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Richie Beeler appointed to 8th District seat

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

After five rounds of voting, Richie Beeler, a person with four generations of roots in Corryton, was selected to replace Dave Wright as commissioner representing the 8th District of Knox County.

The candidates who had applied for the seat included Beeler, Phil Ballard, Krystal Gibson, Douglas Iglehart, Rebecca Longmire, Sonia S. Sanders, Michel Westover and Terry Wilshire. Ballard and Westover withdrew their names from consideration and Wilshire didn't appear for the special county commission meeting held last Wednesday.

Each of the remaining contenders had five minutes to speak and Commissioner John Schoonmaker reviewed their voting record as to whether or not they voted in recent elections. Each of the commissioners except for Evelyn Gill and Brad Anders asked occasional questions.

Beeler said he was born in Zacharytown within the district and worked 31 years in the Register of Deeds office. Beeler pointed out that the north and east Knox County district has lots of land for future development, praised the three new schools there and cited



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Richie Beeler takes the oath of office from Judge Kristi Davis. He was selected from several applicants to serve the remaining term of the 8th District commissioner, Dave Wright, who was elected to the Tennessee legislature.

the opioid crisis as the area's biggest problem.

When asked by Commissioner Larsen Jay if he might run for reelection after serving Wright's two remaining term years, Beeler said he has "no idea, no plans."

When asked why he would be the best person for the position,

Beeler said he was teachable and he knows how Knox County works.

Prior to the vote Commissioner Randy Smith said he would have preferred a special election but said the cost of holding one was prohibitive.

Chairman Hugh Nystrom said

the commission "has a deep bevy of qualified applicants."

With 10 commissioners voting, a total of six votes were needed to select the new 8th District commissioner.

Commissioner Anders nominated Beeler and Commissioner Charles Busler suggested

Sanders. Commissioner Larsen Jay chose Longmire while Commissioners Justin Biggs named Gibson and Smith chose Iglehart. The other commissioners passed during the nominating.

The first round of voting saw Beeler get four votes and Sanders and Longmire with three votes each. Biggs, Michele Carringer, Smith and Anders voted for Beeler; Busler, Carson Daily and Schoonmaker voted for Sanders; and Jay, Gill and Nystrom voted for Longmire. That eliminated the candidates who received no votes.

The second and third rounds of voting went exactly the same and it looked deadlocked until Nystrom asked Beeler, Sanders and Longmire to speak for a couple minutes.

The fourth round saw Longmire's vote drop to two, Gill and Jay, which eliminated her. Nystrom changed his vote and went for Beeler.

In the final round of voting Jay joined Carringer, Smith, Nystrom, Anders and Biggs to give Richie Beeler the nod. Gill, Schoonmaker, Busler and Dailey voted for Sanders.

Beeler was sworn in immediately after the decision and will serve until August 21, 2020.

Knox County to host 20th Annual Holiday Festival of Lights

Knox County's 20th annual Holiday Festival of Lights at The Cove at Concord Park kicks off Friday, Dec. 21 with Mayor Glenn Jacobs hosting a meet and greet and passing out free candy "Kanes."

The family-friendly event starts that evening at 6:30 p.m. with a ribbon cutting. The Cove is located at 11808 S. Northshore Drive.

The festival, which is free and open to the public, runs through Saturday, Dec. 29, excluding Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It's open from 6 to 9 p.m.

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

In addition, Third Creek Coffee will be onsite each night with hot drinks, including coffee, hot chocolate and apple cider, and holiday snacks, like cookies, cakes and the ingredients for S'mores.

The park staff at The Cove does all the decorating, which includes placing displays and adding

thousands of lights to the trees.

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

The 2018 Holiday Festival of Lights is sponsored by B97.5, the Knox County Mayor's Office and Knox County Parks & Recreation.

Mayor Jacobs to host December constituent meeting Tuesday

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs will host the December constituent meeting from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 11 at the Carter Library (9036 Asheville Hwy). These meetings are designed to give citizens the opportunity to meet one-on-one and speak individually with him about issues that are important to them.

These meetings are open to the public and no appointment is needed.



Lyons View State Veterans Cemetery in recent years, decked out with Christmas wreaths placed there by volunteers to honor the military veterans. This year the Vietnam Veterans of America, Captain Bill Robinson Chapter 1078, is sponsoring the event. Photo courtesy of Ronnie Collins.

Knox County volunteers sought to help lay 'Wreaths Across America'

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

What are you doing Saturday? The placement of evergreen wreaths at our three veteran cemeteries will begin after a brief ceremony at noon. Each cemetery has its own coordinator for Wreaths Across America, which is just that: a national effort to place wreaths on the graves of military veterans.

You can help by showing up at any of our cemeteries and helping to unload the wreaths prior to the services or helping place them in front of the tombstones.

"Due to the generosity of the many wreath sponsors there are substantially more wreaths to place this year so volunteers are encouraged to bring a friend," said Chris Albrecht, Public Service Officer for the Vietnam Veterans Chapter.

Volunteers are being asked to arrive early and help put ribbons on the wreaths.

Knoxville National Cemetery is located at 939 Tyson Street NW. Parking is available at Central Street and Baxter with a shuttle running from 10 a.m. to carry volunteers to the cemetery. Lyons View State Veterans Cemetery

at 5901 Lyons View Pike, parking will be at the baseball field parking lot in Lakeshore Park. A shuttle will carry volunteers back and forth.

The East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery at 2200 Governor John Sevier Highway now has lots of parking along the roads within the cemetery with the completion of recent construction.

You can reach the Captain Bill Robinson Chapter 1078 by calling (865) 321-1435. You may also get more information online at www.vva1078.org or at the Wreaths Across America, Knoxville Facebook page.

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Knox County assistant principal accepted into prestigious program

By Anne Primm

Last week's Knox County School Board work session was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairwoman Terry Hill. The pledge of allegiance was led by 4th District representative Virginia Babb. City Councilwoman Stephanie Welch and County Commissioner Randy Smith were elected officials in attendance. All board members were present except for Eighth District, Mike McMillan, who came in later.

After opening remarks, the agenda was approved and Superintendent Bob Thomas proceeded with his report. He began by sharing some outstanding news about one of Knox County Schools' administrators: Governor's Academy for School Leadership 2019 cohort at Vanderbilt University named Pond Gap

Elementary School's Assistant principal, Trina Burns, as a participant in the 2019 cohort program. Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam announced 25 assistant principals from across the state as participants for the 2019 Governor's Academy for School Leadership, a partnership between the state, Vanderbilt's Peabody College of Education and Human Development, and local school districts to cultivate future school leaders and improve school effectiveness and student performance.

Burns has been with Knox County Schools since 2016 and has had previous administrative experience in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Congratulations, Ms. Burns!

Superintendent Thomas also announced the appointment of Ryan Dillingham as the new

Director of Transportation as he replaces Dr. Rick Grubb who retired in September of this year.

Mr. Thomas announced Christmas holidays for students to be from December 24, 2018 until January 7, 2019.

Next, 2nd District representative Jennifer Owen discussed legislative priorities. Owen said that she expects school vouchers to be hotly debated in Tennessee this next year. With the new governor expressing curiosity about vouchers, surely efforts will be reinvigorated. Owen warned that there will likely be some "semantic trickery" involved with repackaging vouchers to look like something novel when in truth, they are the same old thing that we have heard of before.

Lastly, the meeting turned to addressing the travails of

the Career Magnet Academy. Although the Academy has a student graduating this spring, the prospects for the longevity of the school need reevaluation. Some board members think the facility is simply too far away from other Knox County Schools and that transportation is the biggest hindrance. Other board members say that the academy never delivered on the courses of study it promised in the beginning. Pellissippi representatives say that many of the students do not meet the criteria to take college level courses making it impossible for them to earn college credits while in high school.

Knox County's Cheryl Hickman said that Pellissippi has gone out of their way to help. They have eliminated pathways so that students can now take any courses

that are offered. Pellissippi has agreed to offer a broader scope of courses over time. Pellissippi Instructors have agreed to be present at parent/teacher events.

Dr. Anthony Wise, president of Pellissippi State, spoke to the group and urged Knox County Schools to continue this effort as he sees it as a model program that will be used across the state to partner high schools and colleges.

In public forum, Tonya Coates discussed the work day for teachers per Tennessee State law. The law states the teacher must work seven hours. Knox County Schools teachers work seven and three quarters hours each day, not to mention extra hours on nights, weekends, and extra-curricular activities.

If there is no will, who gets the stuff?

I have no idea what the numbers would come out to, but it is fair to say that most people do not have wills. As most people know, the will is the document that says who gets what after they die.



By Jedidiah McKeenan
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However, since most people die without a will, Tennessee law states that your possessions past, "intestate." The word intestate simply means that you died without a will, but Tennessee law dictates who gets what, and in what order possession are passed in Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) section 31-2-104.

Contrary to popular belief, the surviving spouse does not always inherit everything from someone who dies. If the person who died (the deceased) had no children, then yes, the spouse gets everything.

However, if the deceased had children, then they do not.

If the deceased had one child, then the spouse gets half, and the child gets half. If the deceased had two children, then the spouse and the children each get one-third. If the deceased had more than two children, the spouse gets one-third, and the children equally split the rest, regardless of the number of children. The spouse never gets less than one-third of the deceased's estate.

If one of the deceased's children has already died, then the grandchildren inherit the child's portion of the estate. So, if a child who was supposed to get one-third dies and has two children, they will each inherit one-sixth.

If the deceased dies

with no spouse, and no children, then his parents shall inherit the entirety of his estate. If the deceased dies with no spouse, no children, and no living parents, then the deceased's siblings inherit his estate. Similar to before, if a sibling has died, then the sibling's children will inherit the sibling's share of estate.

In the unlikely event that the deceased dies with no spouse, no children, no parents, and no siblings, then the deceased's grandparents will inherit his estate with one-half going to his paternal grandparents, and one-half going to his maternal grandparents.

In the extremely unlikely even that none of the above people are alive at the time of the deceased's passing, then pursuant to TCA 31-2-110, the decedent's belongs shall pass "escheat," which means that the state of Tennessee will inherit the deceased possessions.

Proposed art at Country Music Park questioned

By Mike Steely
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Sometimes the most interesting part of a public meeting isn't on the agenda but within the public comments made. That was true during the Knoxville City Council meeting Tuesday.

A huge sculpture commissioned by the Public Arts Committee was selected to replace the 18-foot tall music clef in the Cradle of Country Music Park. The small park, at Gay Street and Summit Hill Drive, was created in 1986. The original piece of art was beyond repair and was removed. The plaques with the names of honored music artists was saved and stored.

Keith Britt, of 558 Noelton Drive, said the huge art piece presented and selected from THEVERYMANY,

LLC might be a duplicate of artwork at Texas Tech. Britt said he applauded the city for setting up phased payments for the \$900,000 sculpture but asked the city to look into the similarities before the next phase of payments.

He asked if the artwork was "part of a series" and added that Texas Tech paid about one third of what the city is paying. He said the city may have been duped with a duplicate of already existing art. He presented the council with photos and information about the Texas Tech artwork.

"I'd like for you to make sure this is a unique design or get an acknowledgment from the artist as to why they are so similar," he said.

Mayor Madeline Rogero said that Councilwoman

Lauren Rider has requested information from Liza Zenni of the Arts Committee. Zenni responded that many famous artists have art similar to their original pieces and added, "That doesn't take away from the artistic value of their work." The mayor added "She will follow up with that."

In agenda voting the council authorized a proposal from Blue Cross of Tennessee for Stop Loss Insurance on the city's self-insured plan and prescription plan. They also voted to authorize \$225,605 in an agreement with Gresham Smith and Partners for a citywide sidewalk study.

Council agreed to accept \$153,500 from the Appalachia High Intensity Drug Tracking Program for police officers as part of the multi-agency joint task force.

PILOTS, lobbyist for schools and appointments on commission agenda

By Mike Steely
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For the second and third time the Knox County Commission is being asked to approve a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement which the city has already approved. According to Commission Chairman Hugh Nystrom a state law passed this year requires any PILOT program passed by a municipality to also be approved by the county authority.

The old Cal Johnson Building at 201 State Street, owned by JED Corporation, was granted the initial tax break by the city as well as Paramount Hospitality Management, LLC for 210 West Clinch Avenue; both before the commission for routine agreements.

Also on the agenda and up for discussion is topic of the Knox County school board's hiring Millsaps Gowan Government Relations as the system's

lobbying representative in Nashville once again. Nystrom said he may pull it from the school's consent items for discussion.

The matter has been discussed in previous years. The county itself does not have a lobbying agent in the state capital and the schools are spending \$37,500 each year for consulting services with the lobbying group through the Coalition of Large Area School Systems.

Mayor Glenn Jacobs has several appointments on the agenda including a reappointment of Ken Knight to the Knox County Emergency Communications District Board of Directors. He's also reappointing Chuck Severance, Howard Russell and Roy Kruse and appointing Kevin Desmond and Bryon Woods to the Three Ridges Golf Board.

Commissioner Nystrom is recommending Commissioner Justin Biggs to the

arena use committee and Nystrom has a motion on the agenda to honor David Shields for his service with the audit committee.

The sheriff is asking the commission to approve a \$121,500 contract with Dr. Donald S. Keeble, M.D., to serve as the medical director for the corrections division and approve pre-employment physicals to potential candidates for employment for one year.

Also on the agenda is a utility easement agreement with KUB for relocating electric facilities at the IC King Park entrance.

The Register of Deeds office is asking the commission to endorse a 5% commission restoration agreement. Nystrom told The Focus that the request may be moved to a discussion of the upcoming meeting with the local legislative delegation scheduled for January 4th.



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Publisher's Position

Holiday wishes for our readers



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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The time between the Thanksgiving and

Christmas holidays should be cause for reflection. Certainly, both are wonderful occasions where we celebrate with our family and cherished friends. It also ought to be a time where we reflect upon and think about other things as well. For instance, those family members and dear friends who are gone, yet with us still through our most treasured memories. It is also a time to truly think about the many things each of us have to be thankful for in our lives.

I realize it isn't politically

correct or even popular in many circles to mention God, but for those of us who firmly and deeply believe in the Almighty, we should offer up our thanks for Jesus still remains "the reason for the Season." All of us have something to thank our Lord for and there's no better time to do so than the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We should offer thanks for our successes and yes, for some of our failures that have taught us a valuable lesson. We should offer up thanks for the health we

enjoy and pray earnestly for those of our loved ones not in good health to improve. We should thank the Lord for those small things that brings us happiness daily, irrespective of how tiny they may be. We should thank God for each and every gift He has bestowed upon us throughout our lives and this year.

I have offered up my own thanks for my family, my dear little dog, Opie, my coworkers and my personal friends. I am so thankful for all I've been given in this life and don't want to

take a thing for granted. I want each of our readers to know how thankful I am for YOU, because without you The Focus would be nothing. Whatever success The Focus has enjoyed is due to the many folks who read this paper weekly. I am grateful to the writers who fill our pages and hope the things contained in The Focus have brought you some measure of happiness and pleasure.

I pray that each of you will be surrounded by loved ones during this Holiday Season, have good food

and friends to enjoy, and that the fire in the hearth will warm you in all the days that are to come. I hope that we all remember the best gifts are not those that are wrapped in bright packages under our trees, but are the things that make life worth living.

Every person here at The Focus joins me in wishing you the merriest of Christmases. Most of all, I pray that God will pour out his blessings upon you and your family. Thank you for all you have given The Knoxville Focus.



Rosie's World

Cranberries and Poinsettias

Here is a delicious cranberry recipe:

Cranberry Christmas Cake Recipe

- Ingredients:
- 3 eggs
 - 2 c. sugar
 - 3/4 c. butter, softened
 - 1 tsp. vanilla
 - 2 c. all-purpose flour
 - 12 oz. fresh cranberries

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. With a mixer, beat the eggs with the sugar until slightly thickened and light in color. about 5-7 min. The mixture should almost double in size. The eggs

work as your leavening agent in this recipe, so do not skip this step.

3. The sugar and egg should form a ribbon when you lift the beaters out of the bowl.

4. Add the butter and vanilla, mix two more min. Stir in flour until just combined.

5. Add the cranberries and stir to mix throughout.

6. Spread in a buttered 9x13 pan.

7. Bake 40-50 min., or until very lightly browned and a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. (usually 43 min.) Let cool completely before cutting into small slices.

Poinsettias

The poinsettia derives its common English name from Joel Robert Poinsett, the first United States Minister to Mexico, who introduced the plant to the United States in 1825. Aztecs used the plant as a red dye and also medication. The plant's association with Christmas is said to begin in the 16th century in Mexico where legend tells us of a girl who was too poor to provide a gift for the celebration of Jesus' birthday. She was inspired by an angel to gather weeds from the roadside and place them in front of the church altar. Crimson blossoms sprouted from the weeds

and became poinsettias. The star-shaped leaf pattern is said to symbolize the Star of Bethlehem and the red color represents the blood sacrifice through the crucifixion of Jesus.

It's hard to discern between fact and fiction but these legends continue to carry on through the years. Green Christmas trees and

red poinsettias are synonymous with this season and help to celebrate the birthday of Jesus.

Thought for the day: "We are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmastime." Laura Ingalls Wilder

Send comments to: rosemerrie@att.net. Thank you.



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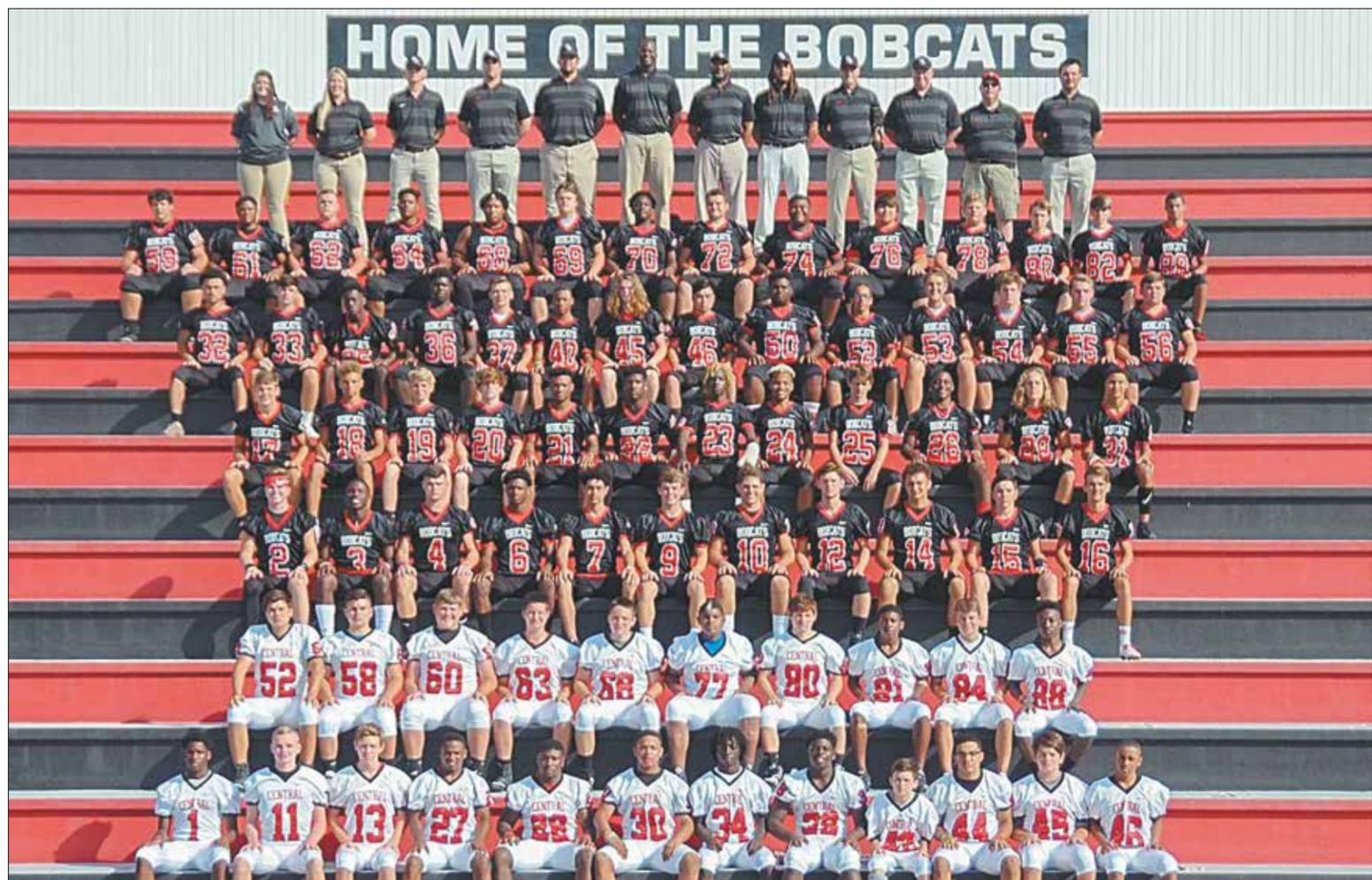
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Rest in peace, our dear friend.

A Very Special Birthday Party

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Recently three very special moms and their daughters met to hold a very special birthday party.

Bambi Pelham told The Focus about the event.

"Here is a feel-good story that might be nice to share," the North Carolina military mom wrote. She was speaking about a first birthday party organized with two other local mothers for their daughters who all have Down syndrome, and the story of how they met is, indeed, special.

"We were total strangers before and met online through a local Facebook group for mothers with children diagnosed with Down syndrome. Our daughters were all born within a week or two of one another in November 2017."

Pelham's husband is a U.S. Marine with ties to East Tennessee in New Market and he's retiring soon and the couple plans to move to Dandridge. Their daughter, Piper, was born with a digestive condition and, although repaired shortly after birth, she

now uses a feeding tube to ingest liquids.

Jamie Reinhardt of Cosby says her daughter, Coraline, also has a digestive condition and feeding tube and has had two heart surgeries. She and Coraline's father Travis are both veterans.

"We want people to see that she is still a little girl and we think, like parents everywhere, that our child is cooler than Twinkies," Reinhardt said.

Stephanie Williams lives in Fountain City and her daughter, Harper Grace, had open heart surgery at six months.

"She is a happy, fun-loving one-year-old that has endured more than most adults. Since her surgery she has thrived. She continues to amaze us and fill our lives with so much joy every day. We are definitely the lucky few," Williams said.

"Bambi wanted to connect with women in the Knoxville area. I had already connected with a local Facebook group and knew how loving and supportive they were to me. So I was eager to introduce Bambi to the

crew. Angie Holbert, the leader of the group, introduced me to Stephanie when our daughters were in the NICU together at UT," explains Jamie Reinhardt.

"All three girls are thriving wonderfully and were ready to celebrate their special first birthday together," Pelham said.

The party took place recently at Fort Imagination in Knoxville and featured a princess theme.

"The 'Ice Queen' and Little Mulan made guest appearances there," she said.

"So many parents are devastated to find out their child has Down syndrome but we love to show a happy story about friendship, resilience and grace through our beautiful babies," Pelham said.

"Raising Piper is both complicated and beautiful. There are challenges but her little smile every day makes it all worth it. Life is better with her in it," Bambi Pelham said, adding, "I also commend the Down syndrome community as a whole for taking families like ours under wing and making the journey a lot less difficult and much more enjoyable.



The three moms and their special daughters posed for a birthday party photo. Pictured are, left to right, Jamie and Coraline Reinhardt, Stephanie and Harper Williams, and Bambi and Piper Pelham. The little girl in costume is Cara Wallis, Piper's cousin as "Little Mulan," and the "Ice Queen" is courtesy of Magic Lamp Entertainment. Photo courtesy of Bambi Pelham.

Piper is part of a wonderful tribe."

"I want Piper to have an enjoyable life and be loved and, most of all, be happy," she said.

Reinhardt's statement about her daughter summed it up for all three moms:

"We want her to try her best in everything she does. She needs to know that we think she's amazing and can accomplish amazing things if she works hard."

Catching up with Bill Landry



Bill Landry and Cherel Henderson chat during the former Heartland Series host's talk at the East Tennessee History Museum Tuesday afternoon. Landry's fourth book "When the West Was Tennessee" is available now and was the subject of his talk before a packed house at the museum. Photo courtesy of Charlie Rhodarmer.

By Mike Steely
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Like most of you I was introduced to Bill Landry while he was hosting the award-winning The Heartland Series on WBIR-TV. Bill has a folksy way of telling a story and proved to be much more than just a host. He assembled around him a crack production crew of producers and writers, among them Linda Billman, Steve Dean, Doug Mills and others.

During 25 years of shows Bill and his crew won four Emmy Awards, six Iris Awards and medals from the International Film and Television Festival in New York. The show was picked up by The Travel Channel and Appalachian Stories.

The series left the air as a regular show in 2009 and returned on a limited basis until 2011. You might still see the series after local news on WBIR, but except for a one-hour retro summery of

several episodes there's no new production.

So you thought Bill was retired, right?

Nope, Bill's been busy, but I digress.

I was one of those participants featured on Bill's show in two episodes and worked with him a few times on other projects and episodes. All together Bill did three "Swift Silver Mine" episodes on Heartland, each of three with contributions by me. That's because several years ago I wrote a book "Swift's Silver Mines and Related Appalachian Treasures." The book was a summary of treasure legends in our multi-state region.

When he and his crew were shooting the "Swift Silver Mine" series we were everywhere. We shot at Jellico's baseball field for a metal detector contest and speakers; we went to Frakes, near the Kentucky state line, and to Bridge Rock, a natural arch high

atop Pine Mountain. Few TV viewers understand how much work Bill and his crew put into each short episode of that series.

Bill loved the "lost treasure" shows he did and said he got a huge response from people about them. He's followed that "Swift" legend on his own and would be ideal for the part of the main character if anything ever becomes of the legend as a movie or television show.

Now and then Bill and I would have lunch together with friends like Jellico's historian Roy Price or former TV anchorman Bob Gray. All four of us were into history and lore and those lunches were great for sharing stories.

Sometimes I'd run across Bill at a community fair, book signing, or festival. Bill got the writing bug and became involved in the restoration of the historic theatre in

Continue on page 4

Christmas Wishes & Mistletoe Kisses

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This Christmas season, Real Deals in Powell is partnering with "I Support The Girls". This is a national non-profit organization that focuses on collecting and distributing new and gently used bras along with feminine hygiene products to those in need.

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Picture of Dr. and Mrs. A. D. Simmons, often called Macel and Doc, in their younger years, courtesy of Rada Simmons Rolison

Beloved Country Doctor, part 6

The Farmer

He grew up on a farm in Grainger County, Tennessee. He worked on the farm at Lincoln Memorial University while getting his college degree. It is not surprising to learn that Dr. Alvis David Simmons never lost his love of the land and farming even after becoming a doctor.



By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

"No matter how busy he was with his medical practice, he found time to develop a prize herd of registered Black Angus cattle on Mari-Ben Angus Farm," daughter Sylvia Simmons Babelay said. "He named the farm after his mother, Mary Idol, and his father, Benjamin Franklin Simmons." Many times I heard about those Black Angus cattle or some mention of the farm on a visit to the doctor. I grew up on a dairy farm, so talk of farming did not seem out of the ordinary. "He loved to hunt and fish as well,"

Sylvia continued. "We had a small lake on the farm and many of his friends came out to fish. I do not know how the friendship came about, but I remember Dr. Andy Holt coming out several times to fish with him. I always managed to be outside when they came into the backyard and talked a long time after fishing. I loved hearing Dr. Holt's accent!" I recognized the name Sylvia shared. Dr. Andrew Holt was one of the great University of Tennessee presidents.

How fascinating that these two great men forged a friendship through fishing. Dr. Simmons and Dr. Holt, two outstanding men who left their mark in medicine and education. (To be continued)

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Cold Outside

Thanks to one group or another, Christmas celebrations are now under attack. Even with enormous amounts of energy spent to stay out of the fray, I've finally had enough. That means I'm coming out with guns blazing.

In 1964 when I was twelve, the special "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" aired during prime time. It was an animated show that featured the reindeer, Santa, Cornelius, and Hermey. The original song fit the narrative; however, an elf wanting to be a dentist, a prospector, and a surly monster, and a doe girlfriend were added to the show to more fully develop the plot.

After 54 years of airing a Christmas special that adds to the season's joy and brings memories rushing back to millions of adults, critics have now decided what is a favorite program for many of us is nothing more than a display of bigotry, racism, homophobia, and abusive behavior. Give me a break.

Yes, plenty of those things exist in our world every day, and each of us should do his best to fight those social ills. With that said, it is absolutely absurd to view "Rudolph" and attempt to convince the public that it's filled with such terrible things. Surely, these evaluators can find something better to do with their time than to bash a children's Christmas show.



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

If that weren't bad enough, another group has attacked the Christmas song "Baby It's Cold Outside." A Cleveland radio station banned the song as too offensive for 2018 airing. The Urban Dictionary tags the song as

the "Christmas date rape song."

The 1944 song lyrics present a man who is trying to keep his date from leaving. She says "no" to all of his objections until the end when she decides to stay for a little longer. How in the hell is that "date rape?" What critics are saying is that women are helpless beings who are incapable of saying "no" and meaning it. In no place does this song present the idea that a man sexually attacks his date. He does what men have done for years: tries to sweet talk women. I figure women are truly wise enough to keep from being tricked by that.

Folks, all sorts of bad things exist in our world. They have for all time. I despise racism; homophobia is a ridiculous reaction to those who live different lives; abuse of wives, children, workers, or animals is abhorrent. Rape is a crime that should be taken seriously and one that our court system must address with swift punishment.

What is unacceptable is the rise of something that is every bit as harmful to our society. Political correctness is a result of overly sensitive reactions

to events, words, or programs. Sure, some things just shouldn't be said, and some things shouldn't occur. The kicker is that these people who make a living as world-wide censors are causing all of us to trip over ourselves to keep from hurting anyone's feelings. They go to battle over such ridiculous things as labeling a child's Christmas program or a Christmas season song as wrong, hurtful, and unacceptable. Who died and made them the final authorities over what is appropriate?

Okay, some of you find programs on television or songs on the radio offensive. I agree that you have the right to that opinion. At the same time, millions of folks love those same things. How can the problem be settled? Don't tell me that my children shouldn't be subjected to such things; that's a ton of bull poop, and you don't get to make that decision. If these critics are so upset about "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" or "Baby It's Cold Outside," they have a remedy available. Turn off the television and don't watch or hit switch on the radio to a different station and don't listen.

Leave my Christmas season and favorites alone. I assure you neither of them promotes any kind of social or criminal intentions in my life. I hope critics can figure out a way to enjoy at least one part of the season without being offended. If not they will find the world in which they live is cold outside.

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Tennessee Governors & the Path to the US Senate Part Eleven

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill

rayhill865@gmail.com

Malcolm Rice Patterson, the “gamecock” of Tennessee politics, had left the governor’s mansion in 1911 as a hugely controversial figure and bitterly hated by many inside his own party. To make matters worse, a combine of “fusionists,” Democrats opposed to Patterson and Republicans, had elected Ben W. Hooper governor in the 1910 election. That only increased the dislike of many Democrats for the former governor. Symptomatic of many Democrats, Luke Lea’s Nashville Tennessean published a gloating editorial as Patterson left the governor’s office. Confessing its “gratification” with the election of a new governor, the Tennessean noted Hopper had been placed in the governor’s chair not because he was a Republican, but rather because the people of Tennessee in “their majesty, their strength and their judgment” had chosen a man they believed they could trust “to rule fairly, honestly and impartially over the public affairs.”

Patterson returned home to Memphis where he practiced law and pondered a comeback. By the end of the year, Patterson’s legal skills would come in handy as he left Tennessee for Seattle, Washington, where his son, Malcolm C. Patterson, was being held in the county jail. The twenty-three year-old Patterson had been charged with assault and intent to kill one R. T. Seal. According to news reports, Seal’s condition was serious, cautioning, “The injured man may recover.”

The former governor was allowed to leave Seattle with his son, but only after the younger Patterson had been adjudged to be insane. Patterson was to bring his son home and place him in the Tennessee State Asylum for the Insane. Worse still, were the newspaper reports following an assessment of Malcolm C. Patterson’s condition. The former governor’s son had shot and seriously wounded R. T. Seal while he “was suffering from alcoholic epilepsy, or ‘dipsomania induced by drinking continuously for five years.’” That was the official finding of the “lunacy commission” gathered to assess Malcolm C. Patterson’s mental health. The commission also determined Patterson represented a threat to the public at large. Former governor Patterson went through the humiliation of having to testify on behalf of his son. Patterson admitted his son had not done well in school, “resorted to low companionship”, as well

as “refusing to associate with persons of his family’s social standing.” The latter, according to the father, led the younger Patterson “into many unseemly escapades, one resulting in his being slashed across the face with a knife.” A Memphis police captain also testified he did not believe the Patterson son to be sane, citing the “frequent brawls” in which the former governor’s son engaged in within the Bluff City. Captain O’Haver told the commission Malcolm C. Patterson had once spent ten days locked up in the Memphis City jail.

The tragedy of Malcolm Patterson’s severely alcoholic son would deeply affect him personally, but it would also affect his politics as well. Patterson was not entirely shunned by Tennessee Democrats and the former governor retained a large following, most of whom admired him for his abilities or had been the recipient of favors while he was in office. The legislature would elect a new U. S. senator in 1912 and Patterson thought the time ripe for a comeback. Tennessee Democrats would be holding a special primary November 1, 1912 and Patterson officially announced his candidacy, issuing an open letter to the people of Tennessee. Patterson readily acknowledged he had twice served as governor of Tennessee “under peculiar difficulties”, as well as admitting “I may have made some mistakes” but “no man ever brought to bear upon his public duties a stronger and more devoted purpose to serve the people and advance their interests.”

Patterson reviewed his record as governor and laid out a platform for the future should he be elected to the Senate. Not surprisingly, there were those who thought Malcolm Patterson had not waited long enough to get back into politics. With Democrats anxious to oust Ben W. Hooper from the governor’s office, some thought the candidacy of Malcolm Patterson for the U. S. Senate was “the fly in the ointment” for Tennessee Democrats. The Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle referred to Patterson as “the stormy petrel of Democratic politics” in Tennessee, acknowledging the former governor as a highly polarizing figure. As “regular” Democrats met in Nashville for their state convention, Malcolm Patterson appeared to a “great ovation” and “was listened to with marked interest, and was applauded with wild enthusiasm.” Patterson seemed to have reclaimed his place as the leader of the regular Democrats,



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Oil painting of Governor Malcolm R. Patterson.

but it was soon readily apparent Tennessee’s Democratic Party was still deeply divided. Independent Democrats, largely those opposed to Malcolm Patterson, held their own convention and were obviously once again headed to a melded combine with the Republicans and Governor Ben W. Hooper. It was soon clear the Democratic Party in Tennessee was anything but united. The platform adopted by the Independent Democrats specifically addressed the former governor’s candidacy for the United States Senate: “We deplore the baneful re-entry of Malcolm R. Patterson in state politics...” The Independent Democrats decried “the mastery” Patterson had supposedly regained “over the organization now claiming to represent the so-called regular” Democrats of Tennessee. The Independent Democrats stated, “It behooves every citizen of Tennessee, and all who love the good name of the state, to stand against Malcolm R. Patterson and all that he represents. We are against him for the United States senate or any office in the state of Tennessee.” Furthermore, the Independent Democrats condemned “soap-box primaries” saying they favored “party nomination by primary elections duly guarded by law.”

Hooper was an able speaker and set out on the campaign trail and had considerable fun at the expense of his opponent, former governor Benton McMillin as well as Malcolm Patterson. “Two years ago the regular democrats of this state had what the people called the June-bug primary,” Hooper howled. “In that primary they nominated Benton McMillin for United States senator, and Malcolm R. Patterson for governor of the state. This year they had a primary the first of August, and nominated Benton McMillin for governor, and in November they are going to have another primary

and nominate Malcolm R. Patterson for United States senator.”

“Two years ago,” Hooper chortled, “they gave the people this prescription all in one dose in the June-bug primary, but in 1912 they are giving this prescription to the people in broken doses.”

Both of Malcolm Patterson’s opponents in the soapbox primary withdrew, causing the Tennessean to sneer it was obvious just who would receive the “barren honor” of winning the election. Clearly, the former governor, the “gamecock” of Tennessee politics did not see it as a barren honor and opened his drive for the nomination with a lengthy speech at Nashville’s Ryman Auditorium. Patterson spoke of his administration as governor and defiantly complained his pardon of Duncan B. Cooper would have been long forgotten had not his opponents in the press constantly kept it before the public. Patterson said he followed the dictates of his conscience and had no apologies to make. Boldly, Patterson declared he was in opposition to Tennessee’s temperance laws and called for their repeal.

Patterson was equally defiant in his speech at the opera house in Obion County, saying he would pardon Duncan Cooper once again under the same circumstances. The theme of that particular speech was Patterson’s belief every Democrat in Tennessee should stand by the results of the primary election. As the former governor campaigned, he was doubtless embarrassed as the press reported his son and namesake had escaped from the insane asylum in Bolivar, Tennessee. Evidently, the younger Patterson had left the asylum without anyone noticing. By the time they began searching for Patterson, he returned to the asylum on his own. Patterson explained he had received a telegram stating his wife was ill

and about to undergo a serious operation, so he had departed for Lebanon, Tennessee to check on her condition. Satisfied his wife would be all right, he had returned to the asylum. Officials at the facility sheepishly added Malcolm C. Patterson appeared to be harmless, “is very quiet, has very little to do with any of the other patients or to say to anybody, and since he has been at the asylum has given authorities, so they say, no trouble...”

Luke Lea, elected to the U. S. Senate in 1911, was using every means at his disposal to criticize the senatorial candidacy of Malcolm Patterson. As one might expect, Lea’s Tennessean newspaper was hostile to Patterson’s candidacy. While speaking in Columbia, Tennessee, Senator Lea castigated Patterson, or as his newspaper put it, “severely arraigned” the former governor. Still, Malcolm R. Patterson won the primary for the United States Senate. The legislature still elected U. S. senators and was not bound by the results of the primary. The November election also brought the reelection of Republican governor Ben W. Hooper, who defeated Benton McMillin. It was soon readily apparent that as the legislature convened to elect a United States senator for the last time in Tennessee’s history, a majority of its members would refuse to vote for Malcolm Patterson. The former governor soon realized he could not win inside the Tennessee General Assembly and before the New Year, contemplated a new career in journalism. Patterson also pondered moving to Nashville from Memphis. On January 10, 1913, Patterson officially withdrew as a candidate for the United States Senate, releasing those legislators who had promised to back him. The former governor likely made the gesture to save face, as he knew even many of the regular Democrats would not abide by the results of the

soapbox primary.

The fusionists once again came together to elect John Knight Shields, Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, to the U. S. Senate. It was the last time the legislature would elect a U. S. senator; in the future, the people would nominate candidates inside party primaries and elect a senator in the November general election.

Patterson’s disappointment was palpable, but he resumed his former pursuits, but his legacy still troubled Tennessee Democrats. In 1914, Ben W. Hooper sought a third two-year term and Volunteer State Democrats thought they had nominated a candidate that could finally reunite the party: Tom C. Rye. A small town district attorney from West Tennessee, Rye was heartily supported by Senator Luke Lea and his Tennessean. Rye won by a narrow, albeit decisive majority over Hooper in the fall and Democrats were elated.

Former governor Malcolm Patterson was too good an orator not to still be in demand. Patterson was frequently sought out as a speaker, even out of state, as evidenced by his speech in Bowling Green, Kentucky on Thanksgiving evening that year. Nor was Patterson done with seeking elective office in his native state. Like Patterson, Luke Lea was a highly polarizing figure in state politics. A beneficiary of the fusionist movement, the defeat of Ben W. Hooper for reelection as governor was the death knell of that same movement in Tennessee politics. Lea likely thought he had sidestepped that issue by supporting Tom C. Rye so avidly in the last gubernatorial campaign, but there were a host of Democrats in Tennessee who felt Luke Lea was as guilty as Malcolm Patterson for having torn apart the state party. Lea was not an especially effective senator and seemed never to be in the nation’s Capitol, much preferring to remain in Tennessee, trifling in other people’s races. Nor was Lea well-liked by his colleagues in Washington, D. C. Several of Tennessee’s congressional delegation were thinking of challenging him for the Democratic nomination. Cordell Hull, Thetus W. Sims, John Moon, and Kenneth McKellar all assessed their chances of defeating Luke Lea. So, too, did Malcolm Patterson think of running. Patterson and Lea were bitter personal enemies and the coming senatorial election offered Malcolm Patterson yet another chance at vindication and victory.

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Catching up with Bill Landry

Cont. from page 1

Harriman. He published several popular books including "Appalachian Tales & Heartland Adventures." In that first book Bill recounted the characters he met during production and included a photo of me, Roy Price and Jim Whidby, three old caving guys featured in different shows. I remember talking with him before the book was published and, having published one myself, giving him some guidance, although he needed very little. Bill's an extremely talented guy. Every now and then we'd bump into each other while out and about and it's always nice to spend some time with him.

As I have kept up with Bill he has done likewise.

"I've been keeping up with your stories pretty regularly, enjoying them too. But actually just wanted to write and thank you for your time and friendship over the years," Bill wrote last year shortly after I received the Historic Society's "History in Media" Award.

I recall going with Bill and his crew following the cancellation of Heartland with a proposal I helped set up with another local Knoxville TV station. I had lined up a potential sponsor and we were all prepared but ran into what it actually costs to do the production and get the sponsors necessary for a weekly show.

Bill was also gracious enough to help one of my sons in his Pellissippi State thirty-minute video production, acting as host. We met at Sequoyah Birthplace Museum and Bill worked from a script my son and I had prepared. He was reading the script when he got to a part I had penned. He looked up and asked, "Who wrote this crap?"

He was kind enough to re-write that part and go on with the unpaid part he played in the video production.

Bill has continued to make public appearances and has done one-man shows as Albert Einstein, as a riverboat pilot "Captain Nat" and other characters.

He continues to write and his other books include "Tellin' It for the Truth," "Buddy: Dog of the Smoky Mountains," and his latest, "When the West was Tennessee."

"When the West Was Tennessee" was Bill's topic as he spoke to the East Tennessee Historic Society last week. The book includes everything from the Cherokee to early pioneer days of our state, written from his research and his years and encounters during his TV series as only Bill Landry can tell them.

His latest book will be available at the East Tennessee History Museum. You can find the books online at Celtic



PHOTO BY ROY PRICE.

Lunch with Bill Landry and former TV news anchor Bob Gray is always special. Jellico historian Roy Price is part of the group and took this photo a few years ago.

Cat Publishing or even on Amazon and other book sites.

Although Bill says he's relocated to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to be near his son, don't be surprised to see him out and about

locally, either at a book signing, festival or just dining somewhere. He's never shy about signing an autograph, especially when that signing occurs inside one of his books.

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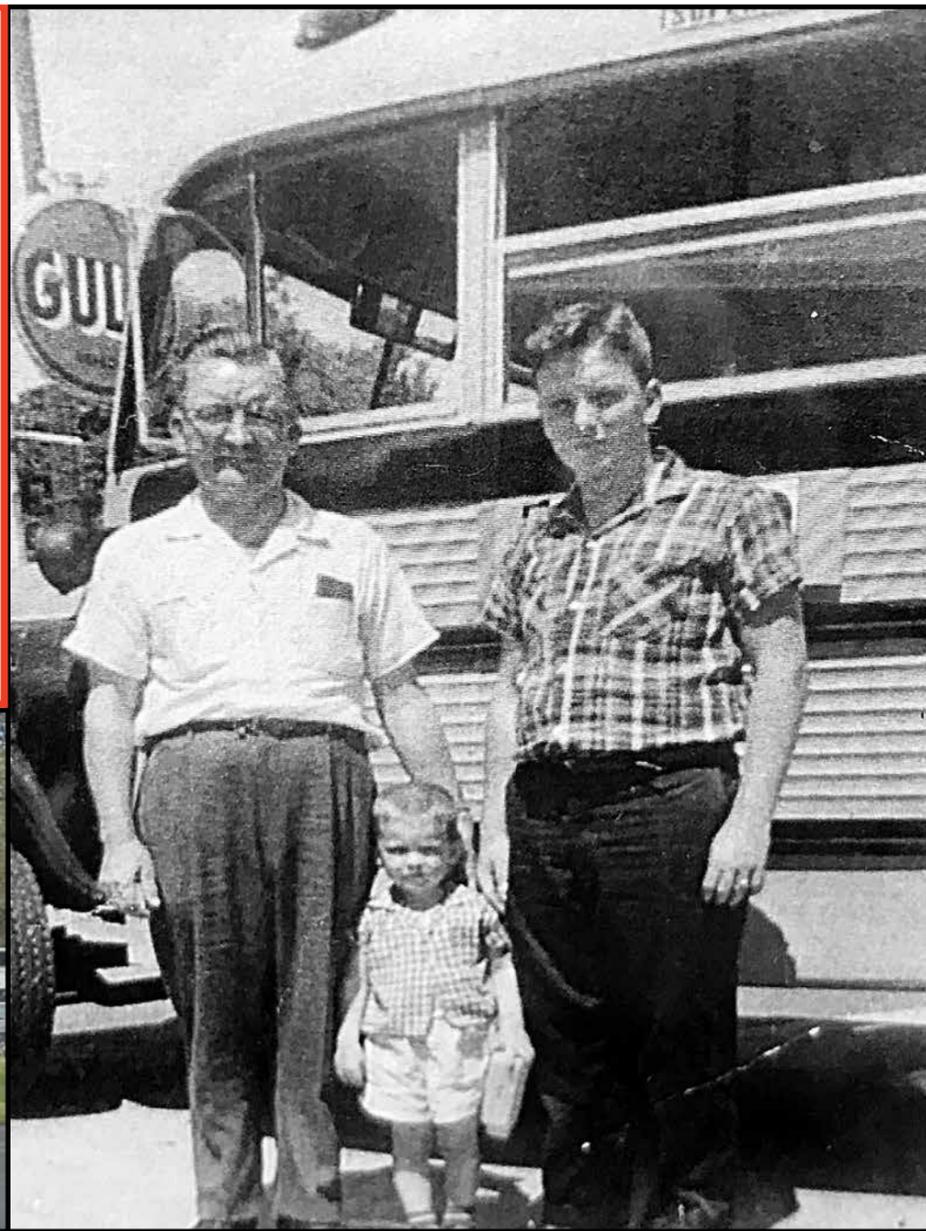
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PHOTO BY JOHN VALENTINE

Central Head Coach Bryson Rosser (right) and Terrell Rollins, defensive line coach, display their excitement along with senior Devone Moss as the Bobcats close in on the TSSAA Class 5A state title.

Fulton's Deshawn Page leads East All-Stars

By Alex Norman

It isn't very often that a defensive player on a team that gave up 40 points is the standout of the game. But that's what happened in the 12th annual Toyota East vs. West All-Star Classic in Clarksville. The game was played on Friday, December 7 at Austin Peay State University, with 88 of the best high school football players in the state taking part.

Fulton's DeShawn Page finished his prep career in style with five tackles, including two tackles for a loss. It was a showcase for the Mr. Football Award winner in Class 5A. "It was just great to have another chance to come back out here," said Page. "We lost in the second round of the playoffs to Knoxville Catholic so it felt good to have another chance."

The Falcon linebacker had a quarterback pressure that led to an interception. Page was in the opponent's backfield time and time again. He even stood next to referee Blake Parks and made the same arm movements when the West was called for a false start in the evening's most light-hearted moment. But that jocular-ity shouldn't be confused with someone not taking the exhibition contest seriously.

"I treat every game like it is a championship game," said Page. "Like it's my last game. I give it my all."

Playing in this all-star game was a unique opportunity for Page, who had 76 tackles (16 for loss), three interceptions and also added 654 rushing yards and seven touchdowns for the Falcons in 2018. "It gives me chances to go against a lot of athletes that have the same skill set as me," said Page. "It's good practice

Continued on page 2

Neither Henry, Lorraine nor Wendy could stop Central

By Steve Williams

Henry was enough to handle, but Central High's football team also had to deal with Lorraine and Wendy - Mother Nature's two daughters - to claim this year's TSSAA Class 5A state championship.

Lorraine drenched Tennessee Tech's Tucker Stadium and brought in so much lightning and thunder it postponed the title game that Dec. 2 night.

When the Bobcats returned to

Cookeville the following day for the makeup game, they were greeted with sunshine and blue skies. But Wendy also was there and her strong winds affected the game's play from start to finish.

The result was both teams' passing and kicking games struggled advancing the ball going into the wind, which was blowing in a southwest direction at a speed of 17 miles per hour at the start of the contest and got stronger.

In fact, all of the game's scoring took place at the southwest end of the field.

"The wind was pretty rough," said Central quarterback Dakota Fawver after the Bobcats' 14-9 victory over Henry County in the Blue Cross Bowl. "We couldn't really throw it too good going into that one end zone."

The day after the game, Bobcats Coach Bryson Rosser estimated the speed of the wind at "25 to 30 miles per hour" in a radio interview in Knoxville.

Statistics also reflected the windy conditions. Fawver completed only 6 of 12

Continued on page 4

Concord's Sherrill to play volleyball at ETSU

By Ken Lay

Concord Christian School senior Sidney Sherrill will continue her volleyball career at the collegiate level.

She made it official when she recently signed a National Letter of Intent to play at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City.

Sherrill, who led the Lady Lions to the 2018 Division II-A State Championship Match in Murfreesboro where they lost to Knox County and District II-A East Region District 1 rival Webb School of Knoxville, which has won five consecutive state titles, signed scholarship papers on Wednesday,

Nov. 14 at CCS.

The AAU Academic All-American, who has earned multiple all-district and all-region awards during her stellar high school career with the Lady Lions, said that she's looking forward to moving on and playing for the Lady Buccaneers.

"I have dreamed of playing at the collegiate level since I was little, so to have this opportunity at East Tennessee State University is a huge blessing," Sherrill said. "ETSU is a great school with an outstanding volleyball program with exceptional coaches and a winning tradition."

"I am beyond excited to be

a part of it next year."

Concord coach Carmen Hochevar said that Sherrill has left a lasting impact on the volleyball program at the school.

"Sidney Sherrill leaves a legacy of excellence and hard work at Concord," Hochevar said. "Sidney led Concord Christian to its fourth consecutive berth in the Division II-A Final Four, while reaching the finals this fall."

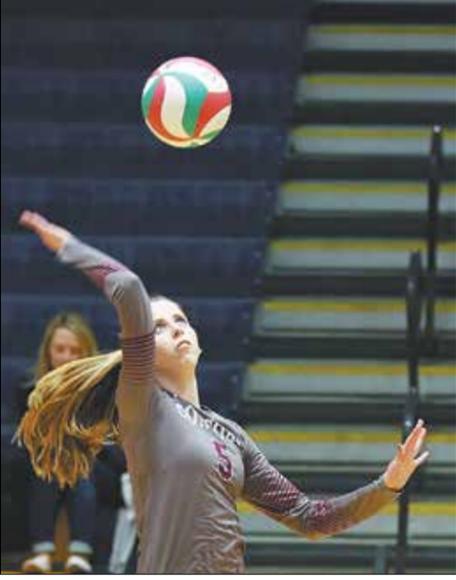
"She is a dynamic player and has received many accolades along the way including all-district and all-region many times over, and an AAU Academic All-American. ETSU has landed a fine young lady and

prospect."

Concord athletic director Bruce Johnson also had high praise for Sherrill.

"Sidney Sherrill exemplifies everything we stand for at CCS," Johnson said. "Her excellence extends far beyond the volleyball court into the classroom and the school."

"Sidney has a servant heart towards her teammates, her fellow students and her community. Sidney shows you can strive for competitive greatness as an individual while showing the love of Christ to others. We are very proud of her."



Sidney Sherrill



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FBA falls to 'tough' Spartans in Division II-A contest

By Steve Williams

First Baptist Academy's young basketball program is going through growing pains.

FBA, which is located in Powell, is in its second season in TSSAA Division II Class A and a member of the East Region's District 1, which also includes defending state champion Grace Christian Academy, CAK, Concord Christian, The King's Academy and Webb School.

The FBA boys team under first year head coach Kevin Tucker went up against the visiting Webb Spartans, last season's Division II Class A state runners-up, Tuesday night, Dec. 4, and lost 71-36.

Tariq Daughton (21 points) and Jaylon Green (10) were top scorers for Webb, which upped its record to 7-2.

The Spartans took a 23-11 lead in the first period and increased its

margin to 46-19 by halftime.

"This is definitely the toughest opponent we've played thus far this season," said FBA's Noah Harris, who was limited to eight points. "It's probably one of the worse games I've had too."

Teammate Jack Brown, who also plays on the perimeter, scored 10 points.

"They really focused on us," said Harris. "It was a lot tougher to score. They were good defenders and I didn't hit much either. It was a tough game, but I'll bounce back."

Despite the setback, Harris said he loves playing against better competition and it usually makes him play better.

"I think our program is getting to that point where we can compete against better competition," added Harris. "I want us to be one of those better programs

and I want to start a tradition here to be able to play with those teams."

Coach Tucker said playing Webb and teams of that caliber is a learning experience.

"It teaches us what's required in order to compete and win at this level," he said. "I am proud of the way FBA is learning and growing."

What is the timetable to be competitive with the best teams in the district?

"I would like to say no more than a year or two," said Tucker. "Time will tell."

WEBB GIRLS ROLL: Casey Collier scored all 16 of her points in the first period as the Lady Spartans won 74-27. Kai Lanier also tallied 16, while Catherine Hendershot added 13 and Sherlove Knowles 10. Madison Pepper led FBA with 10.

FBA's Harris reaches 1000-point plateau

By Steve Williams

First Baptist Academy basketball fans recognized a special achievement of a FBA player prior to the Eagles' home game in Powell Tuesday, Dec. 4.

Noah Harris, FBA junior, was honored for having reached the 1,000-point plateau in his prep career in a win over Concord Christian School on Friday, Nov. 30.

Reflecting on the milestone, Harris credited "all the people who have put a lot in my life and meant a lot, like the coaches I've had."

Harris also said it meant a lot to him to do it playing for First Baptist Academy.

"It's a special program I'm trying to help build to get to that next spot in our division," he said. But it meant a lot to me and everybody's pushing me ... I credit the people around me who got me to this point."

Harris, a 6-3, 200-pound "point forward," needed only a few points to reach 1,000 and a 3-point shot got him there on the special night. He ended up totaling 25 - two points above his career average - to raise his total to 1,018.

FBA Head Coach Kevin Tucker spoke highly of Harris and his contributions to the Eagles' young program.



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Noah Harris eyes the mark on a free throw attempt in First Baptist Academy's Dec. 4 game against visiting Webb School. Harris went over 1,000 points in his prep career in a win over Concord Christian School on Nov. 30.

"His energy is contagious and he's going to compete for the entirety of the game, no questions asked," said Tucker. "He's put a lot of work in and it's paid off for him."

Harris scored 221 points playing as an eighth grader on the high school level. He added 372 points as a freshman and 342 in his sophomore year. He had 83 points through this season's first six games.

Spartans used balanced attack to win two league games

By Ken Lay

Webb School of Knoxville boys basketball coach Ricky Norris couldn't have scripted a better start for the Division II-A East Region District 1 portion of this team's season.

The Spartans picked up a pair of district victories early last week. They routed Concord Christian 81-24 on Monday, Dec. 3 and topped First Baptist Academy 71-36 the following night.

Webb (7-2 overall, 2-0 in the district) beat the Lions at the Lee Athletic Center and defeated the Eagles in Powell Tuesday night.

The Spartans wasted little time jumping on the Lions (2-3, 0-2) last Monday

night. They opened a 22-3 in the first quarter and held Concord to just 11 points (including four field goals) over the first 16 minutes of the contest. Webb led 43-11 at halftime and that gave Norris a chance to see his team fine tune a few things.

"When you get up on a team like this early, it gives you a chance to work on some things," Norris said.

Webb got scoring from all over the floor against CCS. The Spartans had six players post double figures in the scoring column.

"I have five or six guys who can score every night," Norris said. "We were balanced tonight and balance

has been a strength of ours this season."

In most of its games out of the gate this season, the Spartans have had a different player step up and shoulder the bulk of the scoring load.

On this night, Uriah Powers led the way with 18 points (including 15 in the first half). Emory Lanier scored 13. Jaylon Green added 11 while Charlie Wyrick, Joseph Moore and David Sanger each finished with 10. Owen Feld scored seven and Tariq Daughton finished with four.

Sophomore Chase Johnson paced the Lions with eight points.



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Kevin Tucker, first-year First Baptist Academy head coach, goes over instructions with his players during a timeout in the Eagles' game against Webb Dec. 4. FBA is in its second basketball season playing in Division II Class A and is a member of one of the state's toughest districts.

Lady Spartans nab a pair of league wins

By Ken Lay

Webb School of Knoxville girls basketball coach Shelley Collier has seen her team play one of the toughest schedules in the state to open the season.

Thus, the defending Division II-A State Champions have struggled out of the gate but the Lady Spartans finally had some success early last week.

Webb (3-6 overall, 2-0 in Division II-A East Region District 1) picked up a pair of league wins. The Lady

Spartans downed Concord Christian School 66-13 in their home opener on Monday, Dec. 3 at the Lee Athletic Center. Webb followed that victory with a 74-27 win over First Baptist Academy Tuesday night in Powell.

"We've played a tough schedule so it was good to finally see our team have some success tonight," Collier said after the Lady Spartans routed the Lady Lions at home. "We were a little sloppy at times

tonight because we had a 50-minute warm-up, but we had to work through it.

"We've played a heck of a schedule and we have a young team. We have some freshmen out there who have to figure out what's going on."

Webb's early-season schedule has included the likes of Gatlinburg-Pittman, Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett, Science Hill, Hoover (AL), Stone Memorial and Wilson Central. The Lady Spartans beat only Wilson Central

during that opening stretch.

But things came together early last week as the Lady Spartans kicked up their defensive intensity.

"We need to focus on defense and our execution will come," Collier said. "It will come and you can only get better if you play. I'm just really happy for our girls."

"It was great to see our effort on defense and it was nice to see some of our younger kids step up tonight."

The longtime Lady Spartans coach certainly had plenty to be happy about after her squad overcame a few early mistakes.

Webb's defense was particularly stifling on this night as the Lady Spartans opened a 21-3 lead in the first quarter. Concord (2-3, 0-2) managed just nine points before halftime.

From there, things would only get worse for the Lady Lions, who were shut out in the third frame.

Webb, meanwhile,

boasted a balanced offensive attack. Bailey Musrock led the way with 14 points. Catherine Hendershot added 12. Brittney Collier had eight. Megan Gilbert scored seven while Casey Collier and Lily Hirsh finished with six points each.

Against First Baptist Academy, Casey Collier had 16 points. Hendershot had 13. Sheelove Knowles scored 10 and Brittney Collier finished with seven.

Local girls medal at elite high school wrestling meet

By Ken Lay

BRISTOL --- Several high school girls wrestlers posted some stellar results at the recent Border Duals Girls Tournament, hosted by Tennessee High School and contested at Viking Hall.

Farragut and Gibbs were the two area teams to participate and the Lady Admirals and Lady Eagles have two of the biggest and deepest teams in Knox County. Girls wrestling is the fastest growing high school sports in the Volunteer State and across the nation.

Farragut had seven medalists in the Northeast Tennessee meet on Saturday, Dec. 1.

Gibbs brought home six medals. In the 103-pound weight class,

finished third. She claimed the spot by pinning Science Hill's Ella Riner in 44 seconds.

In the 112-pound division, three local grapplers placed. Farragut's Chelsea Judy won the bracket when she posted a technical fall in the championship match. Gibbs claimed both third and fourth place. Illiana Karnes took third while Kayla Sullivan finished fourth.

At 119, Caitlyn Burriss (Gibbs) finished in the runner-up spot and Farragut's Katherine Vail finished in third place.

In the 125-pound division, Kaylee Hayes of the Lady Eagles finished third while Lady Admirals wrestler Hailey Stevenson took fourth place.

Gibbs had a pair of medalists in the 132-pound weight class as Sarah Ryan-Hall finished second and Laney Howard took third.

At 150, Gibbs' Layla Love-day won the title and Farragut's Sydney Viox was runner-up.

At 170, Farragut's Savannah "Sassy" Montross won the title and Gibbs High's Haley Rosser finished in fourth place.

In the 190-pound weight class, Victoria Dalton took fifth.

In the 215-pound weight class, three area athletes placed. Alex Tate of the Lady Eagles claimed a title. Lady Admiral Erika Aguilera was runner-up and Faith Brogge of the Lady Eagles finished third.

Fulton's Deshawn Page leads East All-Stars

Cont. from page 1

com, Anderson will sign for me. It was unbelievable. I loved it."

It was a big week for Page, who verbally committed to Marshall University, choosing the Thundering Herd over schools like Missouri and West Virginia, who also offered scholarships to the 6'2, 217-pound North Knoxville product.

"I thought it (Marshall) was a good fit for me," said Page. "They see me playing at the SAM (outside) linebacker spot, coming off the edge, guarding some, guarding the slot receiver, that's where they see me at."

Page's decision was boosted when his linebacking teammate at Fulton, J'Coryan Anderson, also chose Marshall last week. According to 5StarPreps.

during the early signing period later this month, and enroll in January. Page will sign in February, and still plans to make other college visits. One stop will likely be to Charlotte, where former Austin Peay head coach Will Healy is now in charge.

The All-Star Classic was dominated by the West, as they won the contest 40-7, but Page and some other Knox County players performed well for the East. Farragut's Jaden Gibbs, a UT-Martin commit, had two catches for 38 yards, including a 26-yard touchdown reception. South-Doyle's Tonquez Ball had 70 return yards on kick-offs and a spectacular 33-yard catch. The East was coached by Knoxville Central's Bryson Rosser.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS NOTEBOOK

Meadows picked new Carter coach from over 70 applicants

By Steve Williams

Scott Meadows is returning to coaching and will be taking the reins of his second Knox County high school football program in 2019 at Carter.

Jewel Brock, Carter athletic director, confirmed Meadows' selection as the Hornets' new head coach last week and said Matthews will officially be on campus Jan. 8.

"Carter High feels very fortunate to have Scott Meadows as our new

football coach," said Brock. "He has been highly successful everywhere he has been. Scott seems very excited to get back into high school coaching."

There were over 70 applicants for the post, which was held by interim head coach Vic Wharton this past season, and between eight and 10 were interviewed, added Brock.

Meadows announced his retirement from coaching in December of 2016, citing health concerns, after coaching at Pigeon Forge

four seasons.

His coaching career includes 28 years overall and 18 as a head coach at six high schools in East Tennessee, including four seasons at Knoxville Catholic from 2009 through 2012.

His overall record is 137-77 and includes a Class 2A state championship at Alcoa in 2000.

Meadows started his head coaching career at Sequoyah High in 1998. He also has been head coach at William Blount and Jefferson County.

ROAD TO FAME: Nomination ballots for the inaugural Halls High School Athletics - Road to Fame will be available Dec. 10 through Jan. 31 and can be picked up at the Halls High school office, Hallsdale /Powell utility office and Phil Nichols State Farm Insurance office. The ballots, after being correctly filled out, will be turned into Halls High School's main office.

The submitted nomination ballots will be collected and the Selection Committee will begin the process

of selecting the 12 athletes for the first class of inductees into the Road to Fame.

For questions and more information, please email Jerry Julian at pnjjulian@comcast.net.

COMPUTER SAYS: Murfreesboro Oakland, the Division I Class 6A state football champion, is rated No. 1 in the state in all classifications in Sonny Moore's final Computer Power Ratings for 2018.

Following Oakland in the Top 10 are No. 2 Brentwood Academy, No. 3

Greeneville, No. 4 Farragut, No. 5 Maryville, No. 6 Christ Presbyterian Academy, No. 7 Alcoa, No. 8 Mt. Juliet, No. 9 Montgomery Bell Academy and No. 10 Memphis University School.

Other local schools rated in the Top 25 are No. 11 Fulton, No. 13 Central, No. 15 Oak Ridge, No. 16 Bearden and No. 19 Knoxville Catholic.

MARSHALL MAN: Fulton High's Deshawn Page committed to sign a football scholarship with Marshall **Continued on page 4**

Rebels run past 'scrappy' Panthers 70-52

By Ken Lay

Over the past few seasons West High School boys Chris Kesler has watched his teams take some lumps while they've withstood growing pains. But early this year, the Rebels are undefeated.

West kept its perfect record intact with a 70-52 District 4-AAA victory over Lenoir City Tuesday night at home.

Despite the lopsided victory that helped his squad improve to 6-0 overall and 4-0 in the district, the long-time coach is still looking for improvement.

"That's a scrappy team over there," Kesler said of the Panthers. "We'd get ahead and they'd come back and make a run but we responded. They're well-coached and they'll get better as the season rolls on. Hopefully, we'll continue to get better too."

"We have to keep learning and keep improving, keep getting better because you know how this district is. The last couple of years, we've been getting up around here and we've had to learn some tough lessons."

The Rebels looked sloppy at times against the Panthers (2-3, 1-3) but when Lenoir City, which trailed 19-15 in the first quarter, made a surge, West would get hot and its up-tempo game really took its toll on LCHS.



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

West High's Jawaun Moore (15) and Cedarius Bost prepare to guard Lenoir City's Ben Halcomb in a District 4-AAA game won by the Rebels 70-52 Tuesday night.

The Rebels would expand their advantage to 34-28 by halftime. The Panthers would trim the deficit to 40-33 midway through the third stanza before the Rebels closed the frame on a 10-5 run.

West High never led by less than 10 points in the fourth quarter, thanks largely to some clutch free throw shooting down the stretch.

The Rebels converted 10 of their 12 free throw attempts over the final eight minutes and Kesler had to like that as his team

finished in the contest with a flourish.

"We just have to continue to do the things that we need to do to close out games," Kesler said.

Well, the Rebels did just that on Tuesday against the Panthers.

West had a balanced attack against Lenoir City.

Jawaun Moore led the way with 15 points. Allan Biven, Xavier Davis and Will Eggleston scored 13 points apiece. Michael Webb finished with six.

Clayton West led Lenoir City with 14 points. Colby

Kizer added 11 and Jose Rodriguez finished with 10.

Kesler matched wits with familiar foes at new place:

The game represented a homecoming of sorts for the new Lenoir City coaching staff.

Panthers head coach Brent Burns is a former assistant at Farragut High School. Former Admirals head coach Chris Cool is on staff there along with Jack Williams, another former Farragut assistant. The trio returned to Knox County for an early-season league tilt against the Rebels.

Unbeaten Vine looks to extend road winning streak in Farragut

By Ken Lay

When Vine Middle School's boys basketball team takes the floor today [Dec. 10] in Farragut, it will put a pair of streaks on the line. The Golden Bears will also be seeking a little revenge when they travel to play at the Bobby J. Henry Gymnasium.

Vine is the last undefeated team in the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference. The Golden Bears routed Hardin Valley 59-13 at home Thursday night at home to improve to 11-0.

That win, coupled with Bearden's 51-26 loss to Carter, gave Vine sole possession of the top spot in the KCMSBC standings.

The Golden Bears enter tonight's game against the Admirals riding an 18-game road winning streak. Farragut also upset Vine in the James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial

Middle School Basketball Tournament quarterfinals last season and fourth-year coach Jerel Heyward said that he and the three

returners from last year's squad have been eagerly anticipating tonight's rematch against Farragut, which tips off at approximately 5:30.

"We have three players back from last year and we've had this game circled," said Heyward, who guided the Golden Bears to the 2016-17 postseason tournament championship. "Things happen for a reason. We don't like that it happened, but we talked about it and it probably had to happen."

"We came in and worked hard in the offseason and we worked hard all summer. We knew that we were going to come in under the radar this year, so we didn't go to any of the [summer] team camps. We worked out pretty much by ourselves. We did things on our own."

It was slated to be a rebuilding year for Vine but that's nothing unusual for Knox County teams.

The conference is wide open every year and the

conference is annually dominated by eighth graders. But the Golden Bears weren't sure who was going to be on the team this year.

Rezoning has helped Vine this year. That rezoning was a product of two new middle schools (Gibbs and Hardin Valley) opening in August.

"What really helped us was the redrawing of the school zones," Heyward said. "We have some apartments across the street from Vine and those kids used to go to South-Doyle and they rezoned to address the fact that South-Doyle was overcrowded."

That just happened to spark more interest in the programs as prospective players more than quintupled.

"When I used to have try-outs, I would have 20 kids come out and this year, I had to have four or five try-outs because I had about 150 or 200 kids try out," Heyward said.

Sine Heyward arrived at

the school, defense has been Vine's calling card. This season, however, the Golden Bears have found offense and they've scored points in bunches. They're averaging in excess of 60 points per game.

"When you come to Vine, you're going to play defense, but this year, we're scoring the ball," Heyward said. "In most of our games, we've scored more than 60 points."

The three veterans on this year's team include: Markeis Barrett, Marcelus Jackson and Marsuan Bowers. Barrett, a team captain scored 15 points in a 66-30 victory over South-Doyle on Monday, Dec. 3. Marcus Allen, a JV call-up scored 11 points against the Cherokees. Chris Cherry and Quincey Pannell scored eight points each.

Another key player for the Golden Bears is eighth grader Messiah Ward, who is averaging 13 points per game this season.

Young Lady Rebels outlast Lenoir City in district tilt 44-38

By Ken Lay

When Caitlin Hollifield took over as West High School's girls basketball coach she knew that she had to change the culture in Marble City.

She also knew that if things were going to change for the Lady Rebels, they would have to improve on the little details of the game.

West High did just that on Tuesday night as they notched a 44-38 comeback victory over Lenoir City.

"We've talked and preached about doing the little things well since we got here," said Hollifield, a veteran coach in the midst of her first year at West High after stints at Powell and Christian Academy of Knoxville.

One of those little things is foul shooting. The Lady Rebels made eight of their free throws in over the final eight minutes and that was what propelled them to victory.

All of those foul shots were converted in the final 46.7 seconds as Kyra Buntyn, Iesha Abdurraqeab and Madi McCoy combined to make those clutch free throws. McCoy, a senior who has had a stellar career, scored her team's last six points of the contest. The final four came from the foul line after her field goal with 22 seconds remaining gave the Lady Rebels a 40-38 lead.

"Free throws are a little thing, But they're a little thing that can win you or lose you a game," Hollifield said. "We like to win games with them but you don't want to lose games because of them."

"We had some young kids on the floor late in the game tonight and a lot those young kids grew up tonight. Early, Madi got in foul trouble and our point guard [Buntyn] got in foul trouble and we could've folded. But we didn't. I'm really proud of these girls."

West led 10-9 after the first quarter but fell behind 16-14 by halftime with McCoy and Buntyn saddled with foul trouble.

The Rebels bounced back after halftime and opened a 27-23 lead by third quarter's end.

Lenoir City (2-5 overall, 0-4 in District 4-AAA) did take 36-34 lead when Emily Gonzalez made a pair of free throws with 1 minute, 20 seconds remaining in the contest. The Lady Panthers had a chance to seize control late but Madison Graves missed a pair of foul shots with just under a minute to play.

From there, the Lady Rebels would seal things despite making just one field goal in the final minute. That came from McCoy and gave West a 38-36 lead with 22 seconds remaining.

McCoy led the Lady Rebels with 14 points, including 12 after halftime. Buntyn added nine (all in the second half) and Nakaya Duvall finished with eight for West, which is off to its best start in years.

With the win, the Lady Rebels improved to 5-1 overall and 3-1 in the district.

Gonzalez led all scorers with 22 points.

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Neither Henry, Lorraine nor Wendy could stop Central

Continued from page 1

passes for 106 yards, far below his average. Patriots quarterback Will Parrish connected on 8 of 20 for only 72 yards. Surprisingly, there were no interceptions.

But Wendy did cause some odd plays. Once she blew the ball off the kicking tee. On one kickoff the ball kept bouncing down field while players chased and tried to recover it, but ended up bouncing into the end zone for a touchback.

Punters for both teams had rough days. Central's Carson Brengle averaged only 16.7 yards on three punts, with his longest netting 20 yards. Henry County's Caleb Ferguson managed to average 28.2 yards on five attempts. A 46-yarder that sailed over Demetrien Johnson's head when the wind died one time in the second quarter boosted his average.

To deal with the weather adversity, Rosser said he and his team just followed God's plan.

"God has a plan for everything that we do, good or bad, whether we trust it or don't

want to trust it," Rosser told reporters after the game. "It was His plan, His will for us not to play (Saturday) night and come into (Sunday), deal with the conditions and play against a really good Henry County team. I just couldn't be more proud of my guys."

Henry County trailed 14-3 entering the final quarter but would be going with the wind. The Patriots scored at the 10-minute mark to close within nine points. Deonte Middleton's stop on the Patriots' two-point try was big as it took away Henry County's possible option to tie the score with a field goal.

The Patriots still had the momentum though and the wind.

Central couldn't move the ball and its 15-yard punt gave Henry County possession at the Bobcats' 30-yard line.

Runs of three and six yards by Jaylon Foster made it third-and-one at the 21. Foster was given the ball again, but Kross Smith stopped him for no gain.

After a Henry County timeout at 5:31, Ethan Thompson was tackled for no gain

by Xavier Washington and Daunte Holliday.

Central again couldn't pick up a first down and its 20-yard punt into the wind was downed at the Bobcats' 44 with 2:26 remaining.

Parrish's 12-yard pass to Joseph Travis on fourth-and-seven kept the Patriots alive at the 29. An illegal substitution foul on Central at 1:24 moved the ball to the 24. Travis rushed for four yards to make it second-and-one at the 20.

Washington and Tyler Bost and the Bobcats' defense wouldn't let Henry County get any closer.

"Today it turned out warm and the sun was shining but the wind was blowing especially hard," said Henry County Coach James Counce Jr. after the game as he spoke with the The Post-Intelligencer. "That led us to make some choices that would give us the ball with the wind behind our backs in the fourth quarter. That worked to our advantage at the end of the game and we had a chance to pull out the win, but we couldn't make a big play here and



PHOTO BY JOHN VALENTINE

Central players celebrate in their TSSA Class 5A state championship game against Henry County. Starting with No. 26 Malik Robinson and going clockwise, the other Bobcats are Jason Merritts, Xavier Washington and Daunte Holliday.

there to get the job done."

No sir, the Bobcats' state title hopes weren't going to be blown away.

Meadows picked new Carter coach from over 70 applicants

Continued from page 1

University in Huntington, W. Va., last week.

The Thundering Herd is getting a good one. The 6-2, 215-pound Page stood out as an inside linebacker and running back for the Falcons and was selected the Tennessee Titans' Class 5A Mr. Football.

Page had 66 individual tackles and 10 assists in leading Fulton to a 10-2 record. He also recovered one fumble and blocked one kick. Offensively, he rushed for 654 yards and had 143 receiving yards and 899 all-purpose yards, plus scored 12 touchdowns.

SMOOTH SAILING: Farragut had compiled the top record among Knox County girls basketball teams on the local scene for games played through Dec. 6. In fact, Coach Jason Mayfield's Lady Admirals were 8-0 until being defeated 54-52 at Maryville on Dec. 4.

Farragut was scheduled to play at rival Bearden (7-1) Friday night.

Other top records on the local girls' scene belong to Seymour 6-1, West 5-1,

CAK 4-1, Powell 5-2 and Carter 3-2.

Halls won at Anderson County 52-51 on Dec. 4 for its third win in a row, which evened the Lady Red Devils' worksheet at 4-4.

FALL SIGNEES: Bearden had five student-athletes to sign, according to AD Donald Balcom. They were Bryson Morrell, UT-Martin, golf; Shakara Goodloe, Chipola College, softball; Jersey Patterson, Chattanooga State, softball; Allison Barclay, Assumption College, swimming and diving; Drew Pember, Tennessee, basketball.

At Seymour High, Noah Maples, a 6-5 pitcher, signed with Carson-Newman, reported AD Gary Householder.

PREPS OF THE PAST: Twenty years ago, Dec. 10, 1998 - Central's girls basketball team came from behind in the second half to turn back rival Halls 62-53. Hayley Smith led the Lady Bobcats with 17 points, while Bridget Stormont chipped in 14 and Ashley Johnson 13. Halls got 15 points from freshman Kristi Ferris.

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

The Lumps and Bumps of Life

Good storytelling is a practiced art, like writing. My wife's cousin, Sam, is an accomplished spinner of yarns, and I am a better writer now after penning a half million words. As I work on the second novel in my planned science fiction trilogy, I realized that I gravitate to plot development more than elaborate character descriptions as in a Charles Dickens' novel. Perhaps if I had received formal education in writing techniques I would have discovered this proclivity long ago. However, I offer no excuses for being self taught. I believe one learns to write by writing just as I believe you learn other things by doing. There is a saying in medicine, "Watch one, do one, then teach one." Some might find this disturbing, but this means you must observe the removal of an inflamed appendix before doing an appendectomy yourself (with supervision).

And only then will you become skilled enough to mentor others. Actually, this wisdom applies in most activities and professions. My wife Becky doesn't have a culinary degree, but is a great cook through practice. And I would not want an apprentice electrician wiring my house or a novice plumber connecting my pipes. Choosing a doctor or a surgeon can be tough and should be based on more than just availability, convenience or whether a doctor participates in your health plan. For simple things, perhaps a non physician at a walk-in clinic may be fine. But how do you know your misery is simple or the "provider" is competent? Actually, I chafe at the word provider, a term promoted by insurance companies and used by the government. To lump all doctors, nurse practitioners and physician assistants together and proffer

them as equal providers of healthcare is ludicrous. I once asked an attorney friend of mine if he would allow his paralegal to try a case in court. He looked at me as if I were nuts. And yet, in the new order of American medicine, "providers" render medical care. Recently, I had need of surgical consultation. I have a long-term relationship with my doctor and therefore trusted his judgment. Nonetheless, I challenged him to choose a surgeon who had considerable experience with the procedure I needed. And being in the business myself, I had more than a layman's knowledge of the surgeon's reputation and expertise. During my consultation, I was comforted to learn that my surgeon performs the procedure regularly and has data to support his good surgical outcomes. Furthermore, his bedside manner was excellent and his appearance and explanations attested to his professionalism. I did not need the five-star rating system from the Internet, where kudos are mixed with the disgruntled, and everything in between. But again, I'm in the business. So, what does a layman do? I recommend choosing your primary care physician before an urgent issue or an emergency arises. And if the chemistry is not there,

respect your instincts and choose another doctor to serve as your counselor and advocate. And if you need to see another type of practitioner, challenge your doctor to pick someone with experience and a good reputation among his/her colleagues. In the case of surgeons you can also ask how many operations they have done and their surgical success rate with a given procedure. Again, you should trust your judgment and seek further consultation if you feel uncomfortable. And take a friend or spouse with you to the consultation. I believe two sets of ears are especially helpful in stressful situations. Lastly, take some assurance in knowing that surgery is still done by comparatively trained MDs and DOs rather than "physician extenders." Lumps and bumps in life are common and sometimes just a consequence of getting older. Remember, most breast lumps are not cancer, but should always be investigated by a doctor's examination, mammography, ultrasound, needle biopsy or surgical removal. Similarly, thyroid nodules are common, and thyroid cancer is far less common. A prior history of head and neck radiation is a risk factor for thyroid cancer, but is not an issue for most people. The chief of my

internal medicine residency thought that infection was the cause of most illness. After more than 40 years of reflection, I think viruses and other infectious agents may influence disease, but I believe genetics influence everything including our responses to infectious agents. Even casual exposure to radiation in the nuclear industry is influenced by genetic predispositions. And there are rare heritable forms of thyroid cancer. One of the more common causes of lumps and bumps are lipomas or fatty deposits. These isolated lumps are different than the bulge which accumulates around your belt line in middle age! My elderly dog had a big one on his neck which we managed by removing his collar. Lipomas are soft and doughy, whereas cancerous tumors are hard like a rock. I'm not an advocate of self diagnosis, so if a new lump appears, have it evaluated by your doctor. Another common complaint is the bodily changes which occur in people on high doses of prednisone for a long time. Steroids are potent anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive agents used in a variety of diseases. Your own body produces a form of corticosteroid which is necessary to maintain blood pressure and other vital functions. When large doses

are used to suppress the immune system, steroids cause a redistribution of fat from your arms and legs to the trunk of your body. Women, especially, complain of these bodily changes and find little comfort in my assurance that the changes will eventually reverse when the steroids are stopped. Swollen lymph nodes can also produce bumps along the lymph drainage system. You can imagine the lymph system, placed alongside arteries and veins and part of the immune system, functioning as a gutter system for extruded fluids. Lymph nodes are small nodular areas like train stations on a rail line. These nodes are strategically placed, for instance, in the groin or armpit. Infectious agents and inflammatory or malignant cells are collected within the lymph drainage system and then trapped in the lymph nodes and can cause swelling and sometimes pain. Actually, swollen lymph nodes are serving a purpose by trapping harmful material and protecting the body. The Psalmist sang, "We are fearfully and wonderfully made." Yes, we are, but when changes occur, don't panic. Just seek guidance from a fellow traveler with expertise.

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

Out of slavery

Jesus came to set humanity free from sin and spiritual death. When Jesus was born on Christmas day in the town of Bethlehem, the Jews living in Palestine were oppressed people. Rome controlled them. They were slaves in their own country. The Jews cried out year after year for deliverance. Between the last Old Testament book of Malachi and the first New Testament book of Matthew, you find four hundred years of history where there was no prophet. No prophet during that time had uttered a word from God. The people wondered if and when God would speak to them again. Each year the people celebrated



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

Passover as they gathered as a nation to remember what God had done for them in the past. They longed for God to do what he had done in the past - deliver them. In the Passover, they would remember when their ancient ancestors were enslaved in Egypt. They were enslaved for four hundred years. Here we have another four-hundred-year period of God's inactivity or voice. But God showed up through Moses in powerful ways. We read of the burning bush, the ten plagues, the parting of the sea, the mana, and the battle of Jericho. During the Passover celebration, the dinner would

include reading from Exodus and Deuteronomy. Note these words from Deut. 18:17-18: The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him." This prophecy speaks of the coming of another prophet like Moses who will set them free. Moses and Jesus were both born at a time when a decree was issued that the babies were to be killed and threatened both of their lives. Both established covenants with the people. Both came to deliver their people after a quiet period of four hundred years. So, the Jews were looking for

someone like Moses. When John the Baptist showed up preaching, the people asked him: "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No" (John 1:21). If you look at the cross reference in your Bible for this verse, it points back to Deut. 18:18. John stated, "I am not the prophet you are looking for." Later, after Philip meets Jesus, he goes home to get his brother Nathaniel and he tells him: "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote-Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (John 1:45). The first recorded sermon of Jesus in Luke's gospel finds him in his hometown of Nazareth at the synagogue. He was given

the scroll of Isaiah, written seven hundred years beforehand. Jesus turns to Isaiah 61 and reads: "The Spirit of the LORD is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor" (Luke 4:18-19). Jesus then says he fulfilled that Scripture (Luke 4:20). Moses came to set people free who were in physical bondage. Jesus came to set people free who were in spiritual bondage. We have good news to share: "A Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). If sin has made you its slave, Jesus has come to set you free.

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Annual Christmas offering for Smoky Mountain Children's Home

The Smoky Mountain Children's Home invites churches, businesses, organizations and individuals to participate in its annual Christmas offering. The Home always provides gifts to the 110 children in foster care, as well as the 60 youth living on campus. Dr. Walt Mauldin, Executive Director, stated, "Our goal is to provide our children and youth the best Christmas they have ever experienced. So, funds must be raised above and beyond our budget. Many of our children do not have families who are able to give them anything. We step in and help share the joys of Christmas with them. It is hard to know what they would want, but one thing is for certain: they love receiving gift cards. Like any other young person, they love to go shopping!" For many of the

children and youth at The Home, the Christmas season is often filled with uncertainty. Approximately 72% of the children and youth in their care have been abused, abandoned or neglected by their families. It is impossible for them to return home and experience the normal happiness this season brings. Would you consider providing a special Christmas love offering for the children and youth of the Smoky Mountain Children's Home? Your generosity will bless these less fortunate children and youth and create the best Christmas ever for each of them. Please send your Christmas offering to: Smoky Mountain Children's Home, 449 McCann Circle, Sevierville TN 37862 or call 865-453-4644, Ext. 118 for more information.

Photo Program by Bill Lea 'Light IS the Driving Force'

The LeConte Photographic Society is proud to present "Light IS the Driving Force" by Bill Lea on Saturday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the King Family Library in Sevierville. Just about every subject imaginable has been photographed. The only thing that is going to make your subject stand out from others is the light in which you take it. Understanding the characteristics of light is critical. Most great light is associated with specific weather. Being able to predict that weather and its related light is key to capturing your photographic subjects in the best possible conditions. This program will teach you what you need to know. When it comes to producing great art - Light IS the Driving Force! Photographing the wonder of wildlife, wildflowers, landscapes, and a variety of other natural subjects from the Canadian Rockies to the Florida Everglades has long been a passion for Bill Lea. Capturing intimate images of wildlife and landscapes in "just the right light" has long been the trademark of Bill's photography. He

has been leading photo workshops since 1992. More than 7,000 of Bill's photos have been published. He has authored three coffee-table books and co-authored others. His most popular book "Cades Cove - Window to a Secret World" is in its fifth printing. "The Everglades - Where Wonders Only Whisper" is his most recent book. Bill may be best known for his portrayal of black bears and the Great Smoky Mountains. Photographing black bears for more than two decades has provided Bill with extraordinary opportunities to learn about bears. Bill lived among bears for two to three months per year for nearly a decade. He currently posts a bear photo and educational message five days a week on his Facebook Page: (www.facebook.com/BillLeaPhotography) This program is free and open to the public. Not a library sponsored event. To find out more about the LeConte Photographic Society photo club, please go to www.lecontephotosociety.com. The club meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the King Library.

By Howard Baker, RN BSN

A few years ago, Hobo the Wonder Dog and I were visiting a veterinarian office when a beautiful golden retriever ran up behind me with a bit of clatter. Before I knew it—as quick as a blink the dog weaved between my legs as he flew like a flash to deliver a lick from the bottom of my chin to the top of my head. Who was this pup so lively and quick so eager to lick? Rover was his name with a twinkle in his eye—a spring in his step as he ran about—a wag in his tail and jolly in his step this pup disappeared as quickly as he appeared.

You see Rover's story is one of a gift-wrapped puppy whose newness soon faded. For not long ago Rover was crated—except to tinkle. The wag of his tail was not for joy but for begging for attention. Even though the givers gift was well intended, Rover soon lamented the joy that had ended. The story of Rover the gift-wrapped puppy has a happy ending, but not before much regret. This is why Santa Claus never gives pets as gifts.

So what about a pet as the perfect gift—of course, there are exceptions to the rule: never give pets to impress. Pets (unless pet rocks) have feelings and high in maintenance, come with a lifetime commitment

Gifting Pets



Hobo the Wonder Dog. Your Guide to Travel, Health, and Fun. Please follow Hobo on Facebook @ Hobo the Wonder Dog or contact us at: howardsbaker@gmail.com

of feedings and veterinary visits. The pet as a gift should be weighed heavily not only the willingness of the receiver but their ability to provide a life for the gift. If you must give a pet as a gift—then follow Hobo's tips for gifting success.

- Never surprise someone with a pet as a gift. Be honest and frank in conversation with the receiver of a gifted pet. The receiver should be ready and willing to accept the commitment of time, money, and resources needed to care for an animal.
- Soul search—making sure you are giving the pet for the receiver and not yourself. When only a gifted pet will do, allow the recipient to pick the pet that's right for them. Dogs

and cats have a knack for picking you rather than you picking them.

- When gifting a pet to a child, make sure everyone is equally committed and excited about such a gift.

Giving a book related to caring for the animal to be gifted builds excitement and anticipation of the gift in a realistic way. Children do not always make the best pet parents; be prepared to support them and care for the animal if they falter on their commitment.

Shelters are full of broken dreams and unfulfilled promises—gifts of forgotten celebrations. Rover the gift-wrapped pup was fortunate to find a loving home in time for the holidays. Rover's quick lick and impromptu visit caused

Hobo to text photographs of him to his friends. As luck would have it—within a few minutes Rover had found a home. This story ends happily ever after, but so many others not so much.

Please support your local shelter or rescue by making a donation or volunteer your time. Sharing photographs of animals in a shelter on social media pages might make a huge difference in someone you know. Holidays spent with a dog or cat you love is rewarding for all. Consider your heart and the difference a rescue animal could make in your life this holiday season—it might be you who are rescued and blessed in the magic of the season.

Life is better with a dog—Woof!

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