

A Woman's War

By Tasha Mahurin
tasha@knoxfocus.com

It's two o'clock on a Wednesday afternoon, and the weather report calls for hail and damaging winds. As 92-year-old Geraldine Kelley walks slowly but effortlessly through the doors of the Powell Library, carrying car keys and a shoulder bag full of scrapbooks, you get the impression she could easily command the clouds to part and the sun to come out. It is immediately obvious she has a certain undefinable strength about her.

Seemingly as homegrown as they come, "Gerry" is quick to point out that she is a transplanted "Vermont Yankee"- born in 1921 in St. Johnsbury. Although she has called Knoxville home since the early 1950s, her accent has retained a subtle New England flair. So it is with all the social grace of a true Southern woman, in a voice that hasn't quite acquired a local drawl, that Gerry begins her story.

When WWII began, Gerry was an attractive, tenacious young woman who found herself working a government job in Vermont. After that particular department closed, she moved to Springfield, Massachusetts and took a job with Westinghouse where she was quickly promoted to the head of the War Bond Department.

"Most everyone had money deducted from their pay for war bonds. When they had the price of a designated bond deducted we would buy the bond for them," she explained with a deftness that indicates she could still fluently complete the necessary paperwork 70 years later.

So, as it were, while the men fought overseas, Gerry, like many other women contributed to the war effort here at home.

It was also a woman's war.

Shortly after moving to Springfield she met a gallant young man stationed at Chicopee Air Base who was training to be a fighter pilot.

"His name was Harold Matthews Jr.," Gerry said wistfully. "We called him Mattie."

When she says his name there is a hint of



Gerry Kelley was recently honored at a luncheon at the Chop House in Fountain City by her friends from her Associated Therapeutics water class. Photo by Dan Andrews.

girlish adoration in her voice followed by a fleeting moment of intense, profound sadness. When Mattie was later transferred to Texas to complete his training, Gerry visited for his graduation and met his parents. After a subsequent and proper visit to his hometown in Illinois, they became engaged. Mattie was assigned to Florida, and Gerry began to make arrangements to join him there. She remembers clearly a day when the landlady of the boarding house where she was staying at in Springfield called upstairs to say her brother was there.

"They tell me that I screamed as I came down the stairs, as there was standing, not my brother, but Mattie. He had been transferred back to Chicopee Air Base, and was getting ready to go overseas," she recalls.

They promptly planned to go to Connecticut the next weekend to be married, but Mattie shipped out on that Wednesday before they could make the trip. Mattie would never return home to Gerry. He was shot down on his next to last mission.

It was also a woman's war.

The grief was agonizing. Gerry reached out to her minister who told her she was lucky that Mattie hadn't returned home a cripple. It did little to ease her pain. She felt hopeless, lifeless. Some time later a grief counselor visiting her church advised Gerry to make a change.

"One of the girls, Bickie, in my department at work had a friend working for the Red Cross in Clubmobile. She was with the troops coming through Africa and Bickie would bring her

letters in to read them to us," Gerry recalled.

Everyone encouraged her to join the Red Cross, and she did. At the time, the Red Cross required that women be 24 years of age before going overseas, so her official start date was set for May 14th, just after her 24th birthday. Gerry was sitting in a dentist chair on May 8, 1945 (VE Day), when she heard over the radio that the war was over in Europe. However, there was still much work to be done and her start date remained the same.

It was also a woman's war.

Gerry reported to Washington, D.C. to begin her training at Washington University where the Red Cross had a training facility called "The Loft." When her training was complete, she was told that she could notify her family that she was shipping out

but not where or when. Gerry along with other young women who had volunteered with the Red Cross traveled to New York by train and were put up in a hotel for the night. Gerry recalls that two of the girls she was traveling with were African American, and the hotel would not allow them to stay there. The Red Cross was furious but promptly found the girls another hotel to stay in. She also remembers feeling anxious about the journey.

"I was almost afraid to board a ship as I had a couple of scary instances with water, but soon got over it, as we went on the original Queen Elizabeth," she said.

The trip took five days. On June 24th, Gerry crossed the English Channel and went by train to Paris. She was assigned

Continue on page 3

FOCUS Weekly Poll*

At this time, do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of President Obama?

APPROVE 36.23%

DISAPPROVE 63.77%

Survey conducted May 23, 2013.

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

Knox Countians Not Keen On President Obama

By Focus staff

This week's Knoxville Focus poll asked likely voters the question, "At this time, do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of President Obama?"

Almost 64% of respondents disapprove of the President's job performance.

President Obama scored well inside the First District. Almost 67% of voters in the First District approve of the President's performance in office.

Voters in the Ninth District, which is South Knoxville, were evenly divided, 50% - 50%.

The rest of the districts in Knoxville and Knox County disapproved of the President's job performance. The Eighth District, which is East and Northeast Knox County, gave the President the lowest job performance rating of any district, with almost 79% disapproving of Obama's performance.

The recent scandals seem not to have affected opinion significantly, as Obama lost Knox County during the last election by a wide margin.

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Focus on the Law

Whistle blowing

According to the Freedom of Information Act, a "whistle-blower is one who reveals wrongdoing within an organization to the public or to those in positions of authority." Insider access and knowledge

from employees have been essential tools in uncovering wrongdoing by both private organizations as well as by government. Whistleblowers are often witnesses in court when wrongdoers are prosecuted criminally and/or civilly. Protecting the providers of this insider information has been an important development in the law over recent years. Retaliation against employees who blow the whistle on wrongdoing is illegal under multiple federal laws and many state laws as well. Firing, harassment and discrimination are considered retaliation against whistleblowers.

Under the common law, state courts have protected employees from being discharged in a manner that



By Sharon Frankenberg,
Attorney at Law

violates a clear public policy. Employees are protected when they attempt to exercise statutory or constitutional rights, refuse to perform illegal activities, or report illegal conduct. In addition

to protections under the common (or "court-made") law, Congress and the various state legislatures have included whistleblower protections in most statutes to promote their enforcement.

Employee protection or whistleblower provisions of these numerous statutes are administered to some degree by virtually all state and federal agencies. For example, one federal agency, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), enforces some seventeen statutes ranging from the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Act and the Clean Air Act to the National Transit Systems Security Act. OSHA protects employees engaged in initiating a proceeding for the enforcement of

employee protection from discharge or discrimination; testifying in any such proceeding; assisting or participating in any such proceeding to in any other action to carry out the purposes of these statutes; or complaining about a violation.

Tennessee has passed the Tennessee Medicaid False Claims Act which allows whistleblowers to bring suit in the name of the State of Tennessee where a wrongdoer engages in conduct that defrauds the state or local government of its health-care dollars. This statute is designed to address Medicaid fraud. Like some other statutes, this statute provides for a monetary reward if the whistleblower successfully assists in recovering money from the wrongdoers. This amount is often a percentage of the amount recovered but the percentage varies depending upon how much assistance was provided by the whistleblower and which section of the statute was being pursued. Attorney's fees may also be recovered

by the whistleblower so the advice and assistance of counsel should always be obtained.

A recent successful case involved a former University of California-Irvine (UCI) professor and anesthesiologist, Dr. Dennis O'Connor who reported violation of federal regulations in the administration of anesthesia at UCI without the supervision of an anesthesiologist. UCI submitted claims for payment by the Medicare program and the federal portion of the Medicaid program in a manner inconsistent with the federal payment and documentation requirements. After an investigation by the United States Department of Justice and the cooperation of Dr. O'Connor, the California Board of Regents agreed to pay the United States \$1.2 million. Dr. O'Connor received \$120,000 out of the recovery.

Obviously, this article does not cover every issue which might arise. Contact an attorney to get individual advice and assistance with your unique situation.

FOCUS
Weekly Poll

At this time, do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of President Obama?



Approve
36.23%
Disapprove
63.77%

By Age	Approve	Disapprove	Total
18-29	[None]	100.00%	4
30-49	27.91%	72.09%	43
50-65	29.93%	70.07%	147
65+	41.18%	58.82%	289
Total	36.23%(175)	63.77%(308)	483

By District

1	66.67%	33.33%	27
2	39.29%	60.71%	56
3	35.85%	64.15%	53
4	37.97%	62.03%	79
5	32.14%	67.86%	56
6	33.90%	66.10%	59
7	27.27%	72.73%	55
8	21.43%	78.57%	56
9	50.00%	50.00%	42
Total	36.23%(175)	63.77%(308)	483

By Gender

Unknown	53.33%	46.67%	15
Female	37.20%	62.80%	250
Male	33.94%	66.06%	218
Total	36.23%(175)	63.77%(308)	483

Survey conducted May 23, 2013.

And your old men will dream dreams

Last week was Pentecost Sunday. It's that celebration for when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and they spoke in the languages of all who were gathered. It's also recognized as the birth of the church.

During that time Peter addressed the crowd that accused the disciples of being drunk. In one section, he says,

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions."

It's a line that he takes from the book of Joel in the Old Testament and one that especially speaks to my generation these days. Somehow, when we weren't looking, the years piled on us, and before we could blink our eyes, we grew old. Now, I know that today's 60 is supposed to be the new 40, but when I wake up in the mornings or spend the day completing yard work, my body aches like a man whose just celebrated his 100th birthday.

We baby boomers are now our parents. I can



By Joe Rector

hear my dad, who died at the age of 53, speak about things of his life: jobs security, life insurance, behaving children, and bill paying. He was always so serious, and my grandmother told

us after his passing that he always believed he would die at an early age. The thing is that Daddy always seemed old to me. Maybe it was because the demands of his job at the paper mill were so physically demanding; perhaps he worried too much and enjoyed too little. In either case, my dad seemed to be a senior citizen all his life.

Mother also seemed old to me, but in a different way. She had plenty of energy and could outwork any younger person who dared to keep up with her. She was only 48 years old when Daddy died, and the weight on bringing up three boys on her own yoked her with fear and worry. She loved life, but not until she retired did she have much of a chance to enjoy her adult years.

Now my generation has become the oldsters. However, we are blessed with better health care and longer life spans. It gives

us several more years on this earth than our parents' generation. Today, a 65-year-old American man can expect to live to 81.6; if he reaches the age of 85, he can expect to live to see 90. Women live even longer. Our parents weren't given that many years by those who figure such things.

The thing I do know about our aging is that we have the chance to do more in the years that we have left on this earth. I put in 30 years as a high school English teacher, and I am grateful for that time. It was a good job, but when I retired, I found a second career. With a lot of luck and blessing, papers have allowed me to write. Sometimes that means I've created personal columns like this one, and at other times it means I've interviewed people to write news and feature stories.

I've also published a couple of books and have

two more finished and one about a quarter of the way done. Publishing my work is part of my "old man dreaming dreams." The joy of putting words on paper and having folks read them are things I never thought could happen.

Another dream I've had come true is speaking to groups about my writing. Sharing the process of creating those pieces has been a joy. At the same time, I've been blessed to speak to groups about the books or about the future and dreaming their dreams. How much more fortunate can one person be?

I sometimes fall into a funk over my age, and in a few short days, my twin brother, my niece, and I will add another year. I've decided to keep on dreaming dreams for what the future can offer. It's a much better way to approach the finish line than being scared about its arrival.

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Publisher Steve Hunley
Editor, Art Director Marianne Dedmon
editor@knoxfocus.com, design@knoxfocus.com

Office, Classifieds Rose King
staff@knoxfocus.com
Dan Andrews andrewsd@knoxfocus.com
Sales sales@knoxfocus.com
Pam Poe phpoe2000@yahoo.com
Tasha Mahurin tasha@knoxfocus.com
Bill Wright wrightb@knoxfocus.com
Bethany Cook cookb@knoxfocus.com

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HCBA's Class of '63 Gets Together for 50th Reunion

A Woman's War

Cont. from page 1

to the Red Cross Clubmobile in Marseille, France. She initially worked the docks because she couldn't drive. When she did decide to learn to drive, she had one driving lesson on the dock at Marseille in a ¾ ton weapon carrier. Just two weeks later she was driving a 2 ½ ton armored truck- which had been converted for Red Cross Clubmobile use. "I eventually got a driver's license which stated I was able to drive just about everything from a jeep to a 2 ½ ton truck," she laughed. It was also a woman's war. VJ (Victory in Japan) Day


occurred while Gerry was in Marseille. Despite the end of the war, Gerry continued her work with the Red Cross- and the scenery varied with each new assignment. Gerry recalls the day she was given a chair and a rifle and asked to guard prisoners while they worked on a building. She even once attended a party thrown by one of the generals in the district where she was serving. President Harry Truman's nephew played the piano that evening. She remembers fondly General George Patton for rescuing a herd of Lipizaner stallions from Belgium where the Germans had taken them after seizing them in Austria. She

visited the stables that he brought them back to. Eventually, however, she was given a permanent assignment at Dachau- the concentration camp. It was also a woman's war. Dachau Concentration Camp had been liberated on April 29, 1945 by the 42nd and 45th Divisions of the U.S. Army. "There was nothing so horrifying as the scene before us," wrote Bettie MacInnes, who was one of two women present the day after Dachau was liberated. "GIs assigned to clear bodies from the moat, from the garages, from the boxcars on the siding, from just about any place one could

look, were being sick, were passing out, were wandering in a daze." In an article, MacInnes describes the horror that was Dachau on April 30th: "to see one of these places was to know man's inhumanity to man," she wrote. By the time Gerry arrived, the camp had been cleared of all prisoners and bodies, and they were in the process of converting the site into a memorial. Gerry was there on the first anniversary of the camp's liberation...Shortly thereafter, the Army closed its operation there and the boys went home. So did Gerry. In 1946, Gerry returned to Germany for a second

tour with the Red Cross where she attended the war crime trials at Nuremberg. However, when the USO opened a service club in the area, the Red Cross Club she worked with closed. She married an MP First Sergeant and remained in Germany for some time afterward before the two returned home. Shortly after returning to the U.S., it became clear that the marriage was a mistake. Gerry went to work for DuPont in Delaware where she met the man she would build a life with, her husband Jim...a University of Tennessee graduate from South Carolina. After the two married in 1952, they relocated and had

four children, and Gerry began the rest of her story here...in Knoxville. Although the woman sitting across from me at the library is 92 years old, the eyes peering back at me have the youthful glint of a young girl working in the War Bond Department at Westinghouse but the wisdom of a woman who has seen firsthand the tragic impact of war and of genocide. Before me sits a woman who knows both love and loss, a woman who served her country by serving those who served her country, a woman who has built not only a life but a legacy, a woman who has earned her place in history...it was, after all, also a woman's war.




Rosie's World

If you are a movie buff (like I am) you probably saw the movie "Baby Boom." Diane Keaton is fired from a high-paying job because she acquired a "nanny" job accidentally. She moves to New England and starts her own business that becomes so successful her old company wants to take it over. She almost succumbs to their outrageous offers of "big" money and asks them to let her think it over. While she is contemplating this decision she says to herself, "I'm back! I'm back!" meaning

I'm back

that she is seriously considering returning to the rat race. But after a minute of soul-searching she decided to remain her own boss. After a few months of contemplation I decided to go back to the life I had before December 12, 2012. It was hard for a few months because I had to wonder if I really wanted that life back. I didn't want to do the most ordinary things like writing, reading, knitting, etc. Suddenly, it came to me. Those were the things that were a part of me. Yes, the desire had left me for a while but my normal self soon reappeared. So, I'm back. To everyone who prayed, sent cards, flowers and other gifts, this is the only way I can thank you since I can't do it personally. It all meant so much to me. No one knows why things happen, but there's no sense sitting around wondering. Life goes on. One can only do the best they can. I hope I live up to my readers' expectations once again. Thought for the day: I've come a long way from what I used to be, and I won't give up on becoming what I know I can be. Anonymous Send comments to rosemerrie@att.net. Thank you.



The Holston Middle School Show Choir performed the musical, *The Little Mermaid, Jr.*, this year for their Spring performance. The cast of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders worked for several months in preparation of the highly anticipated spring musical. The Holston Middle Show Choir, led by Natalie Elkins, is an elite performing group that represents Holston Middle School at various community events such as the Fantasy of Trees. The group was also invited and performed at Disney World in October. Pictured above are: Ariel, Abigayle DeBusk (left); Flounder, Lexie Beckner (center); Scuttle, Taylor Coppock (right); and Prince Eric, Seth Cannon (on floor).

AN OPEN LETTER FROM FRED O. BERRY, III



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FOCUS MORE ON Seymour & South Knox



Class of '63. Front Row (L to R) – Laraine Chambers McGrew, Barb Brannon Suiter, Johnnie Wilson Shaw, Carolynn Mull Cunningham, Joan Dennis Imms, Dorothy Owens Loveday, Camile Stromquist Nelson, and Meg Evatt. Back Row (L to R) – David Shaw, Tom Suiter, Dincer Yontem, Monty Chit Khin, Paul Cunningham, John Humphrey, Nixon Wood, David Wilcox, and Ronnie Chit Khin.

HCBA's Class of '63 Gets Together for 50th Reunion

They came from eight states and one foreign country, from as far away as Turkey and as nearby as Knoxville. Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy's Class of 1963 converged at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Pigeon Forge for its 50th Class Reunion.

"I have not seen some of these people since graduation," said David Shaw. "That was 50 years ago, this is great."

David was not the only wide-eyed person in the room as classmates caught up on what has transpired during the years they have been apart.

"I can't believe this," Dincer Yontem (who flew in from Turkey) kept saying with a smile from ear-to-ear on his face as he was bouncing around the room. "I can't believe this."

The lasting bonds were re-ignited thanks to reunion committee

members Barbara (Brannon) Suiter and Teressia (Black) Shaw.

50 years ago, the Class of '63 came from different parts of the world including Brazil, Cuba, Thailand, and Turkey. They are together again, and it is obvious that all of them are happy to be there.

Said David, "We all have one thing in common, the love for our school and for one another."



Congratulations to Madie Shehan who is the recipient of The Ann Montgomery Vocal-Music Scholarship. This scholarship is presented to a graduating senior at Seymour High School who has been a member of the Seymour High School Choir and has enrolled in a college with the intention to major in vocal music. Madie auditioned for and was accepted into the music program at Carson-Newman College where she will start in the fall.

Learn to Paint Jackson Pollock Style

Parents looking for a Saturday activity for their children should consider Liz-Beth & Company's monthly Second Saturday Art Academy for Kids. The next class will be held at Liz-Beth Gallery Saturday, June 8 from 9:30 to 11:00. Artist Courtney Tinder will instruct the children on abstract painting. Participants will learn to splatter paint in the style of famous artist Jackson Pollock. There is a \$5 materials charge and participants should wear old clothes. Reservations are required as there is limited space. They can be made by calling 691-8129 or e-mailing beth@liz-beth.com. For a complete schedule of Art Academy classes visit the website.

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Bearden High School's Dan Parker awarded Tennessee Assistant Principal of the Year

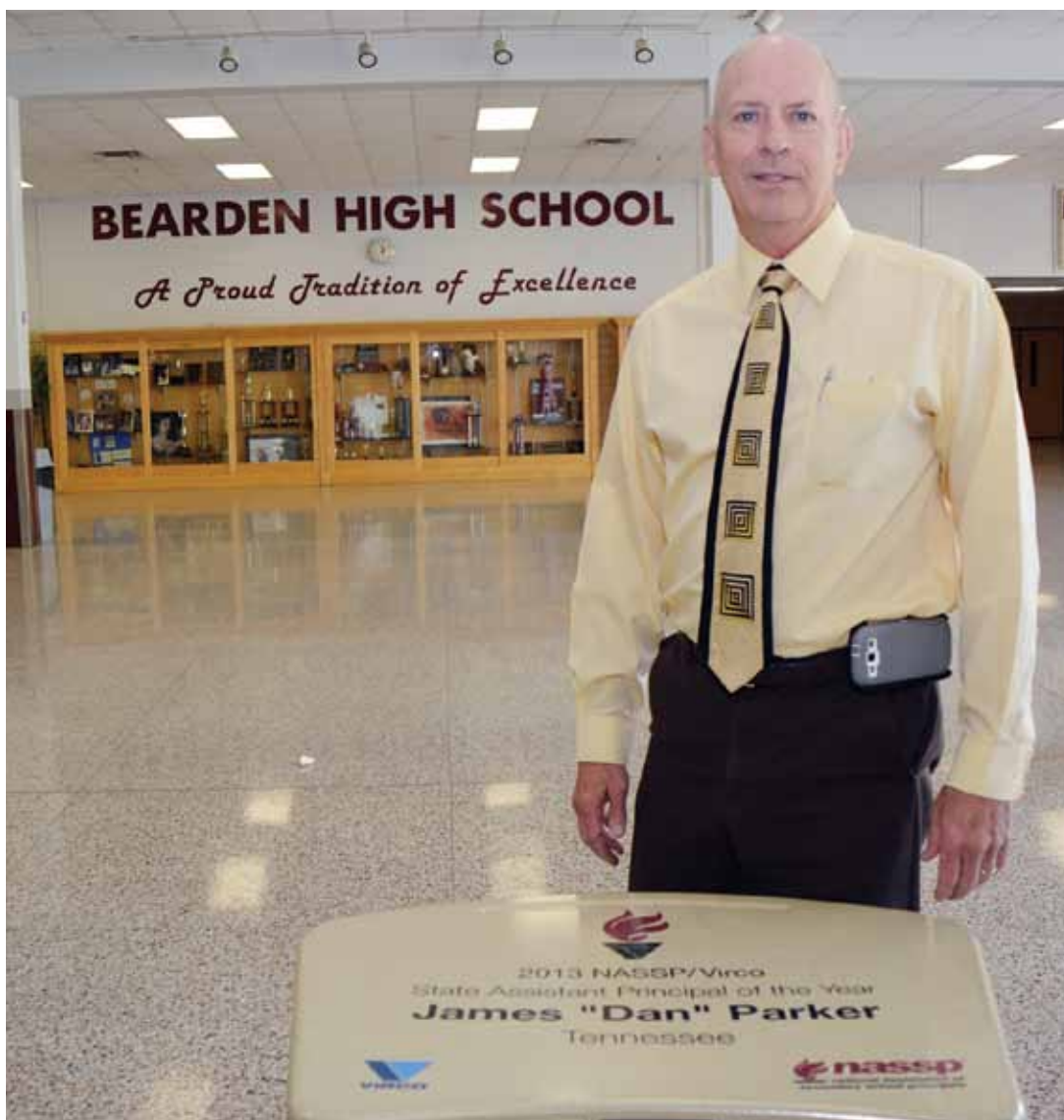
Dan Parker, assistant principal at Bearden High School, was recognized on Wednesday, May 22 as the Tennessee Assistant Principal of the Year. Parker was recently recognized at a national ceremony in Washington, D.C. hosted by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

The NASSP and Virco Inc. come together annually to honor a winner from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools. Lisa Kirkus, a representative with Virco, was on hand to present Parker with a personalized award.

As an assistant principal at Bearden High School, Parker has proven success in involving the local community in the life of the school, astute awareness of current and emerging issues, and passion in improving the school's learning environment.

"Assistant principals play a key role in the success of secondary schools across the nation," said Brian True, Virco's Director of Sales. "Virco is honored to recognize their achievements and is committed to contributing to their professional development."

"Research shows that principals and assistant principals create the conditions for schools to be successful and for students to succeed. Recognizing and acknowledging the quality of our school leaders is an honor," said JoAnn D. Bartoletti, NASSP Executive Director.



Love of Country



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

He became a graduate of Gibbs High School—eventually. Our father and others in his class had their education interrupted when they were drafted into the Army during the early 1940s. At that time, the school had only been in existence about 30 years. This year, Gibbs marks its 100th Anniversary.

Ralph O. Major, our father, created strong ties to Gibbs High School. He admired and appreciated the great teachers and administrators at Gibbs, and their names became well-known in our family. One of those was the late C. B. Chesney who started his career at Gibbs before moving to Karns High School. Mr. Chesney was the uncle of Gibbs' twin teachers Lue and Sue Cardwell (Focus 10-24-11). Mabel Acuff was Ralph's English teacher. Mrs. Acuff recently celebrated her 100th birthday and can still recall the names of her former students (Focus 1-30-12).

The late Max Clendenen started his career at Gibbs as the agriculture teacher, and our father was in his class. Ralph was a member of the Future Farmers of America and went with the club on a trip to Nashville. Later, Mr. Clendenen became principal and served nearly 24 years in that capacity.

I have heard my father say many times that "Prof Loy" was the reason he went back to school to get his diploma after service.

Continue on page 4

North Knoxville Medical Center Celebrates Completion of Expanded Emergency Department

To accommodate and plan for a growing community, North Knoxville Medical Center is preparing to open its newly renovated and expanded emergency department. A blessing and dedication ceremony was held on Friday, May 24 in the ER.

According to Rob Followell, CEO of North Knoxville Medical Center, the \$720,000 expansion project provides the community access to the latest healthcare amenities. The 12-week construction and renovation project includes expansion of the 16-bed emergency department to a 20-bed facility. All treatment rooms are fully equipped with the state-of-the-art equipment and new furnishings.

North Knoxville Medical Center is one of East Tennessee's newer hospitals. Built in 2007, it was designed to include decentralized

nursing stations for better efficiency and patient care, private patient rooms with dedicated family areas, and noise-reduction materials to provide patients with a more comfortable experience.

"In the case of our emergency department, there is truth to the adage 'If you build it, they will come,'" Followell said. For example, patient volume in the emergency department has grown over the past three years annually at a 7.5 percent rate for 2011 and 10.8 percent rate for 2012.

"Our goal is to provide patients and their families with efficient access to high quality emergency services. This expansion project ensures we have the space and resources to meet the growing volume and variety of patient care needs," Followell said.

Knox County Public Library to host fundraising workshops for nonprofits

Knox County Public Library will host a free workshop on grant-seeking for nonprofit organizations on Saturday, June 8, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., at Lawson McGhee Library, 500 W. Church Ave. The session will be led by Kief Schladweiler, Coordinator of Cooperating Collections with the Foundation Center. Mr. Schladweiler will highlight the electronic and print resources available for your free use at the Knox County Public Library, a Cooperating Collection of the Foundation Center.

The training will serve as an introduction to fundraising planning. A successful nonprofit organization has diversified funding streams. It is designed specifically for organizations that have never developed a fundraising plan or calendar. It provides an overview of the process of strategically thinking through the components of a fundraising plan.

Participants will learn how to:

- Take stock of your organization's strengths and assets
- Develop a case statement
- Set fundraising goals
- Identify funding partners
- Prepare a fundraising plan and calendar.

Introduction to Finding Funders
Additionally, the program provides an introduction to the Foundation Center's comprehensive online database, Foundation Directory Online Professional. Learn how to create customized searches to develop targeted lists of foundations that will match your organization's funding needs. We will explore Power Search, which allows you to search across nine Foundation Center databases.

The workshop is free, but space is limited. To register, call 215-8753 or 215-8700, or email cmoirai@knoxlib.org by June 7, 2013.

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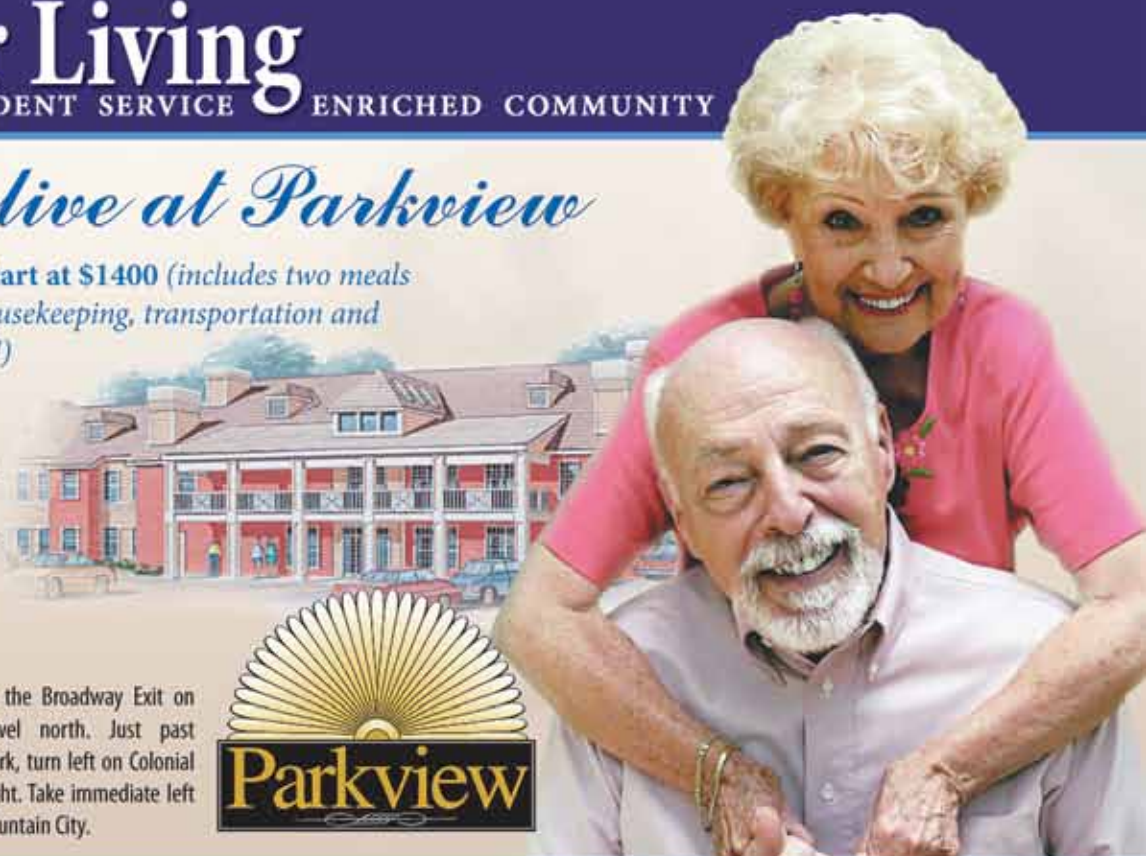
Sensibly designed with the active senior in mind, Parkview, an independent living community, offers the opportunity for residents to enjoy life to its fullest. Whether it's enjoying all the activities and amenities or finding a quiet place to reflect, Parkview has thought of everything.

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Attention Veterans and Widows of Veterans: Ask about our Rent Assistance Benefits!



Emerald Youth Volunteers Provide Life-Changing Help for Kids

A robust volunteer program at Emerald Youth Foundation is using the donated services of many East Tennessee residents to change lives of hundreds of inner city Knoxville youth.

More than 260 trained volunteers now serve the 1,350 children, teens and young adults who participate in Emerald Youth programs. They are tutors, small group leaders, homework helpers, coaches, and committee members, among other positions, said Rachel Davis, EY human resources coordinator.

Davis said the volunteers served a total of 4406 hours between Fall 2012 and Spring 2013, supplementing the work of about 50 paid staff. The volunteer program has been strong since Emerald Youth began in 1991.

Several things set Emerald Youth's volunteer program apart, she said.

At Emerald Youth, where the emphasis is on long-term growth in the areas of faith, learning, relationships and health of each young person, work is painstaking and labor-intensive. For that reason, Emerald Youth recruits volunteers with defined roles in mind, often seeking expertise the staff doesn't have. Examples are tutors to help students learn math, sciences like chemistry and biology, and foreign languages.



W. George Askew, center, provides tutoring at Mt. Zion Baptist Church to (l-r) Jhaventá Ealey and DeJohn Williams

Davis and other staff members maintain contact with local colleges and churches and attend college fairs to find quality volunteers. The program allows volunteers to draw close to young people and have exposure to their lives and families over time. It also carefully screens volunteers and then tracks volunteers' hours and successes.

The Emerald Youth volunteer program stresses building strong relationships with young people as a foundation for progress.

Strong Relationships, Defined Roles Mark EY Volunteers

George Askew, longtime Quality Services engineer with ORNL, is now seeing the good results of having tutored Emerald Youth children and young adults through his church, Mount Zion Baptist on Brooks Avenue, since about 2005. He said that some of his students are now entering college. "To me, tutoring is a way I can impact future generations. It is a

blessing," he said.

Askew said he has developed strong relationships with children through his tutoring. "I worked with two brothers, and one day the younger one said, 'Mr. George, you are my friend.' I said, 'Yes, I am,'" he recalled.

When John Harrell, 31, operations manager for an audio-visual company, began volunteering about a year ago with the Emerald Youth Fellows program, he was struck by Emerald Youth's can-do approach to students' needs. "Things like rides to and from school. Being there to fill a

practical need they have.

When I was growing up, my parents took care of those things," he said. As mentor to a student attending East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Harrell shouldered the job of supplying the student's transportation to and from college. Neither the student nor his mom has a car, and he needs the rides.

UT senior Pamela Bryan, who is majoring in secondary math education, began tutoring high school students in math through Emerald Youth's academic learning program last spring.

Since then Bryan has tutored students of all ages at Peace and Goodwill Church on Washington Avenue and also in an ACT preparation course at Austin-East High School. Bryan has a special ability to explain math in a way that helps students understand it, said Christi Cardwell, EY high school and young adult curriculum leader.

"I try to remember you have to come up with new ways to explain math," Bryan said. "If I see that it clicks with someone, I try to remember what works."

Clark Reyes, 33, volleyball coach and longtime EY volunteer, coached the first ever girls' volleyball team at Whittle Springs Middle School last fall with Emerald Youth's support. Reyes went on to coach an EY competitive club volleyball team. A volunteer at Emerald Youth since about 1998, Reyes likes Emerald Youth's emphasis on teaching youth to be responsible young adults.

"It's not easy at first. Relationships have to form. You must establish yourself and prove your worth to the kids -- that you are safe and you are not just wasting their time," he said.

Persons interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities at Emerald Youth should contact Rachel Davis at rdavis@emeraldyouth.org or 865-637-3227 ext. 112 or go to www.emeraldyouth.org.

Warming Hearths

By Michael Williams

Last November, Dwight Boling, 57, suffered a stroke which left him with

limited mobility. Upon his release from the hospital, Boling found himself facing a number of concerns about his health, medical bills, finances and the encroaching winter.

"When I got home I didn't know what to do," Boling said. "I heat my home with firewood and I didn't have a stick of wood in the house. I couldn't afford to buy any. A friend suggested I call Warming Hearths and a couple days later when Bryce Smith showed up with firewood, I was almost in tears."

Warming Hearths is a

program that was started through the Great Smoky Mountain Lumberjack Feud. The popular dinner show cuts numerous logs in their show which pits two families of lumberjacks against one another. At the end of the show, the pieces of logs needed to be disposed of. Rather than throw away wood that could be put to good use as firewood, Rob and Sheila Scheer, owners of the GSMLF decided to begin a program through which they could donate the wood to needy families. The timber athletes,

who work in the show as the two feuding families, volunteered their time to load up the discarded wood and take it to the homes of those who would otherwise have no means of heating their homes. Using referrals through churches and local organizations, the timber athletes were able to find numerous families throughout Sevier County that needed firewood.

"In the dead of winter there are so many families that are in need of wood," Said Bryce Smith. "Rather than have this wood wind

up in a wood chipper or a landfill it ends up warming hearths."

Earlier this month, Smith backed his pickup truck into Boling's yard. The older gentleman met the young timberjack with a smile and a friendly handshake. Boling smiled when he saw the piles of firewood on the bed of the truck. Smith went to work unloading and stacking the wood near Boling's home for easier access. As he unloaded the truck he regaled the older man with stories about the wood and pointed out the

differences in the various types of wood he was unloading.

Since his stroke, Boling has received six truckloads of wood delivered to his door courtesy of the timber jacks at the Lumberjack feud.

"These folks helped me get through the winter," said Boling. "They are a Godsend. This was a life saver for me."

Needy families in need of firewood can call Andrew Mattison with the Great Smoky Mountain Lumberjack Feud at 865-286-1178.

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Pages from the Political Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Nathan Lynn Bachman, Tennessee's junior United States senator, had every reason in the world to be content; he had easily been reelected to his first six-year term in November of 1936. Bachman was also one of the most personally popular members of the United States Senate with his colleagues and his company was much sought after, as he was renowned for being perhaps the best raconteur in Congress. Senator Bachman had a seemingly endless supply of stories and jokes with which he could entertain listeners. Having been an athlete throughout his college career, Bachman remained a sports enthusiast for his entire life and Vice President John Nance Garner of Texas almost always invited the Tennessee senator to accompany him to sporting events in the nation's Capitol. Senator Bachman left his office on the evening of April

23, 1937 to return to his apartment in one of Washington's better hotels. Mrs. Bachman, the former Pearl Duke of the famous North Carolina tobacco family, was on her way to their home in Chattanooga, which rested upon Walden's Ridge on Signal Mountain. Sometime during the evening of April 23, Nathan Bachman fell over dead from a heart attack. Members of the senator's staff sadly notified Mrs. Bachman of her husband's passing.

When Nathan Bachman's heart stopped beating, his sudden and unexpected death ignited a flame that would soon become a full-scale conflagration that burned all across the State of Tennessee. While Tennessee's politics could frequently be tempestuous, the 1938 Democratic primary was one of the bitterest fights in Volunteer State history. It was a fight waged by the two factions of the Tennessee Democratic Party; on one side was Tennessee's senior United States senator, Kenneth D. McKellar and his personal friend and political partner, E. H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County political machine. The other faction was headed by Governor Gordon Browning, just elected to a two-year term as chief executive. Browning had been elected with an enormous majority over the open opposition of Senator McKellar and with the support and endorsement of Mr. Crump. With McKellar and Crump having taken different sides in the 1936 gubernatorial primary, opponents hoped the break between the two men would be permanent, a notion both the senator



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Senator Nathan L. Bachman of Tennessee

and Mr. Crump dismissed.

Gordon Browning had been a Congressman for twelve years before running for the U. S. Senate in 1934 against Nathan Bachman, who had been appointed when Cordell Hull had resigned to become President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Secretary of State. Browning, who hailed from Huntingdon in West Tennessee had first considered running against K. D. McKellar in 1934. McKellar had been in Congress since 1911 and was Tennessee's first United States senator ever to be popularly elected by the people. Gordon Browning had dropped the idea of challenging the formidable McKellar when he could not garner the support of a single influential individual. Still ambitious to serve in the Senate, Browning had instead run against Bachman. Browning had run a credible race and although he lost, immediately began running for governor in 1936.

McKellar suspected if Browning were elected governor in 1936, he would seek reelection in 1938 and then run against him for the Senate in 1940. Senator McKellar did all he could to derail Browning's nomination and was stunned when E. H. Crump announced his support for Browning. The Memphis Boss and Senator McKellar had several disagreements in the early 1930s; Crump had been critical of McKellar's older brother, Clint, being appointed Postmaster of Memphis. Clint McKellar had served as Assistant Postmaster of Memphis for over a decade and only received the promotion when the incumbent had died.

Senator McKellar insisted his brother deserved the appointment and ignored Crump's objections. McKellar had also not appreciated Crump having unceremoniously dumped Congressman Hubert Fisher from the ticket in 1930. Fisher had succeeded McKellar in Congress in 1916 and had been U. S. Attorney for the Western District by virtue of an appointment secured through McKellar. Fisher was increasingly deaf and when Crump decided to go to Congress, there was nothing the Congressman could do, save to retire gracefully.

Crump had served two terms in Congress and found Washington, D. C. to be very different from Memphis and Shelby County. E. H. Crump discovered that he was but one of many Congressmen, while K. D. McKellar was one of the more powerful members of the United States Senate. McKellar possessed enormous prestige and power, while Crump exercised little or no influence in the Capitol. Crump missed his family and did not especially enjoy serving in Congress and retired in 1934 and returned to his Memphis domain.

Some speculated Crump perceived Gordon Browning would win the nomination for governor in 1936 whether he had the support of Shelby County or not, while others believed Crump wanted to remind McKellar it was he who ruled in Memphis. McKellar's candidate for governor, Burgin Dossett, was humiliated in Shelby County while Browning received a tremendous majority, much to Senator McKellar's dismay. Journalists

gleefully reported even in Senator McKellar's home precinct, his gubernatorial candidate received a pitiful vote, buried beneath a Browning landslide.

The death of Nathan Bachman gave Governor Gordon Browning the power to appoint Bachman's successor until the next regular election. There was no dearth of candidates for the appointment and Browning was deluged with advice from prospective senators as well as their supporters. Bachman's funeral became a political event as members of the United States Senate took the train to Chattanooga to pay their respects to their fallen colleague. Just about every politician and would-be politician in the State of Tennessee was there as well. Bachman was not even in his grave before the speculation as to who his successor would be was rampant. The Chattanooga News snidely observed the scene was less a funeral than a three-day senatorial convention.

Browning had not abandoned his senatorial ambitions and he would not be the first governor to abruptly resign to allow his successor to appoint him to the vacancy. Browning had likely already considered the political consequences of such an action and concluded it might well end his career. Browning quickly publicly announced he would not resign so that he could be appointed to the late Nathan Bachman's seat.

Before leaving for Senator Bachman's funeral, Governor Browning had received a telephone call from Charles West, a former Congressman from Ohio and an under Secretary of the Interior.

West told Browning that President Roosevelt wished to see him before the governor named a replacement for Nathan Bachman. Browning was due to be in Washington, D. C. just after the Bachman funeral for a conference and the governor readily agreed to stop by the White House. After attending the services for Senator Bachman, Browning boarded a train for Washington, D. C. and discovered one of his traveling companions was Congressman Sam D. McReynolds. McReynolds had been elected to Congress the same year as Browning, 1922, and through seniority had risen to be Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Despite his influence in the House, McReynolds was one of many who coveted Bachman's seat in the Senate.

Even after getting away from Congressman McReynolds, Governor Browning found no respite from those wanting to talk about the senatorial appointment. As Browning hurried to his hotel, one persistent caller almost ripped the governor's coat from his body. Browning went to the White House for his meeting with President Roosevelt, but was kept waiting for more than two and a half hours in the outer office.

Neither President Roosevelt nor Governor Browning ever revealed the substance of their conversation and the normally loquacious Browning refused to tell inquiring reporters what had been said. Reporters surmised FDR wanted to be certain whomever Browning appointed to the Senate would be supportive of his plan to reorganize the

United States Supreme Court. Senator Bachman, a former Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, had taken no public stand on FDR's "court packing" plan, but had privately expressed serious reservations.

FDR later did say that he had not told Browning whom to appoint, but rather whom not to appoint to the senatorial vacancy. At best, it was an enigmatic statement, but likely had to do with another senatorial aspirant, Cordell Hull.

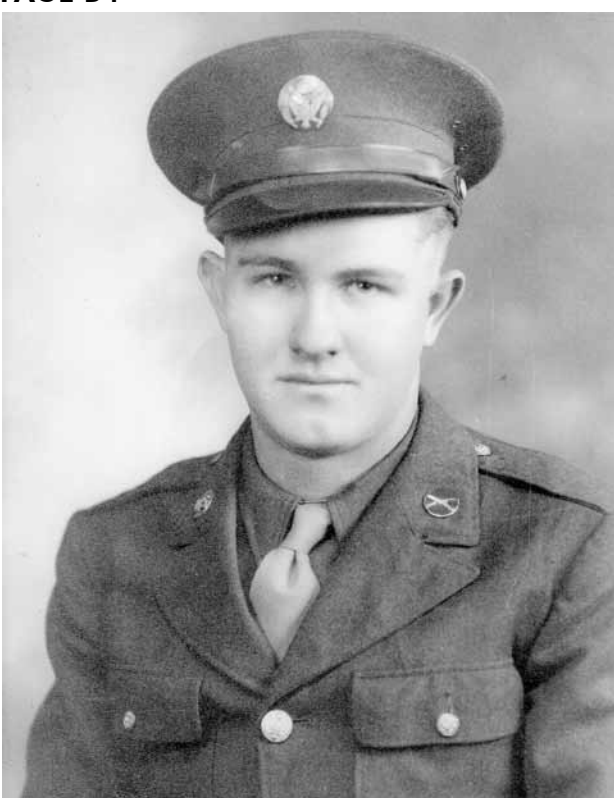
Hull enjoyed the prestige of being Secretary of State, but quickly discovered Roosevelt paid little attention to his views. The President was notorious for conducting his own foreign policy without regard for Hull's opinion.

Cordell Hull possessed a powerful Tennessee temper and despite Senator McKellar's reputation as a feudist and being vindictive, Cordell Hull himself could be coldly unforgiving and knew precisely how to slide a blade between the ribs of an unsuspecting opponent. When Raymond Moley, a Columbia University professor and original member of FDR's "brain trust" had been forced upon Hull as an Assistant Secretary of State, the Tennessean was unhappy. When Moley began issuing pronouncements from an economic conference in London without consulting Hull, unhappiness turned to rage. Secretary Hull immediately demanded that President Roosevelt repudiate Moley's statements. FDR, full well understanding the need to appease Hull and keep him in the Cabinet, shocked Moley by doing as Hull demanded. Moley's career in the government was effectively finished and he would go on to become a severe critic of both Roosevelt and the New Deal.

Cordell Hull still commanded enormous respect and prestige as Secretary of State, even if he wielded little real influence. While President Roosevelt treated him kindly, Hull knew all too well FDR had little respect for his views on foreign policy. Hull began toying with the idea of resigning from the Cabinet and returning to Tennessee where he remained highly popular. Apparently Hull even considered running against Nathan Bachman in 1936. Judge James Gardenhire, an intimate friend of Hull's, kept the Secretary apprised of political developments in Tennessee and Hull himself visited Senator McKellar to ascertain McKellar's view on Hull running for the U. S. Senate.

Governor Gordon Browning had met with Hull during his visit to Washington and while the subject of their conversation has never been made public, the topic of conversation surely had to touch upon the senatorial appointment.

Browning, tired of being pursued by those interested in the senatorial vacancy, canceled his plans to attend a conference in the Capitol and boarded a train bound for Tennessee.



Picture of Ralph O. Major in United States Army uniform made at People's Studio

Love of Country

Cont. from page 1

He was referring to the late Professor H. G. Loy, fondly known as Prof Loy to students. Mr. Loy served as principal at many schools, including Gibbs two times. It was his second time there that our father met him. Mr. Loy's daughter, Betty, appeared in my 9-11-12 Focus column along with her husband, Clayton Sharp. They are Gibbs graduates, and Clayton served in the military, as well.

Ralph Major lived all of his 68 years in the Gibbs Community. He was a member of the Ruritan Club in its early years and was a deacon for many years at Fairview Baptist Church.

On this Memorial Day, may we remember those who answered the call to serve our great country and those who are serving today. They certainly deserve our gratitude--and our prayers.



Jeffre Allen,
Valedictorian



Teresa Slade,
Salutatorian

Hardin Valley



Isaiah Patrick Bell,
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Samuel Lenoir Shadwell,
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A CRSA Community

A YEAR TO REMEMBER:

Focus recognizes local high school Athletes of the Year

It is a special group, made up of talented young athletes.



By Steve Williams

But in many cases, the field of play is not the only place where they shine.

The Knoxville Focus today recognizes 35 Ath-

letes of the Year – 18 males and 17 females – from 19 high schools in Knox County.

Athletic directors, at The Focus' request, sent in the names of their school's honorees, along with their accomplishments on and off the field,

which will be spotlighted in The Focus in weeks to come, starting June 3.

We'll tell you about one young man who lettered in five sports in the 2012-13 school year, a rare endeavor in this day and age when so many specialize in one sport and two is usually the max.

One of our female athletes of the year has a lot of experience in beach volleyball and will be headed to college in the Sunshine State to add to it. Does she have Olympic dreams?

You'll find out the two who sparkled playing for their dad and the one who literally

Continue on page 3



The Webb Spartans Boys Soccer team accepts their Division II-A Runnerup trophy last Thursday in Murfreesboro.

Webb's Repeat Dreams Fall Just Short

By Ken Lay

MURFREESBORO---Three area high school tennis teams left Old Fort Park with State Championships Wednesday.

Webb School of Knoxville won both the boys and girls Division II-A Titles while Christian Academy of Knoxville's boys won their third Class A/AA Championship in four years.

The Spartans won their title with a 4-2 victory over University School of Jackson. Webb opened the championship match with three wins in singles. Lorenzo Rollhauser downed J.R. Markos 6-2, 6-1. Gabi Dagotto defeated Graham Taylor 6-1, 0-6, 6-3. The Spartans nabbed a third singles win when Rajeev Jadhav beat Paul Markos 7-5, 6-3.

Webb clinched the championship in doubles when Thomas Loaiza teamed with Rollhauser to defeat Paul and J.R. Markos 8-5.

The Spartans advanced to Wednesday's championship round with a 4-2 win over St. George's on Tuesday.

Loaiza, Connor Cox and Dagotto claimed singles victories after Webb dropped the first two matches, Cox and Preston Yoon had a win in doubles to seal the championship.

Meanwhile, the Lady Spartans won another team title with a 4-0 sweep of Lausanne.

Anna Catharine Feaster had a three-set victory when she beat Oroma Womeodu 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 at No. 1 singles. At No. 2, Niki Rollhauser won a first-set tie-breaker en route to a 7-6, 6-1 victory over Alexis Stein. Rollhauser won the tie-breaker 7-3.

Diana Grandas (No. 3 singles) and Dinya Agarwal (at No. 4) recorded wins in the Lady Spartans' shutout win.

In Tuesday's semifinals, Webb downed St. George's 4-0 as Rollhauser, Grandas, Agarwal

Continue on page 3

By Alex Norman

The Webb Spartans boys' soccer team made the trip west... looking for two victories and a second straight state championship.

They left one win and one title shy of their goal.

On Thursday, May 23rd, the Spartans fell to St. George's Independent School 2-1 in the Division II, Class A championship game at the Richard Siegel Championship Soccer Complex in Murfreesboro.

"We have a lot of pride... it was quite an achievement just to make it, to be in this game," said Webb head coach Seth Harbin. "This was a winnable game. We weren't outclassed. That's just the way it goes sometimes."

The Spartans (14-6-1) were playing with some heavy legs. About 15 hours before the finals kicked off, Webb finished

up a semifinal to remember.

The Spartans bested Evangelical Christian School 2-1. But that game was extended through 80 minutes of regulation, 30 minutes of overtime and 10 rounds of penalty kicks.

Webb held their own in a first half that didn't see many scoring chances for either team. However, the Gryphons struck first in the final minutes of the opening stanza. Peyton Schelp's cross was collected by a late attacking Nicholas Sims. He had lots of net to work with and put it past Spartans keeper Jackson Lansing.

It was 1-0 St. George's at intermission.

Webb started the second half stronger and willing to take more offensive chances. About nine minutes in, they were rewarded when junior midfielder Ramzy Abidi sent a free kick towards the net. Senior Townes

Bouchard-Dean was credited with the goal on a deflection.

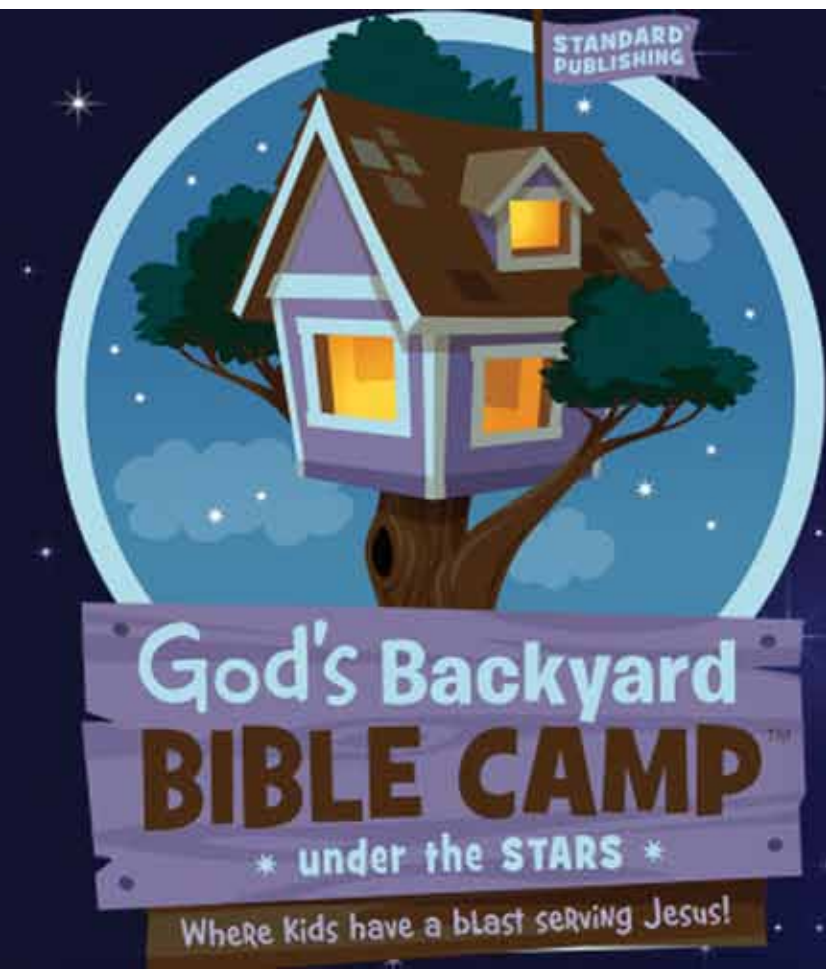
The game was tied at one and it appeared that Webb had all the momentum.

But less than thirty seconds later, the Gryphons took that momentum right back. A loose ball just inside the Webb box was taken by St. George's freshman forward Peyton Schelp, who knocked it just inside the right post.

That made things 2-1 St. George's, and forced Webb to once again play catch up.

The Spartans kept the pressure on. Abidi, Zahir Shaikh and Robby Strachan continued to work toward tying the game, but it was not to be.

Still, the Spartans should be congratulated on a terrific season. With only five seniors on the roster, the future is bright for this program.



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Tuesday: Duck Dynasty Night

Serve Friends (John 13:1-7)

Wednesday: Favorite Sports Team Night

Serve Neighbors (Genesis 24:1-27)

Thursday: Crazy Hair Night

Serve Community (Judges 6:1-16 & 7:9-21)

Serve Jesus (Acts 27 & 28)

Friday: Commencement - Everyone Welcome!

New Beverly Baptist Church

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Locals shine at decathlon, pentathlon

By Ken Lay

MURFREESBORO---Five area track athletes opened the Spring Fling by competing and posting high marks in the State Pentathlon and Decathlon.

The two-day events concluded Tuesday at Middle Tennessee State University. The boys competed in the decathlon while the area girls were embroiled in the pentathlon.

In the Class A/AA pentathlon, Christian Academy of Knoxville's Laura Morse finished second with 3,003 points.

Jada Curbeam, of East Nashville claimed the State Championship with 3,055 points.

Morse's finish netted the Lady Warriors eight points in the Class A/AA State Track Championship Meet, which was held late last week.

She finished second in the shot put with a throw of 29 feet. She finished in a three-way tie for second in the high jump (5-01.75). She was also second in the 800-meter run (2:09.84) and placed third in the long jump with a leap of 16 feet, 7 ¾ inches.

In the Class AAA Pentathlon, two area juniors competed. Farragut's Katie Beuerlein finished 10th while Catholic's Camille Baker came in 11th.

Beuerlein was fifth in the 100-meter hurdles (16.37 seconds). She was fourth in the shot put, eighth in the long jump and finished in a four-way tie for seventh in the high jump.

Beuerlein, an all-state soccer player for the Lady Admirals, was sixth in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:34.69.

Meanwhile, Baker's day was highlighted by a win in the 800-meter run (2:27.31). She finished sixth in the 100 hurdles (16.41 seconds). She took 12th in both the long jump and high jump. She finished seventh in the shot put competition.

In the Class AAA State

Decathlon: Karns High School had a pair of senior athletes make the event. Nathan Rivera finished sixth and scored three team points in the track and field championships. Cody Graves finished in 10th place.

The Beavers' duo cleared six feet in the high jump and both claimed a share of first place in a six-way tie.

Graves took second in both the 400-meter run (51.39 seconds) and the long jump (20-05.25). He finished third in the 100-meter dash (11.63).

Rivera was fourth in the 110-meter hurdles (16.20 seconds). He finished fifth in four events including the 100-meter dash (11.89), the pole vault (10-11.75), the long jump (20-00.50) and the shot put (37-10 ½). He was eighth in the 1,500-meter run (4:58.15). He took ninth in the discus with a throw of 92-05) and 10th in the triple jump (36-03). He took seventh in the 400 meters (52.57).

Graves finished ninth in the 110-meter hurdles, seventh in the triple jump, eighth in the shot put and 10th in the 1,500-meter run.

Centennial's Chaz Hawkins won the decathlon with 6,765 points.



PHOTO BY KATRINA SHELTON

Grace Christian Academy's Josh Liford has a big smile on his face as he approaches home plate, where teammates wait to congratulate him. Liford hit a three-run homer and also was the winning pitcher as the Rams defeated Cornersville 13-5 in the Class A first-round game in the TSSAA state baseball tournament at Murfreesboro on May 21.

At Spring Fling, Class AAA baseball is a KIL thing

By Steve Williams

Farragut High has extended the Knoxville Interscholastic League's streak of Class AAA state title appearances in baseball to eight.

The Admirals used good pitching to make it back to the finals after a one-year absence.

Farragut (35-8) defeated Dyer County 3-2 Thursday afternoon in Murfreesboro and was to have played Collierville in the championship game Friday.

Coach Matt Buckner's Admirals rolled through their half of the bracket unbeaten, having defeated Centennial 6-3 and Tullahoma 2-1 in their first two games.

Heading into the finals, Collierville had scored 26 runs in its three state games for

an average just under nine runs per outing. In contrast, Farragut had allowed only six runs in its three games.

Something would have to give.

The Admirals started the KIL's amazing run of title appearances by winning the state crown in 2006. South-Doyle was runner-up in 2007. Farragut then won four state titles in a row (2008 through 2011). Bearden kept the streak alive by finishing second last season.

Going back even further, the KIL has had a team in the Class AAA finals 12 out of the past 13 seasons.

Farragut players' tradition of bleaching their hair blonde during post-season play also was on display at this year's state.

"It's been a playoff tradition for 10 years or so, going back to the Delmonico days," said second baseman Sam Schulze. "It brings us all together. It's a lot of fun, a little weird, but it took off at school and around town, that's for sure."

Strong relief pitching by Nick Senzel and Brett Hagenow's RBI single in the bottom of the seventh inning gave Farragut its win over Dyer County.

Sophomore Patrick Raby, pitching on three days rest, survived a rough second inning in the Admirals' state tourney opener. Raby gave up four bases on balls as Centennial took the lead, but Senzel, a Georgia signee, helped the Admirals regain the momentum with a two-run triple.

Farragut's Kyle Serrano, a UT signee, outdueled

Tullahoma junior Justus Sheffield, a Vanderbilt commitment, 2-1 in a second-round showdown. Serrano allowed only five hits, struck out 10 and walked one.

In other state tourney action, Grace Christian Academy opened with a 13-5 win over Cornersville in Class A. Coach Brian Hochevar's Rams, however, dropped a 6-5 decision to Friendship Christian in the second round.

Grace stayed alive by winning a rematch with Cornersville 2-1. Friendship Christian (32-6) eliminated the Rams 12-1 to reach the finals. GCA finished 16-13.

Pigeon Forge (38-2) reached the Class AA finals with a 6-3 win over Dyersburg. The Tigers were to battle Goodpasture (36-3) for the championship.

Cox steps down as CHS softball coach

By Ken Lay

Mike Cox has spent the last 14 seasons building the Central High School softball program and last week, he called it quits with the Lady Bobcats.

"This is a sad day but I'm a firm believer that when one door closes, another one will open," said Cox, who led Central to a 23-12 record in 2013.

The Lady Bobcats finished second in both the District 3-AAA regular-season standings. Central was runner-up in the district tournament and qualified for the Region 2-AAA Tournament where it lost to Maryville, which qualified for last week's State Tournament.

"It's been a great ride and I cherish a lot of memories," said Cox, who teaches physical education at the school. "I would like to thank all the players.

"They will always be a part of what

we built at Central High School. I've had great parents. Not only did I coach their kids, I've made some lifelong friends."

In Cox's tenure, the Lady Bobcats made the Class AAA State Tournament four times (2004, 2006, 2007 and 2009).

"In 12 of the last 14 years, I've been blessed with great talent," Cox said. "Between 2000 and 2013, I've had six 20-win seasons, five 30-win seasons and one 40-win season.

"I've [also] had 21 college signees over the last 14 years."

Cox said the main reason for his departure is lack of participation in athletics at CHS. The Lady Bobcats won 23 games this season with only 10 players. Four of those, including his two pitchers recently finished their respective high school careers.

"This year, I had 10 players and now, they have six coming back and no pitching," said Cox, who compiled a 363-181 record in 14 seasons at Central. "The biggest reason that I'm stepping down is lack of participation.

"I play the toughest schedule of any team in our school and I want to play at a high level and you can't do that without any pitching. When you don't have pitching, you can't compete with Halls, Karns, Clinton, Powell, Gibbs or Anderson County."

Throughout his time with the Lady Bobcats, Cox has had a stellar group of assistant coaches including the late Hayne Steed, Paul Cogdill

and Steve Killian, who is now the athletic director at West High School.

Cox also expressed his gratitude to Central athletic director Charlie Sheets and his predecessors Jeff Thomas (now at Gibbs), Ken Dunlap (now principal at Powell High School) and Benny Perry, who is now an administrator at Austin-East.

"I would like to thank all four of the athletic directors for all their advice," Cox said.

Cox added that he's also indebted to former Central High principal Jon Miller, who is now assistant principal at Hardin Valley Academy.

"I would like to thank Jon Miller for trusting me and giving me the chance to take the helm at Central High School," Cox said. "I would also like to thank our current principal, Danny Trent, for all of the support that he's given us. I would also like to thank my wife for putting up with me."

Cox leaves a winning legacy at Central and three of his players are local high school coaches. Whitney Hickam is the head coach at Hardin Valley. Amanda Estes is now at William Blount and Brittany Webb is an assistant with Seymour, which made its third consecutive trip to the Spring Fling in Murfreesboro recently.

Cox hasn't ruled out coaching in the future.

"I'm not done," he said. "I'm still interested in coaching.

"I think I've got 10 or 15 years left."



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A YEAR TO REMEMBER:

Focus recognizes local high school Athletes of the Year

Continued from page 1

followed in his brother's footsteps.

Success in athletics does not come without success in the class room. That is very noticeable up and down the list of honorees.

In commenting on Farragut High's Athletes of the Year, Jonathan King and Madison Blevins, athletic director Seth Smith said: "Jonathan and Madison represent all that is good in high school athletics. They are smart, kind, and natural born leaders. I know that they will do great things in life."

Many of the athletic directors could have said the same thing about their honorees.

South-Doyle AD Clark Duncan noted "Landon Raby and Erin Ketron exemplify the true meaning of student-athlete. They are both leaders on the athletic fields, but more importantly they are leaders in our classrooms and the hallways. We are honored to have Landon and Erin represent South-Doyle High School as our Athletes of the Year."

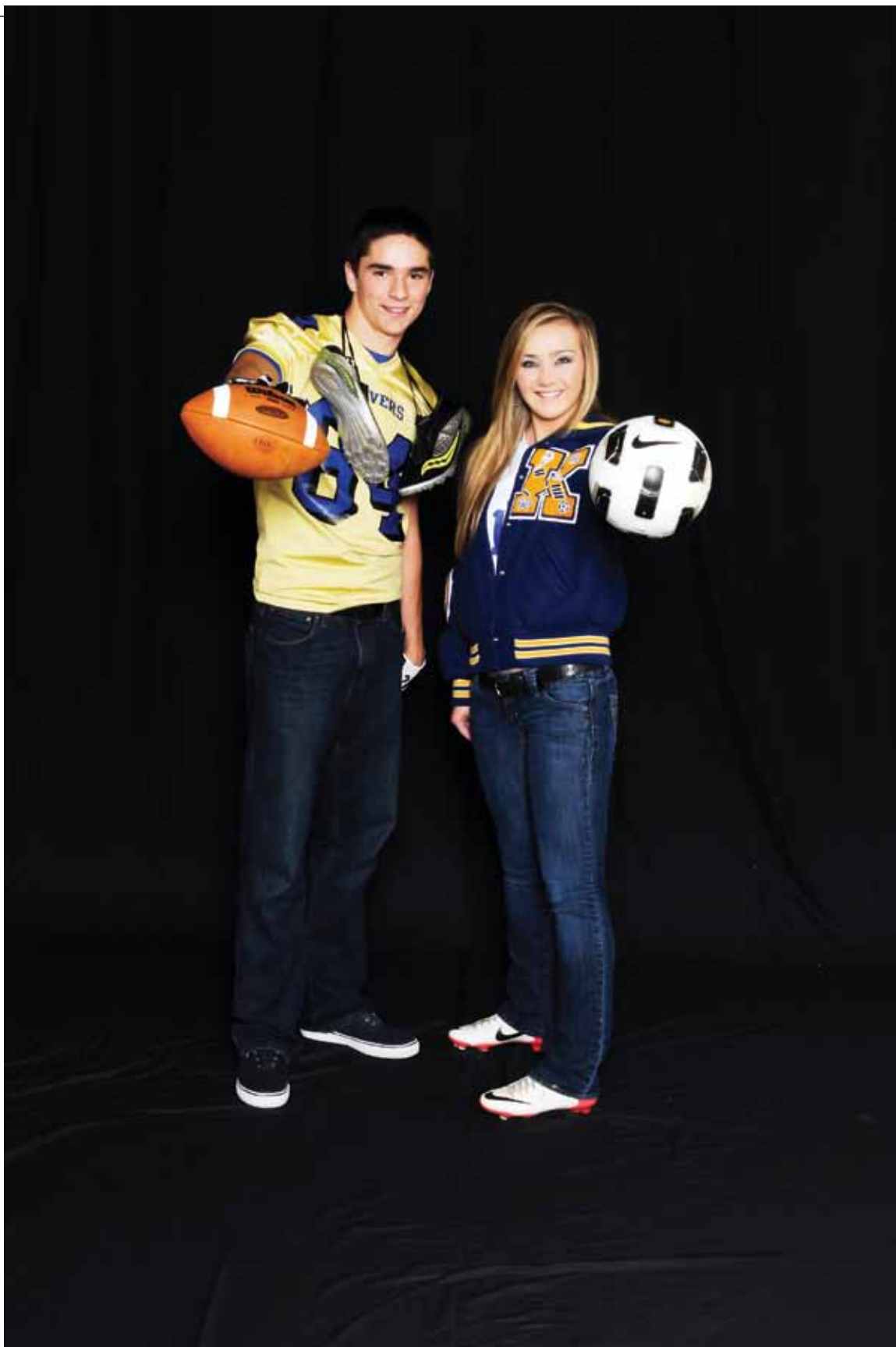
Each school has its own way of selecting its Athletes of the Year. Christian Academy of Knoxville gives its honorees the Warrior Award.

Fitting the "definition of the Warrior Award," wrote CAK athletic director Steve Denny, is an "athlete that best represents CAK Athletics academically, spiritually, emotionally, socially and athletically. Athletically, they are usually multi-sport athletes or exceptional in a single sport. This award is voted on by our varsity head coaches."

Knoxville Catholic's principal chose to sidestep tradition this year. He had two very good reasons.

"We do not traditionally give an Athlete of the Year award, but I would like to give you two," noted Dickie Sompayrac. "They are twins - Clare and Kathleen Conaty. They both were starters in basketball and softball and both were recognized as All-District in softball. They are also both in the top 25 percent of their class. They were seniors this year and they graduated this past Saturday (May 18). They will both be attending the University of Notre Dame next year."

We would like to thank



Nathan Rivera and Lindsey Kelly are well deserving of being Karns High's Athletes of the Year. Nathan lettered four years in football and was one of the state's top decathletes. Soccer was Lindsey's best sport, but she also lettered in tennis, track and dance.

Tracy Miller Davis, administrative assistant for Knox County Schools' athletics department, for her assistance in putting us in touch with the athletic directors, and to the athletic directors themselves for taking the time, as the school year was coming to a busy end, to send in information on their Athletes of the Year.

This is the second year *The*

Focus has recognized the local Athletes of the Year.

Some school representatives expressed their gratitude for the *Focus*' efforts.

"Thanks for doing this," noted Rick Ziegler of Webb School, after submitting Burton Sampson and Kensi Wieland.

"Thank you for helping us recognize an exceptional young

man," wrote Andre Caballero, Bearden High Social Studies and Physical Education teacher and the football team's offensive coordinator, after e-mailing facts and figures on quarterback Nicky Frizen, who will be continuing his football career at the University of the Cumberland in Williamsburg, Ky., this fall.

Frizen's impressive resume, by

FEMALE ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

- Bearden - Kristin Randolp.
- Carter - Abbey Boiling.
- Christian Academy of Knoxville - Laura Morse.
- Central - Kaitlyn Howell.
- Farragut - Madison Blevins.
- Fulton - Jayda Johnson.
- Gibbs - Dani Jefferson.
- Grace Christian Academy - Morgan Crawley.
- Halls - Kacie Skeen.
- Hardin Valley Academy - Emily Smith.
- Karns - Lindsey Kelly.
- Knoxville Catholic - Clare Conaty and Kathleen Conaty.
- L&N STEM Academy - Hannah Kearns.
- South-Doyle - Erin Ketron.
- Tennessee School for the Deaf - Michaela Evans.
- Webb School - Kensi Wieland.

MALE ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

- Austin-East - Dennis Troutman.
- Bearden - Nicky Frizen.
- Carter - Jake Mendenhall.
- Christian Academy of Knoxville - Ben Holt.
- Central - Aaron Lopez.
- Farragut - Jonathan King.
- Fulton - Dean Taylor.
- Gibbs - Jay Cade.
- Grace Christian Academy - Will McKamey.
- Halls - Stetson Moore.
- Hardin Valley Academy - Aaron Templeton.
- Karns - Nathan Rivera.
- L&N STEM Academy - Dagon Uselton.
- Powell - Jon Strozyk.
- South-Doyle - Landon Raby.
- Tennessee School for the Deaf - Ethan Swafford.
- Webb School - Burton Sampson.
- West - Ryan Francis.

the way, includes being the 2013 senior prom king and an undefeated amateur boxer.

What can I say?
It's a special group, and a versatile one, too.
Congratulations!

Webb sweeps State, CAK boys win tennis title

Cont. from page 1

and Kathryn Evans won matches.

In the Class A/AA Tournament: CAK won its third championship in four seasons by edging Christ Presbyterian Academy 4-3.

The Warriors lost the first two singles matches but rallied as Ethan Fussell defeated Jack Zienan 6-3, 6-3 before Josh Current and Franklin Murchison won dramatic three-set matches. Current outlasted CPA's Will Whitaker 5-7, 6-3, 6-2. Murchison, a senior, who also played for the last two State Champion Warriors football teams, won his singles match over Evan McCarty 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

The two squads split a pair of doubles matches, with CAK winning the title by prevailing in the final match when freshman Koi Royal teamed with Current to nab a 9-8 (7-4) win over Zayne Mills and Whitaker in a set determined by a tie-breaker.

The Warriors got a 4-2

semifinal win over Notre Dame.

Fussell, Tanner DeBoard and Murchison notched singles victories while DeBoard and Fussell combined to win a doubles match,

Irish reach Class

AAA Finals: Catholic defeated White Station in Tuesday's semifinals in its last Class AAA Tournament. The Irish got wins from Michael Aleman, Jonathan Chavez, Sam Greely

and Mitchell Jostes.

Catholic's hopes for a State Title were dashed with a 4-0 loss to Brentwood on Wednesday. Brentwood, a state powerhouse, won its semifinal match over Murfreesboro-Siegel 4-0.

CAK, Catholic girls eliminated in semifinals:

The Lady Warriors and Lady Irish both had short stays in Murfreesboro. CAK was ousted by Chattanooga Christian 4-2. Leighton Porter

and Ellie Henry won singles matches for the Lady Warriors.

Catholic, meanwhile, lost in the Class AAA semifinal match to Ravenwood

4-0.

The team champions may have been crowned but local players were not finished competing. The State Individual Singles

and Doubles Championships were concluded late last week but results were not available at press time.

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Gibbs softballers start moving forward today

By Steve Williams

Gibbs' highly regarded softball program starts on the 2014 season today, May 28, with team tryouts for next year, Coach Carol Mitchell said last Thursday night after arriving back home from the TSSAA state tournament.

The Lady Eagles will be moving up to the Class AAA division next season, too, after being a Class AA state power for years.

Gibbs' bid for a 10th state title ended Thursday morning in Murfreesboro with a 5-4 loss to Lexington.

The Lady Eagles held on to edge Greenbrier 7-6 in their first round game at the state, but lost 4-3 to Chester County in the second round.

"We didn't play very well," said Coach Mitchell. "We had opportunities in both games to win."

"We didn't get hits when we needed them. They're disappointed. Some of our players were on the state championship team last year and wanted to repeat. It didn't happen."

Mitchell said the team's downfall began in its state opener.

"We tightened up," she said. "We gave up six runs. Fortunately, we were up 7-0."

"We played like that the rest of

the way. Real tight. Just couldn't relax and play."

Against Lexington, Kaitlin Beeler's grand slam gave Gibbs a 4-0 lead in the top of the fourth inning. Beeler's homer followed singles by Karri Byrd and Dani Jefferson and a walk by Savannah Foster.

Lexington came back to score three runs in the bottom half of the fourth and added single runs in the fifth and sixth to take the lead.

Gibbs failed to come up with a key hit with a runner in scoring position in the fifth and sixth.

In the seventh, Gibbs had another chance. But with runners on second and third and one out, Jefferson struck out looking and Foster grounded out to the pitcher to end the game.

In the Class AAA division, Seymour's banner season ended in two games as the Lady Eagles failed to score a run, losing 1-0 to Munford and 2-0 to Murfreesboro Riverdale.

Maryville defeated Munford 5-2 Thursday before suffering a heart-breaking 6-5 loss to Clarksville in 11 innings.

Oliver Springs, making its first state tourney appearance, won two games before being eliminated by Whitwell 6-2 in Class A.



Karns High School center fielder Miranda Smith recently signed to play softball at Cleveland State Community College. Pictured with Smith (top, left to right) are her mother Jenny Smith, her father Glen and Cleveland State coach Katie Willingham. Seated next to Miranda is her sister Sydney.

Smith to play softball at Cleveland State

By Ken Lay

Karns High School softball player Miranda Smith will continue her softball career at Cleveland State Community College.

Smith, a recent graduate and four-year starter for the Lady Beavers, made it official early last week when she signed her National Letter of Intent.

She also considered playing at Walters State, but fell in love with the campus in Cleveland.

"I didn't really have any offers but I thought about going to Walters State but once I went to Cleveland, I decided that I wasn't going to Walters State," said Smith, who played center

field and was a part of three consecutive District 3-AAA Championship teams. "I really loved the campus and I liked the coach."

Smith said that she chose to go the community college route due to small class size.

"I really liked the campus and I enjoyed the coach and I liked the small class size," Smith said. "Once I went down there, I knew that that was where I wanted to go."

"And it's only a two-year commitment."

She plans to pursue a career in radiology but immediately hopes to fulfill her general education requirements and obtain

a transfer to a four-year school.

Smith also said it was important for her to stay close to home.

"Cleveland State gives the opportunity to get away but it also gives me the chance to stay close to my family," she said. Cleveland is far enough away but be close enough to my family."

She credits new Karns head coach Kristy Hutson for re-kindling her passion for the game.

"I would just like to thank our coaching staff for allowing me to enjoy playing ball again," Smith said. "The made it fun to play ball again"

Arts & Entertainment

Visit Knoxville Announces New Mural at Downtown Visitor Center

This summer, the Knoxville Visitor Center will serve as a blank canvas for art to come alive in the launch of the Knoxville Mural Project. Highlighting Knoxville's rich culture and heritage, the Knoxville Mural Project was developed in partnership with Visit Knoxville, the East Tennessee Design Center, Arts & Cultural Alliance, Central Business Improvement District and the Public Arts Committee. The purpose of the project is to beautify the community with artistic murals that boast Knoxville's authenticity and create a unique attraction for tourism and promotion, while expanding the community's engagement with public art.

The Knoxville Visitor Center was selected as the first mural

for the project, and work will begin in June to complete the mural this summer.

"Visitors are always taking photos of the large Knoxville logo on the side of the Visitor Center building," said Kim Bumpas, President of Visit Knoxville.

"This opportunity to design a new mural will represent a piece of art that visitors will capture in photos and videos, and then share with their social media networks and digital platforms. We are excited to launch this initiative and look forward to working with the local community to expand the project and include various neighborhoods and buildings throughout Knoxville."

As part of the design process for the Knoxville Visitor Center mural, local artists submitted

design concepts this spring. Guidelines for the design of the mural included:

- An emphasis on Knoxville's diversity in arts, music, and culture.
- Painters, sculptors, and other artists engaged in their craft interacting with each other helping shape the scene.
- Knoxville's natural beauty and opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- Artistic icons of Knoxville, (Sunsphere, TN Theatre Marquis, Boomsday, Trolleys etc.)

The conceptual design of seasoned muralist Bobbie Crews was selected for the Knoxville Visitor Center mural. Crews will collaborate with local mural

artist Walt Fieldsa to bring the mural to life.

"Recognizing public art and celebrating local artists is very important to our community," continued Bumpas. "We are excited to work with Bobbie and Walt on this design, and the mural will highlight Knoxville's landmarks and several notable experiences in the community."

As work begins on the Knoxville Visitor Center Mural in June, three additional stages will also begin taking place for the overall Mural Project. The first stage is the launch of the Knoxville Mural Project Website, which will include information about existing murals in Knoxville and Knox County. The second stage is the launch of a Walking/Driving Tour to highlight many of the murals

throughout the Knoxville Community. The third phase will identify additional walls for murals and expand the overall Knoxville Mural Project.

The public is also encouraged to come to the Visitor Center to see the mural for themselves throughout the production phase, take photos, and share in telling the story of this creative process.

Additional details about the Mural website and timeline for the Knoxville Visitor Center Mural will be released in the next two weeks.

For more information about the Knoxville Mural Project, please contact Kim Davis at kdavis@knoxville.org or 865-806-9084.

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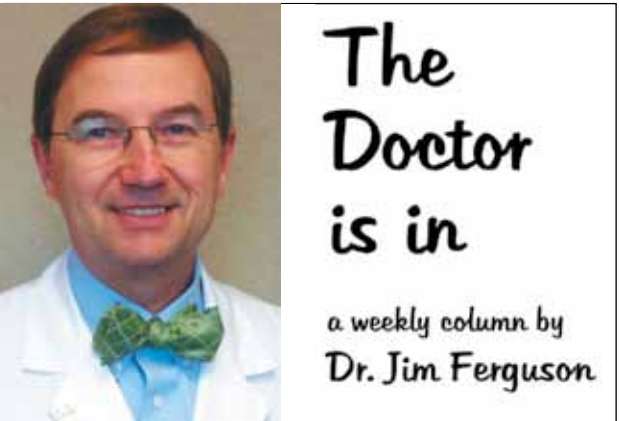
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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by Dr. Jim Ferguson

Foundations

“If everyone is thinking alike, someone isn’t thinking.” General George Patton

One wonders if the General wasn’t prophetic. Apparently, the Major News Media, Attorney General Eric Holder, Hilary Clinton and President Obama, Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid, as well as the head of the IRS, his predecessor, supervisors and staff of the IRS all seem to think alike. The other alternative is that the President and Mrs. Clinton didn’t know about terrorists in Benghazi, Holder didn’t know about Associated Press and Fox News wire taps, and the IRS chiefs didn’t know anything about targeting citizens, religious groups, and organizations opposed to Obama’s liberal-democrat-progressive ideology. Perhaps they all have group-think

or perhaps they simply weren’t thinking. And if that’s the case, what are we paying them for?

A priori bias is a philosophical perspective where one’s foundational or fundamental perspectives color all facts. I have a friend who has logically demonstrated to me that all facts are conditional and apparently they are political, as well. I know about scientific facts and observational truths, and I admit I have a bias; we all do. You may try to be “fair and balanced”, but more importantly you need to recognize and accept your bias. As a theist I also know that just because I don’t understand something that doesn’t make it fanciful. And as a result my world view is broader than someone who doesn’t accept reality beyond his vision or his talking points.

As an internist and geriatrician, science is foundational in my patient care, but fortunately my trust in The Master extends my vision and my abilities to care for my patients, especially in times of trouble. Times have changed in my forty years of practice. I am no longer in charge of patients in the ICU, and I don’t manage patients on ventilators these days. Mother Teresa once said, “Not everyone can do great things, but everyone can do small things with great love.” This is what I do these days as I focus on preventive care, controlling problems like diabetes and hypertension, and optimizing the hand my patient was given to play.

A major issue in preventive care is osteoporosis. The skeleton is the foundational support of your body. And like a home with a weakened foundation, it may collapse in stormy times. Osteoporotic bones have reduced density and strength. We are able to stand upright and walk as our muscles pull against our boney framework. Some anthropologists even hold that our frontal brain developed as our ancestors began to walk upright and their hands were freed for dexterous work.

Visualize a chunk of

Swiss cheese that contains holes. Within the bones of your body are holes or spaces between the support struts. Osteoporosis is a condition where the holes or spaces become larger, making the supporting framework thinned and weakened. Healthy bones constantly undergo remodeling, akin to my home where Becky is always trying to makes things better with a remodeling project. A friend of mine says, “You’re either growing or you’re dying,” and this applies to your skeleton. In fact, if more bone is broken down than is replaced, osteoporosis develops and bones become weakened and can snap.

It is estimated that “50% of white women and 20% of men will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in their lifetime” (AIM, July 2011). Crushed bones in the spine are very painful and produce the dreaded dowager’s hump. Breaking a hip and the complications of surgery have significant mortality; some may never walk again. And Geriatricians know that a poor functional status and the inability to walk are strong predictors of death.

We now have tests to accurately and painlessly measure the density of

bones (DEXA). And more importantly we now have medications that can stabilize weakened bones and reduce fracture risk. Science has demonstrated that women after menopause lose bone rapidly, and some aging men do so as well. We know that smoking, being sedentary and having poor health or low body weight are associated with weakened bones. And drugs like alcohol, seizure medications and some breast cancer treatments can cause osteoporosis.

I interpret a lot of bone density reports for Summit doctors. However, I think some doctors and patients rely too heavily on technology such as DEXA analysis instead of the overall clinical picture. An example is a patient who has a non-traumatic broken bone or who has lost several inches in height as they aged. These folks have osteoporosis until proven otherwise and may need treatment regardless of test results. And a lot has been said about the rare issue of softening of the jaw bone (osteonecrosis) and atypical thigh bone fractures as complications of bisphosphonate therapy (a major drug class in osteoporosis treatment). I’m afraid many patients are swayed by media hype

and stop their medications rather than discussing their concerns with their doctors. There is no substitute for a thinking and caring doctor and a patient who works with the doctor to maximize therapy outcomes.

I’ve heard that darkness is the absence of light. Our current American experience seems to echo iconic monkeys who “see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil.” I wish our citizens would open their eyes and ears and politicians would stop speaking so much evil.

Perhaps it’s time that we open our eyes and shine a light into the dark basement of Washington where there seems to be such an absence of light and thought. Perhaps a light shined into that basement will expose the rats and run them out of town.

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

For appointments call Keesha at 865-522-0326.

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

Healthy Summer Swimming

Memorial Day typically marks the start of summer vacations as many of us flock to the water’s edge. Swimming has many health benefits which makes it one of the most popular sports in the United States. This time of year always takes me back to when I was a child and would go swimming with my grandfather. The sounds of laughter and conversations around the pool and lake always take me back to a time that was seemingly without danger or concern. As a child it seemed to me mom was more concerned with the unknown—unseen dangers such as snakes, sharks, diving, and drowning. I am sure my mom had many concerns I never knew about or have blocked from my memory. WOW, how the years change us!

It seems all too often the sounds of playful splashes and laughter are shadowed by the news of a child drowning. Child safety takes on a whole new meaning when they are near or playing in water.

To help keep your children safe in and near the water here are a few simple safety tips:

- Teach your child to swim. It is important to stress swimming lessons will not drown-proof your child. Even good

Continued on page 2



By Howard Baker, RN BSN



Last Wednesday, the UPMC Lifestar helicopter hangar was dedicated to Norman Majors (center), pictured with Con Hunley and Richard Julian. Majors was instrumental in bringing UT Lifestar to the region nearly 30 years ago.



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Faith

Is God Heartless and Cruel?



By Mark Brackney,
Minister of the
Arlington Church
of Christ

As our church has been working its way through the story of the Bible, there are many features of God's character that you begin to notice. One of these is that God is jealous. One thing God abhors is the practice of idolatry. You begin to notice in the Bible that all the nations, including Israel at many times, worshipped other gods. This is why the first commandment God gave Israel was that they were to have no other gods before Him, and they were not to make or worship idols in any form.

As you work your way through Scripture and come to the Book of Joshua and Judges, you see how God will punish Israel and other nations who do not worship Him. For example, in Judges, God allowed other rulers to oppress Israel until they would repent and call out to God for help. God used judgment to awake them from

spiritual slumber.

When you read the Book of Joshua, you find many wars as God leads Israel to take possession of the Promised Land. When they attacked these cities, they didn't just kill the armies, they eliminate every living thing in the city. There were no survivors. All were killed including men, women, children, and even the animals. When one reads of these accounts, this appears inconsistent with our idea of a loving God. Why is God heartless and cruel to so many innocent people like children and animals?

The answer comes from understanding God's nature and His purposes. God is perfect and holy. He abhors sin. One of the main reasons God destroyed these nations is due to their rebellion and wickedness. After God had given the Israelites the Ten Commandments and other laws, Moses delivered a speech to prepare them for the eventual conquest of Canaan. Moses said, "It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations the Lord your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" (Deut. 9:5).

Six hundred years earlier, God promised to make a great nation from Abraham's family. God, in looking forward, stated: "In the fourth generation your

descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure" (Genesis 15:16). The land that God would one day give to Israel was being desecrated by the wickedness of the people who lived there. The wickedness had not yet grown to the point that God would wipe the people off the face of the earth, but it was growing. It would take four more generations for their wickedness to become so detestable that God would have just cause to take the land from them. This shows us God's patience. He gave them six hundred years to change their ways, but they didn't.

It may seem unfair or cruel to us that God would have an entire nation wiped out, including children, but evil can reach such a point that an end must come. How bad were they? We are told "they do all kinds of detestable things the Lord hates. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods" (Deut. 12:31).

When Israel wiped out these cities, justice was served by God. In this way, God's name would become known as He calls people into community with Him. God, likewise, calls us today to be separate from those around us. The testimony of our lives should be such that people notice a difference and are attracted to the true God. May all that we do be such that others can see the true God above all the false gods of our age.

Calvary Baptist Church, Heiskell along with **Zion Baptist Church**, **Blessed Hope Baptist Church** and **Edgemoor Baptist Church**, are having a "Schools out Party" at the Claxton Elementary School Football field on Clinton Highway at Edgemoor Road, Saturday, June 1 beginning at 6 p.m.

Healthy Summer Swimming

Continued from page 1

swimmers can drown.

- Never leave children unsupervised near water.
- Be a "Designated Watcher" during social gatherings it is a good idea for adults to take turns being the "designated watcher" who is free from distractions such as telephones, televisions, books or conversations that could distract you even for a second.
- Remove toys from the water. Children can fall into the water trying to retrieve them.
- Beware of drains. Do not allow children to play near or sit on pool drains. Body parts and hair may become entrapped by strong suction.
- Install alarms. If your home serves as part of your pool's enclosure, protect doors leading into the pool area with an alarm.

These simple safety tips are not fail proof and even under the most diligent adult supervision accidents can and do happen. While drowning is the most serious of water injuries, there are other dangers that can cause significant illnesses. A new CDC study found that swimmers frequently bring poop into the water. Poop may contain germs which can be swallowed by others in the water and make them sick. Many people believe that chlorine and other disinfectants kill germs instantly, this is simply not true. Once germs are in the pool, it can take minutes to days for chlorine to kill them. These germs can cause gastrointestinal, skin, ear, respiratory, eye, neurologic, and wound infections. The most commonly

reported water related illness is diarrhea caused by the germs *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, *Shigella*, *norovirus* and *E. coli*. Swallowing just a little water containing these germs can make you sick (CDC).

So, how do we keep ourselves and others safe from germs while swimming? Remember we all share the water we swim in, and equally share in the responsibility of keeping poop, germs, and pee out of the water.

• Shower or bathe with soap paying special attention to your bottom before you go swimming and take a rinse shower before you get back into the water

• Do not swim if you have diarrhea

• Take bathroom breaks at least every hour

• Practice good hand washing after using the bathroom or changing diapers

• Check the chlorine level (1 – 3 ppm) & pH level (7.2 – 7.8) before getting into the water

Most pool supply stores sell pool testing strips, or you can get FREE pool strips at <http://www.healthypools.org/freeteststrips/> and get more information on healthy swimming at <http://www.healthypools.org/>. HealthyPools.org recommends using your senses and a little common sense to help keep you safe and healthy this summer. Sight: Look for water that is clean, clear, and blue. Touch: Check for tiles that feel smooth and clean. Smell: Make sure there are no strong odors. Sound: Listen for pool cleaning equipment (HealthyPools.org). I wish you and your family wonderful memories and a healthy summer. Now, let's go swimming!

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ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

Antique sales improving with the economy

Almost everyone wishes to acquire and own antiques and collectibles and, with the improving economy, sell-through prices are showing sharp rises at auction galleries nationwide. The better grades of items in these categories have a proven track record of being a sound investment over



By Carl Sloan

the short and long term. Trends are hard to predict yet the great news is that if your item drops in value, most of the time it will rise back up in the future. If you were to have purchased \$300 worth of a stock and three years later is doubled, then you have beaten most stocks on the Dow Jones index. If you did the same with an antique or collectible, hardly anyone would notice yet it is the same principle and should not be ignored and happens all of the time.

I am seeing more and more dealers in the markets showing up and buying at auction houses and this tells me that they need inventory for what is in demand.

I am a contractor at Fountain City Auction here in Knoxville and we tend to have themed sales that makes it easier for me to see the trends in buying and selling. I am liking what I see. Fountain City does very well with country and primitive items, from furniture to all kinds of small items. Folks come from out of state to attend these sales, which are usually standing room only, for

a chance to buy. General sale auctions occur most weeks every Friday at 6 p.m. These are a lot of fun and have all sorts of items, from general household furniture as well as good antiques. Fountain City Auction is a great place to buy and sell with treasures galore and you can name the price. The two things that can never be beat is quality and necessity and their warehouse stays full of great opportunities of all kinds.

One of my duties is acquisitions of higher end items that fit into the internet sales broadcast worldwide as well as the audience competing. The good news is that sales are up from last year this time and I am always available to discuss and advise you at no cost as what is the best venue for your items, collections or estates.

I love helping folks get the most from their items by putting them in the right sale at the right time to maximize their returns.

I am working now on a toy collection for an internet sale sometime in July, so do call me as I have empty lots at this time I need to fill. Greg Lawson is the owner and general manager of Fountain City Auction and you can reach me by calling him at (865)604-3468 and asking for Carl Sloan to assist you with any questions. Again, I do not charge for assessments and with appointment, can come to you.

All about azaleas, 2

Continued from last week's Focus

Another deciduous azalea that I recommend is the Exbury Hybrids. Hardy to -25 degrees. Upright form from 4 to 6 feet tall. Flowers are large (3-5 in), in clusters of seven to eighteen, can be ruffled or fragrant, white through pink and yellow to orange and red. The 'Gibraltar' in orange is stunning.

Several evergreen hybrid species are available that do very well in Zone 7. Some of these are as follows:

Gable Hybrids have small leaves that are a dark, shiny green, and the 2 inch flowers appear in late April and early May. Most grow 4 feet high by 4-feet wide. 'Rosebud' is a particularly beautiful double rose-pink variety.

Glenn Dale Azaleas are a hybrid, mostly evergreen, that range in height and width from 3 to 8 feet, and have large blooms in many colors. 'Glacier' is a mid-season bloomer with white flowers and shiny green foliage.

The Karume azaleas are small, dense shrubs that normally never reach more than 5 feet high and

5 feet wide. The most commonly available variety is 'Hershey's Red' with clear red flowers and a mounding habit. The leaves turn bronze in winter. 'Delaware Valley White' has an open habit and clear white flowers early in the season.

There are many other hybrid species and of course, now available, are the Encore azaleas, which are reblooming and bloom in spring, summer and fall.

Rhododendron have large, leathery leaves whereas the azaleas have smaller, narrower leaves, usually pointed. The rhododendron types are a little fussier about their environment than the azaleas. Rhododendrons prefer an environment that is neither too hot or too cold (Zones 5 through 8) and need a certain amount of chilling to develop strong flower buds. 'Blue Diamond' is compact and upright, to 5 feet with small leaves and dense clusters of lavender-blue flowers. 'Blue Peter' is vigorous to 10 feet and bears compact clusters of violet-blue flowers, white in the center. 'Winsome' reaches 5 feet and has bronze young foliage, later dark green and funnel-shaped deep pink flowers from scarlet buds.

These evergreen azaleas and rhododendrons and deciduous "native" azaleas can certainly dress up your landscape!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CASA holding training

You can make the difference in the lives of abused and neglected children in Knox County! CASA of East Tennessee is forming our next training class for advocate volunteers.

For more information about CASA and volunteer opportunities, please call Summer Colbert at 865.329.3399 or visit www.casa-ofeasttn.org.

Listening Hearts Knoxville Gathering of Bereaved Moms

Listening Hearts will meet at 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 1, 2013 at the Eye Institute's Conference Room (2020 Kay Street, Knoxville, TN 37865.) Contact: Debra Reagan, 865-679-135. www.listeninghearts.net

House to Home



The Central High School Bel Canto, the most advanced performance group in the choral department partly pictured above, has been selected to perform for the National Association for Music Education, formerly MENC, at the National Convention. This selection was based on the reputation of the CHS Choral Music Department and on Bel Canto's superior ratings at ETVA Choral Festival and ACDA State Festival this past spring. Bel Canto, also known as Bobcat Company, will give a 30 minute choral performance at the National Convention, which is to be held at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville on October 27-30. Beckye Justice Thomas is the choral director of this elite group. This year, she is the proud recipient of the Dan Y. Boring Professional Educator Award at Central High School.

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CLASSIFIEDS



Terrific Tetrizzini

1 package (12 ounces) spaghetti
 1/3 cup butter, cubed
 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
 3/4 teaspoon salt
 1/4 teaspoon white pepper
 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) chicken broth
 1-1/2 cups half-and-half cream
 1 cup heavy whipping cream
 4 cups cubed cooked chicken
 3 cans (4 ounces each) mushroom stems and pieces, drained
 1 jar (4 ounces) sliced pimientos, drained
 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Cook spaghetti according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a Dutch oven, melt butter. Stir in the flour, salt and pepper until smooth. Gradually add the broth, half-and-half and whipping cream. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened.

Remove from the heat. Stir in the chicken, mushrooms and pimientos. Drain spaghetti; add to the chicken mixture and toss to coat.

Transfer to two greased 11-in. x 7-in. baking dishes. Sprinkle with cheese. Cover and freeze one casserole for up to 2 months. Bake the second casserole, uncovered, at 350° for 20-25 minutes or until heated through.

Monterey Pork Chops

4-5 Pork Chops
 1 (15oz) can tomato soup
 1 can diced chilies
 1 cup shredded Jack Cheese

Brown pork chops in a large skillet. Pour soup and chilies over the top. Cook covered on low heat for about 45 minutes or until meat is done in the center. Spread shredded cheese over the top, cover and cook for another 5 minutes or until cheese is melted. Great served with rice.

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