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'A heartwarming experience'



Halls High cheerleader Abbey Hopkins paints the face of a youngster at the Fantasy of Trees.

Janice Cook named 2018 Simon Youth Foundation Administrator of the Year

By Anne Primm

School board Chairwoman Terry Hill called the December 12, 2018 Knox County Board of Education meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. sharp. All nine school board members were present as were Representative Roger Kane and City Councilman Randy Smith.

Hill began with a few announcements: The Policy Review Committee Meeting originally scheduled for December 19, 2018 will be re-scheduled to a January date due to scheduling difficulties this time of year. The Joint Education Committee will meet December 19, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Andrew Johnson Building boardroom. Knox County Schools will be closed from December 24, 2018 until January 4, 2019. Central office will be closed December 24-26, 2018.

At this time Hill turned the meeting over to the superintendent, Bob Thomas, for special recognition of one of Knox County's principals. Superintendent Thomas announced that Janice Cook has been chosen as the 2018 Simon Youth Foundation Administrator of the Year. Cook is the Executive Principal of the Dr. Paul L. Kelley Volunteer Academy at Lincoln Park. Cook was nominated by her peers for her vision of excellence, compassion as an educator, and her instructional expertise. When she became executive principal two years ago, Janice took immediate and creative action to improve and grow the alternative education program at the school. She implemented several new and different strategies to encourage students and ensure that they felt supported as they pursued graduation. Each student was assigned an adult advocate to help keep him or her on track until graduation day. Cook also initiated a policy for students to produce an exit portfolio as

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Halls cheerleaders, Bearden basketball players are among holiday helpers

By Steve Williams

Halls' cheerleaders and the Bearden boys' basketball team have been among local high school student-athletes helping during the holidays.

The Halls girls worked at the annual Fantasy of Trees, which benefits the East Tennessee Children's Hospital in Knoxville and also was scheduled to volunteer at The Angel Tree at West Town Mall this past Saturday, gift wrapping for donations.

"Volunteering at community service events during the Christmas season is a heartwarming experience," said Halls senior Harper Kirby. "Seeing children smile when you paint their faces at Fantasy of Trees or wrapping a gift for those in need at the Angel Tree brings a feeling of joy like no other."

Senior classmate Maddie Conner added: "It warms my heart to know we can put smiles on people's faces this time of year."

Halls Coach Cheri Duncan noted that community service activities are an integral part of the cheer program at Halls High.

"The girls put in hundreds of hours each year," she said. "I think it is very important for them to give back to the community that always supports our program and school."

The Bearden basketball team worked at the Weigel's Family Christmas Event on Dec. 1.

"The boys' program, including players and the coaching staff, has been doing this for many years and it is a great tradition and a great event!" stated Bearden Head Coach Jeremy Parrott.



Bearden basketball player Tyler Nordin with one of the youngsters at Target in Weigel's annual Family Christmas event. The Focus will look at more holiday helpers next week.

Magnolia Ave., Chilhowee Park, Riverwalk funding on city agenda

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When the city council meets Tuesday evening several continuing city projects may be discussed including the second part of the Magnolia Avenue Streetscape Project, extending the Riverwalk on the Southside, and hiring a consultant to look at the

future of Chilhowee Park's Exhibition Center.

The city administration is asking the council to hire Convention Sports and Leisure International to develop a plan for the future use of Chilhowee Park. The contract would be for \$200,000.

Phase II of the Magnolia Avenue project may get

\$2,877,276 if the council approves a contract with McKinnon Construction. The Office of Redevelopment is requesting the approval and also requesting \$ 437,053 be approved in an agreement with Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers for another part of the Phase II project. The extension of the

Riverwalk along the Tennessee River from Suttree Landing to Island Home may be approved in an agreement with the state transportation department using funds from the surface transportation block grant. Eighty percent of the \$460,000 project would see \$92,000 paid by the city. A signal upgrade

project is also on the agenda for the Chapman Highway/Henley Street intersection with Blount Avenue. The \$315,500 agreement is with Davis H. Eliot Construction Company.

A third amendment to the purchase sale agreement with developer Rick Dover for the purchase

and redevelopment of the former Knoxville Supreme Court building is on the agenda, allowing more time finalize site development before closing the agreement.

An agreement with UT's College of Social Work to support a coordinated effort for use by local

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MPC denies closure of Lecil Road

By Nick Skoda

The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) met at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13 in the Main Assembly Room at the City-County Building.

It was decided at the meeting that Lecil Road, situated between Asheville Highway and N. Ruggles Ferry Pike, would not be closed down.

The reason the applicant requested closure of the road was that they own both sides of the road and wanted to connect the properties. The staff recommendation was to deny the closure of the road based on the objections from city engineering and city fire department.

There was discussion from proponents for the closing of Lecil Road and opposition.

Attorney John King, representing the applicant requesting the closure, stated that the closing of the road would not have an overwhelming effect on traffic flow.

Opposition, including residents of the area, Deputy Fire Marshall Sonny Partin and

city engineering, all agreed that closing the road would in fact negatively affect traffic.

One of the opposition's main points was that Lecil Road is a thoroughfare for not only residents of area subdivisions but also for Sunnyview School traffic.

Partin added that in the case of an accident, Lecil Road is a "very good road" for the fire department, EMS, etc. to use.

"I want to address our concerns of what I have researched when this came up in that the first thing I did was get with the stations in the area and all the cabinets were opposed. They all said this was a road they would use," Partin said.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gayle Buston to deny the closure of Lecil Road, seconded by Commissioner Elizabeth Eason and the motion was passed.

There was also discussion of rezoning at this month's MPC meeting. Notably, the rezoning of an historic building in Old North Knoxville.

The location is the

southside of East Scott Avenue, south of Harvey Street. The zoning of the building was R-1A (Low Density Residential), H-1 (Historic Overlay).

The zoning requested by applicant Laurence Eaton was R-P1 (Planned Residential), H-1.

The building is currently office space which Eaton plans on turning into a ten-unit multi-dwelling.

The staff recommendation was to approve the rezoning from R-1A, H-1 to R-P1, H-1.

Opposition claimed that this proposed "aggressive" development "is not consistent with adjacent developments, with the historic density."

It is also believed by the opposition that utilizing the building as a high-density living space will burden its infrastructure.

Eaton summed up his efforts to reach out to the community and make sure that all the neighbors' voices were heard.

He also emphasized the preservation aspect of the development.

A neighbor who is a proponent said, "This is

the kind of development we should be encouraging. We should be fighting for these sorts of things. To increase density within urban neighborhoods and also reusing our historic building stock creatively."

Commissioner Janice Tocher commended Eaton's exhaustive research and community outreach efforts.

Commissioner Art Clancy III made the motion to approve the rezoning, which was seconded by Commissioner Eason and it will go on to City Council next month.

Consideration of an amendment to the Knox County Zoning Ordinance addressing the minimum lot area for hotels and motels was also approved at the MPC meeting.

Consideration of a comprehensive update of the City of Knoxville Zoning Ordinance was postponed 30 days.

The next MPC meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. on January 10 in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building.

You can learn more at www.knoxmpc.org.

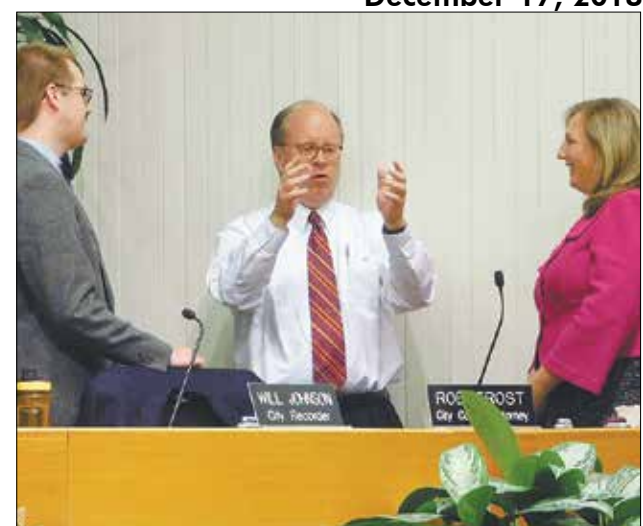


PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

City Recorder Will Johnson, Council Attorney Rob Frost, and Councilwoman Lauren Rider have a conversation during a recent city council meeting.

Magnolia, Chilhowee, Riverwalk funding on city agenda

Cont. from page 1

service, shelter and housing programs as a resource for homeless individuals and families is being requested by the Community Development Department.

The council is also being asked to continue a contract with Fred D. (Tony) Thompson, Jr. for an annual \$60,000 lobbying effort in Nashville.

An agreement with Keep Knoxville Beautiful, Inc., for litter abatement, graffiti abatement, recycling education and volunteer coordination plus an adopt-a-road program will

be presented in a \$40,000 annual proposal.

The police department is asking the council to amend the city code to authorize a spay/neuter and release program for community cats.

Mayor Madeline Rogero is appointing several people to various boards including Katherine Sanford Goodner to the Better Business Board, re-appointing John Craig and adding Tolly Harris and Patrick Wolf to the Industrial Development Board, and naming the same two as members of the Downtown Cinema, Inc.

Plaintiff or Petitioner, Defendant or Respondent?

Two legal terms that you hear often are Plaintiff and Defendant. The Plaintiff and the Defendant are the parties involved in a lawsuit. The Plaintiff is the one bringing the lawsuit and the Defendant is the one being sued and is defending the lawsuit. The Defendant has the ability to file a counter-complaint against the Plaintiff. If that happens, the Plaintiff becomes the Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant and the Defendant becomes the Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff.

The parties can also sue other parties. If there are multiple Defendants and they sue each other, they can become Defendants/Cross-Plaintiffs and Defendants/Cross-Defendants. The Defendants can also sue other individuals and those new people become Third-Party Defendants. As litigation continues, the designations of the parties can adapt and can take on bizarre changes with multiple designations.



By Jeddiah McKeenan
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Two other legal terms you may have heard are Petitioner and Respondent. Is there any difference between Plaintiff and Petitioner and Defendant and Respondent? No, not really. Normally you will hear Petitioner and Respondent used more in juvenile court and custody cases, but the terms are essentially interchangeable. The Respondent can file a Counter-Petition and the parties can become the Respondent/Counter-Petitioner and the Petitioner/Counter-Respondent, similar to if they were initially called the Plaintiff and the Defendant.

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

Janice Cook named 2018 Simon Youth Foundation Administrator of the Year

Cont. from page 1

a keystone of their educational achievements.

Next, Hannah Selph, student representative on the school board from Hardin Valley Academy, introduced her fellow representatives from each of the Knoxville high schools. Many were unable to attend the meeting due to other obligations, but all were recognized, nonetheless. Representatives are: Essence Johnson from Austin-East, Hayden Harb from Bearden, Jamar Smith from Career Magnet Academy, Linsey Eros from Carter, Tegan Cross from Central, Amy Anderson from Farragut, Desha Palmer from Fulton, Harper Kirby from Halls, Rachel McFarland from Gibbs, Olivia Slater from Hardin Valley Academy, Breton Stanley from Karns, Brice Lane from L&M Academy Sara Sexton from Powell, Samuel Harris from South-Doyle High School, and Brandon Wolfe from West.

The school board passed Items and Contracts with no discussion and moved on to Board Policies. Item 8H: Uniform Grading Policy hit

a snag when a speaker in Public Forum pointed out a problem with the grading policy as it is being implemented at this point. Daniel Labrador, a senior at Bearden High School, pointed out that Knox County Schools does not add the five extra percentage points for taking an AP course onto a grade until after the student has taken the AP exam in May of the student's senior year even though the course itself has been completed in December of the previous year. When the student is applying to college in January before graduation, his/her grades do not reflect the extra points in the grade point average for taking AP courses that were completed the previous semester. Because the Tennessee School Board has left this matter up to individual school districts, other counties in Tennessee do add the extra points to the grade point average giving those students an advantage over Knox County students. Even though an amended transcript is sent to colleges after graduation, college acceptance occurs in March or April.

Labrador proposed that the points be awarded at the conclusion of the seventh semester and if the student fails to take the AP exam in May, then the points will be rescinded. Mr. Labrador respectfully acknowledged that having the five points on the grade point average can make the difference between getting in and not getting in to competitive colleges.

Jon Rysewyk, assistant superintendent of Knox County Schools said that they had thought about that issue but that taking points away from a student's grade point average would be a paperwork nightmare.

Board member Evetty Satterfield interjected that scholarships also depend on grade point averages at the end of the seventh semester. Patti Bounds is troubled that each county in Tennessee can do whatever they want when it comes to adding the points for AP courses and wants the school board to impress upon the Tennessee School Board the importance of a uniform policy.

Vice Chairwoman Susan Horn made a substitute motion to allow

the extra percentage points to be added for AP courses at the end of the seventh semester and rescinded if the student fails to take the AP exam. This motion was seconded by Jennifer Owen. Seven voted yes and two voted no. The substitute motion carried.

The last issue taken up by the school board last week was to approve a resolution in opposition to school vouchers sponsored by board member Owen. Representatives Mike McMillan and Tony Norman were reluctant to go on record against vouchers at this point and prefer to wait and review Governor Lee's proposal when it comes out. The other seven members of the school board were in favor of the resolution. Seven voted yes and two voted no once again.

Kerwin Fritz, PTA president, spoke in public forum about Green Magnet School. Fritz related that good things are happening there including after-school teacher training and enlistment of three new sponsors.



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2018 A Very Political Year

Part One of Three

By Mike Steely
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The year began with a cold spell that drove the homeless from beneath the Broadway Bridge and into KARM and other shelters. The night camp beneath the bridge became a growing problem for the city and Knoxville would deal with that later in the year.

The county residents begin to learn who would be running for office and there were surprising results. Voters would eventually decide not only the primary results but the general election winners as well.

January

Roger Kane announced he would not seek re-election to the state house and instead would run for Register of Deeds against Sherry Witt. That left a voice in north Knox County and Commissioner Dave Wright announced he would seek the House District 19 seat.

The city moved to help the Sequoyah Hills Kingston Pike Association in restoring the Sunhouse Fountain in Talahi Park.

Freezing weather drove homeless people to seek shelter, many with the Knoxville Area Rescue Mission.

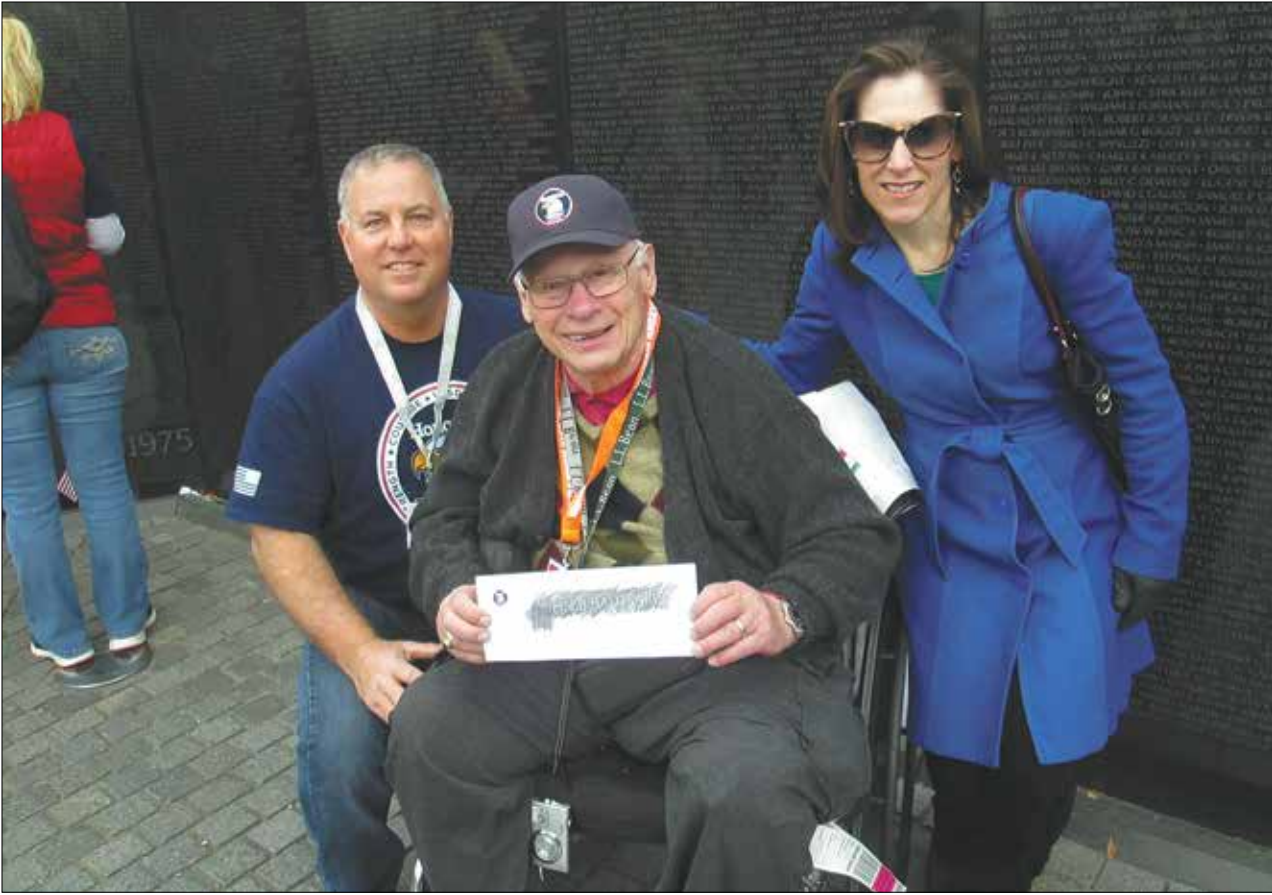
Candidates for Knox County mayor spoke to the Karns Community Club including Glenn Jacobs, Brad Anders and Bob Thomas. Founder Stan Brock announced 2018's Rural Area Medical schedule but, unfortunately, did not live to see the year's effort completed.

Former interim Sheriff Tom Spangler announced his candidacy for Knox County Sheriff against Chief Deputy Lee Tramel and opened his campaign headquarters on Western Avenue. The Focus began a preview of all the upcoming elections including then-mayor Tim Burchett who faced Loudon businessman Jimmy Matlock and a bevy of independent and party candidates.

February 15th was the deadline for all candidates to qualify and a surprising number of Democrats ended up facing the incumbent Republicans in local, state and congressional races.

Police Chief David Rausch discussed his department's community outreach. Rausch would, later in the year, accept a nomination to direct the ITBI and was replaced with Knoxville's first female Police Chief, Eve Thomas.

Lonsdale honored their fallen hero, Zae-vion Dobson, during that



Judge Charles D. Susano, pictured with HonorAir volunteers, displays a name rubbing captured from the Vietnam Memorial Wall during the 2018 HonorAir visit to Washington, D.C.



Left, Tom Spangler greets voters at a campaign event last spring. He went on to win the race for Knox County Sheriff. Right, Norwood Homeowners President Lynn Redmon speaks to Norwood residents about a zoning request in 2017. Redmon, a champion of the Norwood neighborhood, passed away this March.



neighborhood's second annual Zae Day.

February

The Metropolitan Planning Commission began discussing a revamp of all of Knoxville's planning regulations and the city began plans to create an overlook at Lakeshore Park.

Charlie Susano III kicked off his campaign for the Republican nomination for Circuit Court Clerk and Amber Rountree began her campaign for re-election to the school board. Former Farragut Middle School teacher Ronald Joe McKinney passed away.

A new data center to track and assist the homeless was unveiled during a meeting of the East Knoxville Community in the Burlington Library. The Parkridge Community Organization reorganized and elected new officers.

The Knox County Board of Education voted not to take part in the Leadership Academy and to establish its own leadership training.

The Convention and Exhibition Center was renamed as the World's Fair Exhibition Center and the facility was reopened in April after



March's ribbon cutting at the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center saw dozens of public officials, citizens and health care professionals help cut the ribbon on the new facility.

renovation. Gresham Middle School celebrated its basketball program and the former Dempster Building received a \$200,000 grant from the city for preservation.

March

The Knox County Commission voted 10-1 to require any planning commission changes in zoning codes to be approved by the commission by requesting the change from the state legislature. The commissioners were upset about the MPC's plan to require sidewalks at most future subdivisions.

Rumors flew around the

county on where the school administration offices would relocate after leaving the Andrew Johnson Building. That speculation continued through the rest of the year with talk involving TVA Towers or the Knoxville Center Mall as possible locations.

The Knox County Commission began discussing how to change the rules to permit Pugh CPA to continue as the county's outside auditor.

Stevens Mortuary celebrated 60 years of service. Bernice Stevens, president of the mortuary, passed away in August.

The Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center just off Western Avenue opened with a ribbon cutting thanks to a large community effort, support from both the county and city, and some state funding. The center opened with 16 beds to care for mentally ill people detained by the city and county law enforcement and deemed not suited for jail.

Law Director Richard (Bud) Armstrong discovered that the Knox County Pension Board has been using unpaid leave in its calculation of retirement benefits. He brought the discrepancy to the attention of the Pension Board who Armstrong said had been ignoring the County Charter. Armstrong eventually filed a suit against the board and seven retiring

deputies. The matter went before Chancellor John Weaver who eventually ruled that the law director's clients are the county mayor and county commission. Weaver told Armstrong to withdraw from the case. The matter stands unresolved through the end of this year with a decision possibly in January or February.

The county commission, prior to the November election, voted down any payment to the deputies from county funds in a 5-5 vote. The new commission would later vote to support the mayor in his approval of a "settlement" of the suit although payment has yet to be determined.

The city council discussed a review of its internal auditor, whose duties have greatly increased over recent years. Auditor Andrea Addis said she wants to continue adding to the staff and detailed what had been achieved and what audits are planned. The city council also voted to permit dancing in any business with a beer permit and discussed the Magnolia Avenue Streetscape Project.

Norwood's Lynn Redmon passed away. The leader of the neighborhood and well-respected political consultant will be dearly missed.

April

Developer of the former Supreme Court Building, Rick Dover, obtained permission to use the South High School parking lot while parking at the old court building is finalized. The deadline for negotiating the final agreement for the building was extended.

Kirk Anderson was honored as Good Neighbor of the Year by the city's Office of Neighborhoods at the annual conference and networking luncheon. Retiring Office of Neighborhood's Director, David Massey, was also honored

and Debbie Sharp named to replace him.

WBIR's John Becker hosted a debate between candidates for Knox County Mayor. The public event featured Glenn Jacobs, Brad Anders, Bob Thomas, Rhonda Gallman and Linda Haney. Early voting in the county primary began.

South Knox County's Governor John Sevier Highway began seeing public hearings on the stretch of highway, part of which is shared by the city and the county.

Ethics complaints were filed against Brad Anders and Lee Tramel. Anders was claimed to have taken part in a golf tournament as a guest of Rural/Metro Ambulance and Tramel was claimed to have campaigned in uniform and used county property in his television ads. Both complaints were eventually dismissed.

Similar ethics complaints, against Bob Thomas and Charles Busler, were dismissed by the Knox County Ethics Committee. The committee found that in all the cases politics were involved and voted to not receive or consider ethics complaints prior to an election.

Knox County Schools faced a \$3.5 million shortfall in funds and began looking to cut back the magnet schools and Project GRAD. Overspending and employee health insurance were cited as the reason.

HonorAir took its 26th flight, taking 132 veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the various monuments. Knoxville Focus Reporter Pete Gawda published a book about politics and life in a small Florida town where he had been a reporter.

Residents along Twin Creek Road pleaded with the Knox County Commission to keep their road open. A compromise was reached later in the year for the county to clean up the roadside dump there and Harris Chapel Baptist Church to keep it clean with a promise the road would be opened after the clean-up.

The people living in Summit Hill Towers were frustrated that trolley service was cut back there but the city council authorized funds to build a new transit stop there with a sidewalk leading from their apartments suitable for handicapped people.

The E-911 Board extended the contract of Director Alan Bull and voted to raise employee pay.

Commissioner Bob Thomas hit the campaign trail for Knox County Mayor but was to lose the Republican Primary to Glenn Jacobs. Election Director Cliff Rodgers said he expected a heavy turnout for the primary election and wasn't disappointed. The commission voted to fund moving the West Knoxville voting site down a few doors within the Downtown West Shopping Center and agreed to rent the space permanently where Rodgers said he can store equipment between elections.

The historic Howard House on Broadway was opened for a tour. The home was saved from demolition the previous year when Walmart wanted the property and the church next door for a new store.



Last January's multi-day streak of below freezing weather played havoc with the homeless in Knoxville and strained the resources of the Knoxville Area Rescue Mission. The Broadway KARM center reported about 360 people sought overnight shelter there one Wednesday.

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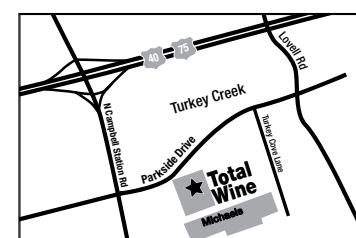


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Getting to know Knoxville 'Paperboy' Jim Sturgeon



PHOTO BY ROSE KING.

Knoxville Focus "paperboy" Jim Sturgeon talks with Focus Reporter Mike Steely as they both recollect being paperboys. Sturgeon continues that tradition each week by taking The Focus to his neighbors. Sturgeon says he's given up driving and is now chauffeured around by his beloved wife.

"I've been a paperboy all my life," says Jim Sturgeon. The very active long-time friend of The Knoxville Focus will be 89 years old on December 29. Focus reporter Mike Steely sat down with Sturgeon recently for a chat and found the man in good spirits and full of memories.

Tell us about your career in newspapers.
 "I was in distribution for 35 years at the Knoxville News-Sentinel. I took over five routes and filled in for districts," he said. "I'd tell the boys you've got to do it right!"

Seems Sturgeon couldn't get newspapers out of his blood as seven years ago he began coming by The Focus office, picking up 50 or 60 papers and taking them to Knoxville Center Mall.

"I'd walk the halls with newspapers and people would come up to me and ask for a paper," he said, explaining that when J.C. Penney's stopped having a Focus rack he took up the slack. He'd also take The Knoxville Focus into stores there.

As so many stores inside the mall have closed, Sturgeon has developed a new route: to his neighbors around Oak Crest Road.

Can you tell us a bit about your background?

I was born in Toledo, Ohio, and came with my family when my father moved us back to Knoxville. My father died when he was only 44 years old. I started delivering newspaper at 14 or 15 and never missed a day. There was nothing else for a kid to do back then. I went to Knoxville High School and the old soldiers there took us upstairs and we learned to fire a pistol. I've lived in Knoxville since I was a baby.

I went into the Army for three years and came out with two stripes.

I'm proud of my work at the News-Sentinel and was

there for 35 years. I'm a good old-fashioned boy and never give anyone a hard time.

How is your family life going?
 My wife, Jeanie, and I have been married 67 years and she hasn't shot me yet. Our kids are grown and moved on but I have a sister who lives in Knoxville.

What do you do in your spare time?
 It's according to the weather. We go to the Black Oak Heights Baptist Church. She turned me into a Baptist from a Methodist.

What's your favorite meal?
 I'm a diabetic so it's whatever my wife tells me. I've been a diabetic for 25 years. I've said I'm past 80 and I should have a little ice cream or cake now and then. (Jeanie said his favorite is chicken.)

Sturgeon said he misses the days when he took papers to the mall and he would enjoy coffee with his buddies and read and discuss what was in The Knoxville Focus that week.

How would you like to be remembered?
 As a paperboy, all my life.
 I'll be back at The Focus next Monday to get papers if I'm not sick bad or dead.

Note from Mike Steely: Jim, from all of us who were paperboys in our youth, thank you for your memories and thank you for continuing to serve newspaper readers. The entire staff of The Knoxville Focus wish you and Jeanie a very Merry Christmas and, on December 29, a very happy and healthy 89th Birthday.

Additional driver services now available at West Knoxville, Strawberry Plains

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security Driver Services Division announces additional services offered at the West Knoxville driver services center located at 430 Montbrook Lane, Knoxville, TN 37919 and the Strawberry Plains driver services center located at 7320 Region Lane, Knoxville TN 37914.

Both locations now offer full-services, including knowledge and skills testing and license reinstatements. Knox County will now have two full-service driver services centers that will offer services that will decrease customer congestion and wait times for scheduling skills tests as well as taking a knowledge test. This also gives the opportunity for customers to have centers that offer full-services closer in proximity to the areas where they reside.

The full service centers are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Customers will be able to schedule skills test appointments on-line for both locations. For more information, please visit www.tn.gov/safety/driver-services/online.html.

KAT to begin offering real-time bus location info for passengers

Passengers waiting at Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) bus and trolley stops might see a new bit of information on their bus stop sign, indicating a texting feature for next bus information. KAT is currently going through the process of placing stickers on all 1300 bus stops in the system, as well as new trolley flags at trolley stops downtown, all containing instructions on how to find out when the next vehicle will arrive, based on the bus or trolley's current location.

"We are very excited to begin rolling out this option for our passengers to get real time information on their bus's location," says Melissa Roberson, Interim Director of Transit for the City of Knoxville. Each bus or trolley stop will have a unique number associated with it. By texting the word "KAT" and that unique number to the number specified on the sign, the user will immediately receive a text with the estimated arrival times for all buses going by that stop within the next hour. The information is based on the stop number, not the location of the phone being used. This means that someone can find out from the comfort of the home or office when the next bus is due at his or her favorite stop. All stickers should be on all stops by the end of December.

This text feature is the first phase of KAT's real time passenger information project. The second will feature a smart phone app that will allow passengers to track their bus on a map or locate the nearest bus stops, along with other features. KAT hopes to release the real time app in early 2019. "Being able to know where your bus is in real time can be a game changer for transit use. By removing that uncertainty, people are more comfortable and can be more efficient with their time," says Roberson. "We encourage everyone."

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In Training

I'm sitting on the couch and watching the rain fall. The weather is too cold and raw to travel outside for some kind of activity like mowing the leaves for the eighth time or taking the dogs to the park.



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

tall, and it sat in the refrigerator so that the cake could soak up the icing and make the entire cake a heavenly delight.

The real eating began Christmas morning. When we were kids, Mother made pancakes and bacon for breakfast. We left the table in a semi-diabetic coma caused by rivers of syrup on stacks of carbohydrates.

When all family members arrived that afternoon, dinner was spread across an extended table, on kitchen counters, and even on a table on the screened porch. All filled their plates with mounds of food that included turkey, ham, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, and rolls. Not a tinge of green was visible on most plates; people swore that vegetables only took up room that was better used for heavy food.

Everyone finished and searched for a comfortable chair or couch where they could moan until sleep overtook them. In no more than half an hour, the kitchen was again alive with people looking for dessert. After that, the crowd thinned and left a mountain of dishes to wash and tons of leftovers that we attacked before going to bed Christmas night.

I don't eat as much as during my youth, but I can still put large portions away. With a month of training on all sorts of snacks and extras, I'm ready to attack that big meal, loosen my belt, and have a holiday nap.

May your Christmas be filled with plenty of food, family, and fellowship. I'll see you at the YMCA with the arrival of the new year.



Picture of Ralphine and Wayne Major at the 2018 Grainger County Tomato Festival, courtesy of Ed Bradley

Merry Christmas!!

By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:8-11 (KJV).

The story of Christmas. How simple its beginning; how incredible its message. The baby, born of a virgin, in a manger, in Bethlehem. The beautiful words of "Silent Night" remind us of the miracle that took place on that first Christmas when Jesus was born. The gift of God's Son to all who believe is the greatest gift anyone can receive--the gift of eternal life. It is truly amazing! The baby who grew to be a man died a cruel death on the cross. But, He defeated death and rose again to become the Saviour of the world. Because of him, mankind can have life everlasting. Of all the gifts that will be opened this

Christmas, the greatest gift is Jesus! From the authors of Piddle Diddle, the Widdle Penguin series, we wish for you and yours a blessed Christmas and a season filled with peace, love, and joy.

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Visiting the old Tellico Blockhouse

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

You probably know about the mass Cherokee removal known as the "Trail of Tears" but I'll bet you have no idea of the many treaties drawn up with that tribe that moved them out of East Tennessee. Those treaties led eventually to



You can walk where soldiers and Cherokee walked at the Tellico Blockhouse, a historic pre-removal trading post near Vonore, Tennessee.

the U. S. Military setting up removal camps and forts and then rounding up those Native Americans and forcing them to move to Arkansas and other more western states.

East Tennessee is dotted with forts established by treaties where the U. S. and Tennessee agents oversaw the Cherokee villages. Basically that started with the establishment of Southwest Fort in Kingston and eventually to an agency in Charleston, Tennessee. In between there were other forts that followed the Cherokee as they moved further and further southwest because of

treaties. There were agency forts at Hiwassee Garrison near Dayton and at Agency Creek south of Decatur. While Southwest Fort and the earlier founded Fort Loudoun have been basically rebuilt, only one fort has its original footprint and you can drive to it and walk the same grounds as the soldiers and Native Americans did. Tellico Blockhouse is just an hour south of Knoxville near Vonore, Tn. You can literally drive right down to the fort by taking Highway 411 just east of the Vonore Lake bridge and taking Clearview Drive south to

Blockhouse Road. The blockhouse park is administered by the staff of Fort Loudoun and located across the lake from that much-earlier frontier fort.

Far before Vonore was even founded, Cherokee populated several towns along the waters of the Little Tennessee River. From Coyatee near the current Tellico Village, to Tanasi far up the river near the North Carolina state line, many towns were located along the river or nearby. Villages considered as part of the Overhill Villages included Great Tellico on the Tellico River, Mialoguo, Tuskegee, **Continue on page 4**

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Celebrating 18 Years!

Tennessee Governors & the Path to the US Senate Part Twelve

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill

rayhill865@gmail.com

U. S. Senator Luke Lea was so unpopular with his fellow Democrats, the party machinery moved up the election for the Democratic nomination to November of 1915, a full year in advance of the regular general election in 1916. For the first and only time, the election in November would be followed by another in December featuring a run-off between the two top vote getters. Lea, bolstered by his ownership of the Nashville Tennessean and his incumbency, was determined to run. Former governor Malcolm Rice Patterson, as polarizing a figure inside Tennessee's Democratic party as his personal enemy and rival Luke Lea, entered the contest, along with the congressman from Tennessee's Tenth District, which was comprised of Shelby County, and a few surrounding counties in West Tennessee. That young congressman was Kenneth D. McKellar, who had first been elected in a 1911 special election following the death of George Washington Gordon, a former Confederate general.

In 1913, Malcolm Patterson abandoned his opposition to temperance; in fact, he changed his completion completely and became a popular speaker against the evils of alcohol. There were tens of thousands who were skeptical about the former governor's supposed change of heart, but considering the tragedies that had befallen Patterson and his family, it is quite possible his conversion was genuine. Malcolm Patterson had been married three times; he married Sarah Johnson in 1885 and they had three children together before she died. In 1903, Patterson married Sybil Hodges and their union produced one child before Mrs. Patterson's untimely death. Malcolm Patterson became only the second Tennessee governor to marry while in office. His third wife, Mary Russell Gardner, married the governor in 1907, just shortly after Patterson had been inaugurated. Despite Malcolm Patterson being forty-six years old, he and his wife had two children together.

In February of 1915, Patterson paid a call on Governor Tom C. Rye while in Nashville. Officially, Patterson was on a speaking tour on behalf of the Anti-Saloon League. Leaving the governor's office, Patterson confidently predicted it was only a matter of time before "strong drink" could be had without a prescription from "a reputable licensed physician." Patterson's tour

had taken him all over the country and provided him with a comfortable living.

The former governor spoke again in Nashville in April of 1915 at Ryman Auditorium and was introduced by the incumbent governor, Tom C. Rye. Rye's introduction was generous. "I have been requested, and I appreciate the honor, to introduce a man who in my judgment does anything he undertakes better than any other man," Rye said. "Where his standards wave there are always found behind them a splendid citizenship." The governor said he believed Patterson was "fighting for the homes of Tennessee." Patterson's banner on behalf of prohibition, according to Governor Rye was "second only to that unfurled by Jesus Christ among the olive-clad hills of Judea." "His cause will succeed," the governor declared, "because it ought to."

Patterson went through a long history of his political career and readily acknowledged his own opposition to the prohibition cause. Patterson demolished his own former arguments and noted there were "only" 300 saloons left in Nashville. "These may expect to go at the next Congress, and we can then look the Czar of Russia in the face," Patterson thundered. "If Tennessee and Memphis and I could go dry, you may expect anything to happen." Patterson cheerfully admitted one of the charges made by his political opponents. "Some men have said I am not consistent, and I know it, but the number who say I am not sincere is less than formerly."

Patterson in turn praised Rye for the governor's strong stand in favor of prohibition and enforcing the laws.

By the summer of 1915, politics began to heat up and "friends" of the former governor indicated in June Patterson would seek the Democratic nomination and oppose Senator Luke Lea. When asked if he would become a candidate for the U. S. Senate, Patterson did not issue a denial. "The time is too far away for me to say anything definite," the former governor replied. Patterson seemed to be waiting for Congressman Thetus W. Sims to make an announcement whether he would run for the Senate or not; Sims badly wanted to run. A bloated man with a bushy moustache and overstated sense of his own dignity as a congressman, Sims had been in the House of Representatives since 1896 and felt he deserved a promotion to the Senate based on longevity. Like an



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION

Governor Malcolm Rice Patterson of Tennessee, circa 1910

old bull, Thetus Sims pawed at the ground, shook his head angrily and bellowed occasionally, but did little of substance to promote his own candidacy. Unlike the past, Malcolm Patterson was more cautious in his approach to the senatorial campaign. In August, he met with friends and supporters in Nashville at the Maxwell House. Approached by reporters from Luke Lea's Tennessean and the Nashville American about his political plans, the former governor barked, "I have no statement to make tonight." The press, despite Patterson's comments, thought an announcement of his candidacy was imminent.

Shortly after Patterson's arrival at the Maxwell House, Congressman K. D. McKellar set up shop at the same hotel. Along with Patterson and McKellar, Congressman Cordell Hull was a resident of the hotel for a few days; the Maxwell House remained a hotbed of political activity with each prospective candidate receiving a steady stream of callers. Naturally, Luke Lea's Tennessean kept a close eye on each potential candidate against the senator. The Tennessean reported one close friend bluntly asked former governor Patterson if he was going to run for the U. S. Senate. "The people seem to expect it," Patterson replied. "Watch the papers about Tuesday morning." The Tennessean, doubtless reflecting the personal opinion of Senator Lea, opined several prospective candidates had abandoned their plans to run for the Senate with Patterson's increasing interest in making the race. The Tennessean seemed to think an official announcement of candidacy by former governor Patterson might well clear the field. That ignored the fact Congressman McKellar had already announced his own candidacy for the

senatorial nomination. It would become increasingly clear with passing weeks neither Senator Lea nor the Tennessean thought McKellar would be a factor in the campaign. The Bristol Herald-Courier seemed to reinforce that belief, editorializing a declaration of candidacy by Malcolm Patterson made it highly unlikely McKellar could beat both the former governor and Senator Lea for the nomination.

Malcolm Patterson made his candidacy official on September 2, 1915. He would be an active candidate for the Democratic nomination for United States senator in the November primary. Patterson outlined his platform and perhaps anticipating yet another bitter campaign, said his own would "be free of personalities", as he wished to go before the people and keep the contest on "a high plane." It was quite clear immediately whatever Malcolm Patterson might wish, the campaign would not be devoid of personalities. Luke Lea's Tennessean published a political cartoon of a cat bearing Patterson's face standing on a porch, before a door labeled "Public Life" and looking over his shoulder to see a can entitled, "His Record", tied to his tail. For those who might not readily recognize the former governor's face, the cartoonist had helpfully written "Ham" on the hapless cat.

Almost immediately after announcing his candidacy, former governor Malcolm Patterson left the campaign trail as his son had to undergo a "dangerous operation." If Patterson believed the senatorial race would be waged without comment on personalities, Tennessee newspapers dredged up his public record. The Lexington Progress issued a scathing editorial, snarling, "After having betrayed every friend except Duncan

Cooper and violated every pledge except to satisfy his own lust for office, he now asks the people of the state to receive and trust him as a reconstructed and reformed man." The Progress attributed Patterson's change on the temperance question to the fact the liquor lobby's "money ran out" and charged the former governor as "the rankest and boldest kind of hypocrite" who was "audacious and insolvent in his methods." The Lexington Progress concluded by saying, "... at least Patterson is Patterson, whether he is sounding the depths and shoals of dishonor or riding the wave of respectability..."

Despite the campaigns of Congressmen McKellar and Sims, the Brownsville State-Graphic huffed the senatorial contest came down to Senator Lea and former governor Patterson. "The other two might as well be put in 100 to 1 class right now." The Trenton Herald-Democrat thought as the candidates were all Democrats and held many of the same views on issues, "Thus the matter decidedly hinges on 'personalities.'"

With the first primary a month away, the senatorial campaign heated up in October. Luke Lea's Tennessean shamelessly promoted the senator's candidacy, while gleefully publishing any scrap of a story that might be detrimental to his opponents. Congressman Thetus Sims, bitterly lamenting he had been in Congress far longer than Kenneth McKellar, withdrew from the race. The Tennessean thought there was an exodus from the McKellar camp to that of Malcolm Patterson. The Tennessean speculated Congressman Cordell Hull, who it believed was backing McKellar, had switched his allegiance to Patterson. The Tennessean noted Hull had dined with Patterson and had enjoyed coffee

with the former governor in the Maxwell House Hotel.

McKellar campaigned relentlessly, stressing a theme neither Luke Lea nor Malcolm Patterson could argue with; the Memphis congressman pounded home the notion only he could run in the 1916 general election as the nominee of an united party. Both Lea and Patterson were highly controversial and the Republicans were fielding their strongest candidate: former governor Ben W. Hooper. It was a powerful argument for many Tennessee Democrats, as Hopper had twice been elected governor and the nomination of either Lea or Patterson would likely bolster Hooper's campaign. Lea and Patterson concentrated their verbal barrages on one another, largely ignoring McKellar. Neither realized until too late the Memphis congressman's campaign for the nomination was taking hold with voters. The results of the first primary stunned just about everybody.

Congressman K. D. McKellar ran first, carrying East and West Tennessee; former governor Malcolm Patterson carried Middle Tennessee, while Senator Luke Lea ran third. Lea, in spite of owning the Nashville Tennessean, ran behind Patterson in his native Middle Tennessee. Patterson and McKellar would face one another again in the December run-off election. Lea, who had been elected to the Senate by the fusionist movement had difficulty in denying his own record as much as Malcolm Patterson could not escape his record as governor. An even greater tragedy befell Malcolm Patterson as the election approached when his son, Malcolm, died. Both McKellar and Senator Lea cancelled their speaking engagements out of respect for the Patterson family. Evidently young Patterson had never fully recovered from his earlier surgery.

As the election returns trickled in, McKellar led Patterson by a vote of 41,416 to 39,069. Luke Lea trailed with 32,348. Patterson had run third in East Tennessee, behind second place finisher Luke Lea. McKellar carried Hamilton and Knox counties, while Patterson carried Luke Lea's home county of Davidson. Both McKellar and Patterson lived in Shelby County, but McKellar won it overwhelmingly.

The run-off election was almost anti-climactic. Congressman McKellar decisively defeated former governor Malcolm Patterson. McKellar swept every grand division of the state, winning East, Middle and West Tennessee. Patterson's best showing came once again in Middle Tennessee, which he lost narrowly to McKellar. The Memphis congressman ran even better in East and West Tennessee, running ahead of the governor two-to-one.

Malcolm Patterson's quest for elective office and vindication had fallen short, but he was not done with politics.

Senator Massey elected Chairman of the Knox County Delegation

State Senator Becky Massey (R-Knoxville) has been elected by her colleagues to serve as chairman of the Knox County Legislative Delegation for the 111th General Assembly. The 10-member delegation, which is one of the most active on Capitol Hill, meets regularly during the legislative session regarding issues of importance to Knox County.

"It is important that our delegation is cohesive in advancing legislation benefiting local citizens," said Sen. Massey. "We have the best legislative delegation on Capitol Hill and I look forward to working with my

colleagues to continue this strong advocacy for Knox County during the 111th General Assembly."

In addition to Massey, the other seven Republican members of the groups are: Lt. Governor Randy McNally, House Speaker Pro Tempore Bill Dunn, Senator Richard Briggs, and Representatives Jason Zachary, Martin Daniel, Dave Wright and Justin Lafferty. The two Democrat members of the delegation are Representatives Rick Staples and Gloria Johnson.

The 2019 legislative session is set to convene on January 8.



Windsor Gardens Assisted Living hosted its Annual Family Christmas Party earlier this month. Santa, Richard and Joyce Goodson (pictured above) and the rest of the amazing Windsor Family had so much fun celebrating the holidays.



Rosie's
World

The Little Drummer Boy

Come they told me,
Pa, rum pum pum pum
Our newborn King to see,
Pa rum pum pum pum
Our finest gifts we bring
Pa rum pum pum pum
to lay before the king,
Pa rum, pum pum pum....

"The Little Drummer Boy" (originally titled "Carol of the Drum") was written by an American classical music composer and teacher, Katherine Kennicott Davis in 1941. It was first recorded by the Trapp Family Singers

in 1951.

The little drummer boy was summoned by the Magi to the Nativity of Jesus. Without a gift for the infant, he played he played his drum with Jesus' mother, Mary's approval, recalling "I played my best for him" and "He smiled at me."

The popularity of the song can be seen by the numbers of cover versions. Over 220 versions in seven languages, including the Vienna Boys choir, the Ray Conniff Singers, Bing Crosby, Johnny Cash, Andy Williams, Henry Mancini, and many others.

The phrase "pa rum dum dum dum" is said to be sung over 21 times in the song. It's supposed to be like the sound of a drum.

I played my drum for him
Pa rum pum pum pum

I played my best for him
Pa rum pum pum pum

This haunting yet beautiful song should remain with us throughout the year at different times to remind us that the moments we spend being kind to others are well worth a Pa rum pum pum pum.

Alas, you say, you're not a doctor, lawyer, minister, or teacher, but do not worry. Being kind to orphans and widows is one of the greatest gifts we can give our Lord.

Thought for the day: Reflect on your present blessings--of which every man has many--not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some. Charles Dickens

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

Visiting the old Tellico Blockhouse

Cont. from page 2

Tomotley, Toqua, Chota, Chilhowee and Tallassee. Just below them was the Great Hiwassee township.

The villages are now covered by the waters of Tellico Lake but lots of archeological work was done there prior to flooding. Only the blockhouse complex remains where it was originally located, above the lakewaters.

The Blockhouse was built and used by the agency moving from Southwest Fort and the Hiwassee Garrison. It was built and manned by troops in 1794 and operated until about 1811. The fort served as a passage point for whites traveling into Cherokee territory and the commander served as the Indian Agent. Cherokee who wished

were supplied with spinning wheels and taught weaving. The tribe grew cotton nearby and the fort was also a center of trade for hides, skins, and other items. Today after several years of archeological research and digs the foundations of the various buildings, walls and a well are again in the open air and you can visit them. The site is on the lake and, unlike

Fort Loudoun, is original and has not been removed from its original location. The blockhouse has an odd connection with Knox County and Knoxville. When built on the edge of a shrinking Cherokee territory, an order to "civilize" the tribe was given by Henry Knox, George Washington's Secretary of War. Knox was responsible for all the

relations between Native Americans and the national government.

A warm day in the winter is a great time to get outside and take the family to learn more about our area. Vonore is a nice little town and you will find that most of the original town is off the highway to the north. Fort Loudoun State Historical Park and Sequoyah's Birthplace Museum are just south of Vonore.

You can get more information about Tellico Blockhouse and Fort Loudoun by calling (423)884-6217 or by visiting those sites on the internet at www.tnstateparks.com/parks/fort-loudoun. Both sites are also on Facebook.

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

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- ❄️ Old-fashioned bag treats ❄️

When: Sunday, December 23, 2018 at 6 p.m.

Where: New Beverly Baptist Church
3320 New Beverly Church Road
Knoxville, Tennessee 37918

NEW BEVERLY BAPTIST CHURCH

TSSAA DISTRICT 4 BOWLING



Bearden High's boys and girls teams swept top honors in the District 4 bowling tournament Thursday and will advance to the Region 2 tournament in Sevierville in January. Standing next to Head Coach Jennifer Allen (far left) in the boys' photo and across the front: Tyler Fries, Ben Whitaker, Corey Ramey, Zander Pritt. Back row, from left, Josiah Gibson, Chapman Craig, Jace Crawford, Zak Hubbs, Michael Hines. In the girls' photo, across the front starting with Coach Allen are Mariam Elwasif, Olivia Peek, Coach Ginger Hynds. Back row, from left, Steven Shultz, Kristy Dean, Madi Harrell, Rachel Rice, Sarah Rice.

Whitaker's 780 series leads unbeaten Bearden to title

By Steve Williams

Ben Whitaker was Bearden High School's "No. 2 bowler" during the regular season, but he took over the top spot on the scoreboard in the District 4 tournament Thursday, posting a sizzling 780 series to lead the undefeated Bulldogs to the championship.

Whitaker, a junior who came into the tourney with a 192 average, put together games of 258, 256 and 266 as Bearden toppled Knoxville Catholic 22-5 at the Strike & Spare Family Bowl in West Knoxville.

Bearden is now 19-0. "They're unbelievable," said Coach Jennifer Allen, complimenting her team.

"We've got five seniors, but most of them have only bowled for a couple of years."

Bearden also has senior Corey Ramey, who averaged a district-best 212 in the regular season to qualify as an individual for this season's TSSAA state tournament.

The Bulldogs breezed past Central 24½ to 2½ in the semifinals, and then had one game in the finals that Coach Allen called "just fantastic. We had all six bowlers over 200."

In that game, Whitaker totaled 256, Ramey 213, senior Jace Crawford 216, senior Michael Hines 212, senior Zander Pritt 200 and freshman Zak Hubbs 200.

Other team members are junior Josiah Gibson and freshmen Tyler Fries and Chapman Craig.

Allen said it's been the kind of season "when one is having a bad night, another one steps up."

"We added three freshmen to the varsity team this year. All of them bowled at least one game in the semifinals or finals. We had a couple of freshmen to even bowl in the finals today. It's a big day for us."

The Bulldogs will take some time off and start getting back together after Christmas. The Region 2 tournament will be Jan. 10 at the Sevierville Bowling Center.

Allen hasn't had a team in her five years as coach to make it to state out of the "tough region," but believes that could change.

"If they bowl like today, they'll make it to the state," she said.

Despite how good her boys performed, Allen said her girls "exceeded expectations more than the boys. They bowled really, really well."

The Lady Bulldogs claimed the District 4 title with an identical 22-5 score over South-Doyle.

Junior Kristy Dean, a state individual qualifier, registered game scores of 198, 203 and 215 to lead the way.

The Bearden girls' team, which defeated Central 20-7 in the semifinals, also includes senior Madi Harrell and six sophomores – Mariam Elwasif, Olivia Peek, Kena Holmes, Rachel Rice, Sarah Rice and Ann Eyssen.

In the other semifinal matches, the Catholic boys eliminated South-Doyle and the South-Doyle girls ousted L&N STEM Academy.

Both the district champion and runner-up teams advance to the region.

PERFECT GAME: Senior Allen Humphreys of Catholic bowled a 300 in the opening game of the semifinals against South-Doyle. It was the second perfect game in

his career. "Just another ball after a ball," said the quiet and calm Humphreys. "Just throwing it one at a time."

His string of 12 strikes in a row was snapped with a split in the first frame of his second game.

Humphreys and South-Doyle sophomore Lucy Edwards are District 4's other state individual qualifiers this season.

NEW MEMBERS: Career Magnet Academy, a new Knox County school, and Halls High had boys' teams in the district this season, raising the District 4 membership total to eight schools.

Lady Wolves run past Halls to clinch share of title

By Ken Lay

West Valley Middle School's girls basketball team clinched at least a share of the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference regular-season title with its 42-18 victory at Halls Thursday afternoon.

The Lady Wolves also kept their perfect record intact with the win over the Lady Demons. Both West Valley (13-0) and Halls (11-2) have two games remaining in the final week of the KCMSCB regular season.

The Lady Wolves travel to

Gresham to play the Lady Gladiators today (Dec. 17) at 4:30 p.m. West Valley hosts Carter on Thursday.

The Lady Demons travel to South-Doyle today and hosts Hardin Valley Thursday.

The Lady Wolves have dominated all comers this season and on Thursday, they were clicking on all cylinders again. West Valley made 17 field goals and the team dished out 16 assists on those made baskets.

"That's almost unheard of," WVMS coach Josh Ballard said.

"Our girls knew what was at stake today and they responded."

"Our goal was not to win the county championship. Our goal is to be the best team that we can be. Our girls have really bought in. We're team-based. We're not individual-based."

The Lady Wolves got off to a fast start and opened an 11-0 lead in the first quarter. The defense was also particularly stingy on this day as it held Halls to just one field goal over the first 12 minutes en route to opening a 24-2 lead by halftime.

The Lady Demons finally got on the scoreboard when Amy Love made a basket midway through the second quarter. That bucket trimmed West Valley's lead to 17-2.

The contest was seemingly lopsided but Ballard said that his team was in a battle from the opening tip.

"Halls was the most physical team that we've played all year," he said. "I don't think the score really showed how hard we had to play."

"Halls has a good team and

coach [Lori] Cook has done a great job in her first year with a young team."

The Lady Wolves did the majority of their offensive damage inside. Center Avery Treadwell scored 24 points and grabbed 15 rebounds.

Forward Brinley Murphy scored two points but dished out 11 assists in the game. Sharon Wilson finished with eight points while Lindsay scored four points.

Raegan Corvette scored nine points and Keira Everett added five to lead the Lady Demons.

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Litton's hosts 'thank you' meal for Central coaches, their families



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Central High School football coach Bryson Rosser, standing, addresses his staff and their families at a recent 'thank you' dinner at Litton's. The Bobcats recently won the Class 5A State Championship.

By Ken Lay

After Central High School recently won the Class 5A State Championship, the players and coaches got a heroes' welcome upon returning to Knoxville.

Area businesses, football boosters and high school football fans haven't been shy in passing out congratulatory greetings, well wishes and celebrations at every turn, justifiably so.

State titles are difficult to win and the Bobcats started 0-2 before winning 13 consecutive games en route to hoisting the Gold Ball on an early Sunday evening in Cookeville.

Early last week Central head coach Bryson Rosser, his assistants and

the coaches' family had a low-key late lunch celebration at Litton's Restaurant, a Fountain City staple and longtime supporter of Central High School Athletics.

There was little talk of football although some coaches shared some stories from the historical football season at Central.

"We talk about family with our players and today, we're stressing family with our coaches too," Rosser said. "We're spending time together as coaches and families."

"We spend all of our time [as coaches] having each other's back on Friday nights and this is just another way to say 'thank you' to our coaches and our families. We're treating

our coaches and families today."

Central has played for a state football championship three times in the past two decades. The late Joel Helton guided the Bobcats to a title game in 1999, where they lost to Memphis East.

Rosser and the Bobcats played Memphis East and fell in 2016.

They won it all recently when they outlasted Henry County 14-9.

Rosser said that this state championship belongs to all who played for and are (and were) associated with Central High.

"I'll be talking about this forever," he said. "This is everybody's championship."

Clutch eighth graders lead comeback for Lady Admirals

By Ken Lay

Farragut Middle School has one of the youngest girls basketball teams in Knox County but on Monday, Dec. 10, the Lady Admirals got a huge lift from two returning eighth graders and that boost propelled the two-time defending James A. Ivey Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament Champions.

Aubrey Stackhouse and Jenna Thorley played on last year's championship team but this year they've taken on leadership roles and their contributions helped Farragut nab a 32-26 comeback victory over Vine early last week at the Bobby J. Henry Gymnasium.

Stackhouse scored nine of her game-high 13 points in the second half and Thorley made four free throws in the fourth quarter to help the Lady Admirals notch a key late-season home win.

"These are our only two eighth graders and they're our leaders and they were huge for us tonight," Farragut coach Susan Davidson said.

"The other players on our team played JV last year."

Farragut also got five points from Annie Priest, who made a pair of late foul shots with 6.5 seconds remaining to provide the final margin of victory.

The Lady Admirals trailed 21-18 heading into the final frame and the Lady Golden Bears took a 24-21 lead when

Jaya Jenkins hit a free throw midway through the fourth quarter.

Both defenses were stingy in the fourth quarter as Vine and Farragut combined to commit multiple turnovers.

But the Lady Admirals (9-3) took control over the waning minutes because they made 10-of-14 free throws over the final six minutes.

Thorley was 4-for-6. Stackhouse was 1-for-2 and Priest was 5-for-6 from the charity stripe. Priest scored all five of her points in the fourth quarter.

Davidson said that she felt fortunate to emerge from the game victorious.

"Vine is a great team and they're really athletic," Davidson said. "They have great players and they're well-coached. It's no accident that they're near the top of the standings."

"They're a great team." The loss dropped the Lady Golden Bears to 9-3.

Jenkins led Vine with 12 points. Rakia Watkins added eight and Maggie Goins finished with six.

Thorley said that Farragut turned up its intensity late in the contest.

"Vine was in second place because they're a good team and they've been winning," Thorley said. "We really stepped it up tonight."

Stackhouse said the victory was huge for Farragut.

"This was a very inspiring win for us. It will help us to push harder to win," she said.



PHOTOS BY JIM BOOFER.



Top, Farragut's Jenna Thorley (10) guards Vine's Maggie Goins in the Lady Admirals' 32-26 victory over the Lady Golden Bears last week at the Bobby J. Henry Gymnasium. Thorley scored six points in the win. Above, Farragut Middle's Annie Priest dribbles the ball upcourt in a recent game against Vine Middle in Farragut. Priest scored five points as the Lady Admirals prevailed 32-26.

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Golden Bears hold off Farragut to stay perfect in MS hoops



PHOTOS BY JIM BOOFER.

Above, Vine Middle's Kemoni Cooper prepares to attempt a free throw in last week's game in Farragut. The Golden Bears notched a 37-33 over the Admirals.

Right, Farragut Middle's Alex Doerger (4) attempts to block a shot by Vine's Messiah Ward while Dallas Carbaugh looks on. The Golden Bears outlasted the Admirals 37-33 in Farragut last week.



By Ken Lay

Vine Middle School's boys basketball team kept its perfect record and long road winning streak intact recently.

But it wasn't easy. The Golden Bears got off to a fast start to nab a 37-33 Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference victory over Farragut on Monday, Dec. 10 at the Bobby J. Henry Gymnasium.

Vine (12-0) opened a 25-10 lead over the Admirals but Farragut chipped away and pulled to within 32-20 by third quarter's end before storming back. Ashton Sulack put the Admirals (8-4) within striking distance when his shot made the score 35-33 with 20.1 seconds left in the game.

Vine would survive this test. The Golden Bears sealed the game when Marshuan Bower knocked down a pair of free throws

with 13.5 seconds to go. He's one of the top Vine players but those were his only two points against Farragut, which eliminated the Golden Bears from the James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Basketball Tournament quarterfinals in February.

"We've won 19 in a row [on the road] and that's all we care about," Vine coach Jerel Heyward said. "I was glad to see Marshuan make those free throws. He's worked really hard."

"We knew this wasn't going to be easy. When you go on the road, things aren't always going to go your way. We've been preparing our kids for this all year. We've been preparing them to fight through adversity all year and tonight, we fought through that adversity."

As the regular season enters its final week, the Golden Bears are the last remaining unbeaten team in a wide-open league.

Farragut coach Randy Swartzentruber, understandably isn't all that enthused about moral victories, but he was pleased with squad's comeback effort that came up just short.

"I'm proud of our guys. We're not into moral victories but Vine is really good and there's no doubt about that," Swartzentruber said. "I called timeout with one minute left in the third quarter and I told our guys that we stayed with them for a quarter."

"We had a rough first half but we proved that we could play with them and they've got some shooters."

Vine's Messiah Ward led all scorers with 16 points and Markeis Barrett added 13.

Alex Doerger, a seventh-grade center led the Admirals with 12 points. Dallas Carbaugh added six and Griffin Mashburn had four, all in the fourth quarter when Farragut was making its comeback run.

New course announced for Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon

Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon, recently named best marathon in Tennessee by Runner's Goal, will feature new courses and a new finish line in 2019.

Race officials have released the new course map for the 2019 marathon, marathon relay and half-marathon events.

Courses for the 5K and Covenant Kids Run will be released after the start of the year.

"The new course map is posted on the website for runners anxious to review it," Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon Race Director Jason Altman said. "Most of the changes affect the second half of the marathon route, but we still visit all the scenic, iconic Knoxville neighborhoods that make this race special. Of course, all races this year will enjoy a new finish line in World's Fair Park with a festive after-party on the lawn with music, food trucks, beer and more."

Race weekend takes place March 30-31, 2019, but now is the time to register and start training. Participants are encouraged to register online at www.knoxvillemarathon.com.

"With the 2019 event only months away, we want to encourage people to set a goal, sign up and

start getting ready for an amazing race weekend," Altman said. "Whether you are participating in the full marathon or a 5K, register now. And to prepare, you can join us for group training runs starting in December through March 23."

Group training runs have already started. Runners meet every Saturday at 8 a.m. at Eddie's Health Shoppe at 8025 Kingston Pike in Knoxville. Weekly group runs are free, open to the public and require no preregistration. These training runs include pace groups and mileage options ranging from beginner to advanced.

Group runs are sponsored by Eddie's Health Shoppe, Knoxville Performance Lab and ZenEvo Dark Chocolate. The group run schedule is available at knoxvillemarathon.com/training/.

For more information and to register for the 2019 Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon races, visit www.knoxvillemarathon.com.

The Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon is a premier event organized by the Knoxville Track Club, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the encouragement of physical well-being through running and walking.

Top hoops teams invade Knoxville at 5Star Classic

By Ken Lay

High school basketball fans can get their hoops fix this week at the 5Star Preps Classic Presented by Tennessee Orthopaedic Clinic on Thursday and Friday.

Games will be played at four sites and some of the top boys and girls teams will be in action in East Tennessee before local hoopsters take a short holiday break. Games will be held at Farragut, Fulton, Christian Academy of Knoxville and William Blount.

Tournament play opens Thursday at Farragut with the Grainger and Cleveland girls tangling at 3 p.m., in a showdown of powerhouse programs. At 4:30, the Grainger boys will take on Austin-East. The host Lady Admirals will play Campbell County at 6 p.m.

Both Farragut and the Lady Cougars are off to fast starts. At 7:30, Farragut's boys will entertain Karns. The two teams have already played once this year with the Beavers defeating the Admirals in the Farragut Thanksgiving Tournament.

In Thursday's game at Fulton: Maryville's girls will take on Jefferson County in a matchup of top teams at 4 p.m. Fulton's girls will play Webb at 5:30. At 7, the Maryville boys will play Jefferson County. Fulton's boys will collide with Riverdale at 8:30 p.m.

In games at CAK on Thursday: The host Lady Warriors will entertain Mt. Pisgah at 6 p.m. Fulton's girls will play Germantown High at 7:20. At 8:40, Union County's

boys will tangle with Clarksville Northeast.

In opening night action at William Blount: Bearden's girls will play Alcoa at 4 p.m. The Lady Bulldogs made the Class AAA State Semifinals in Murfreesboro and coach Justin Underwood's squad is off to a hot start again this season. Powell's boys will play Alcoa at 5:30. Both the Panthers and the Tornadoes made it to Murfreesboro last year.

William Blount's girls will play Houston at 7 p.m. The Lady Governors are always a force in District 4-AAA and the Lady Mustangs always have one of the top teams in the Volunteer State.

William Blount's boys will play Siegel at 8:30. Siegel has one of the top teams in Middle Tennessee.

In Friday's games at Farragut: Cleveland and Campbell County will tangle in a girls game at 3 p.m. The Karns boys will play Austin-East at 4:30. Farragut and Grainger's girls will play at 6. The Admirals and Grizzlies will play in a boys game at 7:30.

At Fulton, The Lady Spartans will play Maryville at 3 p.m. The host Lady Falcons will square off against Jefferson County at 4:30. Maryville will play Riverdale's boys at 6 and Fulton will entertain Jefferson County's boys at 7:30.

At CAK, Mt. Pisgah will play First Baptist Academy's girls at 3:30 p.m. Germantown will play CAK's girls at 5. The CAK boys will play Union County at 6:30.

5Star Preps Basketball Classic

Thursday, Dec. 20

At Farragut High School

3 p.m. Grainger vs. Cleveland (Girls)
4:30 p.m. Grainger vs. Austin-East (Boys)
6 p.m. Farragut vs. Campbell Co. (Girls)
7:30 p.m. Farragut vs. Karns (Boys)

At Fulton High School

4 p.m. Maryville at Jefferson Co. (Girls)
5:30 Fulton vs. Webb (Girls)
7 p.m. Maryville vs. Jefferson Co. (Boys)
8:30 p.m. Fulton vs. Riverdale (Boys)

At William Blount High School

4 p.m. Bearden vs. Alcoa (Girls)
5:30 p.m. Powell vs. Alcoa (Boys)
7 p.m. William Blount vs. Houston
8:30 p.m. William Blount vs. Siegel

At CAK

6 p.m. CAK vs. Mt. Pisgah (Girls)
7:20 p.m. Fulton vs. Germantown (Girls)
8:40 p.m. Union Co. vs. Clarksville Northeast (Boys)

Friday, Dec. 21

At Farragut High School

3 p.m. Campbell Co. vs. Cleveland (Girls)
4:30 p.m. Karns vs. Austin-East (Boys)
6 p.m. Farragut vs. Grainger (Girls)
7:30 p.m. Farragut vs. Grainger (Boys)

At Fulton High School

3 p.m. Fulton vs. Webb (Girls)
4:30 p.m. Jefferson Co. vs. Fulton (Girls)
6 p.m. Maryville vs. Riverdale (Boys)
7:30 p.m. Fulton vs. Jefferson Co. (Boys)

At William Blount High School

4 p.m. Bearden vs. Houston (Girls)
5:30 p.m. Siegel vs. Powell (Boys)
7 p.m. William Blount vs. Alcoa (Girls)
8:30 p.m. William Blount vs. Alcoa (Boys)

At CAK

3:30 p.m. Mt. Pisgah vs. FBA (Girls)
5 p.m. Germantown vs. CAK (Girls)
6:30 p.m. CAK vs. Union Co. (Boys)

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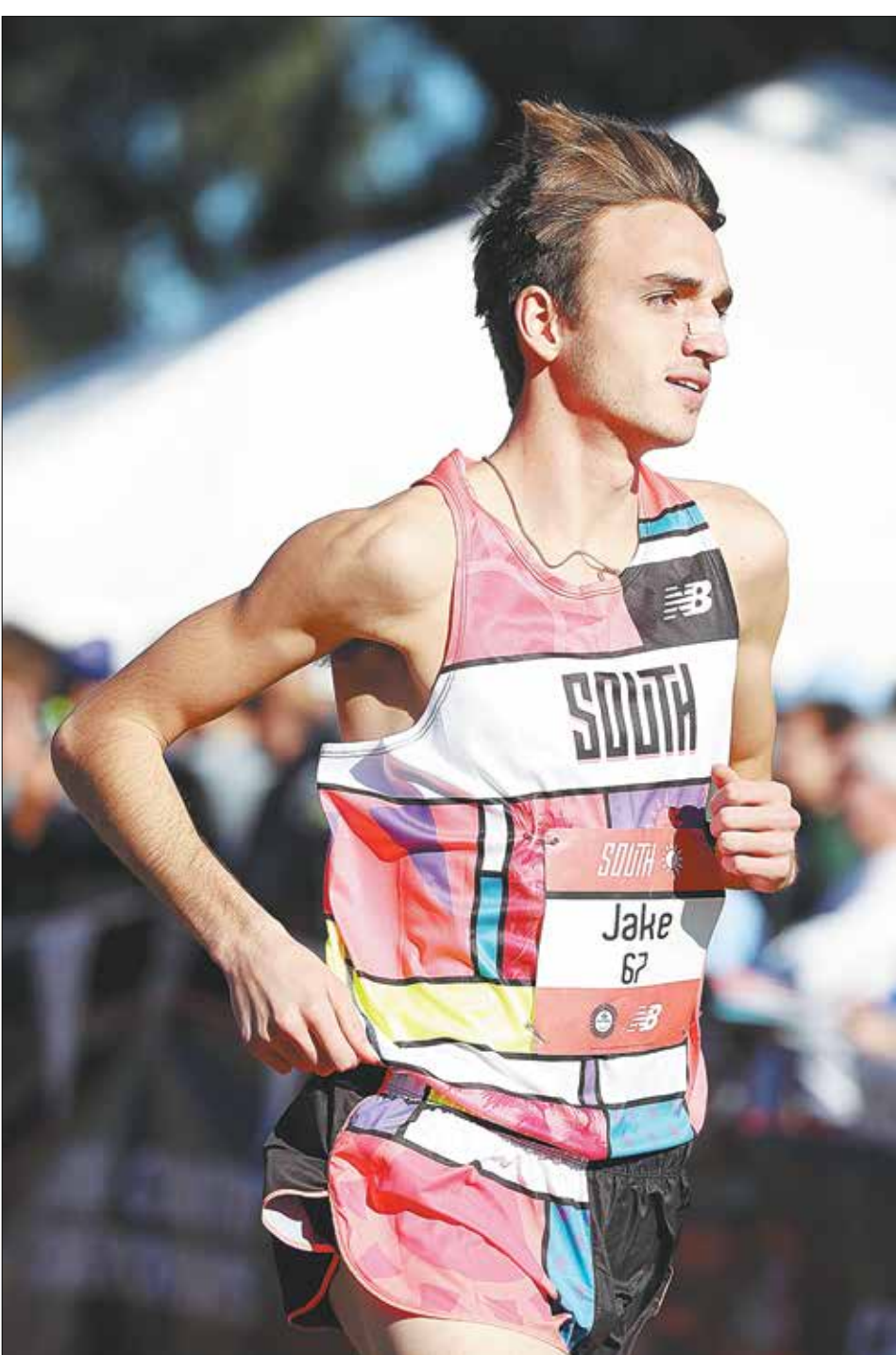
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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS NOTEBOOK

Renfree 'overjoyed' with national runner-up finish



Knoxville Catholic senior Jake Renfree at the boys' intro prior to this year's prestigious Foot Locker National Cross Country race. Renfree finished runner-up.

By Steve Williams

Jake Renfree may have finished second in the 40th annual Foot Locker Cross Country National Championship race on Dec. 8, but his effort was second to none.

A determined Renfree turned the prestigious event into a two-runner battle down the stretch.

Cole Hocker of Indianapolis pulled away with 300 meters remaining to win in a 5K time of 15:13.7

Renfree, a Knoxville Catholic High senior, came in second with a time of 15:19.5. Graydon Morris of Aledo, Tex., placed third in 15:25.1.

"The FLCC Nationals has been the greatest experience I have ever had as a cross country athlete and it is something I will definitely remember forever," said Renfree, reflecting on the event in San Diego.

"I was overjoyed to be runner-up. I thought the race went perfectly and I was really excited that I went out and did exactly what my coach (Sean O'Neil) told me: 'Go out and battle and have no regrets.' And that's exactly what I thought I did.

"While it sometimes stings to know I was six seconds away from national champion, I feel good in knowing that I did everything possible to put myself



Jake Renfree of Knoxville Catholic crosses the finish line as this year's runner-up in the prestigious Foot Locker Cross Country National Championship race.

in that position and there wasn't anything else I could've done better."

O'Neil said Renfree's performance at the nationals was amazing.

"We spent a lot of time going over how best to run the course, who he needed to worry about, and what to expect from the other top guys. We put all that together into a race plan, and Jake executed it perfectly.

"In a field with that much talent our goal was to get Jake to the 2.5 mile mark with the leaders and then see what he had left in the tank. He was really hurting by that point, but he found a way to hang on for second.

Renfree is a Notre Dame signee.

Sydney Masciarelli of Northbridge, Mass., captured the girls' title in

17:00.3. It was the 40th annual Foot Locker event.

HONOR FOR TSD: Luke Benson, Tennessee School for the Deaf athletic director, announced Friday that the 2018 TSD volleyball team has been named Co-National Champions by the National Deaf Interscholastic Athletic Association. Benson said it was TSD's 15th national championship and first ever in volleyball.

WARREN RECOGNIZED: Halls AD Meagan Booth said Friday that Bill Warren would receive a plaque at the boys' basketball game. Warren received an award for being the 2017-18 boys Golf Coach of the Year after guiding the Red Devils to the state championship.

Jeremy Pruitt's OC Search Keeps Going... And Going...

By Alex Norman

Back in 2011, then Tennessee head coach Derek Dooley spent 38 days out of the public eye following the historic loss to the Kentucky Wildcats, a loss that kept them out of a bowl game.

In that five and a half week period, seven of his assistant coaches fled the sinking ship, as did multiple recruits for the Class of 2012. Fan angst was already at an all-time high after a loss to UK for the first time in 26 years. The perception that no one was at the controls of the football program carried over throughout the 2012 season. Eventually, Dooley was fired.

The lack of communication between the football program and the fan base is difficult to accept when things aren't going well.

Fast forward seven years, and history is repeating itself. Tennessee head coach Jeremy Pruitt hasn't been heard from publicly since the Vols loss to Vanderbilt, a loss that kept them out of a bowl game. His offensive coordinator, Tyson Helton, left to take the head coaching job at Western Kentucky. Over the past three weeks, the rumor mill has churned at a breathtaking pace.

Former Ole Miss coach Hugh Freeze, Houston OC Kendal Briles, Alabama QB

coach Dan Enos, Auburn offensive coordinator Chip Lindsey, Cleveland Brown OC Freddie Kitchens... they've all been connected in one way or another to the Tennessee OC job. Freeze took the head coaching job at Liberty. Briles is rumored to get the Florida State OC gig. Enos got promoted to the Alabama OC job. Lindsey was hired in the same position at Kansas. Kitchens still has a few weeks in the NFL season.

All the while the Vols are preparing for the early signing period (December 19-21), and they still haven't made this very important hire. Volquest reported last week that any decision likely won't be made until after the early signing period. From the outside, the inability to secure or decide on a new OC is not a good look, but I'm not sure Pruitt cares very much about that perception.

Pruitt is schooled in the Nick Saban school of communications. The head coach is the only one that speaks for the program, and he's not going to submit to many off season inquiries. Just watch his coach's show or any of the promos he has to do with WVLT, the flagship TV station of the Vols. Pruitt looks like he's being held captive. He doesn't enjoy that part of the job, so it isn't like he's going to give the media a

heads up on the latest with the coaching search.

But there are dangers to all that secrecy. Misinformation spreads like wildfire. Remember Grumors? The inability to control that message helped lead to the firing of John Currie as AD. In addition, the Tennessee fan base is as dialed in as any in the country. They hunger for any news about their football program. Heck, hundreds of them stood in line for hours for the chance to purchase old Tennessee football gear last week.

But as more time goes on without a resolution to this job opening, you get more apathy, which is fairly dangerous to the success of a program.

No matter the spin, Tennessee should have made a hire by now. The uncertainty can't help with recruiting, and it certainly doesn't help with the psyche of Tennessee fans.

Tyson Helton was not a good hire by Jeremy Pruitt. His offense often looked ill prepared and his play calling left a great deal to be desired.

If the next hire is a success, few will remember the delays.

But for now, Tennessee's dragging their feet looks like more of what we saw that was part of a decade of failures.

UT needs solid linemen and not a coach like Freeze

One recent coaching hire that really surprised me was Liberty University, the largest Christian college in the nation, hiring Hugh Freeze. How did this guy get a job there?

I guess the Flames care more about football and scoring touchdowns than they do about character and living right.

I should also mention the former Ole Miss head coach was hired by Liberty Athletic Director Ian McCaw, who was one of three officials at Baylor that lost their jobs in the wake of the sexual assault scandal involving football players between 2012 and 2016. Obviously, McCaw getting the AD job at Liberty surprised me too.

Frankly, I'm glad the University of Tennessee did not hire Freeze. I also hope the reports I heard that Jeremy Pruitt spoke with Freeze about UT's offensive coordinator vacancy were not true.

Freeze got into plenty of NCAA hot water at Ole Miss and also eventually was given the ultimatum to resign or be fired for violating the morals clause of his contract. Ole Miss officials discovered "a concerning pattern" of calls to a female escort service from Freeze's phone.

Would you want your quarterback son to be guided on and off the field for four years by Freeze?

Freeze just recently came off a NCAA show-cause penalty for not monitoring his assistant coaches at Ole Miss. Numerous recruiting violations by his staff resulted in Ole Miss imposing a self bowl ban in 2017 and the NCAA adding another year this season, although the 5-7 Rebels wouldn't have been in one anyway with that record.

Many fans just know and care that Freeze is the coach who beat Alabama in back-to-back seasons.

According to a couple of surveys I heard on the radio the last few weeks, about

75 percent of Tennessee football fans wanted UT to hire Freeze. I can't believe that.

One longtime local sportscaster was campaigning on the air for UT to hire Freeze. He said Tennessee needed to start cheating to get back on the winning track. He wanted us to believe that the Vols would never be winners again if they didn't cheat.

I called another local station after that and asked nationally known sportscaster Dr. Jerry Punch if he thought a lot of coaches believed it was necessary to cheat to win in college football in this day and age. He said he felt many coaches "push the envelope" as far as they can when it comes to playing by the rules. He also said he believed Freeze would be on his best behavior if Tennessee hired him because the NCAA would be watching him closely.

I believe there are many good men out there that are good coaches and good husbands and try to win the right way. That's the kind of person I would like to see UT hire in all of its sports.

I hope Pruitt is that kind of person. That report of him meeting with Freeze about the OC job is still in the back of my mind. I hope he will explain his position on that matter as soon as he has time.

Other than that, I believe Pruitt has been spending most of his time on recruiting the best football players and young men that he can find. It doesn't matter how good the offensive coordinator is that ends up on the UT staff. If he doesn't have good players, he won't be successful.

I believe Pruitt knows he first must rebuild Tennessee's offensive and defensive lines. No matter how good the skill players are, they won't be able to be successful if the Vols remain weak and soft up front.

Early signing day is Wednesday, Dec. 19. That is a higher priority than signing an OC.

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Magic

For a kid the most exciting time of the year is Christmas; and it's all about magic.

We regularly pick up our "cute-ones" (aka grandkids) from preschool, and last Wednesday they were excited, not just to see us, which they usually are, but because their parents were taking them to see Santa Claus that evening. In the back seat, on the drive home, there was lively chatter about the food flying reindeer needed and whether Rudolph's red nose was needed by Santa Claus every year.

As we waited for their parents, Becky and I helped our cute-ones make a wish list for Santa, even though the grampsters hadn't heard of many of the latest toy rages. I felt blessed to be with my grandkids and to bask in their magical exuberance and wide-eyed

innocence.

We all grow up and eventually lose the fairy tale wonder of Christmas, except perhaps Peter Pan or Will Ferrell's character in the Christmas movie, Elf. However, though growing up is natural and deemed healthy, it is not without cost, as magic is replaced sometimes by the hard realities of life.

I grew up in another "magical" time, when it was safe to walk to school and play in the neighborhood unsupervised. And I remember the excitement of Christmas and it's magic which I relive with my grandkids. That same sense of magic and innocence is captured in another movie classic, A Christmas Story, as Ralphie wishes and angles for a Red Rider BB gun.

I remember the day in second grade when lunchroom sophisticates

challenged my sense of Christmas magic. I was the oldest of three brothers, but my lunchroom buddy had an older and of course more urbane brother who told us that my parents were Santa Claus. I was devastated and remember asking my Mother if this was true. Perhaps wishing to spare me and my younger brothers the harsh reality of growing up too soon, she and my father conspired to have Santa Claus pay the Ferguson boys a visit.

When the doorbell rang the next night it was accompanied by the ring of sleigh bells held in the hand of Santa Claus himself! Just as in the poem "A Visit by St. Nicholas" by Clement Clarke Moore, "my" Santa was a jolly old elf in a red suit with a beard as white as snow and bag full of toys slung over his back. It was a magical moment and I believed again, at least for awhile. The bubble finally popped, perhaps a year or so later, when late one Christmas Eve, I peered from my doorway and saw my parents (Santa's agents) putting toys under the tree. I don't remember telling my brothers what I had seen. I wasn't philosophical at that time, but perhaps I thought it best my brothers find their

own truth. And perhaps it was my own denial which pushed me to hold onto the magic and the mystery of Christmas.

Do you believe in magic, defined as observations without explanation? I'll paraphrase a well known scientist and writer who opined that sufficiently advanced technology would be perceived as magic by a less advanced culture. Pictures and videos of cute-ones on my iPhone might be considered magic if shown to the primitive people who recently murdered the missionary encroaching on their isolated island in the South Pacific. (Polaroids in Guatemala)

Since the Enlightenment, Man has demanded objective reality through observation and scientific testing. Some years ago I came across the concept of an open or closed universe. To a naturalist or a materialist reality is defined by what he can observe, measure or comprehend. Anything that is not contained within his conceptual sphere doesn't exist. This conceptual boundary defines a "closed" universe. An open universe is not bound by anyone's current knowledge or imagination.

Soren Kierkegaard

coined the term, a "leap of faith." Contextually, this most often refers to spiritual matters. However, I believe the concept applies to science as well. Have you ever been around a kid who constantly asks you, "Why?" No matter what your answer he again asks, "Why?" to the point of irritation or absurdity.

Some years ago a friend challenged me with the notion that at some basic level even scientific observation is a "leap of faith" because you compare that observation against some "standard" accepted as an article of "faith." As an example, I've never observed Hong Kong nor have I seen an electron, yet I accept that they exist because others have seen that Asian city and scientists write equations for subatomic particles which power my iPhone. My point is, I acknowledge that my own reality depends on faith.

For me the world is like overlapping circles of a Venn diagram. There is the scientific observable circle of reality and the spiritual sphere. They overlap and magically define my vision of reality. I accept that I can't know everything and therefore embrace a limited and "open universe."

I can accept Santa Claus,

not so much a phenomenon, as he is a spiritual essence of Christmas. I know this is a bit unscientific, but I've already shown you that science alone has a limited horizon. I prefer a limitless vision and accept the notion that some things today may seem like magic and in futures ages may have scientific explanations.

There are other magical things all around us which defy boundaries and precise definitions. A noteworthy example is love. We've all experienced love in one of its many variations, such as love of grandchildren, wife, country or chocolate. We define these loves by comparison to shared emotions or experiences of other humans. I know the color red because I'm not color blind and can share this vision with others.

In his gospel and epistle, John described God as love and that love is God. And when the Word became flesh two millennia ago and dwelt among us, we were given a tangible essence of love.

That Spirit of love still walks among us, especially at Christmas. And the magical love that changed the world goes on.

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

Tips for staying warm and healthy while using wood-burning heat

Submitted by The University of Tennessee Medical Center News Service

As the temperature drops outside, many people may be looking for ways to stay warm inside. Often in an effort to reduce utility costs, they may use fireplaces and wood-burning stoves to heat their homes not realizing they could be paying a higher price in terms of their health. As wood-burning heat can cause health issues, those at the greatest risk include anyone with heart or lung disease, especially for older adults and children.

Dr. Paul Branca, a pulmonologist at The University of Tennessee Medical Center (UTMC), offers some insight into the risks involved with

using wood-burning fireplaces and stoves in the home.

"Wood heat sources can have a negative effect on anyone, but especially those with lung diseases like asthma, COPD or a heart disease," said Branca.

According to Branca, smoke is the major health threat from wood-burning fireplaces and stoves. Smoke produces fine particles that can get into the eyes and respiratory system where they can irritate and cause health issues such as burning eyes and bronchitis.

"Smoke exposure can have short- and long-term health effects," said Branca. "It can trigger coughing or an asthma attack and can lead to something as serious as a heart attack or

lung cancer."

Branca says fine particle levels from wood-burning heat sources are linked to increased emergency room visits, diabetes and early death. The particles can also permanently damage children's lungs. New and expectant mothers should take precautions around wood-burning heat sources to protect the health of themselves and their children. Branca recommends having a carbon monoxide detector at home and making sure the chimney is cleaned annually to avoid exposure to toxic products of combustion.

To limit your exposure to wood-burning smoke, Branca offers the following tips for safe burning:

- "Burn dry, seasoned wood that has been split, stacked, covered and stored."
 - "Test wood with a moisture meter. A reading of 20 percent moisture or less is best."
 - "Keep the flue open to allow plenty of oxygen to circulate in the fireplace or stove."
 - "Avoid burning particle board, treated, stained or painted wood."
 - "Burn hot, bright fires. Never let a fire smolder."
- For reliable information on taking care of your health or a loved one's health, contact UTMC's Health Information Center at (865)305-9525 or online at www.utmedical-center.org/hic.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Solid Waste Holiday Schedule

Waste Connections, Knoxville's household garbage and recycling hauler, is closed on Tuesday, Dec. 25. Garbage and recycling will not be collected that day. Residential and downtown collections typically scheduled for Tuesday collection will resume Wednesday, Dec. 26, and the collection schedule will offset by one day for the remainder of the week.

Garbage and recycling will be collected on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019; however, Waste Connections offices will be closed. (The only holidays on which Waste Connections does not pick up are Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.)

For tips on how to prevent waste by recycling or donating gently used items during this giving season, please visit www.knoxvilletn.gov/garbage. Following the Christmas holiday, properly bagged excess holiday household trash and broken-down cardboard set next to full garbage carts will be picked up - a one-time exception to the requirement that all bags be placed inside carts.

The city's recycling centers will be open for recycling drop-offs, but the Goodwill attendant will only be available for donations of household goods for a limited time during the holidays. The City's Solid Waste Management Facility, 1033 Elm St., will also have limited holiday hours. To find out holiday hours for the Solid

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Deliverance

Christmas is known for many fun things: presents, lights, family traditions, trees, music. For most, there is much joy at Christmas time. But for others, Christmas is a difficult time. A loved one is not around the table because



By Mark Brackney,
Minister of the
Arlington Church
of Christ

they passed away. For others, you long to have a relationship to share this time of year with. Others have difficulty when they get together with family over the holidays due to estranged relationships or conflict. You are "supposed" to have a great time, but you are not and it intensifies despair. Despair is defined as the complete absence of hope. Many will feel despair this Christmas season, but the Christmas story is about moving from despair to deliverance. God's people had a history of despair. Even in the midst of our despair, we have been promised deliverance.

Our problems began in the Garden of Eden. Every person commits sin and we recognize that we need a Savior. Some people fall into a false premise: as long as my good deeds outweigh my bad deeds, I am deserving of heaven. But if you break one deed, you are guilty of breaking all of them. If we could earn our deeds, there would then be no need for Jesus to die as a sacrifice for us. But man can't save himself. Someday we will all stand before God and we won't be compared to anyone other than the righteousness of Jesus. Our only hope is to put our trust in him, in the deliverer. In Isaiah 9, the king on the throne was Ahaz. Isaiah was encouraging Ahaz and the nation to turn back to God. Ahaz refused and the people were experiencing despair. There didn't seem

to be peace or hope in Jerusalem. But Isaiah tells the people there are better days ahead. No matter how bad or how long, deliverance is on the way. "Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future, he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan" (Isaiah 9:1).

Isaiah goes on to write: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned" (Isaiah 9:2). The first recorded words of God are: "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). Jesus calls himself the light of the world (John 8:12). Jesus wants us to be his light in a world of despair. We are to reflect Jesus Christ. We, like the moon reflecting the brilliance of the sun, get to reflect the brilliance of the Son of God.

Israel had many kings, but those kings often got them into the messes they found themselves in. But Isaiah says a lasting solution is on the way. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders" (Isaiah 9:6).

In the midst of difficult times, Isaiah makes a strange promise. A child will be born. But this is no ordinary child. God will enter history himself. The depths of despair will not be healed until this new child is born. Deliverance is not the answer; the deliverer is the answer. His name will be called: "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). His kingdom will have no end.



The 2019 Tennessee Home Vegetable Garden Calendar is now available for download. Covering topics like scheduling planting and harvest, area-specific suggestions and crop management, the calendar is a helpful resource for Tennessee home gardeners. Image courtesy UTIA

Tennessee Home Garden Vegetable Calendar Available for 2019

Monthly Tips, Management Templates and More from UT Extension Experts

Home gardeners and growers across the state can now utilize a free resource for planting in 2019. The Tennessee Home Garden Vegetable Calendar has been developed by the UT Extension Fruit and Vegetable Workgroup to help users create a comprehensive plan for home vegetable gardens. Natalie Bumgarner, UT

Extension plant sciences expert, says, "The 2018 calendar was extremely useful and well received, so we want to continue that momentum for Tennessee growers. The 2019 calendar features all of the information and tips of the 2018 calendar, with additions of the newest research crop spotlights and management tips."

The calendar includes tips for scheduling planting, harvest and general management. It is formatted like a regular calendar, and you can print and display in a convenient area or use on your computer

throughout the year. Also included in the calendar are monthly tasks for growers and an area for taking notes about that month's weather and crop observations. The calendar is area-specific as well, with suggestions for East, Middle and West Tennessee. The frost/freeze probable dates for twelve Tennessee communities is also included in this year's calendar.

The Tennessee Home Garden Vegetable Calendar is available for download from the UT Extension website, and the final pages of the file include management templates

for crops, climate, pests and diseases. The file also includes fillable boxes that enable it to be used as an electronic record keeping system for gardeners who do not wish to print the file.

To download your copy of the Tennessee Home Vegetable Garden 2019 Calendar, visit extension.tennessee.edu/publications and type "2019 calendar" into the search bar. Bumgarner also points out the PDF contains links to connect readers to other UT Extension gardening resources, denoted by green text throughout the calendar.

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