

Checking in on the Behavioral Urgent Care Center

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville Focus recently asked Jerry Vagnier, president and CEO of Helen Ross McNabb Center, how things are going at the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center. The facility, located just off Western Avenue at 5203 Ball Camp Pike, opened in March following a well-attended ribbon cutting.

Funded by the state, county and city the Urgent Care Center occupies part of a renovated building that once served as a

church. The creation of the center came after several years of effort by citizens who wanted diversion, not jail, for mentally ill offenders and those with a drug addiction.

Jessica Hill, director of community relations for Helen Ross McNabb, responded to The Focus inquiry with answers from Vagnier.

"The Helen Ross McNabb Center is pleased with the progress of the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center. From opening on March 19 through May 24,

10 weeks of operation, we have seen roughly 90 clients. While the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center contains 16 beds, we have been intentional in slowly increasing the number of clients to ensure we are providing the best possible services," Vagnier said.

"Intake, discharge and follow up continue to go smoothly. Approximately 80 percent of the people referred to us by the police and sheriff's departments have been accepted into treatment at this facility. This shows we are

appropriately assessing whether a person needs treatment or needs to go to jail. About 82 percent of our referrals are from the Knoxville Police Department," he added.

Adjoining the Urgent Care Center is a separate facility which houses and treats a different client who is there voluntarily.

"The second half of the facility houses our crisis services, which includes the Mobile Crisis Unit and Crisis Stabilization Unit. The Mobile Crisis Unit

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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Open since March the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center provides 72 hours of diversion from jail for mentally ill and drug offenders. Most of the 90 clients served there so far have been brought to the center by the Knoxville Police Department.

Second Saturday Concert series lineups announced

First shows kick off June 9 at The Cove and New Harvest Park

Knox County is again hosting its Second Saturday Concerts series this summer as the parks and recreation department will oversee live entertainment for the whole family at The Cove and – for the second year in a row – at New Harvest Park.

The free concerts, held June through August on the second Saturday of each month, run from 6 to 8 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own blankets or lawn chairs. Please note: No alcohol is allowed.

The dates and bands for summer 2018 are:

- June 9 – Rockinellerz (The Cove) and Wild Blue Yonder (New Harvest)
- July 14 – The Jennings Street Band (The Cove) and

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Goat grazing, sidewalk sound, mall changes on City Council agenda

By Mike Steely
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The Knoxville City Council meets in regular session Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the City-County Building's main assembly room and, among other agenda items, they will discuss permitting goat grazing, controlling sound on sidewalks and two changes involving both malls.

The city code may be changed in a vote to allow temporary goat grazing in the city to control invasive plants on private property. Goats have been used in recent years to control kudzu at Fort Dickerson Park and other places. Now the code may be changed to allow, with a permit, the animals on private lots. The request comes from the office of Sustainability and

Councilman Mark Campen.

Communications Director Jesse Mayshark told The Focus that several requests have been made to permit goats on private property. He said doing so would require a permit and be permitted for 90 days in a fenced lot.

Amplified sound on city sidewalks and rights-of-way might also be prohibited if an agenda item requested by the Office of Redevelopment passes. Mayshark said some street performers have been using amplifiers, either battery powered or plugged into outside outlets. The prohibition will not affect business patio music which is already regulated.

Two items are on the agenda that could involve

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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Boy Scout Troop 55 of the Fountain City Methodist Church presented the colors during the beginning of Honor Fountain City Day.

Rain did not deter Honor Fountain City Day

By Mike Steely
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It may have rained most of Memorial Day but that didn't deter the ceremonies at Honor Fountain City Day. Although some politicians and vendors cleared out by the time the 3 p.m. program got underway, many residents stayed and watched the patriotic program and presentation of honors to citizens who contributed time and effort to the community.

The ceremonies began as members of Boy Scout Troop 55 of the Fountain City Methodist Church presented the flag and Rev. Jeff Lane of Smithwood Baptist Church gave the devotional. Lynn Bennett sang the national anthem. Members

of the East Tennessee Volunteer Honor Guard fired a 21-gun salute in honor of fallen heroes.

Sponsored by the Fountain City Town Hall, the 43rd Annual Honor Fountain City Day was surprised with a visit by former Governor Phil Bredesen, who spoke briefly following great applause from the crowd. Bredesen is a candidate for U. S. Senator.

"This is the kind of event I love to go to with all kinds of people, politics, and backgrounds. That's what America is supposed to be about," he said.

Congressional candidate and Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett also spoke briefly and honored fallen military and veterans and

said that the "best hamburgers in the world are right here at Litton's."

Town Hall Chair Kelly Ellenburg hosted the event, noting that "A Walk in the Park" was the theme.

Each year local citizens are honored for their efforts and Bill Dohm and Patty Cooper received the Town Hall Chair's Award for their purchase and restoration of Savage Garden and efforts at the Garden Montessori School.

Knoxville Vice Mayor Finbarr Saunders was honored and received the Friend of Fountain City Award.

Carol Evans, director of Legacy Parks, was the keynote speaker and was recognized as Fountain

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What Are Court Costs?

In every single kind of court case, both civil and criminal, there is typically a cost to you just to be involved in the case. That cost is what is commonly referred to as the court costs. What are court costs?



By Jedidiah McKeenan
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Court costs are what the court system charges people on various kind of cases.

When you file a lawsuit against someone to evict them from a house you own, you must pay a filing fee in order to evict them. That filing fee is the initial court costs that are charged. There may or may not be additional court costs that are accrued during the case. If the plaintiff (the person who pays an initial filing fee) prevails in their case against the defendant, the defendant may be ordered to pay the court costs, which means that the defendant will have to pay back the plaintiff what they initially paid to start the lawsuit.

In criminal cases, a defendant will very often have to pay court costs associated

with their case. These court costs can range from a hundred dollars to thousands of dollars. Many defendants continue to have court dates for multiple years just because they cannot afford to pay their court costs and the judge makes them come back to court until their court costs are completely paid.

Why would they do that? What's the big deal? Well, the court has to pay its employees, and one of the main ways they do this is by collecting court costs. Those court costs fund not only the court system, but also the county government and the government always has things it can spend money on so they want to see as much money collected as possible.

Jedidiah McKeenan 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.

Checking in on the Behavioral Urgent Care Center

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provides a 24-hour crisis response for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis. Through the MCU, staff provide assessments, triage and access to the appropriate level of care for the person in need," Vagnier said.

Unit provides short-term treatment and access to services to prevent psychiatric hospitalization. This service is provided on a voluntary basis to adults who have been diagnosed with a mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis," he said.

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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Travis McKenny was honored by the Knox County Commission last week for being chosen the Keller Williams Realty International Rookie of the Year. Commissioners Dave Wright and Bob Thomas and Mayor Tim Burchett spoke during the honor.

Big Ears Festival gets \$25,000 from Hotel/Motel Taxes

By Mike Steely
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The Big Ears Festival finally received a \$25,000 contribution from the Knox County Commission but only after Visit Knoxville came on board as the event's agency. The matter was debated during a recent commission work session because no sponsor was named and some commissioners objected to donating the money directly to the event.

The resolution was rewritten "to be paid to Visit Knoxville." The funds will come from the county's Hotel/Motel Tax Fund. Commissioner Hugh Nystrom told the other members that the sponsor was added and Commissioner Evelyn Gill said that an education component was added to the event for "musical awareness for children."

The annual March event draws a large attendance to Knoxville and features all types of musical genres, films, performances and visual arts. The city and Visit Knoxville annually contribute funds for the event.

"I would have voted 'No' tonight but it was vetted by Visit Knoxville," Commissioner Carson Dailey said. He said that a direct contribution from the county, without Visit Knoxville, would open a Pandora's Box but now he is "OK with this change."

Commissioner Dave Wright opposed the contribution explaining that the request should have been made during the budget presentation but the request "showed up in the middle of our term."

"The city gave \$25,000 and Visit Knoxville gave \$60,000," Commissioner Schoonmaker said, asking if the Hotel/Motel Tax fund "is flat." Finance Director Chris Caldwell said the funds are there and available.

"If we spent \$150,000 we couldn't buy that kind of publicity, it's one of the best festivals in the Southeast. It truly brings people from all over the world to Knoxville," Commissioner Brad Anders said.

"We can demand receipts," Anders said, adding that Kim Trent of Visit Knoxville is "comfortable with this." Commissioner Evelyn Gill said the public often doesn't understand the budget process and, "We need to do a better job."

Nystrom said the funding goes to a 501-3-C which must file a report adding, "It's all public information."

Wright said that other events and local attractions know how to request funds. He was the only "No" vote on the funding.

In other action Chairman Randy Smith asked the Rules Committee

to look into procedures for deferring zoning requests, explaining that a "timeline" should be added and asked if an automatic deferral should be granted if requested.

Commissioner Dailey said that the "Consent" items should be read after other business and asked the Rules Committee to consider it.

The discussion turned to state representation when Commissioner Anders indicated that he's going to ask the commission to hire a Nashville lobbyist at the close of the budget hearings.

"We lost big when our Urban Growth Bill lost in Nashville," Anders lamented. A request from the commission to end the Urban Growth policy in Knox County never made it out of committee there and he added, "We've got to get rid of that Urban Growth Plan."

Busler said the exemption from the plan might have passed "if we had known the bill was down there."

"We sat down with our state representatives and said it was a priority but no one was down there," Chairman Smith said.

"No one stood up to talk about it," Busler said of the local state representatives when the bill was introduced.



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The Obama – Trump Double Standard



By Steve Hunley,
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"The man who never looks into a newspaper is better informed than he who read them, in as much as he who knows nothing is nearer to truth than he whose mind is filled with falsehoods and errors." – Thomas Jefferson

Using that quote may not be wise being in the newspaper business, but like much of what Thomas Jefferson said and wrote, it has a lot of truth in it. The media in this country is used to having enormous power and there was a time

when the media was able to wield it quite effectively. Much of what has occurred in our culture has been due to the ability of the media, aligned with the entertainment industry and more recently, social media to shape and mold events. We still hear a lot about freedom of the press, yet along with that same freedom comes a certain responsibility. Much of that responsibility has been eroded by thirty-second news reports followed by thirty minutes of analysis.

Newspapers especially have always had a point of view and many newspapers were either unabashedly Republican or Democrat, conservative or liberal. The national news represented on television was a different matter entirely. I don't think any President of the United States has suffered more personal abuse than Donald Trump. I well recall how many on the left huffed that Barack Obama had been vilified by the right, loudly denouncing

those who whispered about Obama having been born in Kenya or the like. Yet those same people who were indignant about the slings and arrows of the far right against Obama are all too willing to believe anything, no matter how base or ridiculous about Trump. One reason the left in this country have become unhinged about Donald Trump's election is they made the erroneous assumption America had fundamentally changed with the election of Barack Obama. Obama's globalist view of the world, his core belief the United States was not the greatest country in the world; in fact, Obama seemed to take the attitude Americans had much to be remorseful about. There were those who swooned over Obama's reputed intelligence and speculated the presidency was not enough of a challenge for him. Some are tempted to forget under Barack Obama the middle class seriously diminished and income inequality reached its

highest peak since 1928. The coverage of Obama during his presidency by the media could be described as nothing less than doting. Jim Acosta, the same gadfly masquerading as a news reporter, gushed Obama's inaugural speech would likely be "one for the ages." Acosta confronted one Tea Party supporter dressed as the Grim Reaper and ridiculing Obama about being "over the top." Evidently, Acosta doesn't think anything is over the top in ridiculing Trump.

Barack Obama recently bragged he didn't have any scandals while in the White House. Of course there were scandals during the Obama administration, some of them utterly appalling. The problem was the national media treated them quite differently. Barack Obama demonstrably lied to the American people about Obamacare; the Obama administration repeatedly refused to cooperate with Congressional investigations,

even after a judge flatly rejected Obama's assertion of executive privilege. Obama's attorney general, Eric Holder, became the first Attorney General of the United States to be held in contempt by Congress. Despite the outrage over Donald Trump's executive orders, Barack Obama routinely ignored courts and frequently ruled through executive orders. There was little said by the national media when President Obama sent planes laden with cash to pay a ransom to a terrorist state. Few ever saw the investigative report showing in detail how the Obama administration subverted the efforts of law enforcement officers to derail an international drug-trafficking operation, which was run by Hezbollah, a terrorist organization.

Obama officials reputedly understood they were protected to a large extent by either the stupidity or the partisan inclination of reporters. Few reporters said little, if anything, when

it was revealed Obama's Justice Department spied on the Associated Press. The Obama DOJ tapped phones and spied on a Fox News reporter, following his movements and reading his emails. There was the Obama DOJ extorting huge settlements from corporations while the money was not deposited into the U. S. Treasury, but rather funneled to ideological and political allies of the president.

Any criticism or attempt to hold Obama administration officials responsible was decried as either a right wing plot or merely racist. Yet we've reached the point where employees of President Trump, his family members, and even those who voted for him are demeaned and dehumanized by people who claim to be paragons of compassion. Jim Acosta can whine all he likes that Donald Trump has wounded the media and the First Amendment. No, Jim, you and your colleagues did that yourself.

Honor Fountain City Day

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City Woman of the Year. The Fountain City resident told the audience that she's lived there since 1982 and the park is the reason she chose to live there.

Fountain City Man of the Year was former Parks and Recreation Department Director Joe Walsh.

McAlister's Deli's Tazewell Pike location received the Commercial Restoration Award, which was accepted by Josh Bisig, General Manager.

The Residential Restoration Award went to Chad Kiser for restoring a home at 412 Midlake on the corner of Kingwood Road.

Ellenburg recognized the various Honor Fountain City Day sponsors, including The Knoxville Focus, and recognized organization members who helped in the celebration. They are Ken Cloninger, Charlotte Davis, Mark Enix, Charles Harrington, Carlene Malone, Steve Muffler, Jamie Rowe and Jim Tumblin.

"It was a labor of love," Ellenburg said of the effort to prepare and present the celebration.



PHOTOS BY MIKE STEELY.



Rain didn't stop the ceremonies at Honor Fountain City Day as the north Knoxville community honored the fallen and all veterans. The soggy day featured many local office holders, politicians, community organizations and several citizens were honored for their efforts.

Commissioner Michele Carringer, Councilwoman Lauren Rider and Carol Evans of Legacy Parks chat following the Fountain City ceremonies. Evans was honored as Fountain City's Woman of the Year.

Second Saturday Concert series

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The Cove at Concord

Craw Daddy Jones (New Harvest)

• Aug. 11 – Freefrequency (The Cove) and Wild Blue Yonder (New Harvest)

In addition to great music, a food truck will be on site at The Cove selling food and drinks.

"These concerts are one of our best attended events," said Doug Bataille, senior director of the county's parks and recreation department. "We hear from lots of folks that they come early, bring a picnic, and really enjoy the opportunity to listen to the music in such great locations."

Park is located at 11808 Northshore Drive. The park features several other summertime amenities, including a beach, playground, sand volleyball court, walking trail and fishing areas.

New Harvest Park is located at 4775 New Harvest Lane. The park features a number of amenities, including a pavilion, walking trail, playground and splash pad.

If any concert has to be canceled due to inclement weather, a notification will be posted to the Knox County Parks & Rec Facebook and Twitter.

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At-Large District 10 candidates answer Focus questions

Compiled by Mike Steely

The Knoxville Focus is asking all the contested Knox County Commission candidates several questions. The race for At-Large Seat 10 has Democrat **Tori Griffin** and Republican **Larson Jay** facing off to replace Commissioner **Bob Thomas**. The General Election is August 2nd and Early Voting starts July 13th.

Answers are printed in alphabetical order based on the candidate's last names.

Why are you running?

Tori Griffin: Government impacts us more at home. Government can't fix everything, but there are some ways that it can improve the lives of ordinary citizens in a major way. By bringing livable wage jobs, working to give our students a world class education, keeping housing affordable and ensuring the safety of our neighborhoods, these are tangible ways to improve the quality of life for everyone. These are local issues that everyone can get behind regardless of political affiliation, class, race, sex or religion. Our county is growing, quicker than anyone could ever imagine and we need leadership that will bring bold and innovative ideas to grow our economy. I believe I am that person. I'm running to represent all residents and to make Knox County a stronger place that's ready for the future.

Larson Jay: I am running for Knox County Commissioner because I want to be part of the big-picture vision for a growing and prosperous Knox County. I believe I have a unique opportunity to become a more formal servant leader during a time when new, experienced and educated leaders are needed more than ever. Additionally, I believe who governs matters and public service should be selfless not self-serving. I am working hard to bring passionate (but rational), thoughtful leadership to Knox County Commission.

How do you feel about a need to raise property taxes?

Tori Griffin: Recently I attended a community meeting in Powell. A developer plans on building a new subdivision and the residents are concerned

about additional traffic in an already congested area. Many expressed the need to have a particular road widened. A representative from MPC (Metropolitan Planning Commission) explained to those in attendance that it would cost \$2 million per lane, per mile to widen any road in the County. That's \$4 million for one mile. Currently, the capitol development fund only has \$12 million. The county is projected to grow by 100,000 residents in 10-15 years.

We will need to improve our infrastructure, hire more officers to keep us safe, hire more teachers, pay off our debt, and prepare for the future. There's a cost that comes with that. I don't believe it's too much to ask citizens to invest in their county to improve the quality of life for all.

Larson Jay: I am a firm believer that our low tax rate is a positive factor in the quality of life in Knox County and an attraction to people / businesses looking to relocate to and expand within our community. If Knox County should have a revenue deficiency and does not have the resources needed to properly support our citizens or allow for proper levels of investment, I would first examine all non-essential spending, programs and support services before considering any new taxes. I do believe we will continue to grow our commercial and residential tax base, but at current levels, these natural growth levels are only sufficient to maintain our County as it is today. Much depends on who our next Mayor is and the priorities and vision that person sets forth, and until that's decided, we simply can't know what our financial model will look like.

Should the commission have a larger say in how schools operate?

Tori Griffin: Because a large portion of the County budget goes toward education, County Commission should have some input in how funds are allocated. The day-to-day operations, curriculum, and administrative roles should not be the concern of the Commission. I believe it's the Commission's role to grow our economy so that the education budget is funded.

Larson Jay: Knox County

has an elected body of representatives (school board) that have the responsibility of public education for our citizens. The school board and Superintendent of Knox County Schools lay out the education priorities and present them to the mayor and commission for funding. County Commission is legally restricted to approving funding without additional oversight and managerial input. I would like to see greater communication and partnership between Commission and the school board, but until the legal relationship is different, I don't see much changing in each governing body's roles and responsibilities.

How do you feel about face-to-face visits at the county jail?

Tori Griffin: The County and tech companies shouldn't be making money off the backs of inmates. It costs \$6 for 30 minutes (in Knox County) and requires families to have updated tablets, phones, and/or computers to video chat with their loved ones. It adds an additional financial burden to families who are already cash strapped with legal fees, and quite frankly it's inhumane. Studies have shown that inmates who have a strong family support system are less likely to return to jail. Fifty cents of every dollar paid goes to the county general fund. I believe we can find better ways to increase the general fund that doesn't impose an unfair tax to families.

Larson Jay: My understanding is the current system of using technology to allow inmates visitation in a virtual environment has been a successful, low-cost tool that's helped alleviate staffing shortages within the County Sheriff's Office. Additionally, the current visitation system is safer for our law enforcement officers and allows for a personal visitation for family members who live far from our community. After the program is in place for a period of time, I would recommend evaluating it and gaining feedback from all parties to determine its effectiveness and bring those factors into determining its ongoing use. I would also be open to new programs that pair traditional face-to-face visitation with rehabilitation and recovery treatment

programs where inmates and their family members can come together in a professional setting to build better long-term outcomes for all parties.

Do you have a favorite to become Commission Chair?

Tori Griffin: Carson Dailey
Larson Jay: The Knox County Commission has the potential to change dramatically in the coming months. Depending on who's elected to new positions within our local government, re-elected in current Commission seats, or new Commission members are elected / appointed, there's no way to determine the makeup of the body and the leadership needs going forward.

What committees are you interested in serving?

Tori Griffin: Joint Education Committee, Community Action Committee, Development Corp Board

Larson Jay: As a new member of County Commission, I believe my education and experience would be best suited for the Community Action Committee, Visit Knoxville Committee, Retirement and Pension Board, Parks and Recreation Board, Audit Committee and Emergency Communications Board. However, I will gladly serve in whatever capacity the Commission Chair might ask of me and where I can be most helpful to Knox County.

Family objects to Horner Bridge moniker

By Mike Steely
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Knox County Commissioners got an earful from the landowners on Pedigo Road last week. In March a bridge along the rural route was dedicated to the late Mary Lou Horner, one of the first women elected to the commission and a community and political leader.

While Horner certainly deserves recognition for her service the lady, according to Janet Clark, never represented the Pedigo Road area and the naming of the bridge over Bull Run Creek there should be named for the Clark family. Pedigo Road runs from East Emory Road through rural North Knox County to just beyond Norris Freeway.

Janet Clark spoke during Public Forum at Tuesday's meeting of the commission and recalled the history of the E. O. Clark family. She said the Clarks twice donated the land for a bridge and owns the land on both ends of the bridge. She said the family maintains the bridge and even removes graffiti there when a local church does baptisms in the creek.

"E.O. Clark was a teacher, principal, justice, constable, community leader and deacon in the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church," she said.

"Mary Lou was all about beautification," she said, adding that the Horner probably would not appreciate a plaque with her name on it in the middle of a pasture.

"She would be spinning in her grave," Clark said, explaining that she feels Horner should have recognition but not at that location.

"Everyone knows it as the Clark Bridge, it should be named the E. O. Clark Memorial Bridge," she told the commission.

Commissioner Charles Busler said that "maybe somewhere down the road we can have a Mary Lou Horner plaque in the Fountain City Park." He said before names are attached to county landmarks, the individual's legacy to their community should be considered.

"We need to look for a place for Mary Lou," he said.

"I don't know who made the decision, I had no input. Mary Lou lived in Fountain City and then moved to Halls," said Commissioner Michele Carringer, who described Horner as "a little red-headed fireball woman."

"This is a great example of people who take care of their community. Mary Lou would not be upset about this at all," said Commissioner Bob Thomas, adding, "We can all get together and make this work out."

Goat grazing, sidewalk sound, mall changes on City Council agenda

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both Knoxville Center and West Towne Malls. The planning commission is asking the council to change the zoning ordinance to allow certain uses in SC-3 Regional Shopping Centers. The change would open the malls to additional non-traditional businesses and stores.

The former Toys"R"Us store on North Mall Road at Knoxville Center Mall may change from SC-3 to PC-2, Retail and Distribution Park, to permit the location of EBCO. The company is a major supplier of engineered rubber products for insulators and seals for various industries.

The council will also be asked to increase a contract with Cannon & Cannon by \$9,814, bringing the total for the First Creek Greenway Project to \$465,309. The increase may be the final funding as the project closes out.

The council may authorize the mayor to enter into an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Transportation for an accelerated bus corridor project on Broadway.

Two placeholders are on the agenda, one asking for the issuance of bonds to cover the street light conversion in the agreed purchase of KUB poles and switching to LED lights. The

other placeholder is to discuss a license agreement with Iris Networks, LLC, involving a fiber optic telecommunication network.

The mayor may be authorized to apply for a grant from the state Forestry Division for the purchase and installation of trees. The \$20,000 grant would be matched with the same amount from the city.

The planning commission is asking the council to rename Brandau Street, between Knoxville College Drive and Monroe Senter Street, to "James Davis Street." Evans Kariuki made the application and the MPC passed it 14-0.

DUNCAN ENDORSES MATLOCK



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Truth or Consequences

The legend regarding the father of the country tells us that he “could not tell a lie.” As children, we are taught to tell the truth or otherwise suffer the consequences. As witnesses in court, we “swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help us God.” What happened to the commitment to the truth?

Every day, television ads blast us with promises and results. However, the fine print at the bottom of the screen tells the real story. Companies advise viewers not to take on the IRS by themselves and scare them by saying that the agency is taking homes, cars, and all other possessions of those owing tax moneys. However, few folks can qualify for paying the IRS less than they owe. They might still have to pay just as much in taxes after working with one of these businesses, and then they pay fees for services to that company that promised to help them so much. That sounds like a lie to me.

Buying new cars are nerve-racking experiences for most people. That time only worsens when they face salesmen. Customers are taken to small offices where they bargain with the dealership representative. It’s surprising that the salesmen are unable to accept or reject offers by buyers. Instead, they must discuss offers with the sales manager. On many occasions when a seller leaves the office, he stands around for a while without ever asking permission before returning with a counter offer. I don’t need games, nor will I play them when buying a car. No customer appreciates the string of lies and deceptions with which car dealers beset them. All of us know that there’s no such thing as a deal on a car.

People don’t know what is true in the news. Sometimes reporters inject their biases into news stories; at other times sensationalized and exaggerated statements turn what should be solid reporting into yellow journalism.

Even when stories are factual, they can be pooh-poohed by an opposing media outlet. In the end, we can only go with our gut feelings as to determining what is true, and all too many have irritable bowel syndrome that colors their best guesses.

Worst of all, our government is lying to us. Polarization has taken over both parties. Instead of working together for the common good, politicians in two of the branches of government are more interested in promoting their viewpoints than in digging for the truth and giving it the light of day. New lies bombard us daily, and citizens turn deaf ears to anything that doesn’t agree with their thinking. The country feels as if it is in a tailspin, and the pilots have parachuted to safety. Telling the truth offers no advantage to individuals who hold office.

Thomas Jefferson once said, “Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.” All of those who sing Jefferson’s praises might do well to take that statement to heart. In fact, all of us would do well to be more honest in all of our dealings in this world. The return to the truth should start in the hallowed halls of our government. Elected officials becoming role models for the citizens of this country could turn the tide toward better days. Otherwise, I fear that we are watching the crumbling of our country and its rightful place in this world.



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

150 years at Glenmore Mansion set for Saturday in Jefferson County

Cont. from page 1
 history buffs, romantics and anyone familiar with Jefferson County and East Tennessee history.

The book is a historic novel depicting the life and times of Ellen McClung Berry, who was instrumental in securing the Glenmore Mansion from the Jarnagin heirs and engaged in its early restoration, interior decorating and opening the site as a museum in 1972.

Lunch will be available to purchase on site from Two Coaches BBQ and a birthday cake will be served to everyone attending from the front porch.

Beginning at 1 p.m. and ending at 4 p.m. there will

be an open self-guided tour of the house, period dress and encampment display by the Sons and Daughters of Confederate Veterans, several local historical and genealogy groups, live bluegrass music, and local storytellers.

Anyone attending is invited to bring folding chairs, sit under the tent or shade tree and enjoy the day. All events are free except for the BBQ lunch with two sides and a drink. Anyone interested in the book signing or celebration should contact Phil Kindred, a Glenmore Docent by calling 865-414-8764 or emailing him at knewmarket@charter.net.

The Price of Freedom is Not Cheap



Photo of the gravesite of an American hero with the flag in the background, courtesy of Steve Ellis, Light House Studio.

It is always a solemn sight, the grave of a fallen soldier.

Across our country, national cemeteries are dotted with thousands of markers often decorated with flags for Memorial Day. They designate the final resting place of America’s finest who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country. Memorial Day calls to mind the heart-wrenching image—seen all too often—of a young child holding a folded flag that once draped the coffin of a parent lost in war. It is a reminder that the families left behind pay a price

also. May we always remember the price our American heroes have paid for our freedom! To the active military and veterans, “thank you for your service.” To the military families who have lost a mother, father, son, or daughter in service, America owes a huge debt of gratitude to you as well.

With the first unofficial holiday of summer barely behind us, the summer season is surely on its way! Have a fun summer, make lots of memories, and above all—be safe!

Come and see us on Saturday, June 9, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., book signing, Food City at the corner of Millertown Pike and Loves Creek Road, Knoxville, Tennessee.



By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com



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Bill Brock of Tennessee

Part One

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

The transformation of turning Tennessee from a solidly Democratic state to a two-party state belongs to the candidacies of three men: Howard Baker, Bill Brock and Winfield Dunn. Perhaps Bill Brock is less well remembered than either Howard Baker or Winfield Dunn because he never returned to Tennessee to live after establishing residency in Maryland. Yet for those Tennesseans who do recall Bill Brock in Tennessee, they remember him fondly.

William E. Brock, III was born into a prominent family in Chattanooga, Tennessee. William E. Brock, once a tobacco salesman, borrowed \$4,000 and had built one of the most successful candy companies in the world and invented the chocolate covered cherry, a delicacy that is still popular today. Will Brock served for a brief time in the United States Senate, having been appointed when Senator Lawrence D. Tyson died in the summer of 1929. Brock retired from the Senate in 1931 and returned to his home and business in Chattanooga. Will Brock's boys, William E. Jr. and Richard, eventually ran the family business and followed the example of their grandmother and were involved in local philanthropic efforts. Bill Brock attended McCallie School and went on to Washington and Lee University and served a stint in the U. S. Navy. Brock immediately became interested in politics and recalled during his first Congressional campaign, "When I got out of the service in 1956, I had a little mustering out pay in my pocket, so I decided to work as a Democrat (that's right, Democrat) for Eisenhower." Brock remained a Democrat in 1960 when he campaigned for Richard Nixon who carried Tennessee against John F. Kennedy. Brock remembered, "I started working for Nixon, but before the campaign was over I was a Young Republican."

By 1962, Bill Brock was running for office. Brock announced as a candidate for Congress from Tennessee's Third District, which included Chattanooga. The incumbent was James B. Frazier, Jr., the son of a Tennessee governor and U. S. senator. Frazier was a Democrat and a member of perhaps the most powerful committee in the House of Representatives: the Ways and Means Committee. Stately, silver-haired, and courtly, Jim Frazier represented a different era and his style and politics were little appreciated by those Democrats who admired President Kennedy and Camelot. Congressman Frazier was an old fashioned conservative Democrat and the

Kennedy administration warmed to the candidacy of Wilkes Thrasher, Jr. Thrasher was also the scion of a political family as his father had been a popular county judge from Hamilton County and one didn't have to look far for landmarks bearing the name of the elder Wilkes Thrasher; there was a school and a bridge named for the old judge. Forty-one years old and outgoing, Wilkes Thrasher was a stark contrast to the aging congressman. J. B. Frazier had been opposed to Medicare, while Thrasher embraced it. While Frazier's stand won him the support of most of the physicians inside his Congressional district, it did nothing to endear him to liberals and Tennessee's senators, Estes Kefauver and Albert Gore, quietly lined up behind Wilkes Thrasher, Jr.

Congressman Frazier, elected in 1948 to succeed Estes Kefauver when the latter was elected to the United States Senate, was ailing and barely campaigned at all. Wilkes Thrasher, Jr. campaigned at a frenetic pace and won the Democratic primary by under 300 votes. Democrats across Tennessee were elated by Thrasher's victory, considering it a victory for the Kennedy administration. Many of those same Democrats were glad to see the departure of Jim Frazier, whom they considered to be an obstructionist of the Kennedy program. It seemed inconceivable that Thrasher could lose the general election, as the Republicans had not elected a congressman since the Harding landslide of 1920. Joe Brown had served a single term in the House of Representatives and opted not to seek reelection again. For forty years, the Third District had not elected anything but a Democrat to Congress. Still there were signs things were changing not only in Tennessee, but also subtly inside the Third Congressional District. Richard Nixon had carried the Third District by a handsome majority over John Kennedy in 1960. Kefauver, a liberal, had been elected while Franklin Roosevelt was President of the United States. J. B. Frazier, a conservative, was elected after Roosevelt's death and the passing of the New Deal.

It was clear from the start Bill Brock was not going to run the sort of campaign past Republican nominees had run; Brock's effort was well organized and had at least enough money to compete. Bill Brock later remembered there was barely anyone over thirty working in his first Congressional campaign.

Brock and Wilkes



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Tennessee Congressman William E. "Bill" Brock, circa 1964.

Thrasher, Jr. faced off in a debate in the fall campaign that become quite contentious. The young businessman shrewdly perceived the Kennedy administration might not be as popular inside the Third District as some Democrats might have believed. At the debate, Brock immediately asked, "Are we going to have a representative of the people of Tennessee in Congress - - or are we going to have a representative of the (Kennedy) administration?" Thrasher retorted Brock "will be a rubber stamp of the favored few." Wilkes Thrasher also persisted in referring to Brock as "my rich young opponent." Brock shot back that he was not at all ashamed of his family's productivity; quite to the contrary, he was "proud of it."

Bill Brock and Wilkes Thrasher, Jr. presented voters with a clear choice as they disagreed about virtually every issue facing the country. Much of the media at the time tried to paint Brock as an "arch conservative", while representing Thrasher as a young idealist, even though Bill Brock was a decade younger. Not surprisingly, Brock and Thrasher disagreed about taxes. Brock was outspoken in his belief income taxes should be reduced by a minimum of 15%, which he believed would "offer every American citizen an opportunity to keep more of his own hard-earned money in his own pocket." While Thrasher wasn't openly advocating for higher taxes, he spoke in generalities, saying, "... we can expand opportunity and freedom just as we expand the physical assets we inherit." Thrasher said he thought by doing so it would allow future generations the ability to "enjoy greater freedom and opportunity than we enjoy today."

Eventually Tennessee Democrats realized Bill Brock represented a very real threat and while outwardly confident, began pouring resources into the Third District congressional race. The election of Bill Brock would represent not merely the election of one more Republican congressman, but might also signal that Tennessee was evolving into a truly two-party state and the Kennedy administration moved behind Wilkes

Thrasher, Jr. Thrasher was sent to Trinidad by appointment of President John F. Kennedy along with a delegation to celebrate that nation's independence. Brock noted Thrasher's appointment was "strictly a political move by President Kennedy." The young Republican added Wilkes Thrasher seemed to be scurrying "at every opportunity to the White House to get his instructions." Thrasher replied he would gladly "accept any honor conferred on me at any time by the President of the United States." Thrasher tartly added, "I don't believe the voters of the district will be swayed by a Brock candy bar."

Brock disputed the notion he was an arch-conservative, explaining, "I'm a conservative, but I don't like the word. In some ways, I agree with Barry Goldwater, but the trouble with Goldwater is that he doesn't come up with any reasonable alternatives. In some ways, I'm like Nelson Rockefeller, but he often gets a little far to the left. I'm not so old that I think any problem is insoluble, and my principles are conservative." It was a concise explanation of Bill Brock's political philosophy. For the remainder of his public career, Brock would eagerly offer solutions to problems, oftentimes to the dismay of his own party.

Bill Brock explained he did not propose to go to Congress merely to fight John Kennedy and the New Frontier. "... I won't go to Washington and say I'm against all of President Kennedy's program, because I'm not," Brock said. "I don't agree with a lot of things he does and the way he does them, but I'm not the arch-conservative that some people are saying I am."

Soft spoken, frequently intense when discussing issues, the chain-smoking Bill Brock was difficult for many voters to perceive as a wild man or Neanderthal. Brock appeared to be exactly what he was: a young businessman and family man, which voters could relate to. Worse still for partisan Democrats, Bill Brock sounded reasonable.

Wilkes Thrasher, Jr. took a different approach; a trial lawyer by profession, Thrasher said, "I tell the people that they are voting for a man who has 15

years' experience arguing his clients' cases in court. I intend to represent the Third District as if everyone in it is my client." Thrasher emphasized his support for President Kennedy. "I'm for the majority of President Kennedy's program, although I won't say I go along with it 100 percent." Thrasher's possible disagreements with Kennedy policies were vague, saying, "But the President might favor, say, a pass when I would want to run a play around the right end."

Brock and Thrasher debated again, which was carried over television. Once again, neither spared the other and Thrasher, a vocal supporter of Medicare, demanded Brock reveal any connections between his campaign and the American Medical Association. Brock put Thrasher on the defensive with the support the Democrat was receiving from organized labor. Thrasher stoutly denied he had received any contributions from the Teamsters and Jimmy Hoffa.

As the general election came to a close, Senator Estes Kefauver spent considerable time inside his old congressional district on behalf of Wilkes Thrasher. Perhaps the most popular Democrat in the Third District, Kefauver did all he could to help elect Thrasher. As Democrats became concerned about the race, Republicans grew increasingly excited about the possibility Bill Brock would win. Democrats were shocked by some defections from their ranks who openly supported Brock. Some defections were expected, especially those Democrats who had been strong supporters of Congressman J. B. Frazier; others like Hugh Abercrombie, a leader in Frank Clement's bid to reclaim the governorship were a blow to Wilkes Thrasher.

Democrats rallied around Thrasher in the final days of the campaign, covering five cities inside the Third District, while the "Brock Bandwagon" made a tour of nine stops beginning in Cleveland and ending in Dunlap, Tennessee. Accompanying Thrasher were Senator Albert Gore, Congressman Ross Bass and Hammond Fowler, a long-time member of the Tennessee Public Service

Commission. Senator Estes Kefauver was due to come in later to press the flesh on behalf of Wilkes Thrasher, Jr.

Election Day left the Democrats stunned as Bill Brock eked out a victory over Wilkes Thrasher, Jr. Brock won with 47,604 votes to 45,597 votes for Thrasher. Brock won six of the eleven counties comprising the Third Congressional District and beat Thrasher decisively inside Hamilton County. The Nashville Tennessean's veteran political columnist, Joe Hatcher, sourly attributed Brock's victory less to the young candidate's skillful performance and organizing than the "decaying Democratic organization." Hatcher groused that Thrasher had been "knifed at every turn", especially by those supporting former governor Frank Clement. Hatcher continued to complain in his column, claiming the recent election had shown "no great Republican strength or unity - - but rather disunity and down-right back-stabbing among the Democrats."

Irrespective of Joe Hatcher's opinion, Bill Brock had accomplished what no other Republican had been able to do since 1920. Brock was soon to be recognized as an expert political organizer with a solid grasp of issues and was well able to articulate his own point of view. Democrats had frequently fought utterly brutal primary campaigns for decades in Tennessee without the slightest threat from Republicans. Clearly, things were changing in Tennessee and Bill Brock appeared to be a young man with a bright future.

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PAGE B4

The Knoxville Focus

June 4, 2018

South Knoxville Alliance is active and vital

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

South Knox County is a growing and vital part of commerce and history of our area. Things are changing south of the river in big ways including the waterfront complex going in where the Baptist Hospital was located, the growth along Chapman Highway all the way to Seymour, the popularity of Ijam's Nature Center and the growth of the Urban Wilderness.

If you are interested in learning about the growth south of the river, the South Knoxville Alliance is an active organization with dozens of members and also includes representatives of the numerous neighborhoods there. SKA acts as an umbrella group for many area events, functions, and the community as a whole.

Each month the Alliance meets at Dogwood Elementary School to plan events, discuss community problems and solutions, and hear from various speakers. When they meet June 18th they will hear from the principals from the South Knox County Schools. The meet-up starts at 6:30 p.m. and everyone is invited.

Elizabeth Sherrod, secretary of SKA, told The Focus that on Wednesday, June 27 the SKA will host a business card exchange at Elder's Hardware on Chapman Highway From 8 until 9 a.m.

The area of South Knoxville stretches from the Tennessee River to the Sevier and Blount County lines. It encompasses neighborhoods like Kimberlin Heights, New Hope, Island Home, Kingsley Station, Colonial Village, Lindbergh Forest, Vestal, Montgomery Village, Old Sevier, portions of Seymour and many other neighborhoods.

Officers of the South Knoxville Alliance include Bill Lenczynski of Edward Jones, Elizabeth L. Sherrod of Sherrod Investment Group, Deborah Belford of H&R Block, Adam Fritts of the Greater Schools Partnership, Joe Carl of the Harold News, Kathryn Ograd of Coldwell Banker and Bob Riehl of Borderland Trees.

You can contact the SKA at contact@SouthKnoxvilleAlliance.org or reach Elizabeth Sherrod at 865-680-2682. You can also find the organization online and on Facebook.



Miss Tennessee Caty Davis proudly displays her SKA tee shirt. Many community leaders often attend the South Knoxville Alliance meetings. Photo courtesy of SKA.

Ribbon cutting for Mary Vestal Greenway extension today

Join Mayor Rogero, City Council and Vestal neighborhood residents as they cut a ribbon and celebrate the completion of a 0.3-mile Mary Vestal Greenway extension, 4119 W. Martin Mill Pike, today at 4 p.m.

The now 0.7-mile greenway links the Martin Mill Pike and Ogle Avenue intersection south to the City's South Knoxville Community

Center and Mary Vestal Park on Maryville Pike.

This was one of the first major projects for the City's new Greenways Service Crew, which was announced in December 2016.

The new greenway entrance at Martin Mill Pike is also the site of the new Vestal Gateway Park, which features an arch-covered entrance for the paved greenway. The improvements were made possible largely by members of the Vestal Community Organization.

Pet Appreciation Week

Hobo the Wonder Dog can really get into this holiday and why wouldn't he? Pet Appreciation Week is all about him, filled with belly rubs, extra special treats, longer



By Howard Baker, RN BSN

walks, and more time spent with his best pal—me. The only bad thing about Pet Appreciation Week—it's only seven days! Our pets love us unconditionally every day—all day, and they bring us so much joy and love. We really should appreciate our pets every day of the year. So, during this week let's show our pets something a little more special and reflect on what our pets mean to us.

Pet Appreciation Week is celebrating its 37th anniversary this year. The holiday was created by the American Veterinary Medical Association in 1981. I agree, there should be more than a special day for our pets, a month celebration usually gets lost—a week gives us time to pause and focus. How will you celebrate your pet this week?

Hobo always takes me to new heights—just last week he pulled me to the highest point in Kentucky on Black Mountain, elevation 4,145

feet. I search for a new park to explore, a new trail to trod, a new view to savor, because of my pal Hobo the Wonder Dog. Our pets get us up and moving, help lower our blood pressure,

increase our exercise, and lighten our load of troubles.

5 Tips for Appreciation Week Success:

1. Extra time. You cannot go wrong with spending a little extra time in the park, on your walk, cuddling on the sofa, longer belly rubs, or playing catch in the yard. Extra time means extra love that both of you will enjoy. Change things up maybe a new park, new route, explore something new together.

2. Bake them a homemade batch of special treats or purchase from a dog bakery.

3. Invite your pup's best pals over for a playdate. Puppy play dates are filled with lots of exercise, romps, and play that makes them feel appreciated and you will appreciate how hard they sleep afterwards. Keeping your dog well socialized is important to their quality of life.

4. Indulge with a spa

day. Hobo already has an appointment at his spa and will enjoy being pampered at Fionna's. Spa days can be simple and enjoyed at home where your pup will probably appreciate more—because they are spending time with you.

5. Go for a car ride in the park. This is one of Hobo's favorite activities. Scenic drives in the park have low speed limits allowing Hobo to hang his head out the window to enjoy the smells. Last on our list of Hobo's tips but certainly his favorite.

The best things in life are not necessarily the most expensive. Our pets certainly enjoy our time more than what money can buy. Unfortunately, for most of us time is our least available commodity. On the upside—spending time with our pets will be appreciated more than anything else we could give or do for our pets. If you do not have a pet maybe this is the time to consider adopting a pet from your local animal shelter or rescue. Pets include more than dogs, the right pet for you may be a cat, fish, horse, or bird. Do your research, search your heart, and find the best pet for you.

Pet Appreciation Week is June 4 – 11.

Public Meeting tonight

Cont. from page 1

Tennessee and the City's 18-mile downtown greenway system via Second Creek Greenway.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation conducted a traffic study of this section of Broadway in 2015, finding daily traffic to be approximately 10,000 drivers with a projection of fewer than 11,000 drivers by 2035. The Federal Highway Administration advises that roadways with an average daily traffic volume of 20,000 cars or fewer are strong candidates for adding bicycle lanes and reducing traffic lanes.

For more information on the City's Bicycle Facilities Plan, please visit www.knoxvilletn.gov/engineering.



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2018: Another special season for Webb Tennis, veteran coach

By Ken Lay

Coach Jimmy Pitkanen and the Webb School of Knoxville Tennis Teams have been regulars at the Division II-A State Championships.

And the two teams always bring home plenty of hardware as they win team and individual medals.

This spring was no different. The Lady Spartans won their ninth consecutive team title. The boys team also claimed another state crown. The Spartans won their seventh team championship in nine seasons in 2018.

That winning comprised the first half of Webb's stay on May 22-23. The Spartans and Lady Spartans were also well represented in the individual tournaments after both squads cruised to victories in their respective team brackets. Neither the Spartans nor

the Lady Spartans dropped a match in en route to claiming team championships.

In the girls singles tournament: Lauren Yoon, a senior, claimed the championship when she breezed past St. George's School's Hannah Grace Howell 6-1, 6-1.

Yoon beat University School of Jackson eighth grader Blair Driver 6-0, 6-2 in the quarterfinals before beating Allison Ivey of Christian Academy of Knoxville (6-2, 6-3) in the semifinals.

Webb's Caroline Ross won a quarterfinal match before being eliminated by Howell in the semifinals.

In girls doubles: Webb was certain to win a title as Carina Dagotto and Anna Wisniewski defeated Audrey Yoon and Lili Roth 6-2, 6-2 in the championship match.

Continued on page 2

Area standouts honored by East Tennessee baseball coaches

By Ken Lay

With the 2018 high school baseball season in the rear view mirror, the postseason recognition for coaches and players have started to roll in.

Two area coaches and several local players were honored by the East Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association, which named its all-Sectional Team last week.

Karns High School coach Matt Hurley and Gibbs High's Geff Davis were each named Coach of the Year. Hurley guided the Beavers to their third consecutive District 3-AAA Tournament Championship. Karns had a perfect district record during the regular season and reached the state sectional round of

the playoffs.

Davis, who has amassed more than 500 career wins as a coach, guided the Eagles to a District 3-AA Tournament Title. Gibbs also played in the state sectional round of the playoffs.

Karns had six players named to the squad including: Ryder Green (who was named Player of the Year); Trevor Adams; Tyler Hartless; Jared Culp; Nick Miles and Jonathan Nelson.

Gibbs had four selections in Bass Cooper, Wyatt Humphries, Cam Hill and Will McSwain.

Grace Christian Academy's Noah Gent, Ryan Medders and Hunter Ferguson were named to the squad. Gent, a junior was

Continued on page 4

PRIDE OF THE PREPS IN 2017-18



Seth Armstrong looks out at the football field where he helped Central's strong post-season run in 2017 that carried the Bobcats into the Class 5A state semifinals. Armstrong, Central's male Student-Athlete of the Year, also played baseball and excelled in the classroom. "Seth is the type of person who personifies the student-athlete label," said Russ Wise, CHS Assistant Principal, Class of 2018.

Injuries couldn't stop McDonald from leading Lady Bobcats

(Part 1 of The Knoxville Focus' annual feature recognizing local high schools' female and male Student-Athletes of the Year)

By Steve Williams

Hailey McDonald's prep career is over, but her story can be a lasting inspiration to those who follow her in the girls' soccer program at Central High.

"She overcame two serious knee injuries in consecutive years early in her soccer career," recalled Coach Bill Mize. "The second injury was a PCL. This is usually a career ender."

McDonald stuck it out and her perseverance played a big part in her selection as the school's female Student-Athlete of the Year.

"Hailey refused to consider the possibility she would not play again and overcame the injury to become one of our most productive players ever," said Mize. "Even with the constant pain her injuries brought her, she had a great career."

After being injured her entire freshman season, she returned her sophomore and junior years to earn all-district honors. Her senior year she was All-Region first team, All-District first team and the District Midfielder

of the Year.

McDonald also was a great leader and team captain.

"Her tempo in practice was as focused and competitive as during our matches," added Coach Mize. "She made others around her work harder by her own example."

Russ Wise, CHS Assistant Principal, Class of 2018, added: "Hailey led the soccer team last season. Her tenacity on the field was the difference in many of the games. Her 'don't quit' attitude helped to drive the team forward all season long. That same attitude helped her to find success in the class room as well."

SETH ARMSTRONG: The senior football and baseball player is Central's male Student-Athlete of the Year.

"Seth is a model student-athlete and charismatic servant leader who possesses the drive, skills and commitment needed to be successful in everything he does," said Bobcats football coach Bryson Rosser.

In football, Armstrong was a running back and linebacker.

"What sets Seth apart is the love for his teammates and the ability to be a mentor to his peers," added Rosser. "Seth leads by example on and off the field and has been a true asset and ambassador to the Central High School community."

Wise also called Armstrong, a



Soccer player Hailey McDonald is Central's female Student-Athlete of the Year. CHS Assistant Principal Russ Wise praised her "tenacity" in games and "don't quit" attitude.

catcher on Central's baseball team, a leader both on and off the field.

"He excelled in the classroom and on the field," said Wise. "His dedication to Central and the Fountain City community was admirable. Seth is the type of person who personifies the student-athlete label."

"We are proud to have both of these student-athletes be part of Central High School's Pride and Tradition."

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Hutchens, Irish teach basketball at summer camp

By Ken Lay

Mike Hutchens always looks forward to running his Catholic High School Youth Basketball Camp. It gives the longtime Irish boys basketball coach and a few of his players the opportunity to share the game the love with younger players.

But it does much more. The three-day camp, held last week at Catholic, also gave the veteran coach a chance to see some of his potential former players. The morning session is for eight, nine and 10-year old players and it affords the youngsters the chance to learn the game from Hutchens, his coaching staff and players.

"It's a lot of fun to be out there with the little kids," said Hutchens, who guided the Irish to the 2017 Class AA Championship Game in Murfreesboro. "A lot of those kids from that really good team that we had a couple of years ago, had been coming to the camp



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Catholic High School boys basketball coach Mike Hutchens instructs young players at the school's youth basketball camp Thursday morning.

since they were eight years old."

The afternoon session was for older players and action intensified as the middle school players scrimmaged and performed drills similar to an organized practice sessions.

"It picks up during the afternoon sessions because we have eighth graders here, who might potentially be in our [high school] program," Hutchens said. "We want to get a real good look at those eighth graders.

"In the afternoons, it's

almost like a practice."

Several Irish players were on hand Thursday morning. Sam Sompayrac and Ryan MacDonald were among returning Irish varsity players, who were officiating scrimmages and instructing campers throughout the week.

Both got significant playing time for Catholic last season, when the Irish won 21 games after being moved to District 4-AAA, one of the toughest and most competitive leagues in all of Tennessee.

The district features powerhouse clubs such as

Bearden and Maryville. The Bulldogs 38-2 and reached the Class AAA State Semifinals last season.

Sompayrac truly enjoyed working at the camp last week.

"It's great to be out here with the kids," he said. "They just want to have fun and play.

"It's great to be out here and get into this because when you get into it, they get into it."

Sompayrac, who also plays football for the Irish, who will look to repeat as Class 5A State Champions in 2018, relishes the chance to teach the game of basketball. But he also learns from the camp.

"Teaching here helps me improve my game," Sompayrac said. "It helps me pay attention to the things I do and do them right.

"It takes me back to the fundamentals."

Top marks leave Thewes ecstatic at State Track Championships

By Ken Lay

Patty Thewes couldn't have been happier upon her return from Murfreesboro.

Thewes, Bearden High School's track and field coach, didn't have a large number of qualifiers for the Division 1 Large School State Championships recently a Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. The Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs combined to have five entries on the Volunteer State's grand stage.

But Bearden's teams were nothing if not efficient on a hot late-May afternoon.

Senior Josh Sobota won a pair of state titles. In the shot put, he posted a mark of 65-01.75. The University of Kentucky signee took home gold in the discus with an effort of 191-02. He shattered his previous state record of 190-03, which he set as a junior in 2017.

The Bulldogs, who finished seventh in the team standings, despite having contestants in just three events.

Bearden's 4x800 relay team of Luke Nelson, Ben Cruze, Luke Brice and

Nathaniel Blalock finished seventh and recorded a time of 8 minutes, 17.78 seconds.

The Lady Bulldogs had two athletes score in the field events.

Senior Sarah Harris finished fifth in the pole vault, getting Bearden's day off to a positive start. She vaulted 10-00.00.

Abby Mink, another senior, took seventh in the shot put. Mink, who was also a goalkeeper for the Lady Bulldogs soccer team which made the 2017 Class AAA State Tournament in 2017, posted a mark of 38 feet, 10 inches.

Thewes said that she was extremely proud of her program's showing on Thursday, May 24 at the Midstate.

"It was nice to go down and have all of our athletes make all-state," she said. "All of our athletes placed and Josh won two championships.

"He shattered his own record that he set last year. We were proud of our showing at state but we're also about the future for our program. We have some good up-and-coming athletes. We have some great sprinters coming up."

HVA team and coaches 'elated' with Unified championship

By Steve Williams

Hardin Valley Academy now has an accomplishment on its athletic resume that can never be matched.

It was the champion of TSSAA's inaugural Unified Track & Field State Invitational.

The HVA team that competed May 24 at MTSU in Murfreesboro included eight members, including four student athletes in special education and four student athletes in regular education curriculums, said Tim Lee, a Special Education teacher at Hardin Valley Academy.

Jennifer Hayes was the coach and Casey Queener the assistant coach.

Lee's role included organizing the team and applying for participation based on the criteria set by TSSAA and Tennessee Special Olympics state office.

"We were among eight teams selected out of 30-plus schools," said Lee.

When the competition ended and Hardin Valley was crowned champion, there was a celebration.

"The team and coaches were elated," said Lee. "It was emotional because this opportunity solidified the respect that any athlete deserves when demonstrating their best efforts and attitude. It also shows that Special Olympics athletes do not have to be locked into stereotypes. It was amazing how this team showed up to win just as any athlete desires and not to be considered 'a winner' before given the chance to compete.

"The most important part of it is the friendships that formed and the desire to continue as a team."

HVA Assistant Principal Kellie Ivens was at the meet to show her support, said Lee.

"The students were proud and excited to have her there. She expressed respect and admiration



Members of the Hardin Valley Academy track and field team celebrate winning the TSSAA's inaugural Unified Track and Field Invitational at MTSU in Murfreesboro May 24. Left to right: Cody Fink, Noah Morro, Ethan De La Rosa, Mallory Woods, Jennifer Hayes, Cade Huff, Luke DeFur, Daniel Gooch, Trey Bozeman, Brandon Ray, Tim Lee, Casey Queener.

to the team for their commitment to being a united front. She ran out on the field with them upon the announcing of the title they had won.

"The school athletic director, George Ashe, congratulated the team and provided a trophy case to display the championship trophies," added Lee.

Other high schools in the competition were Bartlett, Glenclyff of Nashville, Harpeth High of Kingston Springs, Lebanon, Sycamore of Pleasant View, Volunteer of Church Hill and White County of Sparta.

Sean Stake, VP of Sports at Special Olympics Tennessee, spoke prior to the meet of the decision-making process.

"It was a difficult decision to choose just eight schools for this first year, but we are excited about the schools that have been selected.

"Each school is passionate about their Special Olympics athletes, have excellent peer tutor programs

and are excited about the opportunity to compete for a championship for their school."

TSSAA Executive Director Bernard Childress stated: "We think this is just the first step in a program that will continue to expand to include more and more student athletes and we are excited about the direction this is heading."

Lee also teaches a peer tutoring program, in which typical students are support to their peers who have disabilities.

"This program also provides the opportunity to participate in unified sports which allows special education students to train and condition for various team and individual sports along with their nondisabled peers," said Lee. "This gives all involved the chance to strive for equal play without eliminating the integrity of each sport. Athletes and partners gain communication skills and social interactions which lead to confidence, character, and compassion."

2018: Another special season for Webb Tennis, veteran coach

Cont. from page 1

This wasn't the first time that Webb players have played each other for a championship in the past decade but that didn't make it any less painful for Pitkanen, who has suffered through these matches many times in his tenure as the school's tennis coach.

He acknowledges that the scenario is positive for his program, but he agonizes through the process.

"When they play against each other as individuals, I don't coach them," he said. "I can't do it."

The Spartans posted runner-up finishes in both boys

singles in boys doubles.

In singles, sophomore Harrison Williams reached the title match but came home with a silver medal as he lost a hard-fought match to Christ Presbyterian Academy's Nathan Irwin 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (3). Junior Ben Aikens made the field but was eliminated in the quarterfinals by George Corzine (University School of Nashville), who lost to Williams in the semifinals.

In doubles, Ben Pearce and Ohm Sharma lost in the finals to John Kimball and Walker Stearns (St. George's) 6-4, 7-6 (4).

The Spartans and Lady Spartans have captured

multiple titles under Pitkanen's watch, but the long-time coach will be the first to admit that winning championships never gets old and that he never takes anything for granted.

He also noted that every championship and every team is special. The 2018 campaign, however, will go down as one of his all-time favorite seasons at Webb.

"These kids competed and they were really fun to be around," Pitkanen said. "The team spirit was just amazing the kids rooted for each other and they were loud. They really pulled for each other.

"They really loved each

other. The thing about winning is that it extends your season. It gives you more time to be together."

Like any season, the 2018 campaign will have the departure of players due to graduation. Other players will enter the tennis program but champions rarely rest.

Both the Spartans and Lady Spartans began preparing for the 2019 season on Memorial Day, just days after returning from Old Fort Park's Adams Tennis Complex.

"We start working for next season tomorrow and that's [the players'] choice," Pitkanen said.

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PRIDE OF THE PREPS IN 2017-18

Golfer Ryan Hall was one of state's all-time best



Halls High's male Student-Athlete of the Year Ryan Hall at his signing with the South Carolina Gamecocks' golf program.

By Steve Williams

When it came to being a student-athlete, Ryan Hall wasn't just par for the course. He was more like an ace.

The Halls High golfer shot a 66-65-131 to capture the TSSAA Large School individual state championship at Willow-Brook Golf Club in Manchester last October, leading the Red Devils to a second straight team title by a whopping 26-stroke margin.

Hall's 13-under par score was the best ever by a player on a public school team in TSSAA history and only one shot off the all-time state record of 130.

Ryan also excelled in academics and the University of South Carolina signee is Halls High's male Student-Athlete of the Year.

"Ryan represents every aspect of what a Halls High student-athlete should represent," said Athletic Director Meagan Booth.

Hall was ranked No. 4 in the nation by the National High School Golf Association and the Red Devils were No. 6 in the national team rankings.

Ryan graduated with Honors and Distinction and a weighted GPA of 3.57. He has a composite ACT score of 28.



Ellie Weekley, Halls' female Student-Athlete of the Year, will continue her soccer career at Lee University and plans to be a doctor some day, said Halls Athletic Director Meagan Booth.

ELLIE WEEKLEY: The senior soccer player is Halls' female Student-Athlete of the Year and will receive a scholarship to play soccer at Lee University next year.

Ellie has a weighted GPA of 4.18, graduating in the top decile of her class. She also has a composite ACT score of 31, is an officer for the National Honors Society, a member of the Math Honors Society and plans to be a doctor some day, said Booth. She graduated with both Honors and Distinction.

In soccer, Weekley was a three-year varsity player and received All-District first-team honors in 2017.

Felts, UT signee, led Berean Christian to first state title

By Steve Williams

When you mix ability and hard work, the end result can be special. And that's Lily Felts.

The Berean Christian School volleyball player led the Lady Eagles to their first-ever TSSAA Class A state championship last October and is headed to the University of Tennessee on a full scholarship to continue her volleyball career this fall.

One of her many honors is being named Berean Christian's female Student-Athlete of the Year.

"Clearly gifted with athletic ability, Lily is easily the hardest working athlete to compete for Berean Christian," said BCS Athletic Director Jason Moyer. "She has developed into an outstanding leader,

consistently pushing herself and her teammates to give that extra ounce of effort that ultimately led to a state championship."

Felts is a powerful player. She had 778 kills her senior season, which ranks as the fifth most in TSSAA history. Lily also set a TSSAA record with 17 kills in a game and 51 kills in a match, noted Moyer.

Felts received many prestigious awards, including being named the National Athletic Association of Private Schools' Player of the Year, an AAU and Max Preps' All-American and State MVP.

Felts also received the Association of Christian Schools International Distinguished Student Award.

DALTON MILLER, who played basketball and soccer for the Eagles, is Berean Christian's male Student-Athlete of the Year.

"Both of his coaches affirmed Dalton's team-first mentality and raved about his willingness to do whatever was asked to help the team find success," said Moyer.

"Named a captain for both teams his senior year, Dalton led by example on the field and court, often having the most bumps and bruises due to his unmatched energy and constant effort."

Miller was named All-District in soccer as well the team's Most Outstanding Player.



Above, Bumps and bruises were a by-product of Dalton Miller's all-out effort in basketball and soccer for Berean Christian, the school's male Student-Athlete of the Year.

Left, Future Tennessee Lady Vol Lily Felts is Berean Christian School's female Student-Athlete of the Year for 2017-18.

HIGH SCHOOL SPRING FOOTBALL REPORT

CAK gets early start on turning things around

By Steve Williams

Christian Academy of Knoxville's football team had to be early birds during spring practice.

"Due to so many multi-sport spring athletes, we practiced from 6:30 to 8 a.m. during spring ball," reported Coach Travis Mozingo recently. "What impressed me most was the enthusiasm and grit that the team displayed every morning. (Coaches included!) They are hungry to improve in 2018."

The Warriors finished an uncharacteristic 2-9 last season.

"Plugging in some new staff members offensively, we began to revamp the offense in the winter months," said Mozingo.

"One of the highlights of spring ball was seeing the excitement and buy-in from the players in what we are doing. I think the players seeing their own off-season dedication to learning a new system was big."

"We continue to build our roster with the transition to TSSAA Division II. As our new student-athletes begin summer training, it will be important to get them caught up on the 'football

side of things.' Along with that, we will be assimilating them into the CAK football culture that we are building."

Here are comments from other local head football coaches on their spring practice:

Jeff Phillips, Austin-East:

"Spring practice this year was rough. We had a lot of guys out with track and school assignments. The biggest problem we have right now is the lack of experienced linemen. We have bodies but not a lot of them have played before, so it makes things really

challenging.

"There are a lot of challenges that we must overcome this year, with depth being one of them as we are very thin on players and have roughly 25 guys currently on the roster. Most of our players are actually like three-way players, playing offense defense and special teams. We will have to manage our bodies and be well-conditioned this year."

"The positive thing coming from the spring is that we will have everyone back for the start of camp. We had two guys come back from injury last year, which will be key contributors for us. I'm excited to see the core group of players work."

Rusty Bradley, Grace Christian:

"I was very pleased with spring practice this year. We had a lot of young players without much experience get valuable reps. A lot of young guys developed and set themselves up to be varsity contributors this fall."

"The thing that impressed me most was the off-season as a whole. Almost 75 percent of our team had to go up in shoulder pad size due to their growth in the off-season."

"I was excited to see the team have a good foundation of what our practice expectations are each day. It was nice not being 'new' like last year. I feel like we picked up right where we left off last year offensively. Our guys got more comfortable as the spring went

on with the new defensive scheme that we will be running."

Steve Matthews, Catholic:

"We had a good spring practice. The competition at every position is what impressed me the most. Watching the players compete was a good sign for us."

"The highlight of our spring had to be the defensive front seven led by Stiles Moore, Cody Duncan and Xavier Story. It was a very impressive group during the practices."

"One of the surprises was seeing up-close how young we are, as of right now we have 73 on the roster and only six seniors, so our maturity will be tested. We need to improve in all phases, especially with so much youth on our team."

David Meske, Webb School:

"Offensively, we worked on our passing game as our quarterback graduated this past year. Getting the quarterbacks more reps on throwing the football was a priority. We also wanted to make sure that we did some skill development in our offensive line as many of them are young players."

"Defensively, we worked on all individual skills. We need to get more experience and also develop the skills of our front seven."

Clark Duncan, South-Doyle:

"We used spring practice mainly for the purpose of finding a few players that can help us in the fall and we accomplished that. Our primary focus was our

offensive and defensive lines. Coming out of spring we feel very confident that both of those units have the opportunity and ability to be very successful."

"Mason Brang has continued to grow and develop into a dynamic quarterback. Nate Berrier has grown into the tight end position and has the ability to be one of the best in the area. He's 6-3, 240, physical and has great hands. If we can stay injury-free we have a chance to be very competitive."

Jeremy Bosken, Halls:

"Spring practice was great. Really, the big thing was just getting to know the kids. They have been very responsive to everything we've been doing."

"Coaches have been working hard and I've been very impressed with how they run their individual drills. We're just trying to put guys in the right positions and rock and roll. We have a very good film to teach off of."

"The kids have been working hard in the weight room. We have two really good quarterbacks that are completely different. We have a very aggressive and experienced secondary coming back and we're excited about it. We have a lot of different pieces – some tight ends, several running backs, a lot of receivers – and we're looking forward to working with them over the summer and putting them in positions to be successful."

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Celebrating 18 Years!

Positive Signs on Rocky Top

By Alex Norman

Tennessee athletics have been a source of major controversy, internal strife, and nearly constant underachievement for the past decade. There have been too many coaching changes and administrator changes to count on the UT campus, and the winning formula has yet to be developed.

But the times... they are a changin'...

Ever since Phillip Fulmer took over for the flawed John Currie following the great UT football coaching search debacle of November /December 2017, Tennessee hasn't been in the news very much for off the field mistakes and that certainly is a good thing.

Yes, there was a hiccup when head football coach Jeremy Pruitt did away with the autograph sessions that traditionally preceded the Orange & White Game. But his trips on the Big Orange Caravan tours eased many of the worries from fans that Pruitt won't make those connections.

Last week there were two announcements made that showed that Tennessee truly is moving in the right direction, and they involved their two revenue sports, football and men's basketball.

Let's start with football. Back on May 24th, Tennessee linebacker Darrin Kirkland Jr. announced on twitter that he was going to be a graduate transfer, and would have two years of eligibility remaining to play at another school. It would be a brutal blow for the Vols defense as they start to make the transition from the 4-3 alignment to the 3-4.

Kirkland started ten games as a true freshman

in 2015, but missed much of 2016 and all of 2017 due to injury. He missed all of spring practice, but was expected to be ready for the fall camp.

But four days later, Gridiron Now's John Brice reported that there had been a change of heart, and Kirkland would stay at Tennessee. Over the Memorial Day holiday weekend, Brice reported that Kirkland, his parents, and Pruitt had a meeting.

"I don't think that Darrin was unhappy in any way," Pruitt said on Tuesday, May 29th at the SEC spring meetings in Destin. "He just wanted to see if there was any possibility that he might want to further his career, and he decided he wanted to stay at Tennessee. We met and talked, and he's excited to stay at Tennessee. He wants to finish what he started. Darrin is a smart guy, and he's been through some tough injuries, and, to me, that's probably the good thing about the grad transfer rule is when a guy does graduate, if he does want to move on, then he has an opportunity to do that."

There are spots on defense where depth is a concern, but with the return of Kirkland, the Vols line-backing corps with Daniel Bituli, Quart'e Sapp and Will Ignont also returning could turn into a strength for Tennessee.

Kirkland's return was one bit of good news for the football program. Tennessee's men's basketball team got some even better news last week when forward Admiral Schofield said that he would be returning for his senior season.

He made his future plans known with a twitter posting. "I am very grateful for

my recent opportunities to compete and display my talents in front of NBA personnel. I have learned so much through this NBA Draft evaluation process and am looking forward to improving the areas of my game that need it while also improving as a man. With that said, I'm happy to announce that I'll be returning to Tennessee for my senior season, and I am focused and hungry to once again chase championships with my teammates!"

Schofield averaged 13.9 points and 6.4 rebounds a game last season. He was projected to be picked in the second round in next month's NBA draft.

"I think what he's gone through is gonna really help him this year and help his teammates," said Tennessee basketball coach Rick Barnes at the SEC spring meetings. "He's a guy that we look at for leadership, and my dialogue with him after each one of his try-outs or workouts was really good."

With Schofield back, the Vols return every key piece from the squad that shared the SEC title with Auburn a year ago. Tennessee has been seen in the top five in preseason polls, and one of the highest anticipated seasons since the Bruce Pearl era is on the horizon.

The decisions of Kirkland and Schofield will hopefully benefit both student-athletes this fall and in the years to come. For Tennessee, it is yet another sign that things are turning around. These are two high profiled guys that want to be at UT. They could have left, but they decided to stick around.

The ship isn't sinking anymore...

Area standouts honored by East Tennessee baseball coaches

Cont. from page 1

named Division II-A Mr. Baseball in Murfreesboro recently.

Also in Division II-A: Webb School of Knoxville, which reached the State VIII in 2018, had three selections in Mason Patel, Stokes Needham and Thomas Saliba. The Spartans (21-10) won both the district and region title in the recently completed season.

West High has made

monumental strides over the last two years. Cal Cook, Roland Ryan and Jake Wilhoit represented the Rebels on the squad.

The Halls Red Devils, who won their first nine District 3-AAA games in 2018, had three players named to the team, including Graham Elkins, Blake Rauhoff and Cooper Cook.

Powell's Parker Stinnett, Matt Grim and Walker Trusley were selected after the Panthers reached the

Region 2-AAA Tournament.

South-Doyle's Ian Johnson, Braden Jones and Braden Hickey were chosen for the team, along with Bearden's Nate Adkins and John Beam. Central catcher Seth Armstrong was also selected.

Catholic's Brock Hart, Sean Purcell and Alex DiFelice made the squad as did Carter's Nick Shults, Nathan Blackburn and Trey Oglesby.

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Samson in the Swamp

Who do you listen to these days? Perhaps you’ve quit listening all together. Most folks I know stay at least partially engaged in the events of the day, but sometimes I wonder. There is an excuse for being uninformed. Though we live in the Information Age, we nonetheless exist in the era of disinformation, and this turns people off.

For years I’ve been writing about the Civil War in our country. If you are unaware of this great divide then I believe you are uninformed. Even the TV talking heads acknowledge - and feed - the polarization. But now, this politicalization permeates virtually every aspect of our culture and civilization.

I once believed that facts are facts. Sergeant Joe Friday on the TV sitcom Dragnet famously asked for, “Just the facts, Ma’am.” I now realize that all facts are conditional because

there is inherent observational bias in all humans. And these days all “facts” are politicized.

My old professor, Rufus Fears, said that effective leaders are able to present a clear vision, they have a moral compass, operate from a bedrock of principles and are able to gain consensus to realize their vision. Examples are Winston Churchill and FDR. Some might argue that these leaders existed in simpler times where the evils of Naziism and Japanese imperialism or the desperation of the Great Depression were more obvious than the political fault lines of our day. Nowadays you even have to define the context of “moral compass,” the notion of “principles” and who decides.

I am not a Biblical scholar, but I recognize the wisdom inherent in biblical stories. The founders

of our country believed in the lessons of history. Apparently, our leaders do not because, like ancient Greeks and Romans, they continue to launch “pre-emptive” wars in the Middle East and around the world with disastrous consequences. I don’t believe modern man is inherently any different than humans of antiquity. We have more technology, we live longer and grow taller, but I do not believe we are wiser or nobler. In fact, because we ignore the lessons of history we are doomed to repeat them, paraphrasing George Santayana.

Abraham Lincoln was the first Republican president. He was pilloried and lampooned by the press. Like Valerie Jarrett and Sarah Sanders, Lincoln endured scurrilous attacks on his appearance. He persevered and won the Civil War, preserving the Union. You could say that he made America great again.

“In those days, Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit” (Judges 21:25). In the 13th century BC, the various tribes of the ancient Hebrews occupied the land of current day Israel. Their leaders were known as judges, and led the people against various Canaanite tribes and Philistines. You may remember some judges like Deborah, Gideon, Samuel and

Samson. For a while the people remembered that God was their King and they prospered, but they forgot and disastrous consequences resulted.

Samson was a strong, but imperfect man. His strength lay in the locks of his hair because he had been consecrated to God as a Nazirite - not a Nazarene. When he confided to the Philistine temptress, Delilah, the source of his strength, he broke the covenant with God. God’s presence left him and he was captured by the Philistines, blinded and imprisoned. The story ends with Samson’s prayer and restoration of his strength to vanquish the enemies of the people.

Becky has been itching to attend a Trump rally, so when we heard the President would be in Nashville last week, I decided to tag along with three other red-blooded American women and see for myself what it was all about. I was the unofficial representative of the Knoxville Focus, so I was not issued a media pass. I stood in the drizzle with thousands of other people, gathered to go through security. We were thankful that Marsha Blackburn’s campaign passed out plastic rain ponchos for everyone in line.

The arena quickly filled,

our seats were great and we enjoyed watching people, listening to music and various speakers and munching popcorn as we awaited the main event. Then, with a bit of musical fanfare (Lee Greenwood’s Proud to Be an American), the President strode out, sporting his characteristic red tie, smiling broadly and interacting with people.

His speech was extemporaneous and passionate. Trump exudes confidence and doesn’t need notes or a Teleprompter because his message comes from the heart. He is a gifted communicator, though his rhetoric is not lofty. He believes in America and is able to communicate this. And a personal touch is somehow delivered to individuals as he points to people in the crowd, recognizing some by name and frequently applauding individuals or groups. I have heard many speeches, but this one delivered in person was palpably different.

I won’t bore you with the details of the President’s message because you’ve undoubtedly already heard sound bites. However, as I sat there amidst thousands of supporters, I thought of “big hair” and imagined America’s Samson fighting the Philistines of the Washington Swamp.

As I have written before, Trump was not my first or

second choice for President. However, I am now convinced he’s the right man, at the right time to lead our country. I might wish the man from Queens was a bit more genteel in his speech and tweets but he is struggling against “the rulers and powers and forces of darkness” (Ephesians 6). The ruling class of Washington, the media, academia, Hollywood, Pelosi, Schumer and the rest of the Democrats, the leaders of the intelligence agencies, RINOs and never-Trumper’s are all working to delegitimize - or end - the duly elected 45th president of the United States. Language is not genteel in the trenches, in street fights and civil wars.

The Master once said that “If anyone is ashamed of me and my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory” (Luke 9:26). After personally measuring our leader, I am now a Trump supporter. I resolve to do what I can to help this Samson tear down the Philistine Temple of Washington’s Swamp and Make America Great Again.

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

A Time for Everything

Whether it be sports, business, or personal relationships – timing is everything. If we had a crystal ball and knew when to act, we would be much relieved. We could all be wealthy, prosperous, and spiritually strong if we only knew when and what to do with our lives. The author of Ecclesiastes knows the value of timing. There are people who have never



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

read the Bible who are familiar with Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, due to one of the songs of a 60’s rock group called the Byrds. They put these words to music with the song: “Turn, Turn, Turn.”

All of the major moments in life are mentioned in this text. Each of these fourteen lines gives an opposite pair of actions: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather, a time to embrace

and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

What time is it now? The writer tells us, “He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God had done from beginning to end” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). In order to have a good life, we think we need to know God’s timetable, for God has made everything beautiful in its time. But

the problem with this is that we can’t know God’s timetable. We can’t know the right time for everything. This passage shows our inability to figure out God’s timing.

The word translated “eternity” is the key word. God has placed in our hearts a longing to understand the big picture. We want to know things like: What more is there for me to do with my life? When do I act on this important decision? We don’t always know. God is the only one who knows, but it doesn’t appear that he is letting us in on the secret. We are not alone. The disciples wondered about timing: “Then they gathered

around him and asked him, ‘Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He said to them: ‘It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority’” (Acts 1:6-7). Job wondered: “Why does the Almighty not set times for judgment? Why must those who know him look in vain for such days?” (Job 24:1). God never gave a direct answer to Job. Instead God showed his power. God basically says: “I’m God, and you’re not. My ways are greater than your understanding. Trust me.”

This passage in Ecclesiastes is not meant to direct us to knowing the

exact timing to act in these various ways. The timing and consequences of our actions is unknown, but we should not despair. God is in control. But we struggle wanting to be like God, just like what happened in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. We want to see eternity as God sees it. We want to know the time. So we eat from our own trees of knowledge, attempting to try and understand life and manipulate it. We need to let go and trust God and his timing, knowing that God is the one who holds the past, present, and future.

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Free Fishing Day June 9

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) will be hosting its "Free Fishing Day" for children 15 and under in Knoxville at "The Cove at Concord Park" located at 11808 South Northshore Drive, Knoxville, TN, 37922 on Saturday June 9, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tennessee will host its 2018 Free Fishing Day on Saturday,

June 9. The day allows anyone the opportunity to try this great outdoor sport, especially children to celebrate fishing as a wholesome and healthy recreational option. Numerous events are scheduled for Free Fishing Day. In addition, children ages 15 and younger may fish without a license beginning on Free Fishing Day through the following Friday (June 15).

TWRA will stock the pond and use the venue owned by Knox County Parks & Recreation and provide fishing rods/tackle including some bait, but you can bring your own. In addition, TWRA will provide some water and have Wildlife Officers present to help with the event along with volunteers from the Tennessee Valley Sportsmen Club.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF HOWARD BAUMAN DOCKET NUMBER 80358-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 23 day of MAY 2018, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of HOWARD BAUMAN who died Dec 31, 2017, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death

This the 23 day of MAY, 2018.

ESTATE OF HOWARD BAUMAN
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JAMES BAUMAN; EXECUTOR
107 MALTESE LANE
OAK RIDGE, TN. 37830

GLENNA W OVERTON-CLARK ATTORNEY AT LAW
9111 CROSS PARK DRIVE, SUITE D200
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WILLIAM EARNEST WEBB
DOCKET NUMBER 79655-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day of MAY 2018, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of WILLIAM EARNEST WEBB who died Sep 27, 2017, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death

This the 22 day of MAY, 2018.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM EARNEST WEBB
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
PHILIP ALAN WEBB; EXECUTOR
438 W FORD VALLEY ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37920

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CARL W WHISMAN, JR.
DOCKET NUMBER 79920-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of MAY 2018, letters administration in respect of the Estate of CARL W WHISMAN, JR. who died Dec 10, 2017, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death

This the 21 day of MAY, 2018.

ESTATE OF CARL W WHISMAN, JR.
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JESSICA WHISMAN; ADMINISTRATRIX
4303 TRELAWNY LANE
POWELL, TN. 37849

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RAMONIA IRENE SMITH DOCKET NUMBER 79434-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of MAY 2018, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of RAMONIA IRENE SMITH who died Nov 23, 2016, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death

This the 21 day of MAY, 2018.

ESTATE OF RAMONIA IRENE SMITH
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JUANITA SMITH AGENTS; CO-EXECUTRIX
5600 CROOKED PINE LANE KNOXVILLE, TN. 37921

VIVIAN MADDEN; CO-EXECUTRIX
2908 BROCK AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JASON HEATH CRABTREE
DOCKET NUMBER 80365-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 25 day of MAY 2018, letters administration in respect of the Estate of JASON HEATH CRABTREE

who died Jan 29, 2018, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred.

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 25 day of MAY, 2018.

REGINA WALKER; ADMINISTRATRIX
7533 OLD MAYNARDVILLE PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37938

ROBERT A COLE ATTORNEY AT LAW
3715 POWERS STREET KNOXVILLE, TN. 37917

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MICHAEL RICHARD GLOVER
DOCKET NUMBER 80106-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 25 day of MAY 2018, letters administration in respect of the Estate of MICHAEL RICHARD GLOVER who died Dec 7, 2017, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.

All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred.

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 25 day of MAY, 2018.

AUTUMN SULLIVAN; ADMINISTRATRIX
517 OAKHILL CIRCLE
BROOKSVILLE, FL. 34601

LUKE A SHIPLEY ATTORNEY AT LAW
900 S GAY STREET, SUITE 1704
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37902

MISC. NOTICES

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

THE OWNERS AND/OR LIEN HOLDERS OF THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES ARE HERBY NOTIFIED OF THEIR RIGHTS TO PAY ALL CHARGES AND RECLAIM SAID VEHICLES BEING HELD AT THE STORAGE LOT OF RICK'S AUTOMOTIVE CENTER. FAILURE TO RECLAIM THESE VEHICLES WILL BE DEEMED A WAIVER OF ALL RIGHTS, TITLE AND CONSENT TO DISPOSE OF SAID VEHICLE AT PUBLIC AUCTION ON JUNE 5, 2018 AT 9AM AT 5601 NORTH BROADWAY, KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

93 FORD 2FTJW35H5PCA96844

95 CHEVROLET 1GBEK19K6SE229982

07 PONTAIC 1G2ZF58B174161635

LEGAL SECTION 94

Knox County will receive bids for the following items & services:
Bid 2705, Brown-Colored Textiles, due 7/10/18;
Bid 2706, Automatic External Defibrillator and Accessories, due 7/6/18

For additional information call 865-215-5777, stop by the Procurement Division, 1000 North Central St., Suite 100, Knoxville, TN 37917, or visit our website: www.knoxcounty.org/procurement. To bid on Knox County surplus items, go to www.govdeals.com.

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

The owners and/or lienholders of the following vehicles are hereby notified of their rights to pay all charges and reclaim said vehicles being held at the storage lot of Floyd's Wrecker Service Inc. Failure to reclaim these vehicles will be deemed a waiver of all rights and titles along with consent to dispose of said vehicles at public auction to be held on: Thursday, June 28th, 2018, at 135 Hawthorne Ave. Knoxville, TN 37920 at 10:30 a.m.

2004 NISSAN 3N1CB51D74L894838

2005 CHRYSLER 1C3EL55R15N536102

1999 PONTIAC 1G2WJ52MXXF270577

2003 CHEVROLET 1GCDM19X3B130579

1999 FORD 1FAPP4047KF113070

1997 ACURA JH4DC4467VSO15751

1992 FORD TCD14AF705738

1998 SATURN 1G8ZK5277WZ287148

2006 FORD 3FAHP07Z06R113142

2001 CADILLAC 1G6KY54981U250381

2001 PONTIAC 1G2NF52E81C218903

2004 TOYOTA 1NXXBR32E84Z238617

2005 DODGE 1D7HA18N35S301384

1999 TOYOTA JT3GN86R6X0095747

2002 CHEVROLET 1GNES16S826131103

2004 CHEVROLET 1GNDT135S42441152

1980 GMC TCD14AF705738

2004 CHEVROLET 1G1ZU54814F116764

2007 CHEVROLET 1GCCS149878123675

2002 FORD 1FMRU16W22LA33611

2003 FORD 1FAPP53U53A171347

2001 FORD 1FAPP55U11A141496

1992 GMC 1GTEK14HXN2535877

2000 HONDA 1HGCG1659YA069567

2009 MERCURY 2MEH175V99X628950

1996 TOYOTA JT2BG12K3T0413357

2008 VOLVO YV1MS382782388082



The Ladies of Windsor

Windsor Gardens Assisted Living hosted its Annual Mother's Day Tea Party last month. Everyone tasted an assortment of teas, complete with honey, lemon, and sugar cubes along with an assortment of tea biscuits. Then the ladies were served chicken salad and pimento cheese sandwiches, fresh fruit and dip, cheese and crackers, and mini quiche. The group ended the meal with table-side made strawberry shortcake.

"The Ladies of Windsor" Pictured: Betty

Wildman, Lucy Steele, Mary Jane Forsythe, Joan Warise, Virginia Rosser, Betty Uhlman, Janet Nunn, Bobbie Parker, Wilma Woods, Leona Hamilton, Patricia Strange, Sue Sheridan, Sue Damewood, Margaret Hembree, Ernie Ingle, Imogene Engle, Ann Chingas, Maria Worrell, Gayle Ingersol, Peggy Dognibene, Helen Forester, Barbara Lamphrey, Mildred Stooksbury and Georgie Cody.

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Tick season is upon us

According to a recent news report, ticks are extremely prevalent in East Tennessee at this time. Ticks in Tennessee are most active from April thru September. Though it is not uncommon to see some tick action through the winter months.

After speaking to many of my friends, several indicated that they or their children have already had ticks on them this season. Therefore, let's focus on ways of preventing ticks.

First, be aware that ticks

like areas where there is a lot of moisture. They love those shady wooded areas, areas of tall grass, bushes, trails with lots of vegetation, around stone walls and where there is a lot of leaf litter.

Keeping your yard clean and free of leaf piles will help reduce the tick population as well as keeping your lawn mowed and controlling weeds. Another good preventative is keeping repairs done to the entry points of your house to discourage possible tick hosts from entering.

Ticks thrive in landscaping that has plenty of crevices for them to hide. Pruning trees and shrubs,

trimming grass shorter, removing excessive brush and fallen leaves and avoiding overwatering will help make your yard less friendly for these pests.

According to the UT Extension Department, three kinds of ticks are frequently encountered around homes or in recreation areas in Tennessee. These are the American dog tick, lone star tick and the brown dog tick. Other less common tick species can also be found in the area. The American dog tick can transmit Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and it was reported that in 2016 there were 581 cases in Tennessee. Tennessee is second in the nation in terms of number of diagnosed cases of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

Most people tend to be concerned about Lyme Disease. Lyme Disease incidents in Tennessee are uncommon but do occur. According to the CDC there were 20 suspected cases in Tennessee in 2015. In comparison to other states

(such as 1,302 cases in Massachusetts), Tennessee has a very low incidence. Lyme Disease is caused predominantly by blacklegged ticks also known as deer ticks which are fairly uncommon in Tennessee.

One of the most interesting facts that I learned in my research was that some people after having been bitten by a lone star tick become allergic to red meat. The allergy presents as hives, swelling, vomiting and diarrhea after eating red meat and can be a life-long reaction.

As you can see, ticks can indeed be dangerous. If you do have a tick bite, call your physician and seek immediate treatment.

From a gardening perspective, the best advice is to try and prevent them in the first place as earlier indicated to keep you yard clean (free of leaf litter, etc.) and mow frequently. Because the ticks like moisture, if you mow frequently and have a sunny yard, the ticks will dry out.

'Get Off Your Glass' to be Hosted at Hops and Hollers during Knoxville Craft Beer Week

Keep Knoxville Beautiful and Sierra Nevada Brewing Company will host its second Get Off Your Glass event on Wednesday, June 13. The glass recycling collection will begin at 5 p.m. at Hops and Hollers Craft Beer Store and Taproom, 937 N Central St, and go until 8 p.m.

Get Off Your Glass is a glass recycling event that provides the community with a chance to sort and recycle glass in a convenient location as well as meet up with other recyclers. West Rock will be providing bins to sort green/blue, clear, and brown glass bottles and jars. Anyone that brings their glass to be recycled will receive a free beer and swag from Sierra Nevada.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information please visit <http://www.keepknoxvillebeautiful.org/upcoming/2018/6/13/get-off-your-glass-hops-and-hollers-edition>.

This will be the second Get Off Your Glass event. The first event was held on Earth Day, April 22, at Bearden Beer Market. Participants of the first event recycled 1,148 pounds of glass.

Founded in 1978 to help "clean up" prior to the 1982 World's Fair, Keep Knoxville Beautiful is a local non-profit with a mission to promote a cleaner, greener, and more beautiful community. We pursue this by:

- Educating students and the public about waste-prevention, litter, recycling, and environmental stewardship
- Facilitating and supporting litter pickups that make our roads and local waterways cleaner
- Creating and protecting murals and hosting beautification mobs to make Knoxville a more beautiful and interesting place to live and visit

To learn more about Keep Knoxville Beautiful, visit keepknoxvillebeautiful.org.

Bees, Butterflies and Birds: How to Bring These Three Bs into Your Garden

Join Master Gardener Amy Haun to learn the basics of making a garden that will welcome a lively and beautiful mix of bees, butterflies and birds. This free public event is scheduled on Monday, June 18, from 1-2 p.m. at Davis Family YMCA, 12133 S Northshore Drive, Knoxville, TN 37922, phone 865-777-9622 or online <https://ymcaknoxville.org>.

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UT Arboretum Society to hold MOTH-er's Night Out

The University of Tennessee Arboretum Society will sponsor the popular MOTH-er's Night Out program to learn about moths and other nocturnal insects on Saturday, June 9th from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the UT Arboretum Visitors Center which is located at 901 S. Illinois Ave. (HWY 62) in Oak Ridge.

Have you ever wondered

about what kind of insects are out hunting and eating while you sleep snugly in your bed at night? Come learn about these fascinating creatures with naturalist Kris Light. Why should you spend a Saturday night learning about moths? Moths are one of the most diverse species on earth with more than 11,000 moth species in the United States alone!

Their colors and patterns make them masters of camouflage. Moths are both important pollinators and a food source for other animals. After an introductory program in the Visitors Center, we will venture outdoors to check our moth attraction sheets to observe the insects that have been attracted by the black lights.

Bring your camera, your

friends and your kids as well as a magnifying glass, a flashlight and a desire to learn about these fascinating critters! Bring your mother too! This program is appropriate for all ages.

This is a free program offered by the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society. For more information call 865-483-7277.

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