Visit by Santa

I was at a local shopping mall recently watching the children line up for a photo with Santa. Some were thrilled, some were frightened, but all the parents were proud and anxious. The little ones squirmed and fidgeted but, somehow, each photo turned out well.

Seeing that took me back to my childhood and my own questions about

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

Santa. But when I was 12 or 13, my questions were answered for a few years. I'm four years older than my brother and he was about 8 years old

that cold snowy Christmas. He has been asking the same questions we all had asked, like "How can Santa visit every house in one night?"

Or, "how come we saw Santa at the store and then saw him again ringing a bell at another store?"

It was Christmas Eve and my family was watching television when the back door opened and Santa walked into our house. Leading up to that visit, only two things were on my brother's mind: the one

about Santa and another about a mysterious package he had received that was marked "Fragile, Do Not Shake." What was in the present was a huge question to him, but he did as requested and didn't shake or rattle the gift.

Tom, my brother, reminded me that the gift had stamps on it and apparently came by mail. I had secretly bought him an Etch A Sketch and, when he finally opened the gift I had sketched "From Mike."

"It drove me nuts trying to figure out what was in the package. You were collecting stamps then," he reminded me this week.

The week before my brother came home from school crying. He told our mother that someone at school had said there was no Santa Claus. The sudden appearance at our home of Santa delayed my brother's doubts for a year

or so and caused my sister and I to renew our belief briefly.

My brother asked our mother why Santa was at our house so early that Christmas Eve and she replied that he had lots of homes to visit and had to start somewhere.

I thought about running out to see him fly off with his reindeer but didn't. The magic was too real to be fooled with and my brother's childhood memory became a permanent memory.

I recalled that Christmas often, but never more than when a neighbor and friend of my wife and I passed away a couple years ago. He was a small, round, and jolly man with a beautiful white beard. He was a "Santa helper" in churches, malls, and businesses throughout East Tennessee. I spent many hours with him as a neighbor and friend and we were so sad to hear of his passing.

That Christmas memory prompted to call my brother, who lives in Louisiana and can't make it here for the holiday, to talk about the time Santa came to our home for Christmas. He remembered it better than I did. I had forgotten about the Etch-A-Sketch and the stamp collecting, but remembered Santa coming to our home. How can anyone forget that?

Memories like that stay with you. And me.

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Governor Ben W. Hooper

Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

For years, Ben W. Hooper was the most successful Republican politician in the state of Tennessee, if the measure was the ability to win a statewide election. A fiery and dynamic speaker, Hooper was a successful lawyer, yet he had overcome serious adversity to rise to prominence.

In fact, he came into this world with a different name entirely: Bennie Walter Wade. Born October 13, 1870, Ben W. Hooper was the child of Sarah Wade and Dr. Lemuel Washington Hooper. Hooper was the child of scandal, as his parents were not married at the time of his birth and Dr. Hooper was actually engaged to another woman. Sarah did her best to care for her child, restlessly moving from Jefferson City to New Market, and finally to Knoxville. Despite her best efforts, Sarah found she could not support herself and her child and gave the boy to the St. John's Orphanage in Knoxville, which was run by the Episcopal Church. It was an experience which profoundly affected Ben Hooper and many years later he wrote his autobiography, which was entitled, *The Unwanted Boy*.

Fortunately, young Ben was retrieved by his natural father when he was nine and, oddly, legally adopted. Dr. Hooper raised Ben in Newport and provided him with the necessities of life and a strict Baptist environment. Ben struggled with the circumstances of his birth, yet it also seemed to give him the motivation to make something out of his life. Apparently, Ben Hooper forgave his father for he named one of his sons after his father.

Hooper graduated from Carson Newman College and later studied law under the supervision of Judge Horace N. Cate.

Young Ben Hooper also demonstrated his personal popularity in his home community, winning a seat in the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1892 when he was only twenty-two years old. Hooper was reelected to a second term in 1894, the same year he was admitted to the Bar to commence the practice of law.

Like many another young man, Ben Hooper felt the pull of service to his country with the outbreak of the Spanish - American War, the conflict which brought Theodore Roosevelt and the charge up San Juan Hill to the country's notice. Hooper served under another Tennessean who would go on to further acclaim and political success, Colonel Lawrence D. Tyson.

After returning home,

Hooper secured a position as an assistant to the U. S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee. Hooper remained in that post for four years, leaving in 1910 when he made a bid for the governorship.

Success in politics has much to do with timing and the state of Tennessee's Democratic Party was rife with infighting and political warfare. Democrats had been bitterly divided in 1908 when former U. S. senator Edward Ward Carmack had challenged Governor Malcolm Rice Patterson for renomination. The contest had been fiercely fought, largely around the issue of prohibition. Carmack championed the dry forces, claiming Governor Patterson was little more than a tool of the liquor interests. Following his loss, Carmack became the editor of the Nashville Tennessean, a perch he used to torture Governor Patterson and his friends. Carmack's poisonous editorials were such that his own friends counseled him not to go about the city without a gun. It was dubious advice and Carmack did indeed travel the streets of Nashville armed, although in the end it did him little good. Carmack had the misfortune to see Colonel Duncan B. Cooper on a Nashville street; Colonel Cooper, the victim of several of Carmack's acidulous editorials was righteously indignant. The chance meeting erupted into angry tempers and gunfire. When he encountered Colonel Duncan B. Cooper and his son Robin, Carmack apparently fired first, but proved to be less of a marksman than Robin Cooper. Carmack managed to wound the younger Cooper, but Robin fired several shots, killing Carmack, who fell into the gutter, dead.

Charges against Robin Cooper were dismissed on a technicality and Governor Patterson came to the rescue of his friend Colonel Cooper, by pardoning him. Colonel Cooper's pardon caused many Tennessee Democrats to reel in disbelief and outrage. The outcry was such that Malcolm Patterson, running for a third two-year term in 1910, had to withdraw as a candidate.

With the Democrats so deeply divided, it seemed like the Republican nomination might be worth something that year and Ben W. Hooper had become a candidate. He faced veteran politician and former Congressman Alf A. Taylor for the GOP nomination. Taylor was one of the most formidable figures in Tennessee politics, having contested his own brother, Robert Love Taylor, for the governorship in the famous "War of the Roses". Despite being the minority party in Tennessee, Republicans had their own divisions and two of the most powerful party leaders, Congressman Walter P. Brownlow and Chattanooga industrialist Newell Sanders, were battling for supremacy. Alf Taylor was supported by the faction headed by Congressman Brownlow, while Newell Sanders strongly backed Hooper for the GOP gubernatorial nomination. Sanders cleverly blended together a confection of Republicans and dissident

Democrats opposed to the administration of Governor Patterson. The "Independent Democrats" and Republicans became a "fusion" ticket and helped propel Hooper to the GOP nomination. It would also lead to success in the general election.

With Malcolm Patterson's withdrawal, Tennessee Democrats scrambled to find a nominee who could win the general election and perhaps unite the shattered party. Ironically, they settled upon Alf Taylor's brother, former three-term governor and incumbent United States senator, Robert Love Taylor. Senator Taylor required a good deal of convincing, having spent years trying to make it to the United States Senate. Very reluctantly, Bob Taylor agreed to make yet another campaign for governor.

Hooper waged an effective campaign, lambasting the Patterson administration in specific and corruption in general. Thought to be one of the most popular individuals in Tennessee, Bob Taylor anticipated a close election, but ultimately expected to win. He and just about every other Democrat in Tennessee was stunned, when he lost to Hooper. Hooper won just over 133,000 votes, while Taylor garnered over 121,000 votes. Ben W. Hooper was the first Republican to win the governorship in Tennessee since the election of Alvin Hawkins in 1880. Senator Taylor died not long after, some speculating he died of a broken heart from being rejected by his people.

Much to the horror of Tennessee Democrats, if losing the governorship to the Republicans wasn't bad enough, they had lost control of the House of Representatives where the Fusionists held a majority. The state senate was controlled by Democratic regulars, which enhanced the possibility for conflict. Despite the division in the legislature, Governor Hooper was able to pass several of his initiatives. Prior to his election, state law allowed employers to pay someone else other than a female employee; the money for the woman's work could go to a relative or a husband, rather than to the woman doing the work. Governor Hooper sought to change the law, requiring employers to pay the female employee directly and the legislature agreed. Hooper also urged the legislature to pass a bill to authorize localities to be able to issue bonds to pay for the construction of much needed hospitals and buy property for schools. The governor was also successful in getting the Tennessee General Assembly to pass a law for pure food and drugs at a time when there was virtually no government regulation of the purity of either.

1911 also saw the election of a senator of the United States from Tennessee. Incumbent James Beriah Frazier of Chattanooga had himself been a former governor and wanted very much to be reelected, but he suffered from his alliance with the late Senator E. W. Carmack. It soon became clear even regular

Democrats would not support him for reelection and he withdrew as a candidate. Tennessee Democrats suffered yet another significant political setback when the Fusionists elected Luke Lea, the thirty-year old owner of the Nashville Tennessean, as the new senator. When Senator Robert Love Taylor died unexpectedly in Washington, D. C., Governor Hooper filled the vacancy by appointing his mentor and patron, Newell Sanders to the vacancy in April of 1912. The Fusionists held both Senate seats and the governorship.

Tennessee Democrats furiously attempted to reclaim the governor's office in 1912 and nominated Benton McMillin, the Old Warhorse of the Democratic Party. McMillin had served in Congress for twenty years before being elected governor and serving two terms. McMillin readily answered the call of his party and campaigned hard. The national Republican Party was seriously divided in 1912 with former President Theodore Roosevelt running against incumbent President William Howard Taft on the Progressive or "Bull Moose" ticket. Democrats hoped the national split in the GOP would affect Hooper's reelection campaign and a Progressive was nominated for governor. It did not help the Democrats as Hooper won with 124,641 votes to McMillin's 116,610 votes. The Progressive candidate, William Poston received a meager 4,483 votes.

Governor Hooper began his second term with legislation to help reform education in Tennessee. Hooper insisted children between the ages of eight and fourteen be legally required to attend school. Governor Hooper also placed the responsibility for the transportation of students on local school boards. Hooper signed legislation to provide inspections of state banks, as well as creating a system to allow convicts to receive a parole. Governor Hooper also changed the method of execution for those convicts unlucky enough to receive the death penalty; instead of hanging, they would be electrocuted in the future.

Governor Hooper authorized pensions for not only the veterans of the Civil War, but also for the widows of veterans. Having originally been elected to office over the tumult of prohibition, Ben W. Hooper gleefully presided over changes in Tennessee's liquor laws. Tennessee banned the interstate shipment of alcoholic beverages. Hooper also supported legislation allowing as few as ten citizens to seek the closure of gambling dens and saloons.

Ben W. Hooper sought a third two-year term in 1914 and Tennessee Democrats nominated Tom C. Rye for governor. Unlike Benton McMillin and Robert L. Taylor, Rye was a fresh face. Rye was aided in his gubernatorial campaign when Democrats adopted prohibition as part of their official platform, cutting the high ground out from under Governor Hooper.

Hooper narrowly lost his bid for reelection, garnering 116,667 votes to Rye's



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Former Governor Ben W. Hooper of Tennessee, 1922

137,656 votes.

Ben Hooper returned to Newport, but he had not given up his interest in politics and watched yet another serious division in Tennessee's Democratic Party erupt as Senator Luke Lea had to face voters in 1916. For the first time in the state's history, Tennesseans would be popularly electing a member of the United States Senate. Senator Lea badly wished to be reelected, but his constant interference in party affairs and history as a Fusionist caused many regular Democrats to loathe him. Former Governor Malcolm Patterson thought the time right to attempt a comeback and he entered the primary contest. A third candidate emerged in the person of Memphis Congressman Kenneth D. McKellar. Both Lea and Patterson hated one another and paid little attention to Congressman McKellar, who was able to promote himself as the "harmony" candidate, as well as the Democrat best able to win the general election.

Former Governor Ben W. Hooper decided the divisions inside Tennessee's Democratic Party might once again be the key to victory in November. So many Tennessee Democrats wanted rid of Luke Lea they arranged for the primary election to be held in 1915, a year in advance of the general election. There was also a provision for a run-off election, meaning the two top vote getters in the primary would face each other in another election.

Senator Lea ran a poor third in the Democratic contest and to the surprise of virtually everyone, Congressman McKellar won East and West Tennessee and ran first. McKellar and Patterson, who had carried Middle Tennessee, faced one another in the run off election. Once again, McKellar carried East and West Tennessee and beat Patterson to become the Democratic nominee.

With the nomination of McKellar, Hooper's hopes of being elected to the United States Senate faded. Had he faced either Lea or Patterson, both of whom had serious liabilities as candidates, Hooper might have won. Still, he ran a credible race in the general election, winning 44% of

the vote, the best showing of any GOP candidate for the United States Senate until Howard Baker's race in 1964.

The election of a Republican president in 1920 led to Hooper being appointed to the national Railroad Labor Board. Later, Hooper became the chief purchasing agent in the acquisition of land for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Hooper held that lucrative post until the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932.

Hooper attempted a political comeback in 1934 and there was even an effort to revive the old Fusionist movement in Tennessee. Lewis Pope had run for governor of Tennessee multiple times and failed to win the nomination; Pope had a habit of bolting the party in the general election and was again furious at having lost to Governor Hill McAlister. Pope ran in the general election as an Independent and allied himself with Ben W. Hooper, who was the Republican nominee for U. S. senator against K. D. McKellar.

The two waged a loud campaign against McAlister and McKellar, but both lost badly. It was the end of Hooper's political career. He did serve as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1953, which included both former governors Prentice Cooper and Jim Nance McCord. Cooper presided as Chairman, while Hooper was accorded the post of Vice Chairman.

Hooper spent his latter years practicing law, spending time with his wife Anna Belle and their six children and numerous grandchildren. Ben W. Hooper succumbed to pneumonia and died on April 18, 1957; he was eighty-six years old.

The story of Ben W. Hooper is a classic American rise from shame and poverty to success. Ben Hooper was one of the most popular politicians in the state for some time and remained a highly respected statesman in his later years. Despite being a member of the minority party and oftentimes facing a contentious legislature, Governor Hooper left behind a progressive legacy in many respects.

Snug in their beds

It's here, whether we are ready for it or not. Christmas 2013 is much like all the other ones. It sneaks up on us as if it changed dates every year. Too many people



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

just want it to be over so that they can rest from all the shopping marathons. Others are exhausted from worrying about whether the gifts they've bought meet expectations. Another surprise is just how the family Christmas changes over the years.

When Lacey was born, Amy and I loaded her up, along with a compact car filled with presents, and motored a hundred miles to Cookeville. There, Amy's mother and Papa anxiously awaited the arrival of their only grandchild. On Christmas Eve, we sat

down to the traditional meal for the family. We supped on fried eggs, biscuits, country ham, and red-eye gravy. The grand finale took place in the den as the grandparents passed out presents to us.

On Christmas morning, we rose early, loaded the car, and made the drive back to Knoxville. Mother, my brothers, and their wives waited for our arrival. As soon as we pulled into the driveway, Jim directed everyone to the living room, and Mother sat cross-legged in the floor and handed out gifts to all. In a half hour, wrapping paper and empty boxes littered the floor. The family matriarch retired to the kitchen where she cooked breakfast for the family and then set about finishing items for Christmas dinner. By 2:00

p.m., our family had driven to our house for naps.

When Lacey turned 3, Amy announced to her parents that our daughter would be home on Christmas morning. That meant that her parents, along with her aunt and uncle, would do the traveling from then on. They might not have liked the change, but it was a small price to pay to see Lacey, and later Dallas, open Santa Claus' gifts. We then went to Mother's house for a second round of presents, and she invited everyone to dinner as well. For three or four days, kids slept on the floor and visitors took over their beds or sofas. It was like a scene from "Christmas Vacation."

The loss of family members changed Christmas for our family. Papa, my mother, and then Amy's mother all passed, and the pain of their absences those first

Christmases was almost unbearable. For me, however, the most excruciating Christmas occurred when my older brother Dal fought cancer. He'd been in and out of the hospital since Labor Day, and he gave his best efforts to make the holiday joyful. Only a few days later, he passed, and the loneliness that invaded Christmas lasted for several years.

Our family Christmases chugged along with a normal rhythm for several years. Even after Lacey and Dallas left for college, they traveled home for a few days and humored Amy and me and our sometimes trying ways. All the time, I worried about presents and whether everyone received what he or she wanted most. By the time the big day arrived, I was exhausted, even though Amy did most of the shopping.

Then Madden arrived.

Lacey pulled the same logic on us that we'd used on Amy's parents. Our daughter's family would spend the holidays at home in Nashville. For a bit, I was dumbfounded and just a little miffed at our Christmas tradition being shaken to the core. However, it didn't take long to get on board with the new way. Dallas made the journey from Chattanooga, and we all were cozy and happy. The biggest thrill came as we watched Madden open up his presents from Santa. Later, the family gathered for dinner and company.

Of only one thing I'm sure: Christmases to come will again be filled with change. Dallas might someday have a family of his own. Then we'll have to decide where the family will gather. I've decided not to worry any longer about things out

of my control. Now, what I like best of all is knowing that wherever we gather, my children and grandson are snug in their beds on Christmas Eve. It's then that I give the biggest thank-you to the Lord for all of the gifts He's given to me. Merry Christmas! I hope you find joy and peace.

P.S. I've just released my latest book in e-book version only. "Angst, Anger, and Answers" is a young adult novel about bullying and dealing with tough times during the middle school and high school years. It appeals to young people and might give some insight into their feeling to parents. Check out Amazon Kindle or go to Smashwords.com. It's a good, inexpensive Christmas gift.

Narrative Medicine Topic at Next Writers Meeting

Poet Donna Doyle and Ronald Lands, M.D. will speak about narrative medicine at the next Knoxville Writers' Guild meeting.

The event, which will be open to the public, begins at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 2, at the Laurel Theater, at the corner of Laurel Avenue and 16th Street in Fort Sanders.

A \$2 donation is requested at the door. The building is handicapped accessible. Additional parking is available at Redeemer Church of Knoxville, 1642 Highland Ave.

"Dr. Lands and I will be talking about narrative

medicine - in theory and in practice. Of course, we'll represent different perspectives - physician, patient, caregiver, etc...." Doyle said. "We'll both read from our own medical-themed writings. We will address if/how working in a medical environment has improved our writing."

Doyle's medical-themed poetry has been used in workshops, support groups, medical conferences and medical newsletters. She facilitates poetry workshops in health-care settings and mentors health sciences students

in the practice of narrative medicine. Annually, she serves as a judge for the Tennessee ACP's narrative medicine writing contest. She is poet-in-residence at UT Graduate School of Medicine's Preston Medical

Library where she manages an author reading/conversation series - "Literary Rounds: Where Medicine Mingles with the Muse."

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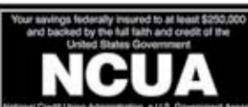
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PHOTO BY POLLY BURCH

With Henry County defenders in his wake, West halfback Nathan Cottrell runs into the end zone for a touchdown in this year's Class 5A state title game. West lost to Henry County 28-27, but Cottrell will be among the Rebels' returnees who could earn another title shot in 2014.

Injuries hurt West in first trip to state finals

By Steve Williams

Reflecting on West's 28-27 loss to Henry County in this year's TSSAA Class 5A state football title game, Coach Scott Cummings, in an e-mail, said, "Story of the game may have been our defensive injuries.

"Losing Max Bacon early was a killer. He was our second leading tackler, had six interceptions and was our secondary's leader. Then Noah Hoxie hurt his hip and couldn't run. We already didn't have Alex Burch. Khalil Watford had to go out awhile with an ankle. Shawn Highfill hurt his shoulder late, too.

Crazy."

West, playing in its first-ever state finals, took a 14-0 lead in the opening eight minutes at Tennessee Tech's Tucker Stadium in Cookeville.

"We jumped on them early, but Henry County was resilient in coming back harder," said Cummings. "Give their kids a ton of credit for effort."

In a thrilling finish, the Rebels, trailing by one, got to Patriots' 27-yard line and were close to field goal range but lost 12 yards on a second down play when the ball was knocked out of their

quarterback's grasp.

"Yes, I was thinking field goal at the end," said Cummings. "We still had a timeout, and if we hadn't lost all those yards, we would have had time to center the ball and call the timeout for a reasonable field goal try. After the loss of yardage, it would have been from 57 yards and just too long.

"Kids were really crushed over losing. Some didn't handle it the way I would have liked. But most were true men and showed tons of character."

With 11 starters returning, West might get another

state title shot in 2014. The Rebels' offensive returnees will include quarterback Seth Marshall and speedy halfback Nathan Cottrell, plus tight end Cameron Trainer, center Blake Easley, guard Ryan Perry and tackle Isaiah Mobley. Defensively, Bacon, Burch and Johnny Pridemore will be back in the secondary and Hoxie and Highfill as linebackers.

CHEROKEES ENCOURAGED: South-Doyle Coach Clark Duncan, whose team lost 32-27 at Anderson County in the second round

Continue on page 2

Area hockey teams open 20-14 at Hockey Hoe Down



Austin Bachleda and the Bearden/Karns Ice Dawgs will open 2014 in the sixth annual Hockey Hoe Down. Tournament play opens Jan. 3. The event's field includes teams from Knoxville, Nashville, Memphis and Kentucky. Photo/D.Andrews.

By Ken Lay

Area High School hockey teams will open the New Year by playing in the sixth annual Hockey Hoe Down.

Hockey Hoe Down '14 will be held Jan. 1-3 at Cool Sports at the Icearium and will be the biggest high school tournament to be played in Knoxville.

The 12-team field includes 2013 champion Farragut, the Knoxville Warriors (who won in 2012), the Knoxville Knights and the Bearden/Karns Ice Dawgs.

In addition, eight other teams will be in the field, including Station Camp/Beech, Father Ryan, the Owensboro Rampage (Ky.), the Winston-Salem Ice Hawks, the Music City Marauders, Franklin/Oakland, Hendersonville and the North Mississippi Monarchs from Memphis.

"This is the most teams we've ever had and this is the biggest tournament we've ever had in Knoxville," Knoxville Amateur Hockey Association High School Director John Johannes said. "I started this

tournament to give the Knoxville teams a chance to play in a tournament atmosphere.

"I did this to give the Knoxville teams a chance to play against other teams instead of beating up on each other all the time."

High school hockey has grown since the Nashville Predators joined the National Hockey League in 1997.

"There used to be seven high school teams in Nashville and since the Predators came in, there are now 24. The top teams in Nashville only play against themselves," Johannes said. "This isn't the top tier of teams but this is the second tier of teams from Nashville, Knoxville and Memphis."

The Hockey Hoe Down, which opens at 3 p.m. on Jan. 3 and continues through Jan. 3, is a labor of love for Johannes and KAHA director Scott Ingmand.

"We don't make a dime off of this and if we didn't have Cool Sports, we wouldn't be able to do this," Johannes said. "Hockey is

a tough sport to play and it's expensive.

"The ice is also expensive, so if you don't love the sport, then you won't play. I do this to give back to a sport that meant so much to my son."

Johannes' son played for Bearden and Ingmand's son also played in the league. Both, however, have moved on but the two fathers have stayed on to watch the league grow and change for the better.

"It [hockey] taught my son to compete and win and lose," Johannes said. "He learned that things don't always go your way."

Jim Johannes developed a passion for the game and is now an avid Pittsburgh Penguins fan.

Ingmand and his wife are also active in the league.

The tournament falls in the middle of the high school season in Knoxville.

League games are played on Thursday nights and league play continues on Jan. 9.

Cherokees Use Press to Rout Beavers

By David Klein

Stifling. Pressure packed. Those are words to describe South-Doyle's full-court press. Thursday night at South Doyle, the Cherokees used that press to force the Karns Beavers into turnover after turnover as they soundly defeated the Beavers 74-47.

"The press is what gives us going, that's what gives us our momentum, that's definitely our bread and butter," Cherokees' Head Coach Abby Williams said. The Cherokees started off slow as they only led 15-11 at the end of the first quarter. However, they used a 16-5 run to begin the second quarter and start to pull away from the Beavers. The Cherokees led 35-21 at halftime.

The Cherokees' Karen Donehew scored 17 points in the first half on the way to finishing with a game high 32 points. "She came to play tonight," Williams said. "When she can put points on the board, she sets the tone for our team and we kinda follow her steps."

South-Doyle scored the first five points of the second half. The Beavers' Armonie Yarbrough put a temporary stop to the Cherokees' momentum, converting a three-point play at the foul line after a successful layup. However, the Cherokees kept up their damage with the full-court press and pushed their lead to 20 points by the third quarter's end.

South-Doyle's reserves played a large part of the fourth quarter as the Cherokees finished off the Beavers 74-47. Yarbrough finished with 20 points for the Beavers.

South-Doyle improved to 5-7 and goes up to Daniel Boone next week to play in a Christmas tournament.

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Former hoops standout Greene honored by Bearden

By Ken Lay

Ty Greene's name will be forever remembered in the history of Bearden High School boys basketball.

Greene, a 2011 Bearden graduate, returned home and was honored before the Bulldogs' game against Alcoa on Monday, Dec. 16. He was humbled by the experience.

"I'm nervous about this," Greene said before a ceremony that put his name and number in the rafters of the Bearden High School Gymnasium. "It's a huge honor and I just want to thank all my coaches and teammates."

It was Greene's second trip to Knoxville in the last month. He's now a junior at the University of South Carolina-Upstate. He and the Spartans played a

game against Tennessee at Thompson-Boling Arena in mid-November.

Greene scored 15 points in USC-Upstate's 74-65 loss to the Volunteers on Nov. 16. The loss didn't make the contest any less special for Greene, who helped the Bulldogs make the Class AAA State Tournament during his sophomore, junior and senior seasons.

"It was great to come back and play against Tennessee," Greene said. "I had always dreamed about that."

Greene's Bearden teams went 135-13. He's the Bulldogs' 11th leading scorer. He finished with 1,369 points. He's second in school history in 3-point field goals and third in free throw percentage (82 percent).

He was a two-time all-

state performer at Bearden and was the 2011-12 Atlantic Sun Conference Freshman of the Year.

And his offense was only part of his stellar career according to Bulldogs' coach Mark Blevins.

"I always assigned him to guard the opponents' best players," said Blevins, who emceed the ceremony that honored Greene and his family. "He was a great player but he's also a great grandson, son and brother."

"He's one of the Magnificent Seven players at Bearden High School."

The feeling was mutual. "Coach Blevins was the best coach I've ever had and he taught me a lot."

"These were the best four years of my life and coach Blevins was the hardest coach that I've ever played

for. He knows how to get his point across. On the court, he's all business but he loves us all like sons."

Greene may have had a stellar career at Bearden but his scholastic basketball career had humble beginnings at West Valley Middle School where he played for former Catholic High School coach Chuck Comer.

"Coach Comer is a great coach," Greene said. "He gave me the fundamentals and he picked me as a sixth grader. I was the second sixth grader to play at West Valley."

Last Monday was truly a big night for the Greene family. Ty was honored along with his grandparents, parents and brother Sam, who also played basketball for the Bulldogs.

Coaching and winning doesn't get old for Webb's Meske

By Steve Williams

Dave Meske recently completed his 29th season as head football coach at Webb School with another state championship. He now has a 6-2 record in eight TSSAA state title appearances since starting at Webb in 1984.

"We've been fortunate," said Meske, whose Spartans pulled away for a 28-14 win over St. George's Independent School in this year's TSSAA Division II-A title game.

His job and the success his teams have achieved never gets old.

"Every year is a different year, because the boys are different," says Meske. "You have different personalities to coach."

Webb's winning ways also have produced another change.

"It (state title) is a little more expected now," said Meske. "In 1996, it was a surprise when we beat Goodpasture."

The 27-20 victory over Goodpasture was Meske's first state crown as Webb coach. It came in Class 2A, when Tennessee had five classifications and the last year public and private schools competed together in the playoffs.

This season's championship is the Spartans' fourth in the past five seasons.

"There's a little more pressure to perform on a high level now and we're expected to win state," added Meske. "It's a good pressure. Maryville has it. Alcoa has it. Now we have it."

A bigger offensive line helped pave the way for Webb's success in 2013,

pointed out Meske. That group included junior center Gage Thompson (5-11, 280), senior right guard Andrew Campbell (6-0, 220), junior left guard Brant Mitchell (6-2, 245), junior right tackle Cole Sams (6-5, 300) sophomore left tackle Andrew Craig (6-4, 210) and junior tight end Liam Wiloughby (6-3, 215).

Meske believes Craig could develop into quite a prospect. "He could be 6-6" before he stops growing," said the coach.

Meske also praised Jay Moore, his defensive line coach for 15 years. Webb runs a 4-3 and the front four did a good job of "keeping blockers off our linebackers," he said.

The Spartans' Todd Kelly Jr. (offense) and Matthew Melton (defense) earned MVP honors in the title game and fullback-kicker Robby Strachan also contributed significantly.

"Melton made the play of the game," pointed out Meske. "His interception in the third quarter, with the score 14-14, turned the game around."

Kelly, a UT commitment, rushed for 248 yards and three touchdowns as Webb (10-2) finished the season with a 10-game win streak after opening with back-to-back losses to Maryville and Baylor.

The dean of Knox County prep head coaches said what he'll remember most about this season's team is "the relationship with the players. We had eight seniors and all were wonderful. They were easy to coach and none were selfish."

Injuries hurt West in first trip to state finals

Cont. from page 1

of the Class 5A playoffs, believes his football program is on the right track.

"Looking back on the season and realizing the progress we made is very encouraging for the future of the South-Doyle football program," said Duncan in an e-mail. "I believe the experience our young men gained will help us continue to reach our goal, which is to advance deep into the playoffs and give ourselves a chance to win a state championship."

"This senior class has accomplished more than any other class in the history of South-Doyle football. They were the first class to win five games in a row, have back-to-back winning seasons, qualify for the TSSAA playoffs three years in a row and win in the first round in over 20 years."

"We hate to see this group of seniors go, but it is exciting to know we were predominantly a junior team. We will not graduate any of our skill players. Joe Bruce rushed for just under 2,000 yards and Brody Rollins for over 1,000 yards. We are excited about getting back into the weight room and getting ready for what we hope will be an exciting 2014 season."

Karns Uses Third Quarter Start to Pull Away from South-Doyle

By David Klein

Karns used their athleticism and defense to overcome South-Doyle Thursday night. The visiting Beavers flashed out to a 45-31 halftime lead en route to a non-conference 84-67 win over the Cherokees on Thursday, December 19. Guard Devin Sibley led the Beavers with 25 points.

Karns' full court press got the Beavers out to a roaring start. The pressure led to some easy baskets as Sibley scored nine first quarter points. The Beavers' lead at the end of the first quarter was 22-13.

The Cherokees made it interesting in the second quarter as they closed the gap to five points behind center Kean-dre Edkins' muscular inside game. Edkins scored six points during the Cherokees' rally. But the Beavers put a

stomp to that rally and went on a 12-4 run to end the first half.

Sibley put an exclamation point on the Beavers' run with a one-handed dunk just before the buzzer sounded. "My team wanted me to get some dunks. I want to do something fancy, if we're up by a lot, then I'll do it. If we're not, I'll just put em in."

Karns picked up the second half right where they left off in the first half. The Beavers went on an 8-2 run and pushed their lead to 20 points with 5:14 left in the third quarter. Other Beavers' players besides Sibley were getting involved in the offense as Blake Bowman drilled 2 3's to end the quarter. Bowman and Matt Larsen each had 10 points to give Karns three double-figure scorers in the game.

"Obviously I think we have one of the

better players around (in Sibley)," Karns Head Coach Lee Henson said. "We have so many role players, that if they're double-teaming him (Sibley), he finds them. They're getting better at knocking down shots as season progresses. Blake Bowman, he plays football, he's getting his basketball legs back."

Karns maintained a lead of 20 points or more right till the final buzzer, when the Cherokees' Cody Cummings made a three-pointer to make the final score 84-67 Karns.

Karns improved to 11-2, 7-0 in District 2AAA on the season while South Doyle fell to 3-8. Karns plays three games in three days starting Thursday, December 26. "They'll get the next three days off," Henson said. "We're a senior-laden team and they know what it takes I think, at this point."

Fast start propels Holston past Lady Bruins 35-22

By Ken Lay

A fast start has been a rarity for the Holston Middle School girls basketball season but the Lady Hurricanes came out hot and cruised to a 35-22 Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference victory at Bearden on Monday, Dec. 16.

"It was good for us to get off to the fast start," Holston coach Alex Walker said. "That wasn't something that we've done in the past this year."

"I don't think that we played as well as we've done in some games.

They beat Northwest by 30 and they beat Northwest by 10 but my girls are just starting to figure it all out."

The Lady Hurricanes (4-6 overall, 3-5 in the KCMSBC) figured things out early against the young Lady Bruins.

Holston outscored Bearden 11-3 in the first quarter and opened a 22-8 lead by halftime.

The Lady Hurricanes, who won't play again until Dec. 26 when they'll be in the Halls New Year's Classic on Dec. 26 at Halls High School, was able to extend their lead

to 30-10 by the end of the third quarter.

The Lady Bruins enjoyed a modest surge in the final stanza but it was too little too late.

Sierra Hucklebee scored a game-high 11 points for Holston. Jayda Fuqua added eight points for the Lady Hurricanes.

"Sierra is normally a softball player but she's improved a lot over last year," Walker said. "She does a great job and she plays hard in every game."

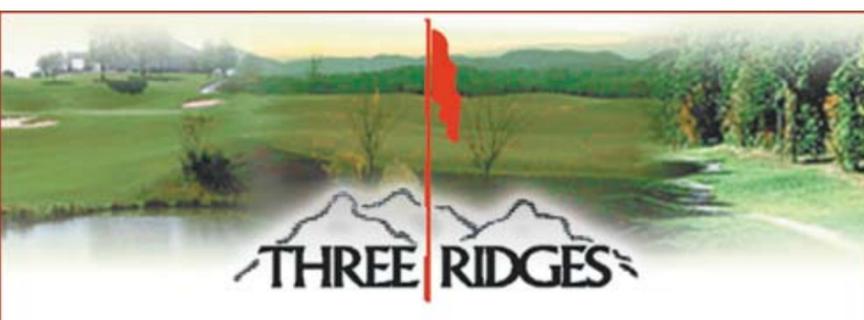
Offense was at a premium in this game but Holston kept up the

defensive pressure throughout the first 18 minutes of the contest.

The Lady Bruins had just two field goals before halftime. The first was by Kyeisha Dalton and came at the 1:57 mark of the first frame. Bearden got another basket by Kasiah Gordon in the second quarter.

The Lady Bruins were 4-for-6 at the foul line in the first half and scored just two points in the third quarter.

Dalton and Dimiya Smith scored six points each to lead the Lady Bruins.



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Here's hoping Santa will swoosh in to fulfill a wish

Dear Santa, I guess it was one day last spring when I walked into *The Knoxville Focus* office and saw this cute little black puppy.



By Steve Williams

At first, I thought she belonged to Rose King, who is in charge of our office and classifieds and a hundred and one other things at *The Focus*, but I soon found out Nike was a recent addition to the King household, rescued by Rose son Matthew, then a junior at Powell High School.

What an adorable puppy, I thought, and what a sporty name, taken right from the sports footwear and apparel giant.

From time to time, I have asked about Nike. She's fine, Rose has told me, except she keeps "leaving these little surprises," every now and then. Rose figured Nike would outgrow that, particularly after finding out the puppy was probably even younger than she was first thought to be.

Last Monday morning, however, when I was in the office, Rose told Bill Wright, a member of our sales staff, and I that her family was going to have to give up Nike and take her to Young-Williams Animal Shelter for adoption. I could tell it was painful for Rose to even say those words.

It's not that Nike isn't house-trained. It's because the family is so busy with work and school. Both mom and dad have full-time jobs, and with Matthew being accepted to East Tennessee State University, soon all three of the family's children will be in college. There's just no

one at home that much" to give Nike the training and attention a puppy needs I'd love to have Nike, but I have five cats, and I doubt Allie, Gracie, Pistol, Polly and Graham Cracker would think that's such a warm and fuzzy idea.

So, I had this idea, Santa. I told Rose I was going to be writing you a letter, and maybe you might be able to help find Nike a new home, one with younger children to play with and be loved by, and one where she could be let outside a little more often.

Rose liked the idea. I think she still believes in you, too. So, here's a little more info on Nike, and how she came into the lives of Matthew and the King family.

Nike is a Pomeranian-Jack Russell mix and about 7-8 months old. All of her shots are up to date. She weighs around 8 pounds, and probably won't get much bigger.

"Matthew and his friend, Cody, had just begun summer break between their junior and senior year," said Rose, recalling the day Nike was rescued. "They were going into Walmart to buy worms for a day of fishing. On their way in they came upon a box of puppies. They were told that the puppies would be going to the pound the next day. The boys brought the pair of sisters home with them.

"Matthew had just taken a Greek Mythology class, and learned that the name of his favorite brand shoe is

also the name of the goddess of victory. Because she was cute and victorious in her escape from a trip to the pound, and because we let him bring her home, Matt named her Nike."

"Nike plays well with our Boston Terrier, Sammie, obeys simple commands such as 'sit', 'come', 'drop it' and is getting better every day at 'no jumping'. She is energetic and playful, but has not been destructive. She has several chew toys to play with and loves to sit in a lap. She is well on her way, but not quite fully housebroken yet."

"Bottom line: Nike needs a family who can give her play time and attention," said Rose.

"Nike will be missed in our home. We have enjoyed being her foster family, but now it is time for Nike to be adopted by a loving permanent family.

"I am sure that Santa already knows a nice family who needs just such a playmate."

See Santa. I told you Rose believes in you. Her family will be so happy if you can find little Nike a good home. How about the North Pole?

Just kidding. Santa, in memory of the late Russ Bebb, a co-worker of mine who wrote to you in the sports pages of *The Knoxville Journal* for many years, here are my other Christmas wishes and gift ideas for a few in the world of sports:

Give Peyton Manning the last laugh for winning the first outdoor, cold-weather Super Bowl on Feb. 2 in East Rutherford, N.J.

Give Eli a pass that's not intercepted.



Santa is trying to find Nike a "loving permanent family."

Take back "Archie Who?" buttons. Peyton and Eli's dad was a great quarterback. We've learned over the years, he's a great guy, too.

Give Eric Berry, Dustin Colquitt and the Kansas City Chiefs NFL's Comeback Team of the Year Award.

Give Butch Jones more offensive linemen who can move the chains and more defensive linemen who can get off the field on 4th-and-1.

Give Cuonzo Martin a technical and see if that fires up the team.

Give our basketball Vols the green light to run and press and wear out opponents with a two-platoon system.

Give UT fans home-and-away games against

Kentucky each year.

Give Holly Warlick a Final Four berth.

Give our Lady Vols a schedule that annually includes the Lady Huskies.

Give Fulton Falcons a new football scoreboard. They wore out the old one.

Give Johnny Majors and Phillip Fulmer our thanks for the memories.

Give UT successful track and baseball programs again.

Give Steve Spurrier a DVD of the Vols' 23-21 win over the Gamecocks and let Michael Palardy make the presentation.

Give Dave Hart another opportunity to chest bump Butch.

Give Pat Summitt a lifetime pass to any game,

anywhere, anytime.

Give George Quarles an OC college job.

Give Auburn fans bumper stickers that read "Kick, Bama, Kick."

Give Nick Saban the Texas job, Lane Kiffin the Alabama job and UT fans restraint when the Tide and Lane Train rolls into Neyland Stadium next season.

Finally, Santa, my greatest wish is for every girl to find a doll and every boy a ball under the tree on Christmas morning.

Thanks, Santa. Have a safe trip and give my best to Mrs. Claus.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Editor's note: For information about Nike, please email Rose at staff@knox-focus.com.

Area volleyball players nab all-KIL honors

By Ken Lay

Farragut, Webb and Christian Academy of Knoxville all made the state volleyball tournament in 2013 and all three schools were represented on the all-Knoxville Interscholastic League team, which was recently selected by the area's coach.

Webb, which went 45-3 and won the Division II-A State Championship, had three selections to the squad including Francis Harrison, Scout McLarren and Kaitlyn Flickinger.

In addition to being named to the all-KIL team, Harrison was the Lady Spartans' Most Valuable Player

as a sophomore. She was also the district's MVP and the Most Valuable Player of the region tournament.

The Lady Warriors also had three players named to the team. CAK, which finished third at the Class AA State Tournament in Murfreesboro recently, were represented on the team by Cheyenne Hooper, Brynn Pierce and Taylor Call.

Meanwhile, Farragut also had three all-KIL selections in Emma Milstead, Tessa Watson and Raegan Grooms. Watson was a senior leader for the Lady Admirals and one of the county's top setters

and servers. Milstead and Grooms will return in 2014 after a stellar campaign last season. Grooms was named the District 4-AAA Hitter of the Year and was named to the Region 2-AAA all-tournament team after helping the Lady Admirals compile a 46-10 record and make the Class AAA State Tournament.

Milstead was Farragut's Most Valuable Player. She was the district's regular-season MVP. She was also the region tournament MVP.

Bearden, which won the District 4-AAA Tournament, also had three players named to the team

including setter Carrie McGinnis, back row player Eleni Georgiandis and hitter/blocker Chesney McClellan.

Hardin Valley Academy junior setter Amanda Hylton was named to the team. She was a leader for the Lady Hawks, which finished third in District 4-AAA. It was HVA's first season in the district and the Lady Hawks made strides in the state's toughest league despite battling injuries and not having a senior on the roster.

Catholic's Rachel Kozemko, Concord Christian's Brooke Stowell and Belle Karel of Grace Christian

Academy were named to the squad, along with Karns High's Jessica Severs.

Severs was the District 3-AAA MVP and received all-district honors for the fourth straight year and

was named to the all-tournament team for the third time in her illustrious career.

Our family and staff wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

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Spartans players receive postseason honors

By Ken Lay

Webb School of Knoxville recently won its second consecutive Division II Class A State Championship.

The Spartans culminated their 2013 season by defeating St. George's 28-14 in the state title game on Dec. 5.

The season may be over but the honors just keep coming for Webb, which has won four state championships in five years as several Spartans were named to the Division II-A all-district team.

Webb running back Todd Kelly Jr. was named the district's Most Valuable player. Kelly Jr., who scored three touchdowns in the State Championship Game in Cookeville, was named Tennessee Titans Mr. Football for the second consecutive season.

Webb's Brant Mitchell, who was also named Mr. Football in 2013, was named Defensive Player of the Year.

Other Webb players who won all-district honors included: Brock Beeler (wide receiver); Johnny Chun (quarterback); Te'Andre Moore (linebacker); Robby Strachan (running back/kicker); Matthew Melton (a running back and defensive back, who was the state title game's Outstanding Defensive Player in 2013 after making a crucial interception); Andrew Campbell; Bennett Harrison; and Gage Thompson.

Melton was no stranger to the big stage. He was MVP of the State Championship Game as a freshman. He, Kelly Jr. and Strachan were a part of the Spartans' three-headed running attack.

Webb coach David Meske was named Coach of the Year after guiding the Spartans to 10 consecutive wins.

Webb's defense of the 2012 State Title began with losses to Maryville and Chattanooga Baylor. After those two losses, Webb's starting defense didn't give up a touchdown until the State Championship Game.

By Alex Norman

When Texas head coach Mack Brown was recently forced to resign as head coach of the Texas Longhorns, it brought back memories of a similar situation for the Tennessee Volunteers.

On November 3, 2008, Phillip Fulmer fought through tears at a press conference held at Neyland Stadium. Remember his memorable line? "Our Tennessee family is united in its goals, but divided in the right path to get there. I love Tennessee too much to let her stay divided."

Fulmer, like Brown, had been forced to resign, ending 16 years of mostly positive moments in the history of Tennessee football. There were two SEC championships, five SEC title game appearances, and two BCS bowl game appearances.

In 1998, the Vols won the BCS national championship. It was the first time Tennessee stood atop the college football world since 1951.

Vols fans grew restless in the years that followed when the championships stopped piling up, but it wasn't like Tennessee was at the bottom of an increasingly competitive Southeastern Conference.

Tennessee was a half away from playing for another national title in 2001. That loss to LSU in Atlanta still haunts the program. In the 2004 SEC title game Tennessee fought hard with a third string quarterback, but lost 38-28

to an undefeated Auburn squad. In 2007 the Vols led LSU in the fourth quarter of the SEC championship, but couldn't hold on.

Only 11 months later, Fulmer was gone. Tennessee's football program had a losing season in 2005 and then the fateful 2008 campaign. The Vols had slipped in recruiting and in the conference standings, and the pressure on then athletic director Mike Hamilton to make a move had grown considerably. Fulmer had compiled a top fifteen recruiting class at the time of his dismissal, but it wasn't enough to keep his job.

Fulmer's coaching record in 16+ seasons? 152-52.

The lesson learned is this... if you are going to fire a head coach with 100 more wins than losses at your school; you better make sure you hire the right guy to replace him.

Mike Hamilton hired Lane Kiffin.

Mike Hamilton did not hire the right guy.

Kiffin went 7-6 in his first year, racked up NCAA violations, alienated opposing coaches and told former Vols quarterback recruits Tajh Boyd (Clemson) and Bryce Petty (Baylor) that they should look elsewhere. Think Tennessee

could have used those guys the past few years?

Kiffin then bolted for the sunny skies of Southern California three weeks from national signing day, leaving the Vols athletic department in a state of confusion, which led to the hiring of Derek Dooley, the worst hire in Tennessee football history.

Over the next three years the Vols would finish 6-7, 5-7 and 5-7. Dooley's SEC record was 4-19. His discipline to the Vols best players was the equivalent of getting a kiss from a kitten. He lost to Kentucky for the first time in more than a quarter century, lost his team in the process, and proceeded to avoid the media for 38 days, fiddling while Rome burned.

Dooley recruited with no urgency, and treated UT athletic department employees with disdain. The way he acted towards Vols football alumni was disgraceful.

This past season, under new head coach Butch Jones, the Vols once again finished 5-7. Jones has put together one of the top recruiting classes in the country, and has the program heading in the right direction, but there is no guarantee that Tennessee will compete for SEC titles during his tenure.

With all this in mind, the folks

in Austin should realize the same thing. Just because Brown is gone (or will be gone after the Holiday Bowl against Oregon) doesn't mean championships are going to return.

Their public flirting with Alabama coach Nick Saban reminded Tennessee fans of the Jon Gruden rumors a year before. Neither was going to happen.

Brown's career record in 16 years at Texas? 158-47. Like Fulmer, Brown won a BCS national championship. Like Fulmer, he had put together a top 15 recruiting class. Like Fulmer, Brown was well respected in the coaching community.

Had Texas slipped in recent years? Yes, but they still finished 8-4 this season and were one half away in the season finale against Baylor from winning the Big 12.

Texas will span the globe looking for Brown's replacement, and they have the money and resources to make a great hire.

So did Tennessee.

And we know how that worked out.

The folks in Austin like to say "Don't Mess With Texas." But they just might have made a mess of things all by themselves.

Malone's late shot seals win for Hurricanes 33-31

By Ken Lay

Holston Middle School boys basketball coach Todd Atkins couldn't be happier as his team heads into a brief winter hiatus.

The Hurricanes closed out the pre-Christmas portion of their schedule by winning a 33-31 thriller at Bearden on Monday, Dec. 16.

The game went down to the final moments before Holston's Xavier Malone buried the game-winning shot with 12.5 seconds to play.

The Bruins (6-5 overall, 5-3 in the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference) missed a chance to send the game to overtime as time expired.

"We'll take any win in this league," Atkins said. "This is a big win because Bearden is a good team."

"It's nice any time you can beat Bearden."

Holston (7-3, 5-3) and the Bruins both take a short holiday break before returning to the hardwood after Christmas. The Hurricanes will be in the Halls New Year's Classic at Halls High School while the Bruins, the defending James A. Ivey, Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament Champions, will play in the Farragut Tournament after Christmas.

The two teams are embroiled in a log jam in the conference standings and Atkins looks forward to a competitive second half of the season which begins in January.

"This is as competitive as I remember this league across the board since I've been here," he said.

And this game seemed to prove that.

The Hurricanes and Bruins were locked in a close battle in the first quarter. Holston was able to open a narrow 10-8 lead thanks to the

third stanza. They went on a 7-0 run and opened a 27-14 lead when Glover, who finished with a game-high 12 points, hit a shot with 3 minutes, 55 seconds remaining in the third quarter.

Bearden, however, would answer with a 7-0 run of its own over the next 55 seconds. The Bruins pulled to within 27-20 on a basket by Hunter Green with three minutes to go in the game.

"It seemed like it took us a lot longer to build that lead than it took them to come back," Atkins said.

The Bruins were far from finished. When the dust had settled, Bearden closed the quarter with another 7-2 run. Bearden outscored Holston 14-9 in the frame and pulled to within 29-28 by the end of the stanza.

"I was really pleased with the way our kids came back," Bruins' coach Ben Zorio said. "It was a tough game and we were trying to get into position in the league standings."

"If we'd won this game, we would have been in a three-way tie for second. We didn't shoot very well. We just didn't hit enough shots."

While the third quarter was full of offensive fireworks, both teams suffered power outages in the fourth quarter. The Hurricanes and Bruins combined to score just seven points and hit three shots.

Malone, who scored eight points for Holston gave the 'Canes a 31-28 lead with 3:34 remaining.

Bearden's Patrick Moffat hit a game-tying 3-pointer a short time later before both teams went cold before Malone finally won the game in the final seconds.

Moffat led the Bruins with 10 points. Green and Sam Higdon each finished with seven.

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Hold My Hand

I believe that my grandson, Oakley, is the cutest kid I've ever seen. I'll admit that I'm biased, so I asked Oakley's mom for permission to include his picture for you to judge. I've heard it said that you dearly love your kids, but you worship your grandchildren. Perhaps it's because grandchildren come at a different time in your life. I can't explain my feelings. I guess it's something you just have to experience to understand.

In September I wrote a three part travelogue about my "bucket-list trip" to the Adriatic, which ended in Rome with a tour of the

Sistine Chapel. Michelangelo's glorious art covers the ceiling of the Pope's chapel. However, the panel that stirs me the most is the iconic Creation of Adam. God's white bearded form amidst an angelic host is seen reaching down from the clouds of Heaven to touch the languid hand of Adam and give him life. I've always pictured Adam as doing his part by reaching up to receive the gift of life from God. But I was wrong. As I looked up from the Chapel floor, I saw that it was God who was the active party. Adam's drooping finger is as passive in the

exchange as is the rest of his lolling body.

It's not so with Oakley who's already full of life. Every day he makes me consider Michelangelo's painting and God's hand in all things. Oaks and I have a partnership as we walk together outside and especially down steps. He's a toddler now and gets around and up on things amazingly well for a little guy. However, on uneven ground he reaches up and grabs my finger and melts my heart. Similarly, I reach for the Master's hand a lot these days.

This last Focus essay of 2013 is like no other for me because, as the ball in Times Square falls this New Year's Eve, I am leaving my medical practice with Summit Medical Group. It's no secret that I've opposed Barack Obama's policies, but it is not racism. My judgment of his motives came from reading his books. As a writer I believe you can't write dishonestly and not be discovered. I wish other citizens had bothered to investigate this Manchurian Candidate in 2008. Incidentally, I also oppose Vladimir Putin

because he is a communist, an atheist, and a former high ranking KGB operative—the fact that he is white is irrelevant.

I'm very sorry my patients didn't get to keep their doctor. I'm also sorry I wasn't able to effectively sound the alarm about Obama's intentions, so clearly outlined in his books and have now come to fruition. And I'm sorry this phase of my career in medicine is over.

I wasn't able to sound the alarm in my company either, let alone the media in our community. So, after much reflection I've come to realize that I can't change the medical system that is disintegrating. Furthermore, if I stayed in my group and practice I've come to understand that I would have to change my principles. In other words I would have to go along to get along and be dishonest with myself and my patients. And I would no longer be the doctor my patients have come to trust for thirty-five years. Therefore, I must leave the system, and I will be unemployed for the first time since I was twenty-three

years old.

I've heard it said you should never retire without a plan and I have one. I plan to work on my spiritual development, and to help raise Oakley. He will remember me just as I remember my grandfather who helped raise me. I plan to write and to teach, and it is my prayer that the Lord will find some useful enterprise for my clinical skills and medical wisdom developed from decades of care. And I have a few other thoughts in mind that I hope to share with you if they come to fruition.

I'll admit it's been tough saying good bye to my patients who are actually old friends. My only comfort is that we can keep up with each other through the Focus and with email. My address is listed at the bottom of my column each week.

At year's end and as the winter approaches I've been reflecting on the Psalmist's words from twenty-five hundred years ago. He sang, "Tears may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5). I'm also hopeful because I've

observed that the sun rises each morning and pushes back the darkness, and that springtime always follows winter.

I'm a big fan of Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol, especially the movies. I remember sitting in the gym every Christmas season in grammar school watching the 1951 adaptation Scrooge. Now, I love Bill Murray's shtick in Scrooged, as well as the delightful Muppet Christmas Carol with Kermit The Frog as Bill Cratchit and Michael Caine as Ebenezer Scrooge. However, my favorite Scrooge is played by Patrick Stewart of Star Trek fame. Stewart seems to capture Dickens' 19th century Britain and led me to read the original work last Christmas.

So, I'll close the year and this essay with some wisdom from Dickens. "When happiness shows up always give it a comfortable seat." And put your hand in the Master's, and you'll be assured a seat at His banquet of Christ's-Mass.

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

Purple Santa Visits Arby's to Support Alzheimer's Tennessee

Purple Santa Stocks Up on Alzheimer's Tennessee Coupon Books for Stocking Stuffers

The Alzheimer's Tennessee Purple Santa visited Arby's recently to show his support for families facing the challenges of memory loss, and he's hoping "good girls and boys" will follow his lead.

Dressed in purple for Alzheimer's awareness, Santa was seen at Arby's filling up his bag with Alzheimer's Tennessee coupon books for stocking stuffers. The coupon books are helpful gifts for friends and family, since they provide healthy brain tips and ways to connect with Alzheimer's Tennessee



The Alzheimer's Tennessee Purple Santa stocks up on Arby's \$1 coupon books for holiday gifts. Alzheimer's Tennessee hopes the community will also show their support and donate toward services including support groups, a FREE HelpLine, and caregiver education.

support services.

"I'm doing my part for the cause by picking up and delivering the Arby's coupon books that benefit Alzheimer's Tennessee," the Alzheimer's Tennessee

Purple Santa shared. "It's an easy gift and a great way to show everyone you have done your part to support those in our community whose memories may be fading."

Arby's customers at 18 area restaurants now have the opportunity to support Tennesseans facing Alzheimer's disease and dementia by purchasing **Continued on page 2**

Sexual Assault Center of East Tennessee, Helen Ross McNabb Center set to strengthen services through merger

SACET was founded in 1973 as the Knoxville Rape Crisis Center and remains one of two comprehensive, community sexual assault agencies in the state of Tennessee; serving 15 counties. The mission of the SACET is to provide excellent and compassionate services for victims and survivors of sexual assault and to empower communities through education and social change. SACET has four program areas, which include forensic nursing, advocacy, therapy and prevention education.

"The Sexual Assault Center of East Tennessee has a proud history serving and partnering with the East Tennessee community and is excited to bolster its quality services under the strong leadership of the Helen Ross McNabb Center," says Nathan Goodner, Board President for SACET. This merger will provide long-term sustainability for the mission of the Sexual Assault Center of East Tennessee, consolidate costs for the community, and will help streamline services and partnerships in East Tennessee."

The Helen Ross McNabb Center provides crisis services for individuals experiencing domestic violence, substance abuse and/or psychiatric crises, and also provides emergency shelter for individuals in crisis situations. "Sexual Assault Center of East Tennessee's services align well with the Helen Ross McNabb Center's current crisis continuum of care,"

Continue on page 3

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Faith

Hiding the truth

As a minister, I take numerous trips to the hospital. I can maneuver around most of the hospitals in town. I know the back stairwells, the rules of how to get parking paid for as clergy, and how to put on a gown if visiting a patient with a serious infection. I have also noticed the change in décor of the new hospitals or the renovation of the older ones. A hospital on the surface appears to be more like a hotel. Hospital rooms are large and plush. Internet access, flat screen digital TV's with cable access, phones, and even pull-out couches for guests are pretty much customary. Computerized carts are wheeled into the room each day by a dietary specialist so meal orders can be made. Each room has its own thermostat and private bathroom with daily crews bringing fresh linens, towels, and sanitizing the room. Call buttons are close by to alert someone of a need, be it a fresh drink of water, a soda,



By Mark Brackney,
Minister of the
Arlington Church
of Christ

or crackers. If not for the occasional moaning from a room next door or an alarm going off, you might think you are in a five star hotel. But looks are deceiving. Death waits around the corner for a patient who is in the hospital for the final time. A family member huddles in a private room grieving over the inevitable passing of a loved one. Nurses overworked and understaffed do their best to present a smile in the face of pain, loss, and heartache.

The sole function of a hospital is to help make people well and delay the inevitable. Doctors, nurses, the latest medical breakthroughs, and technology are put to use to give it their best shot. But deep down we all know that the enemy of death will never be conquered. Reality is hidden, or attempted to be hidden but to no avail. The truth is, you and I are aging. We may try to hide it. We may purchase wrinkle

creams, hair color, and dentures, but we are still getting older.

You may not like to admit it, but whether you have cancer or not, you are terminal. We are all not going to last forever in this present body. Many people try not to think about it. They push the subject out of their mind in many ways. But the reality is that we are all short-timers. One day you will be rushed to the hospital with sirens blaring. All kinds of wires and hoses will be hooked up to you. One final attempt will be made to keep you alive a little bit longer. And then the doctor will gather your family and offer words of condolence, "We did all we could."

Jesus would not have us deny the inevitable. He tells, "I will always be with you. Trust me. I have made preparations for you for such a time as this. My entrance into this world as a babe has purpose. I came to conquer death so that you might live." Christmas is a celebration that Christ is near, closer than you think.

Church Happenings

Barnville Baptist Church

Barnville Baptist Church located at 7716 Millertown Pike invites the public to a free Gospel Concert on Sunday, December 29 beginning at 6 p.m. Judy's Barn Gospel Singers from Maynardville, Tennessee will be the featured artists. For more information, call Jackie Shockly at 688-9490 or Jim Wyrick at 254-0820.

North Knoxville Baptist Church

Come visit with us at North Knoxville Baptist Church on Dec 29, 2013 at 10:45 a.m. for Guy Milam's last service as our pastor of thirty five years. Please join us that evening from 4:00-6:00 p.m. with a reception to honor Pastor Milam for his service of fifty eight years of sharing the gospel.

Shannondale Presbyterian

Pastor Donald E. Grady Sr. of Shannondale Presbyterian church invites the community to a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service at 4 p.m. on Tuesday December 24. Special music will be provided by members of the church and friends.

Seymour United Methodist Church

There are no church activities planned for Christmas Day and thus no Wednesday evening fellowship meal. These meals and several small groups studies will resume on Wed., January 8th.

Looking ahead, "Resurrection 2014" is scheduled for mid-January at the Gatlinburg Convention Center. Contact Mario Kee.

Also, youth, begin to

make plans for the summer mission trip to Charleston - this year under the guise of "YouthWorks."

Don't forget, as the year winds down, to make good on your financial pledges and support and help SUMC meet its obligations.

Further information on any of the above items or other matters, please call our church office at 573-9711. Our informational website is: www.seymourumc.org.

Church office will be closed on Dec. 24th and 25th, and will close at noon on Dec. 31st.

We are conveniently located at the corner of Chapman Hwy and Simmons Rd., just one block north of the Boyd's Creek & Rt. 411 intersection with Chapman Hwy.

Purple Santa Visits Arby's



The Alzheimer's Tennessee Purple Santa shares a special thank you with Arby's employee April Weaver while stocking up on coupon books for holiday gifts. For Weaver, the effort to sell the \$1 books is personal, as she helps care for a family friend who is living with Alzheimer's.

Continued from page 1

coupon books for \$1. It's estimated that more than 120,000 individuals and families in the state are suffering from the brain disease that begins with memory loss.

The family who owns the East Tennessee Arby's restaurants knows the disease all too well. Last year, they donated more than \$186,450 from their coupon book sales, raised \$1 at a time.

"Our grandparents, father and mother all suffered from dementia," John Johnson, Arby's Owner/Operator, explained. "We believe in the work of Alzheimer's Tennessee and know we need to

invest in our future, so maybe our children won't have to face this horrible disease."

Alzheimer's Tennessee, Inc. appreciates Arby's restaurants and their customers for their generosity. With their continued support, Alzheimer's Tennessee, Inc. ensures 100% of the donations benefit Tennesseans through advocacy, research and support programs that enhance the quality of life for families living with Alzheimer's and related dementias.

For more information visit www.alz-tennessee.org or call statewide toll-free 888.326.9888.

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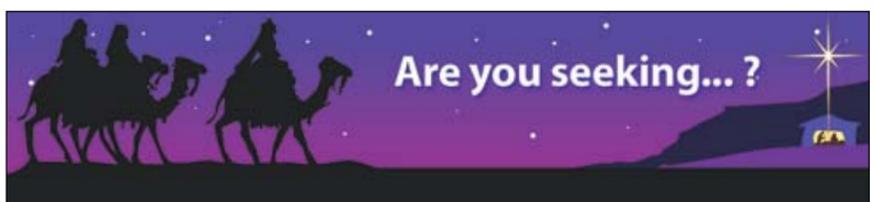
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<http://www.spirit-and-truth.net>

*The opinions of Ijams Nature Center are not necessarily the same as STFK.

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Christmas Party at Windsor Gardens. Santa leans an ear to resident, Beryl Davis, at the annual Christmas Celebration at Windsor Gardens Assisted Living.

Knox County Solid Waste offers Christmas tree recycling

After the New Year, Knox County residents can bring their unwanted, live Christmas trees to participating Knox County Convenience Centers for free disposal. Knox County residents will be able to drop off trees throughout the entire month of January at no cost. Trees must be cleaned of all ornaments, lights, wire, string and other decor before bringing them to a center. For more information visit http://www.knoxcounty.org/solid_waste/christmas_treecycling.php or contact Jennifer Linginfelter at (865) 215-4579 (office) or (865) 803-5509 (cell).

When: Throughout the month of January 2014
Where:
 Dutchtown Convenience Center - 10618 Dutchtown Rd
 Forks of the River Convenience Center - 3106 Water Plant Rd
 Halls Convenience Center - 3608 Neal Dr
 John Sevier Convenience Center - 1810 John Sevier Hwy
 Powell Convenience Center - 7311 Morten View Ln
 Tazewell Pike Convenience Center - 7201 Tazewell Pike

Sexual Assault Center, Helen Ross McNabb Center to merge

Continued from page 1

says Leann Human-Hilliard, HRMC Vice President of Clinical Services. "Merging operations will enhance crisis services in our community and strengthen our response to individuals

who have been sexually assaulted and affected by trauma." SACET will be recognized as a service of the Helen Ross McNabb Center. The ultimate goal of the merger

is to increase and strengthen services for individuals and families during crisis situations and to seamlessly connect those individuals to quality support and after care services.

Chicken Kiev

- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 tablespoon grated onion
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon dried tarragon
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 6 boneless skinless chicken breast halves
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 envelope (2-3/4 ounces) seasoned chicken coating mix

Combine the butter, onion, parsley, garlic powder, tarragon and pepper. Shape mixture into six pencil-thin strips about 2 in. long; place on waxed paper. Freeze until firm, about 30 minutes. Flatten each chicken breast to 1/4 in. Place one butter strip in the center



of each chicken breast. Fold long sides over butter; fold ends up and secure with a toothpick. In a bowl, beat egg and milk; place coating mix in another bowl. Dip chicken, then roll in coating mix. Place chicken, seam side down, in a greased 13-in. x 9-in. baking pan. Bake, uncovered, at 425° or until the chicken is no longer pink and the juices run clear. Remove toothpicks before serving. Microwave Directions (timing based on a 1100-watt oven): Place chicken in a greased glass pie plate. Microwave on high for 2-1/2 minutes. Turn plate; microwave for 1-2 minutes or until juices run clear.

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