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New system funded by city to aid homeless

By Mike Steely
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Almost unnoticed in the Knoxville City Council agenda recently was a resolution that may play a big part in coordinating various programs to help the homeless in Knoxville.

An agreement with the University of Tennessee's College of Social Work, requested by the Department of Community Development, will create a Coordinated Entry System for use by the city and various

agencies and organizations to search out shelter and housing programs for individuals and families. The vote passed unanimously without discussion.

The College of Social Work at UT currently administers a project that operates an internet-based multi-agency data base. The new CES program will enhance that support for the city office. The city agreed to fund \$90,450 which will mostly go toward staffing two new positions at UT that

will create and facilitate the CES digital referral process.

Mike Dunthorn, coordinator of Knoxville's Office of Homelessness, said the program will provide oversight for those who deal with the issue.

"This is the next level," he said. He added the Coordinated Entry System will provide a database of available services and keep track of the homeless and their needs. The new system would standardize the intake and referral

procedure, look at primary needs, find vulnerability and locate housing when available.

The university will work with the City's Homelessness Office to set metrics, review data to help the city in monitoring partner agencies and help implement the program.

UT will develop and maintain the software which will list by name the individuals for housing and service priorities and list multi-agency housing and service cases.

UT will also represent the CES through regular attendance and participation with the Mayor's Roundtable on Homelessness as well as the Knoxville-Knox County Homeless Coalition.

Knoxville's Community Development Dashboard on the internet shows 2,677 known homeless in the 3rd quarter of this year, up from 2,436 in the 2nd quarter. There were 934 new homeless in the 3rd quarter.

The most common cause
Continued on page 2

GOLDEN GUYS



PHOTO BY KELLY KEARSE

The Catholic Fighting Irish enjoy the moment after capturing the TSSAA Class 5A state football championship with a 45-28 win over Beech Thursday night at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville. The story and more photos in Sports & Recreation, Section C.

MPC membership questioned by County Commission

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Resentment over policies of the Metropolitan Planning Commission seems to be growing among some Knox County residents. The debate over requiring sidewalks in some new county subdivisions sparked questions about the power of the commission.

Commissioner Brad Anders, who has announced he may seek the office of Knox County mayor, asked pointedly in a meeting recently, "Do we need the planning commission?"

The real question is whether the county will maintain its membership in the MPC and, if not, how would the county form its own agency.

Scott Davis, a developer and former Knox County commissioner, told The Focus recently that something to be considered is a legal challenge to city appointees voting on county matters before the MPC.

Currently Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett appoints seven MPC members and Mayor Madeline Rogero appoints six members. Both city and county members consider all issues coming before the commission, elect their own chair and vice chair, and pass most of their decisions to the Knox County Commission or the Knoxville City Council.

Some issues, according to MPC Executive Director Nathan Green, are MPC only decisions and don't go beyond the planners or need other approval. He told The Focus recently that the state code places the authority of subdivision requirements squarely with the MPC without any further approval or disapproval. That doesn't apply to zoning changes, which are forwarded to either the city or county government bodies.

"If you live in Knox County you do not have the right to vote for the city mayor who is making appointments to the MPC," Davis said, adding that those appointees then vote on county zoning requests and land use.

"Basically that's taxation without representation," he said.

"Only county-appointed MPC members should be voting on county projects," Davis said.

"In my opinion the city appointees have no right to be voting on Knox County projects. The vast majority of MPC votes are split between the city and county appointees," he said.

The reverse is true, of course, that county appointees also vote on city land use questions. In some city-county shared departments, such as the Historic Zoning Commission, only city or county appointees vote on city or county matters. Each jurisdiction has separate Boards of Zoning Appeals groups.

The 15 members of the MPC serve staggered four-year terms and work with an executive director and about 35 staff members. The executive director is chosen by both mayors.

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Overcrowding at Lonsdale discussed at school board meeting

John Beckett gave a lengthy review of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Accountability for Districts and Schools Framework at the Knox County



By Anne Primm

Board of Education meeting last Monday. This is the new education law.

The Every Student Succeeds Act was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015. This bipartisan measure reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation's national education law and longstanding

commitment to equal opportunity for all students.

The new law builds on key areas of progress in recent years, made possible by the efforts of educators, communities, parents, and students across the country.

One point of contention that board members brought up was the requirement that 95% of all students, in all subjects, in all subgroups, (like English as a Second Language) be tested. Representative Amber Rountree observed that Knox County has a

particular problem with what is called the "Chronically Out-of-School." These are the students that for one reason or another do not attend. Should a school receive a failing grade simply because students are truant? Does this indicate the quality of the school curriculum or the teachers?

Representative Lynne Fugate asked Mr. Beckett if this evaluation tool will make Knox County Schools look bad and he responded that he thinks we will come out okay. The caveat being that now High Schools will also receive a grade along with the elementary and middle schools.

Kinley Koontz, the student representative from West High School, inquired about how TCAP scores for Special Students and non-verbal students affect performance evaluations. Beckett answered that those scores are not included in the calculations.

Julie Thompson, the executive director of elementary education, spoke next about the Lonsdale Elementary School/Sam E. Hill Family Community Center.

Thompson stated that Lonsdale Elementary School is currently overcrowded as it serves 407

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Removing an Evicted Tenant's Items from the Property

If you are a landlord and you go to court and get a tenant evicted, you do not actually get to take possession of the property right away.

Landlord-tenant cases are heard in general sessions court in Tennessee, and there is a 10 day period in which the landlord or the tenant can appeal the judgment of the court.

In line with that, Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 29-18-126 states that a landlord cannot act on their granted eviction until 10 days after the eviction is granted.

Once the 10 days pass and no appeal is made by the tenant, but the tenant remains in the property, a landlord can apply to the court for a writ of possession pursuant to TCA 29-15-



By Jedidiah McKeehan attorneyknoxville@gmail.com

114. A writ of possession can be filed and scheduled for execution. There is no hearing before a judge. Once the writ of possession is filed, the document is sent to the local Sheriff's Office to schedule a time when they will come to the property with the landlord and facilitate a civil transfer of the property back to the landlord.

It is the landlord's responsibility to provide the people and resources needed to remove all the tenant's items from the property and change the locks.

TCA 29-18-127 states that when removing the tenant's items they must put them:

- 1. On the premises from which the tenant is

being removed; 2. In an area clear of the entrance to the premises; and 3. A reasonable distance from the roadway. The property must be left there for 48 hours. If the property is still there after 48 hours, the landlord may then do anything they want with the property, including throw it away. Still, there is a lot of time and effort a landlord has to put in to reclaim their property even after they have been granted an eviction.

Jedidiah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knox County and surrounding counties. He works in many areas, including criminal, personal injury, landlord-tenant, probate, and estate planning. Visit attorney-knoxville.com for more information about this legal issue and other legal issues.

and members of Congress that the funding of the Federal Historic Tax Program be continued. The resolution is being offered by seven of the council members including Vice Mayor Grieve. Many of the resolutions introduced by Grieve and other council members are being offered as "Emergency ordinances" so, if passed, no second reading by the new council will be required. Many of the agenda items in that

Overcrowding at Lonsdale discussed at school board meeting

Continued from page 1

students in grades K-5. All classroom space is currently being utilized. ELL classes meet in the hallways. One hundred seventy-five English Language Learners with six full-time teachers share the same classroom. There is no more room outside for additional portable buildings (without giving up the playground.) Even the music teacher commutes from room to room with a cart.

There are some possible solutions, Thompson added. One such solution is to convert the Sam E. Hill building into a Primary School. This would involve moving the five 2018-19 Kindergarten classes to the Sam E. Hill Building. In addition, move the three Pre-K and Voluntary Pre-K classroom currently at Lonsdale to other Title I schools that can accommodate them. All special education and ELL services would be provided at Sam E. Hill. In the 2019-20 school year, move the current first grade classrooms to Sam E. Hill to fully complete the transition to Sam E. Hill Primary School and Lonsdale Intermediate School.

Second district representative Jennifer Owen asked about moving students to other schools. Principals Laman and Hansard said that this has been done at other schools during periods of

construction and renovation. Owens further inquired as to why the school board was not apprised of the overcrowding issue at Lonsdale before the land next to Sam E. Hill was surplus last year. No one responded.

Wendy Hansard, principal at Lonsdale Elementary, explained that overcrowding is a huge issue at Lonsdale due to expected influx of students from Lonsdale Homes. Hansard also expressed desire to keep Pre-K at Sam E. Hill. Another priority delineated by Hansard was the insistence that Lonsdale be placed on Knox County School's Capital Plan to build a better school at Lonsdale or at least an addition to the current Lonsdale School. The combining of the two schools should not be a permanent solution.

Lonsdale Elementary teachers Julie Loue, Kelsey Lekich and Mari Williamson spoke in the meeting's public forum regarding the overcrowding.

Last week's meeting was preceded by a brief special-called meeting in which a motion was made by Representative Tony Norman to approve the Board of Education Collaborative Conferencing Management Team. A second to the motion was made by Vice Chair Rountree and was carried.

Duane Grieve leaves with a flurry of motions

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knoxville's term-limited Vice Mayor and Councilman Duane Grieve isn't leaving the council in silence. He's added several motions for Tuesday's meeting, one aimed at limiting the new short-term rental policy a bit.

Grieve is seeking to bring back his amendment to require STR owners to notify their neighbors of the rental of homes. This amendment failed to pass

in the November 21 meeting.

He is presenting a resolution, along with other members, to thank Bearden's Terry Faulkner for decades of service to the community.

Grieve also has several motions for donations of Community Improvement Funds: \$300 for benches for the Bearden Council and Forest Heights Association, \$200 to the Foothills Craft Guild for a project, \$400 to the Free Medical

Clinic toward care of uninsured citizens, \$300 to the Knoxville History Project for publication of the Knoxville History Guide, \$250 to the Lyons View Community Club for playground and recreation center revitalization, \$400 to the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club's Sharps Ridge Veterans Memorial Park, and \$400 to West High School for the choir trip to New York City.

The council may also pass a resolution to ask President Donald Trump

and members of Congress that the funding of the Federal Historic Tax Program be continued. The resolution is being offered by seven of the council members including Vice Mayor Grieve.

Many of the resolutions introduced by Grieve and other council members are being offered as "Emergency ordinances" so, if passed, no second reading by the new council will be required. Many of the agenda items in that

citatory will also be on the consent list, meaning they can all pass at once on one vote.

Other "Emergency" ordinances include granting \$1,150 for software for the Design Center, \$500 to the Fountain City Arts Center for tuition assistance, \$700 to the Bridge Refugee Services to help single-mother refugees, \$500 to the Alpha Pi Omega Foundation for an annual scholarship brunch, \$2,300 to Gresham Middle School for the

purchase of Chromebooks, and \$300 to Legacy Parks Foundation for educational materials.

Emergency ordinances also include \$800 to the Everly Brothers Park project for landscaping.

In other business the council may approve Mayor Madeline Rogero's appointments to the Neighborhood Advisory Council and consider an ordinance from members Brenda Palmer and Nick Pavlis about financial disclosure of candidates.

New system funded by city to aid homeless

Continued from page 1

of homelessness is mental and health issues, followed by lack of affordable housing, loss of a job, eviction and domestic violence.

"The Coordinated Entry System is a significant step forward in improving the delivery of services to individuals and families who are homeless," Mayor Rogero said. "It also emphasizes proactive intervention to help at-risk families

before they become homeless, which has long been a key part of our strategy.

"The CES will strengthen coordination between service providers. They will all be using the same new assessment tool, and sharing the information gathered, to identify and help those who are most vulnerable. We will be assured that those in the most acute crises will be the first to receive attention," she said.

the current metropolitan group, Armstrong said, "I don't know. I think it's a contractual agreement and would probably require an ordinance by the commission passed two times." He said he said he would look into it, adding that the commissioners asked him only if the county must be part of the MPC, not how it can pull away and form its own. Another option could be changing the bylaws of the MPC to have only the county appointees vote on county matters.

'All politics is local'

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

Five new Knoxville City Council members will be sworn in on Saturday, December 16, and meet for the first time in session on Tuesday, December 19. That means that the current city council meets for its final session Tuesday.

This will be the final meeting for Nick Pavlis, Duane Grieve, Brenda Palmer, Nick Della Volpe and Daniel Brown. They are being replaced with Stephanie Welch, Andrew Roberto, Seema Singh Perez, Lauren Rider and Gwen McKenzie.

As those elected in the city's 2017 election prepare to take office, various candidates are emerging to run for Knox County offices in 2018.

Some of the potential candidates have already returned their signed petitions for the Knox County Primary to be held on May 1. Unlike the city election the race for county offices are partisan, with candidates declaring their party affiliations.

Glenn Jacobs has picked up a petition for Knox County mayor as a Republican. Jacobs, a professional wrestler turned insurance agent, will be joined in the race by others including Commissioners Brad Anders and Bob Thomas who announced his intentions early on.

County Commission Chairman Randy Smith and Cody Biggs have picked up petitions for the 3rd District Commission Seat that Republican Smith now holds. Biggs would be in the Democratic Primary.

The 7th District county commission incumbent, Charlie Busler, has also picked up a petition.

In the 10th District, Bob Thomas's seat on commission, Larsen Jay and Ronnie W. Rochelle picked up petitions as Republicans and William P. Stone did so as a Democrat.

Current 11th District Commissioner Ed Brantley has indicated he's not seeking reelection and three possible candidates have picked up petitions. They are Republicans Justin Biggs and R. Larry Smith and Democrat Vivian Underwood Shipe. Last week, however, Shipe learned that she cannot run for office just yet.

Incumbent Trustee Ed Shouse, a Republican, has picked up a re-election petition and Republican Tom Spangler has a petition for Knox County sheriff.

Mike Hammond, a Republican and current criminal court clerk, has a petition for re-election.

Three Republicans have picked up petitions for circuit court clerk. They are Don Ridings, Scott Smith and Charles D. Susano III.

Two people have picked up petitions to replace Foster Arnett as county clerk. They are Roger Kane and Sherry Witt, both Republicans. Nick McBride has a petition for register of deeds.

The race for seats on the board of education are non-partisan and three candidates have petitions to replace 1st District's Gloria Deathridge. Those potential candidates are Andre Canty, Dametraus Jagers and Evetty Satterfield. Incumbents Terry Hill, Patti Lou Bounds, and Amber Rountree have petitions. Virginia Babb has a petition for the District 4 seat on the school board.

MPC membership questioned by County Commission

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The bylaws of the MPC say nothing about county or city voters being restricted to only voting on city or county matters. The bylaws do address conflicts of interest, voice votes, roll calls, and how votes are recorded.

On one occasion several of the county members of the MPC were not present for a vote on a county matter and the city appointees passed the matter.

"It's a screwy system," Knox County Deputy Law Director David Buuck told

the Focus. He added that he and Law Director Richard "Bud" Armstrong are looking into possible ways to get the county out of the mutual agreement.

"Planners want to control everything," Buuck said.

Armstrong told The Focus that the state requires a planning commission but it doesn't have to be regional. He said the commission asked him if the county can have its own and he says it can.

When asked how the county could pull out of

the current metropolitan group, Armstrong said, "I don't know. I think it's a contractual agreement and would probably require an ordinance by the commission passed two times." He said he said he would look into it, adding that the commissioners asked him only if the county must be part of the MPC, not how it can pull away and form its own.

Another option could be changing the bylaws of the MPC to have only the county appointees vote on county matters.



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Publisher's Position

School System Still Has McIntyre's Imprint



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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Jim McIntyre certainly was successful in at least one aspect during his time as superintendent of the Knox County School system. When McIntyre first arrived from Boston, he did have one vision, which he made a reality: recreating the school system in his own image. A proud graduate of the Broad Academy, Jim McIntyre managed not only to leave his imprint on the Knox County School system, but wove his philosophical DNA into the very fabric of the school culture. McIntyre reshaped the school system into a reflection of himself and his philosophy of education.

created his own mini-Broad Academy when he worked his wonders to start the Leadership Academy in conjunction with the University of Tennessee. The Leadership Academy served as McIntyre's very own indoctrination camp for future principals and assistant principals. As superintendent, McIntyre already possessed the sole power to appoint every principal and assistant principal in the school system; that alone wasn't good enough. McIntyre created the Leadership Academy, which served as a vehicle for him to personally indoctrinate generations of principals and assistant principals in his style of leadership and philosophy. McIntyre was never either a principal or assistant principal, nor has McIntyre ever run a school. Just what could Jim McIntyre teach an aspiring principal or assistant principal except for his own special brand of leadership and doctrine? Once he was installed as superintendent, McIntyre began a systematic campaign to remove every old-time principal, including

many who were doing an outstanding job and widely popular in the communities they served. McIntyre's administration pressured veteran teachers with many years of experience to retire. That served two purposes; it was cheaper as new teachers did not earn as much as those highly skilled teachers whose place they took. The second was it would be much easier to mold the new teachers who could be expected to accept McIntyre's philosophy more readily. McIntyre's purge of long-serving employees even extended to coaches. Throughout his time as superintendent, Jim McIntyre relentlessly expanded the school bureaucracy. For instance, McIntyre hired "mentors" for teachers and employed 65 at one time, as well as a new supervisor. McIntyre used one-time money to pay for the hires, causing Board member Mike McMillan to wonder if the mentors realized they might not have a job the next year. McIntyre replied the mentors had been forewarned, but he had no intention of letting

them go. McIntyre merely folded the expense into the regular budget, carrying the expense forward for all time. Presuming the average salary was \$50,000 annually and figuring conservatively the benefits for each employee amounted to \$15,000, the total cost comes to more than \$4.2 million taxpayer dollars. McIntyre was able to continually expand the school bureaucracy through his then rubberstamp Board of Education, except for Mike McMillan. The Board habitually rubber-stamped his expansion policies and overspending. Few people realize just how successful Jim McIntyre was in recreating the school system in his own image. A great many of the top level supervisors in the Andrew Johnson Building owe their promotions to McIntyre. A majority of the principals and assistant principals working in the school system were appointed by Jim McIntyre while some 270 teachers are certified to become principals and assistant principals many of whom have been trained

by McIntyre. Some people were distracted by McIntyre's penchant for the next big thing. McIntyre was constantly proposing some new program for the Knox County Schools, not one of which was original. One only had to Google any McIntyre proposal to discover it had already been tried in other school systems around the country. McIntyre was no innovator and was usually pretty shaky on the details and all too frequently had no idea just how the program he was proposing worked elsewhere. The end result, how much it might cost the taxpayers, or whether it even worked was of less importance and interest to Jim McIntyre than creating the impression he was doing something. One can easily make the argument McIntyre's Leadership Academy served less of a need for training future leaders than creating a demand to expand the bureaucracy. When Jim McIntyre was hired as superintendent, there were 108 assistant principals employed by the Knox County School

system. When McIntyre left, there were 138 assistant principals on the payroll of the Knox County School system. Many of the principals and assistant principals employed by the Knox County School system will move up the career ladder and become supervisors and part of the administration. With 270+ qualified folks waiting patiently already one could also make the argument that we have plenty potential principal candidates in the pipeline already. Short of having ten assistant principals at every school in the county, we really don't have a need to continue churning out McIntyre Academy graduates. Jim McIntyre was quite successful in recreating the Knox County School system into a blueprint outlined by the Broad Academy and the sooner that the Board of Education severs its ties with his Leadership Academy, the sooner we can begin to erase McIntyre's imprint on our school system once and for all.

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Officials share Christmas Memories, Part One

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville Focus has asked city and county officials to briefly tell us about their memories of Christmas. Over the weeks leading to the holiday these little stories will be shared with you, the reader, in hopes that you also have memories of a joyous holiday.

May this Christmas Season be wonderful for you and your family and create new memories. Watch The Focus in the weeks before the holiday for other public officials and their memories of Christmas.



Carson Dailey,
Commissioner 9th District:

Cutting a cedar tree on Christmas Eve then making our own decorations of popcorn strings and colored construction paper. Then I would make popcorn balls with my grandmother Hodge and then a game of checkers. My grandmother was a serious checker player and losing was not an option. Waking up on Christmas morning knowing my mom had filled our stockings that hung on the fireplace with candy and an orange. Best Orange ever. Rabbit hunting Christmas Day using my 410 single shot gun with my dad, uncles and brothers. Toys were wonderful but these memories are still the best Christmas present I will ever have.



Marshall Stair,
Council Member at Large,
Seat B

Every year after my parents wrestle to get the tree up and the family spends hours decorating it, my mom always says, "This is the prettiest tree we've ever had." Every year she is right this is the magic of Christmas.



Nick Pavlis,
Council Member,
1st District:

There was not a single moment that stands out in my mind. What does resonate is a time frame. My grandparents, both paternal and maternal, were still alive and our whole family celebrated Christmas the same glorious way for years. We began with the traditional gift opening and that was the same hectic moment as in most homes.

The rest of the day consisted of the same menu, all the steak and eggs you could eat, with biscuits and strawberry jam, grits and all the fixings. Dinner was standing rib roast, and my all-time favorite, twice baked potatoes that my mother labored over for days to make them

just right.

Guess it was all about family and tradition and wish I could relive it one more time.



Brenda Palmer,
Council Member
3rd District:

My family opened one gift on Christmas Eve. I selected the gift that I was certain would be the transistor radio I coveted. My anticipation turned to extreme disappointment: the package contained a sewing basket. I tried to not display how I really felt. Santa did bring the transistor radio in the night.

When I was five, the Christmas tree was on the porch outside my bedroom window. I must have heard a noise because I awakened to see a shadow move. I yelled, "Mom, if I had been awake two minutes sooner I would have seen Santa." Mom was relieved I had slept through the Santa visit.

For my sixth birthday, I received a much requested bicycle. My riding was postponed as my grandfather died on Christmas morning and the next few days were dedicated to his funeral and visitation. This always reminds me that Christmas is not necessarily a time of joy for everyone who has lost a loved one.



Knox County Commissioner Charles Busler and his wife Sharon visit with Santa.
Charles Busler, Council Member, 7th District:

"Asking Santa and Mrs. Claus for a gift and getting Sharon and a new family! Having that family to see me through the joys that Christmas brings."



Lauren Rider, Council Member-Elect, 4th District:

When I think of Christmases past, my favorite memories are of my Grandma Maxine. She was central to most of my Christmas memories- the family meals, excessive decorating and running around with cousins at my grandparent's yard. For my Grandma, Christmas was the time to decorate every inch of her house: doors wrapped in foil paper with tiers of velvet wrapped wreaths and 1950's elves; mistletoe balls hanging in the doorways; a Christmas tree, in a rotating, singing

stand, laden with ornaments, including the elusive "bird ball" hidden on the tree that drove people crazy as it chirped. The annual joke was my uncles hunting for the bird ball to turn it off and stop the maddening chirping. As I got older, I would spend December nights at my Grandma's and help decorate, creating an elaborate village scene under her tree. A train circling a church and tiny houses with a village ice skating rink and little plastic skaters. I meticulously arranged the scene, making it "real" by tearing a cotton snow blanket to cover the carpet. I loved staying up well past midnight decorating with my Grandma.

For the month of December there was Christmas candy all over the house, including Hersey's kisses attached to little trees. Lots

of chocolate, like a Willy Wonka village. My Grandma would also make a huge menu of food for Christmas lunch, including several different Jell-O salads. Instructions for her menu and recipes for the cakes and Jell-O salads are dictated in her hand written cookbook I inherited when she passed away in 1998.

On Christmas mornings, after a modest gift opening at home with my dad and sister, we would head to my Grandparents for the full Christmas experience: cousins, presents, food and family banter. And that's what my Grandma loved, the house full of her whole family, decorated like a holiday fantasy. And to capture it all, she would often hide a mini-tape recorder during dinner and record the day.



Christmas at New Beverly with the "award-winning"

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www.NewBeverly.org
www.BowlingsOnline.com

Directions: I-640 to Exit 8. Go north on Washington Pike to redlight at Greenway Drive light (facing Target). Turn left. Church is 1/4 mile on the right.

No charge, but a Love Offering will be taken. Don't Miss It!

OUR VETERANS NEXT DOOR The Week Before Pearl Harbor

By Randall Baxter

Please indulge me for a few minutes, and let me tell you about some people I know. Their stories were the inspiration that caused me to write the book, "THE VETERAN NEXT DOOR." In 2010 I became intrigued with the fact that so many War Heroes lived in my neighborhood, and in and around Knoxville, Tennessee.

Where do I start? How do I tell you my experiences, I guess I just have to start somewhere. How about November 26, 1941. The day the Japanese fleet set out for Pearl Harbor. That would be an earmark date to justify the statement that the Industrial Era was about to peak, and all man's knowledge about machinery and technology was about to be unleashed against mankind, and the Atomic Age was about to be born. My mother, Juanita Belle Kinzalow Baxter Haun was 16 years old, an Appalachian farm girl from Riceville, Tn.

Sonja Dubois was in Europe trying to survive pretending to be a two year old Protestant. Her Jewish parents had been separated from her and killed at Auschwitz.

James and Eppie Julian were a young black couple. James was already in the Segregated Navy, unaware he would be fighting the Luftwaffe, the Italian air force, and later on, the Kamikaze.

George Harper was a drifter soon to go to Guadalcanal, and Bougainville, returning in a few years with a bullet hole in his chest and a pocketful of gold Japanese teeth.

Norm Bakley would go to Bougainville, and the Philippines, suffering a sword cut across the shoulder, a grenade explosion, and a bullet in the buttock before working on the space shuttle. His son did not know

of his experiences or of his three separate wounds until I wrote about them.

Murl Conner arrived in Africa with Audie Murphy and had just as many medals, came home, married, and dealt with Post Traumatic Stress the rest of his life. Audie had PTSD, too.

Dr. Robert Harvey was going to school to learn to be a mathematician, to escape the life of a cotton picker. He was a truck driver for Gen. Patton. The Red Ball Express because of his skin color. That did not stop him from becoming interim President at Knoxville College a time or two.

John Shell was working at Knoxville Iron Works. Later he was captured on December 16, 1944 at St. Vith. The spot the Germans hit on the first day of the Bulge.

Charles Beal was in High School and would soon fight across Europe, arriving a little before the Bulge.

Although he came home before his 19th birthday, he had PTSD, too.

Harold Johnson in his B-17 got to see one of the first German jets blow his friends out of the sky over Germany.

Clyde Beeler's ship the USS Pittsburgh broke in half in a typhoon.

Earl Henry was the dentist on board the USS Indianapolis. A torpedo is thought to have crashed through his sleeping quarters, you probably know that story. The sinking and the sharks.

My Mom, grew up during the war and went to work in Oak Ridge, eventually dying from the beryllium poison she picked up working in the Manhattan Project.

I wonder how life would have turned out had the Japanese stayed at home?



Get your copy of "THE VETERAN
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by Randall Baxter

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The Cove to Host Annual Holiday Festival of Lights

Knox County's 19th annual Holiday Festival of Lights at the Cove at Concord Park kicks off Friday, Dec. 15 and runs through Saturday, Dec. 30, excluding Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The festival, nightly from 6 to 9 p.m., is free and open to the public. The Cove is located at 11808 S. Northshore Drive.

The event is showcased by an illuminated three-quarter-mile greenway trail that features a sparkling light display coordinated to music. Pets on leashes are welcome.

In addition, Third Creek Coffee will be onsite each night with hot drinks, including coffee, hot chocolate and apple cider, and holiday snacks, like cookies,



cakes and the ingredients for S'mores.

The park staff at The Cove does all the decorating, which includes placing displays and adding several thousand lights to trees.

Although the event is free, Knox County will collect non-perishable food items for The Love Kitchen. The Love Kitchen provides meals, clothing and emergency food packages to the homebound, homeless and unemployed.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Three North Broadway businesses were honored last week by the Broadway Corridor Task Force for improvements to their structures. Garry Tener and Lauren Rider (on each end) presented awards to Wendy's Restaurant, Nothing Too Fancy and the Elkmont Exchange

Broadway Corridor Task Force honors three businesses

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Three businesses were honored by the Broadway Corridor Task Force last week for efforts to renovate and improve buildings along the busy North Knoxville route.

Task force members Garry Tener (Broadway Carpets) and Lauren Rider (City Council member elect) hosted an outdoor award ceremony last week at 1135 North Broadway beneath the mural of Knoxville funded by Visit Knoxville.

All the recognitions

came from façade and renovations to buildings that enhance the street and invite visitors to the area.

Honored with a certificate was Wendy's Restaurant. Courtney Russell accepted the award for the 3000 North Broadway location.

The second award went to the Elkmont Exchange Restaurant at 745 North Broadway. Alex Violette accepted the honor.

The top award went to Nothing Too Fancy for their building at 1135 North Broadway. Dustin and

Lisa Burnett and Dustin's father John accepted the plaque.

Rider opened the ceremony by recalling the history of the Broadway Corridor Task Force which began in 2013 as an idea. She said volunteers asked the city to get involved and restoring the area became an on-going project.

Tener called the improvements taking place along Broadway "a renaissance and tremendous change." He said that his 35 years at Broadway Carpets reflects that and that the task force has been

working to give the neighborhoods and businesses a route to improvement.

The task force continues to stimulate collaborative and construction discussion. Its focus area is the Broadway Corridor from Fifth Avenue to I-640. The group is made up of representatives from North Knoxville businesses and professional associations as well as the neighborhoods of Bell Morris, Edgewood, Fairmont, Emoriland, Historic Fourth and Gill, Old North Knoxville and Oakwood-Lincoln Park.



New Harvest Park Farmers Market to host winter events

The New Harvest Farmers Market will host five winter markets from December through March.

The events are set for Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Jan. 25, Feb. 8 and March 22.

The markets, which run from 3 to 6 p.m. and are open to the public, will be held inside the park's community center at 4775 New Harvest Lane.

Farmers will have an assortment of fresh, seasonal produce to choose from as well as meats, eggs and honey. There will also be baked goods, crafts and bath products.

Opening day for the 2018 season is scheduled for April 12.

Other activities to be

announced on the market's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/newharvestfm>

The farmers market participates in the Fresh Savings program, which works in conjunction with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. Under it, participants who spend up to \$20 per transaction at the market will get a matching amount in tokens to buy fresh fruits and vegetables at the market.

For more information on the program visit: <http://www.aarp.org/aarp-foundation/our-work/hunger/info-2015/fresh-savings-shop-smarter-eat-healthier.html>.

Brenda Palmer honored for Beer Board service

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

"Nick Pavlis told me all I have to do is show up," joked 3rd District Councilwoman Brenda Palmer. She was recalling when she replaced Pavlis as chair of the city's beer board.

The 3rd District stretches from Norwood to Cedar Bluff and the Pellissippi Parkway and Palmer has represented the area for eight years, six of those as beer board

chair. During her tenure the board has voted to increase the fines for those businesses who illegally sell beer to underage customers.

Palmer has served on the Audit Committee, the KUB Tree Board, the Knoxville Zoo Board, and the Knox County Board of Equalization. She holds a history degree and a paralegal certificate from the University of Tennessee. The very active woman has been a curriculum specialist,

an education reform leader, a high school teacher and activities director, a grant writer and an administrator.

All types of businesses and organizations have appeared before the beer board, from convenience stores and restaurants to event venues and kiosk owners to more recently churches. In her final meeting as chairperson more than 16

Continue on page 2

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7416 Mayes Chapel



\$259,900 Halls! Brick basement ranch on 1.4 +/- acres! Detached garage/workshop! Approx 3100 sf including partially finished Bsmt! 3 fireplaces! LR, DR, eat-in Kit, Sunroom, Family Rm, office 3 BR's, 3 BA's! MLS 1011294

5903 Nature Lane



\$229,900 Fountain City! No Stairs! Sprawling Ranch situated on 1 +/- level acres! No city taxes! Spacious GR & DR open floor plan, eat-in kitchen opens to sun room with tongue & groove ceiling, 3 BR's, 2 BA's, huge 2 car garage, large patio! Conv Location minutes to interstate & shopping & Tennova Hospital & Fitness Club. MLS 1013709

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\$173,900 HALLS! Brick Ranch on culdesac, double size, level lot! Freshly painted interior, new carpet, 3 BR's, 2 full BA's, GR w/ wood burning stove & stone hearth, large eat-in kitchen w/black appliances inc refrigerator, laundry room, spacious deck, huge 2 car garage! Roof & HVAC have been replaced! MLS 1011689

5923 Nature Lane & 401 Dry Gap

Attention developers or anyone looking for one of the last great tracts of land in Fountain City! Great Development Potential or Beautiful homesite acreage - two parcels that adjoin and seller wants to sell together to settle estate. Great potential! Nature Lane: \$127,000. Dry Gap: \$135,800





Christmas thoughts

American newspaper columnist who also wrote short inspirational essays.

"Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it meant pouring in a sick world the healing message of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost two thousand years.

Underneath all the bundles is this beating of Christmas hearts."

Oren Arnold, a novelist, wrote this: "Christmas Gifts Suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect."

So remember while December brings the only Christmas day, in the year let there be Christmas in the

Continue on page 4

Brenda Palmer honored for Beer Board service

Cont. from page 1

applications were heard. Among the applicants were Cedar Bluff Food Mark, First Stop Discount Tobacco, Hyatt Place, Kabuki Japanese Restaurant, La Penta, SWB Holdings, Bourbon Bird, Troubadour Road House, Central Filling Station, Central River Brewery, Geezers Brewing Company, The Holiday Inn, and Saw Works Brewery.

Probably the most interesting applicant, which isn't ready yet to open, was Fountain City Exxon. The new owner has applied for a beer permit at a location where previous owner Alvin Frye, for many, many years, boldly advertised that he sold no lottery tickets or beer. That decision will rest with the new council and a new beer board chair person.

Palmer moved most beer board meetings through agenda quickly, moving from one applicant to another, checking with the sheriff's department and others for information. The most common motion by other beer board members was "Move for approval pending verification."

Other departing beer board members include term-limited councilmen Duane Grieve, Nick Della Volpe and Daniel Brown. Remaining on the board may be councilmen Mark Campen, George Wallace, Marshall Stair and Finbarr Saunders. A new beer board chair will apparently be chosen by the new council or board.

One of Palmer's most often asked questions to applicants is whether or not they have completed their server training for employees. She also asks applicants how they can tell a beer buyer is underage. Many beer outlets have bought and installed a scanner for driver licensings to prevent against misreading a birth date.

Occasionally an applicant would come before the beer board, having already completed all requirements, including background checks, fingerprinting, building and health inspections, and

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Brenda Palmer

surrendering a prior owner's permit. To those applicants she often said, "Well done."

"Let's not see you back again," was her common farewell to successful applicants.

The hearings for violators before Palmer's beer board have been interesting, with the appearances of everyone from mom-and-pop owners to corporate executives or their attorneys. Palmer and the other board members often quiz the violators, cite their violation histories, and ask questions.

In her final board meeting she heard a couple violations. Usually there are several at each meeting, especially in the weeks leading up to high school proms.

In the case of Thumbs Up Exxon on Magnolia Avenue the reason for the illegal sale took place for an unusual reason. The owner told the beer board that the clerk was informed he had won \$50,000 in the lottery and the employee got excited and sold the beer.

The owner said the employee had bought the winning ticket across the street at a Pilot Store. He said that since that incident the store has installed an electronic scanner.

At the end of the meeting Councilman Daniel Brown told Palmer, "You've done an excellent job as chair of the beer board."

Councilman Grieve told Palmer that she had presided over 70 board meetings and handled more than 1,000 permits.

"It is time consuming with outside meetings, day and night. You've handled it in a professional manner with service and leadership," he said.

Following the remarks and the standing ovation by fellow council members, Palmer made a brief statement.

"If we all had a beer now it would be nice," she quipped.

Television shows that hit home

I've always been a person who is easily moved by movies, the sappy kind. The same goes for television shows. I watched every episode of "West Wing" and now wish this country could have the same



By Joe Rector
joirector@comcast.net

kind of leadership regardless of what party provides it. I never miss "This Is Us." Evidently, I'm not the only one who likes the program. Each week's episode leaves me teary-eyed, and I pine for things from my earlier years. What is it that makes these programs so appealing?

For one thing, "This Is Us" brings back strong feelings for those loved ones who have passed. My dad died

when Jim and I were 13. We pretended that he would recover from the cancer that ate away at his body, but in our minds, we knew he would not survive. When Mother was diagnosed with the same thing, Dal, Jim, and I braced ourselves for a repeat of what happened years before. Maybe worst of all, my older brother's bout with the very same lung cancer and prognosis in many ways crumbled my world. Viewers of "This Is Us" know that the dad has died, and we watch as adult children struggle with that loss so long ago and empathize and sympathize with them.

This new program offers

positives. It presents family as an ever-developing thing. No family that I've ever known has been static. Each day brings new events and problems, and they alter family interactions and decisions. When mother passed, our biggest concerns weren't dividing property or making funeral arrangements. We fretted about making sure that we boys and our families stayed firmly together. For a few years, we met during Christmas and when Dal and Brenda came to Knoxville at Mother's house. It was the place where the spirit of a family that began years before still remained. Not until after Dal died did we stop getting together. We don't stay in touch with each other as much as we should, but we know family will be there whenever the need arises.

This weekly drama always leaves me longing for my children. I miss those times when they were toddlers and we enjoyed each other. I wasn't the best dad that ever lived, but I did what I thought a dad should do. Like the dad on the show, I was there when my children were born; I

saw them take their first steps; I proudly watched as they reached goals and earned awards. I also shot them "the dad look," railed against their misbehavior, and demanded they do better.

Most of all, "This Is Us," as well as "West Wing" offer hope. It gives us a few minutes each week to watch what is good and have hope. In the case of my children, I have hopes that they will find the same happiness in life that I've experienced. I hope the good lord blesses them as much as He has blessed me. Most of all, I hope that my grandson's future will be as bright and promising and stable as mine has been.

Television is fiction; however, sometimes the programs that air copy real life in many aspects. It's when that happens that a show develops a huge audience that feels each and every success and failure. I suppose these presentations let us know that at least someone understands where we've been. That makes sitting down in front of the television screen something more than a waste of time.

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Lucille Foster McMillin

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill

rayhill865@gmail.com

While Lucille Foster McMillin is barely remembered today, she was a pioneer for women in public service during her time. Married to Benton McMillin, a member of Congress for twenty years and twice governor of Tennessee, Lucille Foster McMillin was Tennessee's First Lady from 1899 – 1903. Mrs. McMillin was the second wife of the governor and much younger. Considered a great beauty in her day, Lucille Foster McMillin was a great political asset to her husband and some believed she rivaled the governor in popularity with Tennesseans.

Originally from Louisiana where her father, J. M. Foster, was prominent in business and politics, Lucille McMillin moved to Tennessee after marrying her husband. Unlike most of her contemporaries, Lucille Foster McMillin had the advantages of her father's wealth and was highly educated, having been privately tutored before attending the Mary Baldwin Seminary for three years. Afterward, Lucille Foster went to Paris where she studied languages. Benton McMillin first met Lucille in Washington, D. C. and was immediately smitten. The two were married and the couple had a daughter, Eleanor Foster McMillin.

Unlike most political wives at the time, Lucille Foster McMillin actively and publicly supported her husband after the expiration of his gubernatorial term. Benton McMillin longed for a seat in the United States Senate and frequently was a candidate for the Senate. Mrs. McMillin campaigned beside and for her husband when he was once again a candidate for governor in 1912. Benton McMillin much preferred to serve in the United States Senate, but Tennessee Democrats implored the popular former governor to challenge the Republican incumbent, Ben W. Hooper. Governor Hooper had first been elected due to a serious split in Tennessee's Democratic Party and had been the beneficiary of a combine of Republicans and "Independent" Democrats, who were labeled fusionists by regular Democrats. The fusionists represented a very real threat to regular Democrats and had won both seats in the U. S. Senate. Luke Lea had been elected by the legislature in 1911 and John Knight Shields in 1913, giving the fusionists all three of Tennessee's most important statewide offices. Hooper was a formidable political force, having defeated perhaps the most popular officeholder in the state in 1910, Robert Love Taylor. Taylor had been elected governor three times and had defeated Senator Edward Ward Carmack in a primary election to win a Senate seat. Taylor, like Benton McMillin, had long

had senatorial ambitions and was very reluctant to run yet again for governor. The Democratic Party, fractured near to pieces following the administration of controversial governor Malcolm Rice Patterson, begged Taylor to run and he finally agreed. Taylor's defeat shocked just about everybody and the senator was brokenhearted by his rejection by the people of Tennessee. Robert L. Taylor died shortly thereafter following complications from a routine surgery.

Like Robert Love Taylor, Benton McMillin was one of the few candidates available to challenge Governor Ben W. Hooper who would not exacerbate the hard feelings inside Tennessee's Democratic Party. The former governor was acceptable to every faction of the party and unlike Taylor, was eager to run. McMillin campaigned all across the state, along with his wife. Mrs. McMillin frequently made talks of her own, campaigning with her husband, as well as without. Lucille Foster McMillin was especially popular with women's groups, although women still did not then have the right to vote. Mrs. McMillin was hardly less popular with the menfolk as they appreciated her poise, grace, and beauty. Yet Mrs. McMillin's prowess at campaigning could not stave off her husband's defeat by Ben Hooper in 1912, despite a split in the national Republican Party.

Following the election of Woodrow Wilson as president, Benton McMillin was appointed Minister to Guatemala, where the couple lived for two years. Governor McMillin was then appointed to serve as America's ambassador to Peru and he and his wife remained in Lima for seven years before returning home to Tennessee. Although seventy-seven years old at the time, Benton McMillin's last political hurrah came in 1922 when he sought to return to the governorship. Yet another Republican, Alf A. Taylor, brother of the late Robert L. Taylor, occupied the governor's mansion. McMillin faced Clarksville attorney Austin Peay in the Democratic primary and in spite of his advanced years, campaigned vigorously, once again accompanied by his wife Lucille. Peay only narrowly won the Democratic nomination for the right to face Alf Taylor in the general election. It was one of the few times that the Shelby County machine of E. H. Crump made a real difference in the outcome of the race. Peay won a majority of 7,347 votes in Crump's Shelby County and only won the nomination by 4,018 votes statewide.

Benton McMillin returned to his prosperous insurance business in Nashville while his wife became more active in political affairs. Congressman Cordell Hull had been elected as



ACME PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Lucille Foster McMillin being sworn in as a member of the Civil Service Commission. From left to right, Commissioner George Wales, Mrs. McMillin, and Harry B. Mitchell.

Chairman of the Democratic National Committee in 1921 and prior to the 1924 campaign, Hull appointed Lucille Foster McMillin to serve as the director of a women's organization for the Southern states. Mrs. McMillin enjoyed the work and had been active in a number of other organizations including the James K. Polk Association, the Federation of Women's Clubs, and the National League of Women Voters. As her husband aged, Lucille Foster McMillin's own personal prominence began to eclipse that of the former governor. Benton McMillin's last political post was serving as Tennessee's Democratic National Committeeman. In January of 1933, the eighty-seven year-old former governor was ailing with double pneumonia. McMillin took to his bed and his life slowly ebbed away. The old "Warhorse of Tennessee's Democracy" died on January 8, 1933 after insisting, "I'm feeling fine" and slipping into a coma.

Both Benton and Lucille Foster McMillin had looked forward to Franklin D. Roosevelt taking the oath of office as President of the United States. The former governor had met with Roosevelt's political director, James A. Farley, when the latter was returning from visiting the president-elect in Warm Springs, Georgia. McMillin and Farley had a conference in Chattanooga and there was speculation Roosevelt might appoint the former governor to another diplomatic post. Roosevelt did issue a statement of sorrow upon Benton McMillin's death, but it would be Lucille Foster McMillin that received an appointment from FDR.

Lucille McMillin gave Tennessee governor Hill McAlister a pair of large gold cufflinks her husband had worn for the last twenty years. The cufflinks were engraved with the initial "M" and Mrs. McMillin explained, "I wanted to give him something I valued very highly myself as a token of Governor McMillin's and my admiration for our faith in Hill McAlister."

Mrs. McMillin added, "I told Governor McAlister that the mantle of Benton McMillin had fallen on his shoulders and that I could say nothing better than that. I wanted him to have a small token from his friend."

On May 2, 1933 President Franklin Roosevelt announced his intention to appoint Lucille Foster McMillin as a member of the U. S. Civil Service Commission. Cordell Hull, Roosevelt's Secretary of State and Benton McMillin's successor in Congress, as well as Tennessee's powerful senior United States senator, Kenneth McKellar, had touted Mrs. McMillin for the post. While some newspapers at the time thought Mrs. McMillin was appointed to the Civil Service Commission "as a tribute to her late husband", the truth was the governor's widow had long been active in politics in her own right. Cordell Hull knew Lucille Foster McMillin as well as anyone and admired her greatly. Senator McKellar was also a profound admirer of Lucille Foster McMillin and having been a strong supporter of giving women the right to vote, realized the political importance Mrs. McMillin's appointment would have for women in Tennessee. Mrs. McMillin succeeded Miss Jessie Dell as a member of the Civil Service Commission.

Mrs. McMillin's nomination was rapidly approved by the appropriate Senate committee, on which Senator McKellar served. Never bashful about promoting anyone or anything from Tennessee, Senator McKellar quickly had Mrs. McMillin's nomination reported favorably to the full Senate. By May 12, 1933, Lucille Foster McMillin had left Nashville for Washington, D. C. She moved into the Carlton Hotel, which was also the residence of Cordell and Frances Hull in the nation's Capital. Mrs. McMillin was to take the oath of office as a member of the Civil Service Commission the following day.

Senators Kenneth McKellar and Nathan Bachman, who had been

appointed by Governor Hill McAlister to succeed Cordell Hull, accompanied Lucille Foster McMillin to the offices of the Civil Service Commission and introduced her to the staff and her fellow commissioners. Mrs. McMillin was the first Tennessean to serve on the Civil Service Commission.

Lucille Foster McMillin enjoyed her work and was active in Washington, D. C. social life. Mrs. McMillin was the guest of honor and principal speaker at the annual banquet for the Columbian Women of George Washington University in May of 1934. Mrs. McMillin gave the baccalaureate address at Lincoln memorial University the following year and made the observation "the biggest job that the Christian citizen has on his hands today is to do his utmost to avert another world war." The University of Tennessee awarded a special degree to Mrs. McMillin following her speech on "The Ideal Citizen."

Lucille Foster McMillin was oftentimes included on the guest list when Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt entertained official Washington. The Nashville Tennessean's social correspondent found Mrs. McMillin in the garden of the White House, which had been festooned with Japanese lanterns for the occasion. Georgia Knox Hudson duly recorded Mrs. McMillin was "stunningly gowned in dazzling white." Ms. Hudson was also on hand when Lucille McMillin spoke at a Valentine's Day dinner in Washington, D.C. Noting the speaker wore "a dinner gown of brown organza sprinkled with gold stars," Ms. Hudson barely remembered to recall Lucille McMillin spoke "on the value of cordial relations with the press."

Lucille Foster McMillin was back home in Tennessee to give a speech on "The Progress of Women in Government" in the spring of 1938. Mrs. McMillin also spoke to a gathering of the Tennessee Federation of Women's Clubs, where she stressed her support as a member of the Civil

Service Commission for merit appointments. "By doing your best to protect and extend the principles of selection on merit you are doing a vital service to yourselves, your state and your nation," Mrs. McMillin told her audience.

It was Lucille McMillin who made the opening address at Washington's Wardman Park Hotel when delegates gathered from the United States and Canada for the Civil Service Assembly in the fall of 1938. According to Georgia Knox Hudson, Lucille Foster McMillin spoke with "beautifully clear enunciation combined with a beguiling Southern voice." Mrs. McMillin's personal popularity in Washington, D. C. had much to do with her personal charm and wit and was renowned as an excellent storyteller, but she was also taken seriously as a member of the Civil Service Commission.

Mrs. McMillin was reappointed to the Civil Service Commission by President Roosevelt and continued to serve until her health began to fail her. America's entry into the Second World War had caused Washington, D. C. and every agency associated with the government to explode with growth. Like most everyone else, Lucille Foster McMillin worked hard during the war and it was July of 1945 before she could leave for a vacation of more than a week. Mrs. McMillin opted for a visit to Canada and certainly she likely looked forward to the cooler temperatures in Quebec as compared to the heat and humidity of Washington, D. C. On September 14, 1946 Lucille Foster McMillin announced she was resigning as a member of the Civil Service Commission. She was to be replaced by another well-known woman, Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor throughout the administration of Franklin Roosevelt.

Mrs. McMillin remained in Washington as her health continued to fail. Sadly, Lucille McMillin had outlived her only child before she died February 25, 1949.

Hobo's Wish List for Santa

Hobo the Wonder Dog is excited for Christmas this year. He is keeping his ear to the ground and his eye to the sky, in anticipation of the arrival of Santa Claus. Hobo is convinced he has been good enough for Santa to grant him at least one thing on his Christmas list. I must agree Hobo the Wonder Dog has been an exceptionally good boy this year. I am certain Santa Claus will agree and reward him with a toy and a treat.



By Howard Baker, RN BSN

pets as family members. The millennial generation are pushing the envelope of pet acceptance and the baby boomers are more than accepting of the change.

dogs can hear.

- Bark Box, although Hobo is not a subscriber many of his friends are—and they love them. I prefer control over the treats and toys I choose for Hobo. However, if you are looking for the perfect gift for your “grandpup” or “grandkitty” a monthly gift box geared for dogs (BarkBox.com) or cats (MeowBox.com) is a great gift idea that keeps giving all year. Doggie Box is a similar service from dog.com.

- Treats, again I am picky about treats for Hobo. Gifting treats can be a good idea, but check with pet parents on dos and don'ts when giving food items. My rule of thumb is always limited ingredients, made in the USA by a reputable company. Hobo's trusted locally made treats, come from River Dog Bakery—you can never go wrong! (riverdogbakery.com)

- Elk Antler Chews, these chews are all natural, long lasting, no

splintering or chipping, no harm to your dog's digestive tract. Elk antlers shed naturally, so no elk are harmed to produce these treats.

- Dog beds, we go through several of these per dog yearly. Good beds are expensive and sure to be appreciated.

Dogs and cats are easy to impress—a belly rub, and extra love is all they really want. They will be content simply being with you and enjoying the company of family—no gift required. Our pets have a better understanding of the true meaning of Christmas than we do. If bearing gifts is your way of celebrating the season, we suggest keeping it simple and giving from the heart.

“Not what we give, but what we share. For the gift without the giver is bare” James Russell Lowell.

Holidays are better with a Dog—woof! woof! woof! Merry Christmas!

A Wildfire Survivor

Charles the Pig



By Ralphine Major ralphine3@yahoo.com

The month of November has been a stark reminder. Television and newspaper accounts have covered extensively the progress since wildfires ravaged Gatlinburg one year ago. Many have rebuilt homes and businesses; others have not. The fires left heartbreak and massive destruction and claimed fourteen lives. In the following months, there were countless stories of survival and heroism.

At the Grainger County Tomato Festival this year, we met one of the survivors of the fire, a pet pig named Charles. On our way

into the building one morning, we stopped to see Charles and learned about his story of survival. His family suffered great loss in the fire. Though the pet pig suffered burns, he survived by covering himself with mud. His story is told in a book titled “The Miraculous Story of Charles the Pig,” and he even has his own Facebook page.

The story of Charles is so touching. It is truly inspiring what we can learn about animal instincts and the will to survive through “Charles the Pig.” We wish Charles and his family all the best moving forward.

Winter of 2017/2018

Cold and snowy? Warm and rainy?

By Ron McKinney
Weather Studies Enthusiast

Winter is slipping in on us just like the gentle breezes are moving leaves across the ground. Cold weather is arriving, but does that mean a long, cold winter?

Before modern technology, our ancestors depended on Mother Nature to obtain their weather predictions. They used signs in the sky as well as on the ground.

Here is a brief list of signs they used to predict snow and cold.

When spiders form their webs in shrubs and bushes near the ground, winter will be cold.

When corn shucks are a great deal thicker than usual, winter will be cold.

If the ground hog sees his shadow on Ground Hog's Day, there will be six more weeks of cold weather. The current Ground Hog's Day is February 2nd. Ground Hog's Day was February 14th in the past. Your guess is as good as mine about which date to use.

The number of fogs in August indicates the number of snows the winter will have.

If wooly worms are a solid color, there will be cold throughout winter. If they have spots on their back, that indicates periods of warmth during the winter.

When you hear katydids, it is normally six to nine weeks until the first frost arrives.

Expect a cold winter if raccoons, squirrels, bears, and other haired wild animals

have very thick fur.

Frosts arrive when cockleburs ripen.

If young deer lose their spots by mid-July, fall will arrive early.

Thunder in February means frost on the same day in May.

When spring flowers bloom in the fall, expect severe weather in the winter.

If a heavy frost occurs when a fire crackles and pops, snow is indicated. If there is a dark, cloudy sky, severe storms and freezing weather are imminent.

If smoke from a fire rises fast and in curls, snow is indicated.

If snowflakes get large during a snow, the snow will end soon.

If snowflakes are small, expect a big snow.

The number of cold, freezing days in the winter ahead can be determined by counting the number of days that are sunny between July 1st and September 1st.

The indication of how many deep snows for the winter can be determined by counting the number of days the first snow remains on the ground.

How will you make your winter predictions? Will you use Mother Nature's signs or will you listen to the weather on news stations? How about a mixture of both?

Christmas thoughts

Cont. from page 2

things you do and say. Anonymous

There's nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child. Erma Bombeck

Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling. Edna Ferber

Shirley Temple said, “I stopped believing in Santa Claus when he asked me for my autograph.”

My personal thoughts turn to snow on Christmas. Being from the North I saw many white Christmases, only one here in the South that I remember. Which brings to my mind also the movie “White Christmas.” I watch it every year.

I know it by heart, but there's no way I wouldn't watch it because of its beautiful music, the beautiful plot of kindness and love, and beautiful scenery. The song “White Christmas” was written by Irving Berlin, one of the greatest song writers of the 20th century. He was born in Russia, but the family immigrated to New York when he was a child. He wrote thousands of songs and dozens of musical scores. In 1942, Bing Crosby singing “White Christmas” in the movie, “Holiday Inn” would become the highest-selling tune in history.

Whether we have a white Christmas or not, keep in mind the reason for this beautiful season. It's the thoughts that count!

Thought for the day: The son of God became a man to enable men to become the sons of God.

C.S. Lewis

Send comments to: rosemerrie@att.net or call 865-748-4717. Thank you.

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Catholic checks out with Class 5A state championship



Area teams sweep in BlueCross Bowl

Area teams went 4 for 4 in the BlueCross Bowl and TSSAA Division I state football championship games last week.

In addition to Knoxville Catholic's 45-28 win over Beech in Class 5A, Greenback doubled the score on Cornersville 42-21 in Class 1A, Alcoa toppled Covington 31-20 in Class 3A and Maryville rolled past Cane Ridge 42-7 in Class 6A.

In other games, Union City edger Tyner 27-21 in Class 2A and Greeneville walloped Springfield 54-13 in Class 4A.

The three Division II state titles games were scheduled to be played Saturday to conclude the three-day event at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville.

Left, Joshua Brown rushed for 99 yards on 14 carries to lead Catholic's ground game in the state finals. Top right, Catholic Head Coach Steve Matthews and sophomore lineman Bryn Tucker hug as the Irishmen celebrate a state championship Thursday night in Cookeville. Bottom right, MVPs Jack Sompayrac (offense) and Larry Liverman (defense) with Catholic's championship trophy.

By Steve Williams

Knoxville Catholic Coach Steve Matthews' pre-game keys for winning the TSSAA Class 5A state football championship were to "use size" and "max possessions."

The Fighting Irish checked off both items in a convincing 45-28 win over previously unbeaten Beech Thursday night in the Blue Cross Bowl at Tucker Stadium in Cookeville.

Except for a brief lapse at the end of the first half and the start of the second, it was pretty much the Big Green's night.

Catholic scored points on all four of its first half possessions and the first two times it had the ball in the second half plus got a huge touchdown from its defense. Only until the closing minutes did the Irish punt.

"We had them outsized and Beech surely showed a lot of heart," said Matthews. "But our

guys made the plays tonight. It's just been a joy to coach these young men all year long."

It was the second state title for Catholic's 12 seniors, who were dubbed the "Dirty Dozen" this season. The big and physical Irishmen end up 12-3 with losses to a trio of powerhouses. They finished with a nine-game win streak.

Beech, which is located in Hendersonville, goes out 14-1. Senior quarterback Jack

Sompayrac, named the game's MVP on offense, threw two touchdown passes and ran for two more. Dashon Bussell, who transferred to Catholic for his senior season, was on the receiving end of both.

Sophomore Stiles Moore's 32-yard fumble return for six points was the defensive play of the night. Senior lineman Larry Liverman, who forced the fumble and had nine solo tackles, was the MVP on defense.

Catholic drove 79 yards in 12 plays to take the lead at the outset. Cameron Blakely caught a 37-yard pass despite double-team coverage to highlight it. Sompayrac lobbed a 16-yard pass over a defender and into Bussell's hands to cap it. Paxton Robertson kicked the first of his six PATs.

A beautiful 49-yard quick kick to the 1-yard line put the Irishmen in a hole, but Joshua Brown's best

Continued on page 3

Lady Devils dial long distance to win district opener

By Ken Lay

Halls High School's girls basketball team dialed up a little long distance in its game against Black Oak Ridge rival Central Tuesday night. The Lady Devils knocked down nine 3-point shots in a 61-34 victory over the Lady Bobcats at Halls High School.

Halls (2-3 overall, 1-0 in District 4-AAA) was hot early as it scored the first seven points of the contest

and forced Central coach Ben Collins to call an early time out.

The Lady Devils, who led 20-10 by first quarter's end, nailed four long-range jumpers in the opening frame and they continued to hit timely 3-pointers all night. The Halls defense also made life miserable for the Lady Bobcats (1-4, 0-1).

Panda Riggs, of the Lady Devils, scored the first

seven points of the game and Halls would force Central into 13 turnovers in the first half. Still, the Lady Bobcats only trailed 35-24 at halftime.

Ashton Blair helped the Lady Bobcats hang around as she scored 13 of her 20 points before halftime.

Collins said that he was pleased with his squad's effort but noted that Central must cut down the turnovers if it is to optimize its

success this season.

"These girls competed. They didn't quit," Collins said. "That's one thing about these girls, they don't quit.

"We took our lumps last year and that was frustrating. Now, these girls feel like they can win but we had too many turnovers in the first half. Sometimes, this is actually more frustrating. We had too many turnovers in the first half. I

think it was 13 or 14. If we don't have those, maybe we're not down 11 at half-time and then, we have a chance to win."

Blair, a 6-3 sophomore, was the only Central player to post double figures in the scoring column Tuesday night against the Lady Devils.

Halls, meanwhile, got 21 points freshman Macy Kirby and 20 from Riggs. The Lady Devils made nine

field goals in the first half; six of those came from beyond the 3-point arc.

Riggs finished the game with four treys. Kirby had three, while Emma Cummings and Cailin Weaver made one each.

Halls first-year coach Tom Poisal said that he was pleased with his young team, which missed seven free throws in the second half.

Continued on page 2

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PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Halls guard Cailin Weaver (15) attempts to make a pass over Central's Heaven Wyrick last week. The Lady Devils notched a 61-34 district win Tuesday night.

Lady Devils dial long distance to win district opener

Continued from page 1

"We're a young team and we have a short rotation," Poisal said. "When you have a short rotation, people get tired." Poisal did have the chance to see some

younger players late and he noted that would benefit his squad as the season progresses.

"We're young and as the season goes on, the better we will get," he said.

Cherokees run past Admirals in MS hoops 58-42

By Ken Lay

Coach Eric Brabson calls his South-Doyle Middle School basketball team a work in progress. Well, the Cherokees seem to be progressing nicely during the early stages of the season.

South-Doyle used a big second half to post a 58-42 road victory over Farragut in a Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference tilt at the Bobby J. Henry Gymnasium on Monday, Nov. 27. The win helped the Cherokees hold on to their share of first place atop the standings.

The game was close early as South-Doyle held a 27-21 lead at halftime. After the break, the Cherokees (8-2 overall, 4-0 in the KCMSSBC) hit the boards and turned up the defensive pressure and that helped them cruise. The Cherokees held the Admirals to just seven points in the third quarter and a 17-7 surge in the frame would be the difference in the contest.

"It was just one of those games," Brabson said. "We had some defensive breakdowns in the first half. We did a better job defensively in the second half."

"We're a work in progress right now. We take pride on being a good defensive basketball team. We're leaving here sharing first place."

In addition to employing a stifling defense in after half-time, the Cherokees featured a balanced offensive attack. They were also able to pick up points in transition and they grabbed several offensive rebounds.

Tai Cates scored a game-high 25 points and Quentin Carr added 17.

Cates carried South-Doyle before halftime. He scored 15 points over the first 12 minutes while Carr tallied 13 after the break.

"Tai was the difference in the game. He's a great player and he's under control. They're good," Admirals

coach Randy Swartzentruber said. "They scored a lot of points on the second shot after we did a good job stopping the initial drive."

"Then, we would stop the initial drive and they would get the rebound and they would hit the second shot. We didn't take care of the ball at times. Sometimes, we did pretty well but other times we didn't. We're not good enough to make those kind of mistakes and beat a good team. And they're good."

Farragut (3-4, 1-3) had three players post double figures in the scoring column. Isaiah Smith led the way with 13 points (including three 3-pointers). Eli Jones scored 11, despite being saddled with foul trouble throughout much of the contest. Dillon Atwell finished with 11 points for the Admirals, who knocked down 10 shots from beyond the 3-point arc.

Halls boys withstand late run to edge Bobcats

By Ken Lay

Jonathan Smith breathed a sigh of relief after watching his Halls High School boys basketball team escape with a narrow District 3-AAA home victory over Central Tuesday night.

Smith, the Red Devils' first-year coach, saw his team start a bit slow, open a sizable halftime lead and then hang on to record a 73-70 win over the Bobcats before a spirited crowd in the battle for Black Oak Ridge bragging rights.

"I was proud of our kids for playing hard and hanging on," Smith said. "But you really have to give credit to Central because they really played hard too."

There might have been some anxious moments for the Red Devils (4-2 overall, 1-0 in District 3-AAA) but in the end, Halls did what it had to do. It protected its home floor in a tough district.

"I told the guys after the game that they had to win all their conference games at home and they won this one he said. You have to win all your home games in this conference."

Central (2-5, 0-1) jumped out an 11-6 lead early before it was called for a technical foul after being whistled for a personal. The Red Devils knocked down three of the four foul shots before Jordan Corvette knocked down a 3-pointer to give Halls a 12-11 lead.

Halls would have a narrow 17-14 advantage at the end of the first quarter. Corvette's 3-pointer that gave the Red Devils the lead was his last bucket of the opening half. Corvette, who scored 56 points against Gibbs on Tuesday, Nov. 21, picked up two fouls in the opening frame. He was whistled for his third early in the second stanza.

While Corvette sat, his teammates were able to create some separation against their longtime bitter rivals.

Halls used a 14-6 run in the second quarter to open a 31-20 halftime advantage. Center Trysten Palmer had 13 of his 21 points before halftime. He scored seven

in the second quarter and helped the Red Devils build their lead.

Halls High's defense was stingy in the second stanza as it held the Bobcats to two field goals in the frame.

Sullivan Rouse made a shot for Central and Sean Oglesby had the other. The Bobcats got their other points in the frame free throws from Te'Von Summers and Devone Moss.

After halftime, both teams saw their respective offenses kick into high gear. The squads combined to score 56 points in the third quarter and the Bobcats trimmed their deficit to 57-50 by the end of the frame as this game turned in to a shootout.

The Red Devils took a 68-58 lead when Jordan Biliter made his only bucket of the game with 3 minutes, 8 seconds remaining in the contest. Biliter's basket appeared to seal things for the Red Devils.

But the Bobcats had other ideas.

Central would pull to within 71-70 on a shot by Oglesby with 16.3 seconds left. He was fouled but subsequently missed a potential game-tying free throw.

Halls got a foul shot from Richie Vineyard and another down the stretch from Scottie Childress.

Central had a potential game-tying shot go awry as time expired and the Halls fans stormed the floor.

Central first-year coach Andy Hill said that he was pleased to see his team battle back to make things close in what turned out to be a heartbreaking loss.

"These kids don't quit," Hill said of his teams. "I want to thank our fans for coming over here to support us. I told them, when I took this job, that I would give them a team that Fountain City could be proud of. Tonight, we did that."

Corvette finished with 18 points for Halls and Cooper Watson had 14.

Central, thanks to its big second half, had four players post double figures. Marcus Hixenbaugh and Moss had 19 apiece. Summers added 13 and Oglesby finished with 10.

Hornets' 12U team shows the way for new organization

By Steve Williams

A new youth football organization that was created in the Carter community in July has completed its first season in the Knox Metro League.

Coach Bobby Stanton believes his 12U team, which has been very successful since many of its players started together in flag football, can be a "model" to follow in the new Hornet Youth Football Association.

According to Stanton, the new organization was started with the intent to bridge the gap between youth and high school football programs by partnering with local schools to offer top notch facilities, equipment and instruction. The program was

developed by members of the Carter community and alum that include Suzannah Black Cannon (president), Adam Brown (vice-president), Valerie Stanton Wilson (treasurer) Sara Henderson (secretary) and Ray Wynn (commissioner).

In addition to Stanton's 12U team, the Hornet organization also had a 9U and 14U team this season. Next year the organization plans to expand its age groups in football and add cheerleading. Future plans also include adding other sports such as basketball, girls' softball and baseball.

Stanton's Hornets went 7-0 in league play this season but were upset 35-34 in double overtime by East Knoxville in the AFC 12U semifinals.

Over the years, these Hornets have won over 80 games, a KMYFL title and numerous bowl games, plus had two undefeated regular seasons and three national level tournament championships, said Stanton.

This team has been led by a core group of players that have been together since those flag football days - Chandler Wilson, Elijah Cannon, Kash Aultom and Brody Blankenship. The squad's original coaches are all still in place as well.

The longtime Carter Youth Football Association (CYFA), under the direction of commissioner Melvin Burns, had a 6U flag, 7U, 9U, 10U and 11U team this season.



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With a pack of runners trailing her in the background, Rebecca Story of CAK reaches the finish line to win the Foot Locker South Regional. Photo provided.

Story wins Foot Locker's Cross Country South Regional

Coughlin and Renfree also qualify for nationals

By Steve Williams

Rebecca Story has had another prestigious accomplishment in her high school cross country career.

The Christian Academy of Knoxville senior won the Foot Locker South Region girls' championship Nov. 25 in Charlotte.

Story, a Stanford University signee, covered the 5,000-meter McAlpine Greenway course in 17 minutes, 24.5 seconds, about four seconds ahead of sophomore Victoria Starcher of Ripley, W. Va., and a pack of runners.

The victory also qualified Story for Foot Locker's national championship race Saturday in San Diego. She finished third in the nationals last year,

earning a berth on the USA Junior Team that competed in the Great Edinburgh Cross Country Challenge in Scotland last January.

In addition to Story, two other local runners - Carter Coughlin of Webb School and Jake Renfree of Knoxville Catholic - placed fifth and eighth, respectively, in the boys' South Regional to earn spots in the nationals, which will be held at Morley Field and Balboa Park.

Coughlin, a senior who is headed to Wake Forest University, posted a time of 15:06.6. Renfree, a junior, was clocked in 15:10.8.

John Tatter, a senior from RJ Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem, N.C., took first place with a time of 14:55.9.

The Top 10 boys' and girls' finishers in the South, Northeast, Midwest and West regions qualify for the FLCCC.

Story finished sixth in the 2016 South Region meet, but lowered her time 14 seconds in this year's race, which was held under clear skies and 45 degrees.

The second through 10th place runners finished within 2.3 seconds of each other. One of those in that pack was Heather Holt of Fairfax, Va. She had run a 17:23.4 to place second in last year's regional but came in seventh this season.

Story can expect tough competition in the nationals, where she was timed in 17:35.4 last year. Claudia Lane of Malibu, Calif., won the 2016 title as a sophomore with a time of 17:04.8.

In this year's Midwest Region, the champion ran a 17:13. The top time in the Northeast Region was 17:47. The West Region was scheduled this past Saturday.

Catholic checks out with Class 5A state championship

Cont. from page 1

run of the night on second down gained 47 yards. Brown fought off tacklers and broke away.

The drive stalled, but Robertson booted a 23-yard field goal to make it 10-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Joe Fluker had a 22-yard run on Catholic's third possession and Brown plunged off right tackle from the 1 to make it 17-0.

Beech shaved the deficit when Nelson Smith hit

Dyilin Hoosier on a 19-yard bubble screen. Kicker David Johnson pulled the Buccaneers within 17-7.

Bussell won a one-on-one battle for the ball on a 28-yard TD catch to make it 24-7.

Beech made a run as a wide open Hoosier hauled in a 33-yard TD pass 21 seconds before intermission.

"I was extremely disappointed in that," said Matthews at the break. "That's bitten us all year long (long

plays for touchdowns)."

The Bucs continued their momentum into the second half when the small but speedy Kaemon Dunlap made a nifty spin move and then got a block by Hoosier on the corner that allowed him to complete a 20-yard TD scamper.

All of a sudden Catholic led by only three points.

DJ Mitchell reacted with a 38-yard kickoff return to the 50. Sompayrac completed long gainers to Bussell and Blakely and scored

on a 10-yard keeper.

Then Moore's scoop and score pushed the lead back to 17 points.

A short punt on the last play of the third quarter set up Catholic at the Beech 41. A 7-yard TD run by Sompayrac made it 45-21 with 8:40 remaining.

Senior kicker Ian Sauter, who averaged 60 yards on kickoffs, added his seventh touchback, giving the Buccaneers another long field to face.

South-Doyle hangs on to edge defending champion Farragut

By Ken Lay

South-Doyle Middle School girls basketball coach Eric Brabson knew that his team faced a stiff challenge when it took to the hardwood on Monday, Nov. 27. The Lady Cherokees returned from their Thanksgiving break and faced Farragut on the road.

South-Doyle got out to a big early lead and it would notch a 43-42 victory over the Lady Admirals at the Bobby J. Henry Gymnasium.

"We played them in the summer and we knew that this game was going to be tough," Brabson said. "Farragut is always tough but we thought that we would be able to compete with them."

Early on, it looked as though the Lady Cherokees would do more than merely compete with Farragut, which has several key returning players from last year's squad that won both the James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament Championship and the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference's regular-season title.

The two teams battled through a virtually even opening quarter with the Lady Cherokees holding a slim 12-10 advantage heading into the second stanza.

South-Doyle (7-3 overall, 3-1 in the KCMSBC), however, was able to open a big 29-14 lead by halftime. The Lady Cherokees outscored the Lady Admirals 17-4 in the second quarter.

Farragut's only points of the period came from Ace Strickland, an eighth-grade wing player, who won post-season tournament Most Valuable Player honors as a seventh grader in March. Strickland made a field goal and knocked down a pair of free throws while the Lady Admirals (7-1, 3-1) endured their offensive woes.

"We've been talking about wanting to get off to a good, fast start," Brabson said. "We got off to a good start."

"We're still young mentally wise and that's why we almost gave away a big lead."

Farragut began its comeback bid in the third frame as it shaved three points off its deficit and pulled to within 38-26 when Strickland scored with 24 seconds remaining. The Lady Admirals actually cut South-Doyle's advantage to 31-21 when Strickland converted a three-point play with 4:16 left in the third quarter.

The Lady Cherokees, however, answered every punch Farragut threw in this battle of middle school basketball heavyweights.

Strickland, who led all scorers with 23 points, scored 17 after halftime. She pulled the Lady Admirals to within 40-37 midway through the final stanza before South-Doyle center Ranaisha Gates converted an old-fashioned three-point play to make it 43-38 with 2:30 left in the game.

Farragut then chipped away as eighth-grade guard Keeliegh Rogers made a pair of free throws down the stretch. Farragut made it 43-42 when Ashynn Sheridan hit a bucket with 39 seconds to go.

Then things got crazy as South-Doyle had a pair of late turnovers. The game ended with the Lady Admirals missing a potential game winner as time expired.

Farragut coach Susan Davidson said she was pleased with her team's effort in a narrow loss.

"I was extremely proud of our kids for the way they battled and came back," she said. "We had four good looks [in the latter stages of the game] but we just couldn't get it to fall for us tonight."

"South-Doyle is a really good team and they have some good kids. I was really impressed by Eric's team because their scoring was balanced. [South-Doyle] point guard Jamia Simmons is a class act and she plays the game the right way."

The Lady Cherokees did boast a balanced offensive attack.

Gates led 18 points to lead the way. Terryanna Griffin added nine (all before halftime). Simmons finished with eight while Abby Sullivan scored six.

For Farragut, Rogers scored 11 points and Haley Prince finished with six.



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Fulmer will do what's best for Tennessee athletics

New UT head coaches and athletic directors always wear an orange tie at their introductory press conference.



By Steve Williams

So did Phillip Fulmer when he was introduced Friday afternoon as Tennessee's new AD. But he didn't have to rush out and buy one.

Phil's ties to the university actually go back to the late 1960s when he toiled in the trenches as an offensive lineman for the Vols.

Fulmer's respect for his alma mater also is unquestioned. If you want proof, just go on YouTube and watch his emotional press conference with his wife Vicky at his side, after he was forced to step down as head football coach in 2008.

Vicky this time was visiting her brother in another state when the press conference was hastily scheduled about an hour after John Currie had been suspended from his AD duties.

Two of Fulmer's daughters and two grandkids were on hand for the announcement. That alone should tell you Phillip is a family man. And UT is a big part of his family. He really never left her.

Many in Tennessee's great fan base are happy Fulmer, 67, is now the AD and leading the search for a new head football coach. But those fans under the age of 30 probably don't remember the Vols' great run through the 1990s and the national championship season of 1998 under Fulmer.

And kids out there, say 15 and under, only know of the trying times the Tennessee football program has been going through.

Younger fans will soon see the personality Fulmer has and the qualities he possesses as a leader. Even Catholic High's Cade Mays, the nation's No. 2 rated offensive lineman who recently decommitted from UT, may get a call from the old offensive line coach.

At this time of the year, Fulmer probably would make a great Santa Claus.

He has the physical qualities (no offense Phil), but more importantly, a butter melting charm that would make scared and crying 3-year olds relax enough to sit on his knee and tell him what they want for Christmas, and then probably kiss him good-bye.

Fulmer, a candidate for the AD post when Currie was hired last spring, won over UT Chancellor Beverly Davenport over the last nine months. She became impressed with his experience in major college athletics and really appreciated how respectful he was to her.

After a week of errors and strikeouts in the coaching search under Currie, Davenport felt it was time for new leadership and hit a home run when she brought Fulmer off the bench and up to the plate.

Fulmer, who was named special adviser to UT president Joe DiPietro for community, athletics and university relations in June, said he will try to find the right guy – and not necessarily a Tennessee guy – for the UT football job.

But there's no question he will reach out to former Volunteers who are qualified, with current Duke Coach David Cutcliffe and Southern Cal offensive coordinator Tee Martin at the top of that list. Another former UT quarterback and longtime OC, Randy Sanders, may even be a candidate. Peyton Manning could be too, if he wanted.

In Currie's coaching search, there was speculation and conflicting reports that super booster Jimmy Haslam may have been behind Currie offering Greg Schiano the UT job, which resulted in an unprecedented protest from Tennessee's passionate fan base and Currie taking back the offer.

The Haslam family has been very generous and good to UT and the local community for years, and hopefully will continue to be.

But I can't imagine Fulmer ever being a puppet in his new role. He may respectfully listen to suggestions from prominent boosters and common fans as well, but he will do what he feels is best for the university and its athletics program.

The Weirdest Coaching Search of All-Time

By Alex Norman

By the time you read this, Tennessee might have a head coach... or they might not. Who the heck knows.

The past three weeks have been an absolute embarrassment, not only for the Tennessee football program, but for the University itself.

I thought it would be different this time. Tennessee athletics director John Currie (yes more on him in a second), while being high strung and reportedly tough to work for, wasn't supposed to make these kinds of mistakes. He cared about the public relations aspect of things, as opposed to the man he replaced, Dave Hart, who made decision after decision that cast Tennessee in a negative light.

Currie brought back the Lady Vols name for all women's sports. He saw that men's tennis and baseball were underachieving, so he made coaching changes. Currie engaged with fans via social media and sent out newsletters updating things going on with Tennessee athletics.

But this football coaching search has proved that, like Hart, he had no idea what Tennessee fans want or expect.

On Friday, December 1st, the bomb finally dropped. Take it away, UT Chancellor Dr. Beverly Davenport!

"Early yesterday afternoon (November 30th) I asked John Currie to return to Knoxville before going forward with the search. That request had nothing to do with any specific coach. When there are high expectations about a great place, those high expectations come with challenges and challenges require tough decisions. Today required one of those decisions. This morning, I decided to make a change in leadership in our athletics department. It's a decision that I feel was in the best interest of this university. John Currie has been suspended, and Phillip Fulmer has agreed to step in as our athletic director. I want you to know John Currie has worked tirelessly in his position, and I respect him for his commitment and contributions to the University of Tennessee. This process was not satisfactory."

If I told you back in November 2008, when a teary-eyed Phillip Fulmer addressed the media and his team during the press conference to announce his firing, that this scenario would play out 9 years later? You'd think I had lost my mind.

But the way that Currie, prominent boosters, and the UT administration have acted over the past few weeks have turned this search into a debacle. The fact that Davenport told Currie to come home, and instead flew out to Los Angeles to interview Washington State coach Mike Leach, was the last straw. Currie had to be dismissed.

Currie tried to hire Ohio State defensive coordinator Greg Schiano as the replacement for Butch Jones. No one else in that athletic department wanted Tennessee to hire Schiano and when I say no one I mean no one. He was an awful choice for a multitude of reasons, the greatest of which being that he was accused in court documents of seeing Jerry Sandusky abuse a boy at Penn State in the 1990s.

Schiano is thought of as Butch Jones 2.0. A hot head with thin skin that can't take criticism. What on earth would make you believe that he's the man for the Tennessee job?

Currie was in Columbus dotting the i's when the news broke that the signing was imminent, and Tennessee fans flipped out. They flooded social media with their anger, they protested on campus, and they painted the rock. The displeasure was so strong that Currie backed out, despite signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Schiano. This will likely get settled in the courts, as Schiano will be interested in getting the money he feels is coming to him.

In the days to come, Duke's David Cutcliffe said no, Oklahoma State's Mike Gundy used a Vols offer to get a raise, a deal with Purdue's Jeff Brohm fell through, North Carolina State's Dave Doeren used a Vols offer to get a raise, and finally the trip to see Leach. At the same time, some of the names being bantered about for the Tennessee job were getting reportedly getting calls from folks at UT telling them how toxic things are currently.

This all happened within 5 days. And after all that? Tennessee still didn't have a head coach!

The most important thing that Fulmer can bring to Tennessee is stability. It's been nearly a decade of dysfunction since Fulmer was fired. Tennessee has never been the same since that day. Hopefully he will be the calming force that the Vols so desperately need.

Heck, things can't get any worse... Right?



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The Doctor is in
 a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Memories

I sometimes wonder if life is passing me by. Perhaps my feelings are colored by hearing that two more of my long term colleagues have announced their retirements. I'll admit it's tricky to know when it's time to go, and too many seem to stay beyond their time. I advised one friend that he should not retire without a plan, and sent him my recent essay which describes Cicero's advice on how to grow old. Or maybe it's the increasingly problematic bureaucracy of medicine which frustrates me and makes me contemplate throwing in the towel.

And then perhaps it's a relativistic impression that causes me to see life passing me because I'm no longer going anywhere. All my life I was striving to get an education, build a medical practice and raise a family. All of these

have been accomplished. However, a new chapter has opened and the journey isn't over because the Psalmist, Proverbist and Cicero have refocused me on my role as a rising elder. Supporting family and grandkids is a great job as I look for opportunities to sow nuggets of experiential wisdom with the next generations. This job has responsibility, but more so, a blessing.

We are now in the season of Advent, a word which derives from Medieval Latin, meaning arrival. The arrival of Jesus changed the world two millennia ago and like no other birth in history, most of us still celebrate His birthday. And even non believers get the day off and can enjoy holiday gatherings.

Becky and I recently watched our first Christmas movie of the season. One of our favorites is A

Christmas Story where a little boy wishes for a BB gun. We adults understand that the spirit of Christmas is personified in Santa Claus. But to a child Christmas is a magical time. There will be plenty of time for my grandchildren to grow up and be philosophical, but for now I want the "cute-ones" to experience the magic of Christmas. And gift giving is a long standing tradition going back to the gospeler Matthew's account of the Magi. My family is blessed and the adults recognize that it's Jesus' birth we celebrate, not our own. Consequently, we've decided to give gifts to the children and those less fortunate in honor of The Christ, rather than to each other.

Christmas lights seem to be showing up earlier this year. Maybe people need the Christmas Spirit more in these days of tumult. My SIL's favorite Christmas movie is The Christmas Vacation. In this comedy, Clark Griswold assumes his father's role as the "master of exterior illumination." The Big House on our farm is now festooned with colorful Christmas lighting. Becky and I will now have to hustle to keep up with our neighbors, the Johnsons. I recently read that some Grinches object to their neighbor's exterior illumination. What's wrong

with these people? I refuse to let such killjoys sap my Christmas spirit.

We do have our Christmas Tree up, and the cute-ones "helped" us decorate it - as much as five and two year olds can help. In addition to multi-colored lights and garlands, our tree is decorated with ornaments we have collected throughout our marriage and our travels. These range from a Santa driving a New York yellow cab, a duck billed platypus from New Zealand, a Beefeater from Buckingham Palace and a water cup from Wall Drugs in the Badlands of South Dakota. Hanging these ornaments and those that commemorate the birth of my children and gifted ornaments from friends are like trips down memory lane. Our tree has traditional angels and those made by our kids in nursery school (see the pic), and reindeers and Santas, but it also sports skiing snowmen, a handsome red pickup truck carrying a Christmas ornament and an internist in a white lab coat impersonating Santa.

Memories are a vital aspect of our humanity, and this is why dementia is so devastating. Recently, we celebrated the eighteenth family gathering of the Ferguson clan for Thanksgiving at our

mountain cabin. Each year we've taken a group picture of family, friends and old boyfriends who didn't make the final cut. Becky displayed all the pictures, and the memories washed over us all.

In ancient times, few people could read or write and recordings on vellum or parchment were very expensive and time consuming. As a result, stories were memorized and then recited around campfires and in town squares by professional raconteurs. These memory masters held prominence in ancient aural societies. As an example, the Iliad was often memorized and then recited line for line utilizing memorization techniques we moderns no longer deem necessary. We just Google a poem or go to YouTube to hear a song.

Because memorization is not as important as in times past, people marvel that I remember Biblical and historical events, especially those of western culture. Though I have a good memory, I'm not exceptional. To remember something, it helps to be interested in a topic like history. I explain my organization of historical events as analogous to a Christmas tree.

We cut this year's tree from my brother's farm and set it up in our home.

We then added lights, ornaments and finally garlands to transform an evergreen to a Christmas tree. By analogy, I add historical events to the tree-like framework of time. You can do the same. Billy Graham once lamented that he didn't memorize enough scripture, so that he'd have the Word when his vision and hearing failed.

Kathie Lee Gifford is a Christian and advises forgiveness for her disgraced colleague, Matt Lauer. And I agree with her. I wish I could say that I'm sorry for the elite media, politicians and Hollywood types who have so recently fallen so far from grace. The German word schadenfreude means deriving joy from the misfortune of another. I take no pleasure in the downfall of these hypocrites and predators; I just wish they would disappear and be silent. And while I believe in forgiveness I also believe in owning the consequences of our choices.

My prayer at Christmas is that those who are lost will be "driven upon [their] knees by the overwhelming conviction that [they have] nowhere else to go." It is then that the lover of our souls, the Christmas Savior, can save us all.

You may email Dr. Ferguson at fergusonj@knoxfocus.com

Christmas Plants

Upon deciding to write about Christmas plants, my intentions were to write about indoor Christmas Plants, such as Poinsettias, Amaryllis, Paperwhites, and Christmas Cactus. However, upon further thought I decided on outdoor Christmas plants and specifically ferns, Christmas ferns and Holly ferns.

Let us begin with the Christmas fern. Let me preface by saying that this fern is under planted and under used in the landscape. Christmas fern is very easy to establish and grow.

It is a perennial, evergreen fern which will provide your garden with four seasons of deep, evergreen beauty. It is native to the Eastern United States and is deer resistant. The Christmas fern is most often found in shady woodland gardens. It does well in partial to full shade but will tolerate a fair amount of sun if adequate moisture is provided. It grows well on shady hillsides and wooded stream banks. The fern typically grows in a fountain-like clump to two feet tall with leathery fronds. If planted in masses or small clusters of two or three, they can help stabilize the soil and provide erosion control.

They are also great to use in Christmas arrangements,

wreaths and decorations. If bringing them indoors to use in arrangements, they enhance the aforementioned Christmas flowers.

Holly fern is another hardy, evergreen fern that adds winter interest to your garden and can also be brought indoors to be used in Christmas decorations and arrangements.

The Holly fern thrives in partial shade to full shade. It is well suited for a woodland garden, in rock gardens and shaded areas of borders. They even do well in the darkest corners of your garden and under tree canopies where nothing else will grow. The Holly fern likes moist but well-draining acidic soils. They

do tolerate hot and humid summers well.

The fronds of this fern resemble holly leaves with serrated, sharp-tipped leaves, hence, its common name. The fronds are leathery and glossy, dark green. The holly fern has a unique shape with the fronds arching gracefully as they grow outward from the middle, creating a vase shape. The Holly fern grows in a mound that reaches about one to two feet high and two to three feet wide. These plants are deer and rabbit resistant.

These ferns are great additions to your garden. They provide interest year-round but particularly in the winter. They are must have additions to use in

your Christmas decorating.

"Only spread a fern frond over a man's head and worldly cares are cast out, and freedom and beauty and peace come in"—John Muir

With this being the Christmas season, I would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas 2017 and a Happy, Healthy, and Joyous New Year 2018!

"I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11



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