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Brock's spirit endures as RAM prepares for free Knoxville Clinic

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Stan Brock, founder of Remote Area Medical, passed away last August but his spirit will be with the organization as they prepare for the 1,000th medical clinic. Held at Chilhowee Park's Jacob building at 3301 East Magnolia Avenue over three days from February 1st to February 3rd, the non-profit provider will deliver free, high-quality medical, dental, and vision services including eyeglasses made on site, women's health exams and general medical exams.

Patients for the Knoxville RAM clinic may be able to register their unaltered household pets for free spay and neuter surgery as well as vaccinations, city dog tags, and microchipping. The pets should not be taken to the clinic.

RAM will open patient parking through Gate One no later than 12 midnight

on the first day of the event and ticket distribution usually begins about 3 a.m. The process repeats on Saturday and Sunday, February 2 and 3. Patients are being urged to arrive early, especially those seeking dental service.

The city of Knoxville has 26.5% of the population at or below the national poverty rate of 12.5%. Nearly one in six people under the age of 65 lack health insurance coverage. RAM expects about 1,000 people from Knoxville and surrounding communities to seek medical service.

"We are so excited to hold our 1,000th expedition, offering free dental, vision, medical and veterinary care right here where it first started in 1985," said RAM CEO Jeff Eastman.

For information about volunteering, especially for medical professionals, you may call (865)579-1530.



RAM's free clinic is coming to back to Knoxville and anyone wanting dental care is being asked to arrive early. The 1000th free medical clinic is scheduled for February 1-3. (Photo courtesy of RAM)



The Scholars' Bowl features high school students from across our region going and premiers for the 35th season today on East Tennessee Public Broadcasting System.

Scholars' Bowl broadcast begins today

By Mike Steely
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What happens when you take some of the smartest kids in high school and pit them against the smartest kids from another high school?

What you have is the Scholars' Bowl. Today the popular series premieres for the 35th season on East Tennessee PBS. The students have already played in the bowl, answering questions that even their parents probably couldn't, and all the contests between schools will begin to air tonight for the first time. This year the Scholar's Bowl is doing something new, adding two Kentucky schools to the mix from Middlesboro and Whitley counties.

During each show one school wins and one school loses and the matches continue until the champs face off. Frank Murphy of Classic Hits 93.1 KNOX hosts the program which is written and produced by ETPBS Mathline's Ernie Roberts. It features 59 teams of students competing against each other in matchups. The show appears on East Tennessee Public Broadcasting System

each weekday at 5:30 p.m.

The show's longtime producer and founder, Frank Miller, passed away three years ago and Roberts said he took over the role, organizing brackets across the region's schools and writing more than 4,000 questions that will be asked this season. The questions come from a wide range of categories including math, science, the arts, history and current events.

This year some schools submitted two or three teams for the competition. The shows were taped in late 2018 and although the winners have already been determined the producer wants that to be a surprise. The winning school will receive \$1,000 and the "Frank Miller Memorial Trophy" in honor of the game's founder. The coach of the winning team gets an additional cash prize.

The school coming in second will receive \$500.

The "Fortuitous Four" competitions, featuring the four remaining schools, will be shown on March 25.

The best of Knox County



Catholic junior offensive lineman Bryn Tucker (6-5, 300) fires out to block during TSSAA playoff time late in the season. Tucker fills a big spot on The Knoxville Focus / Coaches' 2018 All-Knox County football team, which is announced this week along with the Knox County Player and Coach of the Year. Please see the honorees in Sports and Recreation, Section B. Photo by Kelly Kearsse.

Senators Richard Briggs and Becky Duncan-Massey answer questions

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knox County state Senators Richard Briggs and Becky-Duncan Massey answered questions from an audience at a League of Women's Voters forum Saturday. The event, held at the Knoxville News Sentinel, drew a sizable audience and began with a greeting from LWV President Linda Maccabe, who reminded everyone that next year will be the organization's 100th birthday.

She also said that Senator Randy McNally could not be there because of an engagement in West Tennessee. The LWV president also recognized Senator Massey's birthday and presented a birthday cupcake with

two candles.

Massey said the change in this year's legislature is the "biggest change since the Civil War" noting that 34 new members are joining both houses of state government.

The senators said that the new governor, Bill Lee, may bring proposals they can support including judicial and sentencing reform and expansion of career and technical education.

Both Massey and Briggs agreed to continue to push for health care reform, noting they had supported former Governor Bill Haslam's failed effort to reform it. Briggs mentioned health care and noted the state is still at the bottom of the nation. He

said the state is not making progress on health care and said it has slid from 34th to 36th.

Briggs said that if the state chooses to take part in the Medicaid program that \$1 to 1.2 million would come to Tennessee in federal funds paid by state taxpayers. He bemoaned the closure of hospitals including the two in Knoxville.

Both said they are working to revise a health care plan that could be passed in the strongly Republican state houses.

"Our TennCare is the envy of the nation but we could get almost all our citizens insured," Briggs said.

Massey said one of the health care

Continued on page 3

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Rule High School history book author dies at age 90

By Jody Davis, KCME Volunteer

You wouldn't think of Mary Catherine (Hodge) Halsey as an important major book author. She wasn't. But to the many graduates of the now closed Rule High School, she is THE most important book author they know. "Golden Memories Of Rule High School, A History" was that book. Mary passed away in Atlanta, Georgia, December 4, 2018 at the age of 90.

Born in Strawberry Plains, growing up in Knoxville, Mary was a 1946 graduate of Rule High School and was selected as "Most Studious" of her senior class. After graduation from Rule, she attended Hiwassee College. She married William Ingram form Vonore, Tennessee. They moved to Atlanta, Georgia where they had one child, a daughter, Annette. The family then located to Detroit and

Dearborn, Michigan, where during the 50's and 60's Mary worked at Fruehauf and later for the Teamsters Union during Jimmy Hoffa's term. She subsequently worked directly for Frank Fitzsimmons, Jimmy Hoffa's replacement. After the Teamsters, Mary began working for the Social Security Administration, transferring to Ventura, California in 1962 and then to San Francisco and Vallejo. She then transferred to Phoenix, Arizona, marrying her second husband, Keith Halsey, and eventually retiring there. In 1981, Mary moved back to Atlanta to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren. Another move back to her roots to Knoxville was necessitated by helping care for her brother Walter "Junior" Hodge, Jr. during his illness before passing.

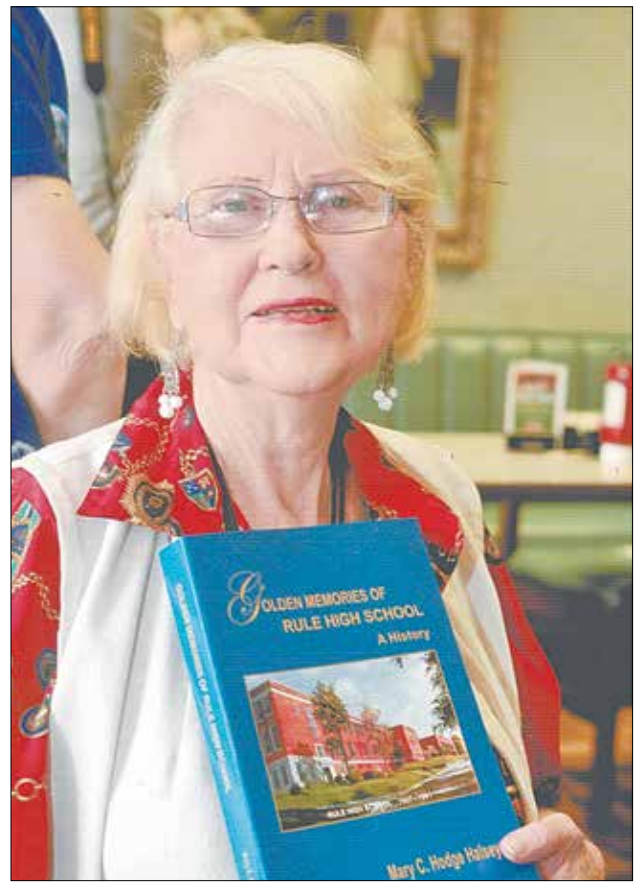
During this return to Knoxville, Mary reconnected with

relatives, friends and Rule classmates whom she had not seen for about 50 years. In an effort to promote the memory of Rule High, Mary was instrumental in initiating still ongoing Rule High School breakfast meetings. Along with her interest in keeping the memory of Rule alive, Mary, upon reading a story in the newspaper about a school museum opening in Historic Knoxville High School, showed up at the Knox County Museum of Education the very next day to offer any assistance she could. She became a valued contributor to the Museum, volunteering time, items for display, as well as monetary contributions. She continued her support of the Museum from afar after a final move back to Atlanta to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren, where she was an active member of her retirement community.

During Mary's volunteer

work with the Museum and continuing efforts to keep Rule High memories alive, Mary developed an interest, with encouragement and support of other Rule graduates to write the historical account of Rule High School.....hence her book, published in 2006. Mary received an award from the East Tennessee Historical Society for this publication.

Copies of "Golden Memories Of Rule High School, A History" are still available at the Knox County Museum of Education. Prior to learning of her passing, the museum, with support of Rule High graduates, was in the planning stages of making a display case in Mary's honor. Those efforts are ongoing, and with the support of Mary's family, as expressed through her daughter, any contributions in Mary's honor can be made to the Knox County Museum of Education, 801



Mary Catherine (Hodge) Halsey

Tipton Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37920, 865-579-8264, ext. 5, <https://www.kcme.com> website/. Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., M - F.

What Are Punitive Damages?

A term you may have heard of is punitive damages. But what exactly are punitive damages? Punitive damages are those damages that go beyond just compensating a Plaintiff for their injuries, but are designed to punish the Defendant for their actions. Even though punitive damages are designed to punish the Defendant, any punitive damages that are actually awarded, are given to the Plaintiff.



By Jedidiah McKeenan
attorneyknoxville@gmail.com

Most people have heard of a case that involved a big award of punitive damages without realizing it, and that is the McDonald's hot coffee case. While some media outlets and lobbyists have used the award in that case to decry the legal system and to show that juries will give individuals unreasonable amounts of money, let's dive in to the actual facts of the case.

79-year-old Stella Liebeck pulled through the McDonald's drive-thru and ordered a coffee and then pulled in to a parking space in the McDonald's parking lot. The coffee spilled in her lap which resulted in second and third-degree burns on her thighs, buttocks, groin and genitals. The burns were severe enough to require skin grafts and resulted in permanent injury to her genitals and groin requiring surgery.

Ms. Liebeck was willing to settle her case against McDonald's for \$20,000.00, which was the cost of her medical expenses related to

this incident. However, McDonald's refused to settle for that amount. Then it came out as the case progressed that McDonald's had received hundreds of complaints from customers of their coffee causing burns. At the trial, the jury decided that they would award punitive damages and punish McDonald's for not listening to all of the complaints they had received about their coffee being too hot and it causing injuries.

The jury awarded Ms. Liebeck \$2.7 million in punitive damages. Not because Ms. Liebeck deserved it, but because they wanted to punish McDonald's. This amount equaled only two days of total coffee sales revenue for McDonald's. That's how the jury came up with that number.

So the story of the McDonald's coffee case is not the story of a jury running wild, but more of a jury taking advantage of the ability to award punitive damages to punish a Defendant for their behavior (or non-behavior).

Jedidiah 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.

Feral cat population, Recode, Safety Center before City Council

By Mike Steely
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The debate over what to do about the increasing number of stray cats in the city comes back before the City Council when it meets on January 15. Before then the council holds a work session Thursday to get an update on moving the police department headquarters, known as the Safety Center, to a new location.

Vice Mayor Finbarr Saunders has named the Safety Center as the topic of the work session, to be held at 5:30. The city is talking with Tennova about possibly purchasing the former St. Mary's Hospital just off Broadway and has recently named a consulting firm to consider the purchase.

Saunders told The Focus that David Brace and Bill Lyons will meet with the council in the work session and bring them up to date on any progress.

"They asked us to call the meeting," he said.

Saunders also said that the MPC will be meeting at 1:30 prior to the work session and considering the new Recode zoning changes and 3rd edition of the proposed zoning map. "Maybe we'll know something on that as well," he said. Saunders said he'd like to have a called meeting on Recode during January and possibly pass it in February.

The council, which split 6 to 2 on a new feral cat ordinance, may continue to see debate on the issue. The idea, requested by the police department, is to capture, neuter, vaccinate and release stray



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Tennova closed its doors at the former St. Mary's Hospital in December and the city is looking at the facility for possible purchase in order to renovate and transfer the police and fire headquarters there.

cats back into their neighborhoods. The procedure might begin cutting back on the number of stray cat births and, thus reduce the population.

The change in the city's approved approach, which has been to capture, vaccinate and hold stray cats for adoption, was promoted in the last council meeting by Janet Testerman, CEO of Young-Williams Animal Shelter and two advocates from Murfreesboro and Utah. The matter did not pass through the Knoxville Animal Control Board for a recommendation and that brought Dr. Marcy Souza, Director of Veterinary Public Health at UT to the meeting in opposition.

Testerman and Dr. Souza are both members of the Animal Control Board and Souza was critical of any decision without action by the board. Opposition to the change came from council members Lauren

Rider and Mark Campen.

Testerman said the current policy hasn't worked and only a small percentage of stray cats brought to the shelter are adopted. Souza said the proposed plan has been used in other cities and hasn't worked. There's also an opinion that returning the stray cats to where they were caught would cause a decrease in bird population.

Rider and Campen tried to postpone the issue for eight weeks but the vote failed. Councilman Marshall Stair voted initially with Rider and Campen and changed his vote to pass it on first reading.

According to its website the Animal Control Board meets quarterly and the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 17, after the city council's second and final reading. Rider was trying to postpone the matter until

that board meets.

The Animal Control Board has seven members appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the council. Those members include Testerman and Souza along with Lisa Chassy, Ronnie Neace, Keith Hogue, Sara Glass and Lisa Skinner.

The board apparently falls beneath the police department. It recommends goals, objectives, qualification requirements and specialized training courses. It issues permits and establishes minimum standards for persons who operate quarters where animals are kept, maintained, exhibited or displayed.

"I think it's a good step," Saunders said of the proposed ordinance, which would permit the capture of stray cats, neutering the animals, vaccinating them and releasing the animals back in their neighborhood habitats.

Councilman Mark Campen had an opposite view. He told The Focus that stray cats allowed to return to their neighborhoods are a threat to birds and wildlife.

"I guess I'm a 'bird nerd' and I love cats, but indoor cats. This is a never-ending topic and migratory song birds are disappearing due to habitat changes. Cats are great hunters and kill not only birds but other wildlife like squirrels. I cannot support the motion as a Natural Resources Conservationist," he said.

"I'll make a motion to postpone this, we need further discussion," Campen said.



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Save Our Signs could use funds

By Mike Steely
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Back in 2010 Reily Foods, the owners of JFG Coffee, donated \$15,000 to Knox Heritage and "Save Our Signs" was initiated to restore the historic JFG sign that stood on the south bank of the Tennessee River across from downtown Knoxville for about 50 years. The restored sign was unveiled during the following Boomsday, completely restored with new LED light bulbs added.

The sale of the old light bulbs from the sign helped supply some restoration funds.

JFG Coffee was founded by James Franklin Goodson and his brother Milton in Morristown and moved to Knoxville. The JFG Building on Jackson Avenue downtown was purchased by the Goodson brothers and became the headquarters and roasting facility. In 2009 the building was renovated and became a residential building.

The "Best Part of the Meal" became a regional favorite and the JFG brand has re-emerged as

a favorite among grocery shoppers in our region. The original sign was damaged in 2011 by a storm before restoration began.

But saving the JFG sign wasn't the only historic sign project taken on by Knox Heritage.

Todd Morgan, executive director of Knox Heritage, spoke with The Focus recently of the restoration during the project of the Pizza Palace sign on Magnolia Avenue, the Regas Restaurant sign on the Regas Square downtown, and the Princess Theater sign in Harriman.

The Save Our Signs campaign originally was to help restore old signs in Knox Heritage's 15 county area but eventually ran out of funds. Morgan mentioned an initial intent to restore the sign on the historic L&N Building downtown but the funds were not available and the project is in limbo currently.

Morgan also chatted about possible other sign restorations that could be considered in our region including the Kay's Ice Cream signs, any Blue



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

The JFG sign facing Knoxville from the south side of the river was restored in a few years ago thanks to funds from JFG and Reily Foods and is but one of the "Save our Signs" campaign successes. Knox Heritage is open to re-establishing the SOS program if an organization or corporations donates some funds for other historic signs.

Circle Hamburger signs that might still exist, and is open to any other suggestions.

"I'd love to see Save Our Signs get funded," he said. He added that anyone

interested in restoring signs or donating to the effort can contact Knox Heritage

at (865)523-8008 or email him at toddmorgan@knoxheritage.org.t

New Knox Heritage Workshops encourage Re-USE, Re-CYCLING and Re-IMAGINING

Old furniture, building materials and vintage finds donated to The Knox Heritage Salvage Shop will be used as teaching tools for a new monthly workshop designed to inspire creative possibilities made from worn out treasures.

The Salvage Shop University will kick off on January 10 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at The Knox Heritage Salvage Shop retail store at 619 N. Broadway. This newly created twist on saving place will begin this month with local entrepreneur, Ashley Costerisan. North Knoxville resident and owner of Best Nest Home, Ashley will share repurposing tips and painting techniques on how to turn neglected furniture in to restored masterpieces.

Workshop topics will change every month with some designed to be "make and take" projects and others, like the one on January 10, created simply for learning and notetaking. Magpie Cupcakes and coffee from Refill Coffee Cart will provide the refreshments for the first workshop as part of the \$35 ticket price. Seating is limited. Interested attendees are encouraged to LIKE and FOLLOW

The Salvage University Facebook page (@khsalvageshopuniversity) for updates and to purchase tickets. All workshop proceeds benefit Knox Heritage and its many preservation programs. Call the Knox Heritage office for more details at 865-523-8008, extension 2.

Knox Heritage is a non-profit community organization that advocates for the preservation of structures and places with cultural or historic significance. Learn more about our work, special events, and how you can get involved at knoxheritage.org/support.

About the Salvage Shop - This unique and inspiring retail store accepts salvage donations such as furniture, architectural finds, and home accessories, then resells the materials for home remodeling and DIY projects, keeping vintage treasures from the past from going to the landfill. Store hours are Wednesdays thru Fridays from 12 - 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 - 3 p.m. Visit knoxheritage.org/salvage for more information.

Senators Richard Briggs and Becky Duncan-Massey answer questions

Cont. from page 1

problems is that too many Tennesseans are obese and said it will take "lifestyle changes" for that to improve.

The senators also heard from audience members involving the care for elderly in nursing homes and Briggs also mentioned "financial abuse" of the elderly. The legislators were prodded to discuss health issues with the new governor and Massey called Governor-elect Lee "a good listener."

Asked about expanding gun control Briggs said that mentally ill people being discharged from mental hospitals cannot qualify to buy a weapon but mentally ill being discharged from hospitals can buy guns due to an existing rule.

They were also asked if the state bodies can do anything to help with the local housing problem and Massey said that maybe the tight regulations on builders might be eased to allow more and less expensive homes.

Asked about raising minimum wage both Massey and Briggs apparently are not in favor, saying that a higher wage encourages businesses



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

LWV President Linda Maccabe, left, chats with Knox County state Senators Richard Briggs and Becky-Duncan Massey at Saturday's forum.

to cut out overtime, drop benefits, etc. Both encouraged educational training that leads to higher salaries.

Both senators noted they are not in favor of vouchers being given to parents who

want to put their children in private schools. Both also said they would not favor legalizing marijuana use except for some medical problems.

"As long as it's not smokable," Massey said.

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Breakfast for Buds draws veterans together

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Tellico Village is the site of a monthly gathering for active duty and military veterans at Mama Grits/Classico Restaurant. The event, Breakfast for Buds, is growing each month and gives veterans a chance to reminisce about their time in the service.

"There's no agenda or speeches," Dennis Drake told The Focus.

This month's 8:30 a.m. until 10 a.m. breakfast will be held Saturday, January 12 and will also feature military memorabilia. Sponsored by the VFW Post 12135, the gatherings started three years ago. The post's meetings are held the Tellico Village Yacht Club, on the fifth floor. The next post meeting is January 16th.

Speaking of the Breakfast For Buds, Drake



Several veterans prepare to order breakfast at "Breakfast for Buds" in Tellico Village. VFW Post 12135 hosts the monthly gathering. (Photo courtesy of Dennis Drake)

said, "There will be an area set up so pictures and memorabilia can be displayed for everyone to enjoy. We will also have someone from our post to provide information about military benefits."

Mama Grits/Classico Restaurant in just off

Highway 444 at the only stop light in Tellico Village behind the Tellico Village Visitors Center.

"We sponsor and volunteer for several projects each year," he said.

"Breakfast for Buds was conceived to give our

membership, all active duty military, and veterans a place and time to get together and just socialize," Drake said, adding, "Each month the number of attendees grows and right now it's about a 50/50 split between VFW members and non-members."

Commission recognizes Central's championship, David Shields

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

If it wasn't for the many honors and recognitions the December Knox County Commission meeting may have been one of the shortest in recent memory. The commission did approve to close a portion of England Drive past Wallace Avenue and an unnamed alley on a request from the Aslan Foundation.

All but two more of the 35 agenda items were approved on consent, in one vote, and some of those had been discussed in the commission's work session a week earlier.

The two items approved, with little discussion, included a payment-in-lieu of taxes for the JED Corporation's renovation of the old Cal Johnson Building on State Street. The city-approved tax break was before the county commission because of a new state law requiring approval there as well.

Commission Chairman Hugh Nystrom recognized the Dance family, owners of the historic building, for their effort to preserve the structure.

The commission likewise approved a city tax break for a new hotel at 210 West Church Avenue by Paramount Hospitality Management. The construction there is already underway. Commissioner Evelyn Gill sponsored both tax-break resolutions.

At the end of the meeting the commissioners discussed an agenda for the upcoming meeting with local state legislative representatives. Commissioner John Schoonmaker's Legislative Affairs Committee is organizing the meeting.

He suggested topics such as getting the state lawmakers to reinstitute the full 5% commission to the Register of Deeds office and getting payment for state prisoners being held in county jail remitted earlier. Commissioner Brad Anders suggested a discussion with the legislators include changing state rules involving the planning commission, refunding unfunded mandates and changing the formula on state BEP funding for schools.

Schoonmaker also suggested talking about upping the insurance liability law to \$25,000 when it involves someone hitting a county vehicle.

Notably absent from the eleven-member body was Commissioner Carson Dailey, who is recovering from an infection in a knee replacement.

During the regular session Commissioner Michele Carringer recognized Central High School's State Championship with members of the team and Coach Bryson Rosser. Carringer, a Central graduate and "Bobcat for Life," noted that Rosser led the team to the school to capture its first state championship.

The commission also recognized the leadership of David Shields as chairman of the Knox County Audit Committee. Shields was term-limited and was joined during the honor by current Audit Chairman Jim Morrison, and Commissioners Nystrom, Schoonmaker and Randy Smith.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

David Shields was recognized for this Audit Committee leadership and was joined during the honors by Jim Morrison, John Schoonmaker, Hugh Nystrom and Randy Smith.

Cosby is different

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

Located between Gatlinburg and Newport and hugging the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains the community of Cosby is different from the tourist-crowded town to its east. The winter is a great time to get out and visit the smaller Smoky Mountain communities and Cosby has some interesting places and sites.

Highway 321 serves the community and there are rumors that the entire stretch will be four laned in the next few years to better serve the Gatlinburg area and take some traffic off the busy entrance roads there. The quickest way to reach Cosby is by taking Interstate 40 to Newport and taking the second exit, the one with all the businesses. The highway passes all the businesses and then heads toward Cosby, with a turn right at the end of the four lanes.

That stretch of road, heading east toward Gatlinburg, is where the



The Mt. Cammerer Fire Tower is a popular destination for visitors to Cosby, with lots of trails from atop the mountain and Hen Wallow Falls trail is nearby.

next four lanes are being planned. Until then the highway is narrow and climbs and descends several winding hills before it settles into a straight road.

On the way to Cosby you'll pass several orchards and campgrounds. The Applehouse Restaurant, open all year, is part of the Carver Orchard and Farm Market. It's a popular place for visitors and locals to dine.

Before reaching the little intersection where Highway 321 turns right at the Cosby Post Office, you'll pass the entrance to the Foothills Parkway. This scenic view road, occasionally closed due to snowfall, climbs part of the Smokies and ends at exit 443 on I-40. There are several pull-offs along the way for viewing the mountain.

Much like pre-tourist communities in the area Cosby has a hardware store, restaurants, a visitor center, convenience stores, cabins and campgrounds. If you don't turn right you can continue toward the mountain on Highway 32 and turn right onto the Cosby Entrance to the Mt. Cammerer Trail Head with camping, hiking, picnicking, etc. Along the way is the Cosby Campground, a federal property, with 100 sites but closed presently due to weather and federal government cutbacks.

The fire tower atop Mt. Cammerer offers great views and has many hiking trails including a connection with the Appalachian Trail. The parking lot serves the campground, picnic area and amphitheater.

Also located along the park road is Hen Wallow

Falls, a cascade and trail, just across from the picnic area near Mt. Cammerer.

Cosby may have been named for a trapper and whiskey maker, Jonathan Cosby, or for Dr. James Cozby, a Revolutionary War veteran who claimed land in the area. The history of the small community evolved early as a whiskey-making center.

Today the community is a gateway to the Smoky Mountains and has several unique attractions including a llama encounter center, mom-and-pop businesses, a local visitors' center, a barbecue restaurant, and several commercial cabin and camping businesses.

Nearby are Ramsey Cascades, Forbidden Caverns, Pittman Center, and shopping in Newport. Cosby is only a few miles east of Gatlinburg and is becoming a destination for people wanting to be near the commercial tourist attractions but not among the busy centers.

If you're looking for something different you might try stopping by Our Place, a coffee and bookstore about 2 miles east of Cosby on Highway 321.

You can get more information about Cosby at www.newportcockecountychamber.com or by calling 423-487-5505.

Poinsettias and other houseplants

Now Christmas is over. You have those Poinsettias.... So, what are you going to do with them? A decision to be made.... Toss them or keep them. You should keep them. With the proper care, they will last through the year, and hopefully bloom beautifully when next Christmas arrives.

Let's talk about the care of Poinsettias. Your Poinsettia should receive at least 6 hours of bright, indirect sunlight each day. They prefer daytime temperatures between 65 and 70 degrees and slightly cooler at night but try to keep it above 60 degrees to avoid leaf drop. They do best placed in a southern, eastern or western window. Keep the soil moist

while they are blooming. Water whenever the surface feels dry to the touch. Do not allow them to sit in water.

So, there is basically a time schedule or calendar on how to care for your Poinsettias after Christmas care. January through March keep watering the poinsettia whenever the surface is dry. Beginning April 1st, gradually decrease water, allowing the soil to get dry between watering. After the plant has acclimated to this drying process, in about a week or two, move it to a cool spot, like the basement or a heated garage. You want to keep the plant at about 60 degrees. This is also the time to begin fertilizing the Poinsettias. In May, cut about 4 inches from each stem to foster a lush, full plant during the winter. It is also best to report the plant

in a larger container with new potting soil. Water it well. Place the newly potted plant back into the brightest window you have and once again keep it at a temperature of 65-75 degrees. Continue watering whenever the surface feels dry. When the temperatures rise around June, it's time to move your poinsettias outside to an area that gets a moderate amount of sunshine. Look for a spot that gets a good amount of morning sun and partially shaded afternoon sun. Maintain your watering and fertilizing schedule. In early July, pinch back each stem by about one inch. When the temperature begins to dip below 65, those Poinsettias need to come inside once again. Ok, so now we are approaching October. This is when the work begins to get

your Poinsettia ready to bloom at Christmas. Beginning October 1, your poinsettia needs a 12-hour night of darkness. From 5 pm to 8 am, keep the Poinsettia in complete darkness. Many people put a cardboard box over it. Any light that gets to the plant will delay the blooming. Then during the daytime hours, keep it in the window and continue watering and fertilizing practices. Around the last week of November, you can stop the darkness treatment and allow the plant to remain in the window. You should see flower buds at this point. Stop fertilizing around December 15th. It should be blooming at this point just in time for the Christmas season!

Now that we have covered poinsettias, let's take a look at houseplants in general. Did you know that January 20th is

Houseplant Appreciation Day? So, this is a good day to tend to love, and appreciate your houseplants. Make sure they are well watered. Today would be a good day to give them a little fertilizer. Houseplants should be appreciated as they have many beneficial qualities, including purifying the air and eliminating toxins from the environment. Plants also release moisture into the air, providing humidity that can make your house feel cooler. Maybe today would be a good day to give a houseplant to a friend, perhaps an elderly neighbor or shut-in. During this season when there is not much going on in the outdoor garden, take time to tend to and enjoy houseplants!

"Use plants to bring life."—
Douglas Wilson

Tennessee Governors & the Path to the US Senate

Part Fifteen

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill

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With the election of Kenneth D. McKellar to the United States Senate, the senatorial ambitions of Tennessee's governors became a trifle more circumspect. Some like Gordon Browning never really gave up the desire to go to the U. S. Senate. A congressman for twelve years, Browning ran for the Senate in 1934 and lost to the incumbent, Nathan L. Bachman, in the primary. It was only after his losing bid for the United States Senate Browning finally became governor. Prentice Cooper eyed the Senate seat of Tom Stewart in 1942, but eventually chose to run for a third two-year term as governor. Cooper did run for the U. S. Senate, albeit fourteen years after his last term as governor expired.

The men Tennesseans chose to represent them in the U. S. Senate came from other political backgrounds after senators were popularly nominated and elected. Tennessee's longest serving senator, Kenneth McKellar, had been a congressman before defeating an incumbent senator and two former governors to get to the Senate. John Knight Shields had been Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court and his successor, Lawrence D. Tyson had been elected to no higher office than representative in the Tennessee House of Representatives, albeit he had served as Speaker of the House. William E. Brock was a successful businessman; Cordell Hull had a long career in the House of Representatives before being elected to the Senate in 1930. Nathan L. Bachman, a former justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, was appointed to serve following Cordell Hull's resignation from the Senate to become President Franklin Roosevelt's Secretary of State. Bachman won two elections before dying of a heart attack a few months into his first full six-year term. George L. Berry had never been elected to anything and was a labor leader when Governor Gordon Browning appointed him to serve until the next election following the death of Nathan Bachman. Berry was defeated by Tom Stewart in a 1938 special election; Stewart had been a local district attorney before being elected to the Senate.

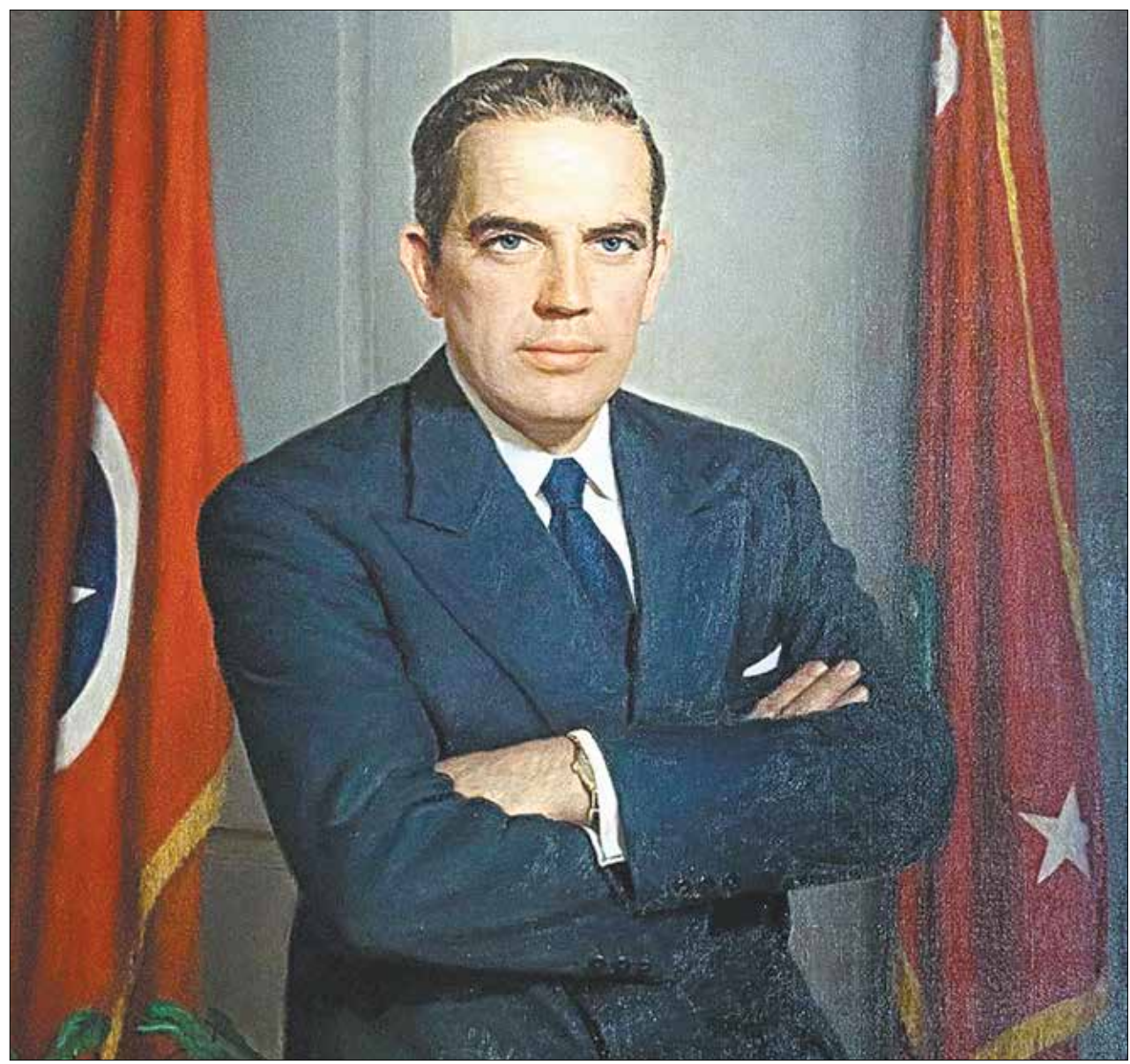
Tom Stewart lost to Congressman Estes Kefauver in 1948 and McKellar, old and frail, finally was toppled by Congressman Albert Gore in 1952. Kefauver

died in office and his death sparked two of the hardest fought Democratic primaries in Tennessee's history, with Congressman Ross Bass beating Governor Frank Clement and Howard Baker in 1964. Two years later, Clement beat Bass and lost to Republican Howard Baker, who had never held elective office before winning a seat in the Senate in 1966. Congressman Bill Brock beat Senator Albert Gore in 1970 and he lost his seat in 1976 to Jim Sasser, who had never held elective office. Senator Baker retired in 1984 and his Senate seat was won by Congressman Albert Gore, Jr. Sasser was defeated in 1994 by Dr. Bill Frist, who had never held elective office prior to being elected to the U. S. Senate. Likewise, Fred Thompson, sometime lawyer, sometime actor, beat Congressman Jim Cooper in the 1994 special election to fill out the remainder of Vice President Al Gore's term of office. The incumbent, Harlan Mathews, did not run. Bob Corker had been mayor of Chattanooga before being elected to the U. S. Senate.

Since Tennessee began popularly electing U.S. senators in 1916, only one former governor has made it to the United States Senate: Lamar Alexander. Since Tennesseans could cast ballots and select their own senators, they seem to have preferred promoting congressmen to the U. S. Senate.

In 1934, former governor Ben W. Hooper tried for a second time to defeat Kenneth D. McKellar. Hooper joined forces with Lewis Pope, who had bolted the Democratic Party and ran as an Independent in the general election. Twice elected governor by a combine of Republicans and Independent Democrats known as "fusionists", Hooper may have hoped lightning would strike again. McKellar was too personally popular and too well entrenched and crushed Hooper, effectively extinguishing his political career. Former governor Prentice Cooper had flirted with the idea of running for the U. S. Senate several times and finally made the race in 1958, opposing Senator Albert Gore. Cooper had originally campaigned to win back the governorship, but eventually switched to the Senate race. Despite a well-funded and organized campaign, Cooper lost decisively.

1952 was the year the old order went out in Tennessee; Congressman Albert Gore defeated



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Official portrait of Governor Frank G. Clement

Senator K. D. McKellar and thirty-two year old Frank G. Clement beat veteran Governor Gordon Browning. Two years later, Clement became the first governor to win a four-year term, once again easily turning back a determined challenge by Gordon Browning. Clement could not seek reelection in 1958 and after six years as governor, he thought about running against Senator Albert Gore. Clement decided to wait and made a political comeback in 1962, winning a third term as governor. Several months into his term of office, Senator Estes Kefauver unexpectedly died. Clement appointed Herbert "Hub" Walters to fill the vacancy. Seventy-one years old, few thought Walters would run in the 1964 special election to serve the two years remaining on Kefauver's term. Most believed Walters would serve as a placeholder while Clement sought election to the United States Senate. Congressman Ross Bass had served in Congress for ten years and made the decision to seek the Democratic nomination. Frank Clement had every reason to feel confident that he could easily win the nomination; Bass had never been elected to statewide office or run outside his own congressional district. Clement had been elected governor three times, winning both the primary and general elections six times. Frank Clement had never lost an election. Frank Clement also had the extra-added advantage of heading a state administration, rich in patronage and appointees who would coalesce behind his candidacy. Clement looked to be quite a formidable candidate.

Initially, Clement held back as there was intense speculation former governor Buford Ellington would be a candidate for

the late Estes Kefauver's seat. Once upon a time, Clement and Ellington had been close; indeed, Ellington had succeeded Clement as governor in 1959 after having served as Clement's Commissioner of Agriculture for the better part of six years. Yet there was good reason to believe whatever friendship there had been between Clement and Ellington had faded.

Less than a month after Kefauver's death, Congressman Bass was off on "a listening tour" of Tennessee to see what reaction Democrats had to his possible candidacy for the Senate. Bass started his tour in West Tennessee and immediately reported he liked what he was hearing. "Up to this point," the Congressman said, "I'm still encouraged by the response I've had from people interested in electing a U. S. senator in 1964." While visiting Jackson, Tennessee, Bass was careful to say should he run for the Senate, it was not against any particular person, but rather "to win the race." "I think the major issues for the Senate seat held by the late Sen. Estes Kefauver will be experience in the House and the political philosophy of the candidate," Bass said, which also happened to emphasize his own political experience to the detriment of that of Frank Clement. Bass opined the people of Tennessee likely wanted "the Bass philosophy."

Thought to be slightly more liberal than Clement, Bass tried to define his political philosophy. "I don't conform to political ideologies," Bass insisted. "I call myself a good Democrat and vote for the best interest of my people. I don't vote for the people of Mississippi or Alabama nor do I vote for those in New York or New Jersey." While Bass sounded like

a certain candidate, he made it quite clear, "I have no desire just to run for the Senate", instead he wanted to be sure if he ran, there would be more than adequate financial and popular support for his campaign. Moving on to Memphis to take the political pulse of the community, Ross Bass again stressed his moderation. "I am neither liberal nor conservative in the common vernacular," he said. Bass certainly sounded like a conservative as he touted a tax cut proposed by President John F. Kennedy's administration. Bass, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, also took the opportunity to obliquely criticize the state tax increases imposed by the Clement administration. "I am happy we will be able to give sizable tax relief at the national level to ease the burden of increased state taxes in recent months," Bass told reporters. The congressman had hurried back to Washington, D.C. to take part in the final deliberations of the Ways and Means Committee on the tax cut bill.

Within a month of Senator Estes Kefauver's death and weeks after Congressman Ross Bass begin his "listening tour" there were troubling signs for Governor Frank Clement. Matt Lynch, head of Tennessee's State Labor Council, said he "guessed" the majority of his membership would favor Bass over Clement. Lynch denied there had been an significant conversations about the senatorial race, but once labor made its choice inside the Democratic primary, it would support its favorite "energetically and at a grass-roots level." As Bass toured Tennessee, so did wealthy businessman M. M. Bullard. Bullard admitted he did not much care for the notion of running

against Ross Bass, saying, "I would like to run against Frank Clement. I would rather do that than go fishing." Bullard told reporters his political philosophy was that of a "conservative liberal." Bullard explained he had supported the late Estes Kefauver "about 95 percent of" the time, but cautioned he was a businessman and while he believed in a progressive tax program, he wished to see a balanced budget. "I'm not in favor of spending billions and billions to go to the moon," Bullard said. The Newport businessman complained he did not like the increased taxes raised under Governor Clement. He said he would wait to see what Clement did with the extra money raised, a notion that rankled the Kingsport News, who snapped in an editorial, Clement was spending the money "for increased pay for school teachers, to build technical and vocational schools, expand the mental health program, give prison guards more pay and shorter hours, build and improve more roads and all the other things that the LEGISLATURE said the money would go for." The Kingsport News sniffed, "However, these are state matters and do not concern U. S. senators."

With Nancy Kefauver's definitive statement she would not be a candidate, Congressman Ross Bass quickly put out a statement of his own praising the senator's widow. "I believe now with this doubt removed among Sen. Kefauver's friends that a decision on a candidate may come at an early date," Bass said.

For a few days the prospective candidacy of Senator Kefauver's widow, Nancy, caught fire. Speculation ran rampant Mrs. Kefauver might run for the senatorial nomination until the feisty redhead put a stop to it.

Getting to know

KEVIN MURPHY

The Knoxville Focus is sitting down and chatting with interesting people in our area to let you, our readers, get to know them beyond their normal duties or functions. We've picked people who are public figures, community leaders, or simply interesting people.

This week we get to know Kevin Murphy.

One of the most active members of the Knox County Board of Zoning Appeals is a Florida native whose family goes back to the days before the Civil War in our area. Kevin Murphy now lives in a beautiful farmhouse he had restored. Built in 1841 by his great-great-great grandfather Hugh Murphy, the restored family home is just part of the love of history that Murphy brought to Knox County.

As former chairman of the Zoning Appeals Board, Murphy has also served on the board of Knox Heritage and is a community activist, speaking out for preservation and the application of zoning rules.

How is your position with BZA working out?

I was chair last year and I'm in my last year. It's been a great experience. It's more of a judicial body with rules that require strict interpretation vs a legislative body that makes policy. It's sort of a safety valve when zoning ordinances meet the real world and aren't quite perfect. We've gotten so much better during my nine years, more focused. I'm proud of all the members. We have a full and open discussion at the meetings, but never outside the meetings.

How has that position affected



Kevin Murphy (right) talks with Knoxville Focus reporter Mike Steely about his life and the restoration of the historic family home and farm. (Photo by Sherry Murphy)

your business or private life?

I work for Broadcom, as a cybersecurity software engineer with teams all over the country. I have work trips to Washington, D. C. My work gives me an opportunity to work from the old farm house. Working on a cyber threat, and then looking up from my screen out at a completely different world – rural pastures and agriculture – is something that never ceases to amaze me.

Tell us about your family.

My dad was born in Knoxville and his family moved to Florida when he was young. This farm was my grandparent's summer home and one weekend a year we would all come for a Family Reunion. On a Saturday afternoon we would set in lawn chairs in a circle in the back yard. I have a brother who lives in Nashville.

I was born in Florida and was

working in Dayton, Ohio, when I took a trip to Australia. While there I asked myself "Where does home feel like?" The answer was that old farm in Knoxville.

I'm single so I have had a lot of time to restore this house but I'm not finished restoring the farm. I've become the family historian. There's more preservation needed at the outbuildings.

What are your hopes for the city and county and a Metro-Type government?

It would have its advantages but I don't think it will happen. We would benefit but I don't think the voters would go for it. The corner of Murphy Road and Washington Pike is the real separation of city and county, sort of a "hard stop." From there you've got about two miles before scattered houses re-appear and out here people kind of like driving through this

rural countryside setting.

What are your main interests or hobbies?

I'm the family historian and love to travel. Each year I take a vacation trip to Australia or New Zealand. And I like mountain biking – the Urban Wilderness is such an asset to the community.

What do you see as your main accomplishment in life?

Listing the house and farm on the National Register of Historic Places. It was a long process but thanks to Anne Bennett and a lot of cooperation from my family, we did it. There's more preservation action to come though, but that really set the stage.

How do you wish other people to see you?

As someone who listens and only talk when I need to. Maybe they see me as someone who is very meticulous and deliberative.

Some see me as just the person who lives on this old family farm with a vision to carry out a plan.

If there was one thing you could do over in our life what would that be?

I wish I had moved to Knoxville earlier, to see the renovation take place downtown. My grandfather is 92 and on his last trip he went downtown. He got a private tour of the Tennessee Theatre. He had been a member of the "Popeye" club there as a child. We at lunch at Market Square and he very much liked the many improvements.

Can you choose one thing that you like the most about serving on BZA?

I like it when it is not unanimous. I like the different people with different perspectives on it, and the civil, honest discussion. I never felt I was suppressed in remarking on an issue. I never felt brushed over. I'd like to serve on the Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Where's your favorite place to eat or your favorite meal?

I like Knox Mason downtown; it's a different style of restaurant with Southern roots and casual dining. I also make a pretty good beef tenderloin at home.

How would you like to be remembered?

I'd like to have a tombstone in our old family cemetery on the farm. I'd like to be remembered as someone who helped preserve a piece of history in our area. We're exploring ways to preserve this farm forever, including conservation easements and placing the property in a trust.

Lessons Learned

The New Year is here. I have listened to talk show hosts spout their resolutions for the coming months. I've read plenty of the same thing on social media sites. Well, I'm not promising anything to myself. Instead,

I'm going to follow the lead Reverend Larry Dial presented during his sermon on Sunday. My goal is to try to remember what I've learned over the past year.

First, I learned that I can once again live in the same house with someone



By Joe Rector
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other than my dear wife. My son Dallas returned to Knoxville after 15 years in Chattanooga. He decided a job change was in order and found a position and opportunity with an excellent company.

For now, he's living with us. Little by little, Dallas is emptying his condo in Chattanooga, and before long, the place will be ready for the market. Dallas will then find his own new home. Until then, he will stay here with his dog Harvey. I am working on patience and flexibility,

although my son might say I'm more invested in griping and demanding.

Another lesson deals with Amy's job. The last few years have been a roller coaster for her. She's worked temporary jobs and permanent ones, but until now, they've been poor fits for her. Now she is with a company that values her skills and experience. I've witnessed just how much life's pressures ease when Amy is comfortable in her work. She is a happier and more grateful person. I know now just how important it is to me that my best friend's life is in good shape.

I've also learned to adapt to my own work situation.

For a year and a half, I taught English at a vocational school. The job ended when those in charge axed the program. So, I returned to substitute teaching. Yes, I know at one time I declared I'd never take such a job, but I've found many advantages. Among them are the abilities to set my own work schedule and work sites. The best thing about the job is that I've made new friends at the schools where I work. In fact, they've welcomed me and made me feel as if I were one of them.

In 2018, I learned a hard lesson. I'm not able to do what I used to do. That means I can't work outside all day without

being exhausted. Now, I'm good for about a half a day before places start to ache and rest is required. Projects take much longer to complete, and I'm not nearly so "picky" about the little things involved in them. Of more interest are such things as sitting by the pool, reading a book, or zoning out while watching the television.

One thing I have re-learned is that God is certainly good. Through all the ups and downs of life, He is there just waiting for relationship. The good lord has led Amy and me through some of the toughest times in our 44-year marriage. On occasion, I've been madder than a hornet with Him,

but that hasn't kept God from keeping me safe and leading me in the direction that is best for my life. I realize even more than before that the more faith I have, the more my life aligns itself with positive things and experiences. It's comforting.

I am curious what this year will teach me. My job is to be alert and receptive to those lessons and to understand the importance of them. I suppose I'm saying that all of life is filled with teaching moments, but they click only when we open our minds and hearts to them.

2019, A New Year in Life's Journey!

It is the Bible verse that always comes to mind at the start of a new year. From Paul's letter to the Philippians, "... but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13b-14 (NAS). It seems the perfect combination of words to end one year and start the next, providing hope and inspiration as we turn a page in life's



By Ralphine Major
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journey. Reflecting on 2018, it was a year of record rainfall, devastating hurricanes, and historic wildfires. Now, it is a part of America's history. A new year lies before us.

Perhaps it was the gospel song so popular in the seventies that started me collecting lighthouses. Known for years as beacons of light to guide sailors on the seas, they stand tall and proud in quiet grandeur. I always think of them as a symbol of hope in the world. A beautiful lighthouse set against a winter landscape seemed fitting to enjoy with this new year's column. May 2019 bring you hope, adventure, and opportunity; peace and joy; good health and happiness; and may you be blessed abundantly by our Heavenly Father as we navigate together through this year!



Picture of an American "gem," Portland Head Light, Cape Elizabeth, Maine, courtesy of Bryce Williams, formerly of Powell, Tennessee. Bryce is a Meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Boston, Massachusetts.

THE KNOXVILLE FOCUS / COACHES' ALL-KNOX COUNTY FOOTBALL TEAM

Jefferson among 66 players receiving 'first-team' recognition

By Steve Williams

Jahlil Jefferson was Mr. Touchdown in Knox County this past autumn.

The Webb School senior running back reached pay dirt 20 times but not all came on a rushing play. The 5-9, 180-pound Spartan caught two TD passes and also scored on a punt return, a kickoff return and a fumble return on defense.

Jefferson, who finished the season with 924 rushing yards on 144 carries, is one of the top offensive backs on The Knoxville Focus / Coaches' 2018 All-Knox County team. He also is one of 66 players to receive first-team recognition from coaches at TSSAA-member schools in Knox County.

Jefferson's teammate, sophomore Elijah Howard, didn't have as many touchdowns, but he produced more long scoring plays with five TD runs covering between 44 and 72 yards and a TD catch of 62 yards. The fast and quick Howard averaged 11.4 yards per carry on 62 attempts.

The all-star backfield also includes Farragut's hard-running Kyle Carter.

Thomas Harper is the team's honorary offensive

captain. The talented Karns receiver, who signed with Oklahoma State, led the way in three categories – touchdown receptions (18), total catches (80) and receiving yards (1,279).

Other top notch receivers on the team include South-Doyle's Ton'Quez Ball, a Tulane signee, who averaged six catches and 100 yards per game. There's also Central's dynamic Demetrien Johnson, Powell's talented Riley Bryant, UT-Martin commit Jaden Gibbs of Farragut and freshman whiz Tommy Winton of Catholic.

Karns quarterback Daniel Kitts passed for 2,342 yards, producing 30 touchdowns and only six interceptions. Other quarterbacks on the team include Dakota Fawver of Central, Xavier Malone of Fulton and Mason Brang of South-Doyle.

Up front are where the games are won and lost and Grace Christian Academy offensive tackle Wes Dorsey stood out with 32 domination blocks. Catholic contributed a pair of highly regarded junior prospects in Cooper Mays and Bryn Tucker.

Add to that Halls' Stanton

Herd, the Region 2-5A Offensive Lineman of the Year who made starts at center, guard and tackle, plus Central's Jakobi Troutman and South-Doyle's Jordun Wilson.

As for kicking specialists, Webb's Cameron Fowler made 41 of 43 extra points, Luke Lynn of South-Doyle was good on eight of 10 field goal tries and Halls' Briggs Marcantel nailed a 46-yarder.

Central senior Xavier Washington heads up the All-Knox County defensive unit.

West junior Tyrece Edwards and South-Doyle senior Chaztin Gillette stick out on the line. Edwards had 112 total tackles plus blocked three field goals and one punt. Gillette recorded 10 sacks and forced six fumbles. The 6-6, 325-pounder once picked up a fumble and hauled it to the house from 41 yards away. Bearden's Shamaricus Brown, the Region 1-6A Defensive Lineman of the Year, completes the 3-man front.

Drew Francis, another junior prospect from West, had 18 tackles for loss as a defensive end/outside

Continued on page 3



PHOTO BY JOHN VALENTINE

Versatile Central standout Xavier Washington scores a touchdown out of the Wildcat formation in the Bobcats' state title win over Henry County. Washington, who also turned in big plays on defense in the victory, is a key member of the The Knoxville Focus / Coaches' 2018 All-Knox County team.

West Valley runs past New Center in holiday tourney opener

By Ken Lay

West Valley Middle School boys basketball coach Noel Landrum makes no secret of the fact that he'd rather not have long holiday breaks.

"I don't like the long break at Christmas," Landrum said after his Wolves dismantled New Center 48-20 in the first round of the West Valley New Year's Tournament Thursday afternoon. "We had eight days off and then we had two days of action and then we had seven or eight more days off."

"We've had two days of action in the last 15 days. I still want to

have Christmas but I don't like to have all that time off."

The Wolves (16-3 overall) didn't have as much time away from the court as most Knox County Middle School Conference teams. They played in the Halls Holiday tournament after Christmas to conclude the 2018 calendar year after winning 13 of 15 league games before taking their holiday hiatus from the hardwood.

And it didn't take long for West Valley, which will be the No. 2 seed in the James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament and will likely host Gibbs Thursday, to shake

off the post-holiday rust late last week.

They opened the game on a 14-4 run against the Rockets, who were never in the game Thursday afternoon. The Wolves just kept building on their early advantage. They opened a 30-8 lead by halftime and that ballooned to 39-15 by third quarter's end.

West Valley is far from the tallest or biggest team in Knox County. But it uses its team speed to run its opponents into submission.

"We're not real big and we don't have natural guards but all of our

guys are like forwards," Landrum said. "We're pretty fast and we can wear teams down. We switch on everything."

"We're all about the same size, so it really doesn't matter. My bench [players are] bigger than my starters. So that gives teams something to worry about. They have to worry about size and speed."

WVMS's opponents also have to worry about the Wolves' balanced and potent offensive attack.

Nine Wolves found their respective ways into the scoring column and West Valley didn't have a

single player post double figures against the Rockets, who hail from Sevier County.

"Everybody got a chance to play," Landrum said. "Everybody came in and did something good today and I was happy about that because our kids have been working hard. We have an intense summer program and we come in and practice every morning."

Lucas Nordin led the way with nine points. Noah Karnowski added seven. Jake Poole and Connor Ruth scored six points each for the Wolves. Jacob Stevens and Nelson Karnowski also had five for West Valley.



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PHOTOS BY STEVE WILLIAMS.

Left, Kristy Dean of Bearden (left) and Lucy Edwards of South-Doyle will represent District 4 as individual qualifiers in this season's TSSAA state bowling tournament in Smyrna. Above, Bearden's Corey Ramey (left) and Catholic's Austin Humphreys are this season's individual qualifiers for the TSSAA state bowling tournament from District 4.

Unbeaten Bearden bowlers face region test this week

By Steve Williams

District 4 champion and the unbeaten Bearden boys bowling team will face some tough opposition in the Region 2 tournament this week, but Coach Jennifer Allen believes her team has what it takes to advance if it performs up to its potential.

The Bulldogs will go against District 3 runner-up

Gatlinburg-Pittman in their first-round elimination match Thursday morning at 10 o'clock at the Sevierville Community Center.

"I think both of our teams (boys and girls) have a good chance of advancing," said Allen. "At this point all the teams are good and it will be just who has a good day."

Knoxville Catholic, the District 4 runner-up, rolls against District

3 champion Sevier County in the other first-round boys' match.

In girls' opening round matches at noon, District 4 champion Bearden faces William Blount and South-Doyle squares off with District 3 champion Sevier County.

"Teams have to win the first match or they are out," said Coach Allen.

The region title matches for boys and girls will start at 3 p.m. The top two teams advance, with the region champion hosting the sectionals and the runner-up traveling.

Sectional champions advance to the TSSAA state tournament in Smyrna Jan. 17-19.

Four District 4 bowlers have already qualified for the state

tournament as individuals based on their regular season averages. They are Bearden senior Corey Ramey (212.23) and Catholic senior Austin Humphreys (204.85) in boys and South-Doyle sophomore Lucy Edwards (168.91) and Bearden junior Kristy Dean (167.07) in girls.

Lady Admirals struggle in holiday tournament loss to Robertsville

By Ken Lay

When Hardin Valley and Gibbs joined the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference this season, it eliminated chances for some non-conference games for area teams.

But holiday tournaments help teams get such games, as well as serving as tune-ups for the upcoming James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament, which opens this week.

The Farragut Lady Admirals, the two-time defending tournament champions, got a chance to play Robertsville Thursday morning in the West Valley New Year's Tournament and things didn't go well.

Farragut shot poorly and committed 22 turnovers and looked like a young team in a 38-14 loss to the Lady Rams.

"We're young," coach Susan Davidson said. "We didn't shoot the ball well and we turned the ball over 22 times. But hats off to Robertsville."

"They're a great team and we're just happy to get an opportunity to play them."

The Lady Admirals, who recently completed the conference portion of their regular-season schedule with an 11-4 record and will likely be the fourth seed in the postseason



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Farragut's Kaitlyn Atwell attempts a free throw in the Lady Admirals' 38-14 loss to Robertsville in the West Valley New Year's Tournament Thursday.

tournament and get a home game Wednesday afternoon's opening round, kept things close against the Lady Rams early.

Robertsville held a slim 8-7 advantage at the end of the first quarter before blowing things open with a 16-2 run in the second stanza.

Farragut made three field goals over the first six minutes but didn't hit another shot from the floor until Sarah Lynn made a bucket in the waning seconds of the contest.

Jenna Thorley and Aubrey Stackhouse, Farragut's two returning eighth graders with championship experience, made field goals in the opening frame. Annie Priest, another returner, also made a basket.

The Lady Admirals, who struggled against Robertsville's pressure the rest of the way, combined to score just four points throughout the second and third quarters. They managed just three in the final frame in a tough loss.

But Davidson found some positives in a lopsided loss.

"This was just a good time to come out and play some basketball," she said. "I was really proud of the girls on our bench for their effort. We're young and we're growing."

Lady Wolves survive scare from New Center to keep perfect season intact

By Ken Lay

West Valley Middle School's girls basketball team has taken on and beaten all comers this season and the Lady Wolves have had relatively little trouble with any of their opponents this season.

WVMS concluded a perfect run by cruising through the usually tough Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference schedule and will be the top seed in the upcoming postseason tournament, which opens Wednesday when they host 16th-seeded and winless Northwest.

The Lady Wolves also won the recent Halls Holiday Tournament to close

out the 2018 portion of their schedule.

On Thursday afternoon, West Valley hosted New Center, a top East Tennessee team from Sevier County.

The Lady Wolves would survive a test and pull out a 28-21 victory over the Lady Rockets. West Valley would win its 20th game of a truly magical season. Its perfect record would stay intact but it wouldn't be easy.

Coach Josh Ballard, however, didn't seem to mind that much.

"That was a tough game but you want to schedule these kinds of opponents to get ready for [the James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball]

tournament," Ballard said while breathing a visible sigh of relief after the game. "We [would've had] 20 days before our final league game and our first [postseason] tournament game."

The Lady Wolves withstood every punch the Lady Rockets threw in this battle of basketball heavyweights.

"This was the toughest team we played," said seventh-grade guard Sharon Wilson, who scored all seven of her points in the fourth quarter and helped propel the Lady Wolves to victory.

West Valley (20-0) fell behind 8-6 early but its defense shut out New Center during the second

frame and opened a 14-8 lead by halftime.

Post player Avery Treadwell carried the Lady Wolves over the first 12 minutes as she scored eight of her nine points before halftime. She had a third-quarter free throw

in the second half.

Enter Wilson and Brinley Murphy.

In addition to Wilson's

clutch fourth-quarter

contributions, Murphy,

who finished with six

points, had four over the

final six minutes.

Annalise Bishop had five

points in the contest and

Lindsay Wilson scored two

in what turned out to be

another balanced offensive

effort for the Lady Wolves.

'Mission accomplished' as Admirals outlast Robertsville 34-25

By Ken Lay

Farragut Middle School boys basketball coach Randy Swartzentruber wasn't sure how his team would respond after a prolonged holiday break. But he had to like what he saw from his squad when it returned to the floor and claimed a 34-25 victory over Robertsville Thursday afternoon in the opening round of the West Valley New Year's Tournament.

"We were out of shape a little, as you could tell," said Swartzentruber, who is the dean of Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference coaches. "It was good to get them back in the gym after a long break."

"We had a long break and I wanted to get the playing. Mission accomplished, I guess."

The Admirals and Rams were locked into a close game with Robertsville, a top East Tennessee program from Oak Ridge, breaking out to an early 11-7 lead while Farragut, who went 10-5 and finished fifth in the KCMSBC standings and will host a first-round postseason tournament tilt Thursday at 4:30 p.m. shook off a little holiday rust.

The Admirals, who made the county championship game as a No.7 seed last season before losing to ninth-seeded Gresham, rallied to take a 16-15 lead by halftime, thanks to a 9-2 run in the second stanza.



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Farragut Middle School's Dallas Carbaugh shoots a free throw in the Admirals' win over Robertsville in a holiday tournament game at West Valley. Carbaugh scored 10 points as Farragut notched a 34-25 win over the Rams.

From there, the Admirals held the lead pretty much throughout the game against an athletic Robertsville squad.

Seventh-grade post player Alex Doerger was a force inside for the Admirals, who held a 28-21 advantage at halftime. His 6-foot-5 frame made him nearly impossible to defend or control on both the offensive and defensive glass.

He scored 14 points, including eight after halftime and six in the third frame when Farragut pulled away and took control of the contest.

Doerger helped the Admirals make their improbable postseason run with a big game against

second-seeded and defending champion Vine in the quarterfinals as a sixth-grader.

Dallas Carbaugh scored 10 points against the Rams Thursday and Garrett Hrivnak finished the contest with six for the Admirals, who never led by less than five in the fourth quarter.

Swartzentruber has come to love playing in holiday tournaments at West Valley Middle School. Farragut has won big games there over the past two seasons. The Admirals knocked off the Rams Thursday but last year, they notched a one-point win over previously unbeaten Bearden.

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THE KNOXVILLE FOCUS / COACHES' ALL-KNOX COUNTY FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Deshawn Page left it on the field, tears and all

By Steve Williams

Deshawn Page is the kind of football player any coach would love to have. Rob Black, Fulton High's head coach, would probably like to have 11 like him.

"Deshawn was so valuable to us," said Black, when asked what impressed him the most about Page during the 2018 season. "He made plays in all three phases of the game - offense, defense and special teams. He has the ability to take over a game and be an impact player every time he hits the field."

Number 6 left it all on Bob Black Field. That included some tears after a season-ending 28-25 loss to Knoxville Catholic in the second round of the TSSAA Class 5A state playoffs.

Those tears were a by-product of Deshawn's football personality and what makes him tick.

"He was visibly upset and hurt, knowing that it was his last high school game," recalled Black.

"Deshawn is a very emotional player," added Black, describing Page's best qualities as a football player. "He hates to lose. He plays the game with a passion."

The 6-2, 217-pound inside linebacker and running back has been voted The Knoxville



PHOTO BY NICOLE COONEY / FULCOM

Fulton High's Deshawn Page carries the football in a TSSAA first-round playoff win over Lenoir City in early November. Voted the Knox County Player of the Year, Page stood out most nights during the 2018 season on offense and defense.

Focus / Coaches' 2018 Knox County Player of the Year.

For Page, the 2018 campaign was not one game at a time or one play at a time. It went deeper.

Coach Black couldn't recall just one special moment from the season involving Page.

"I will just say that when the game is on the line, Deshawn Page wants to be involved in the play and he wants to have something to say about the result."

Page had 66 individual tackles and 10 assists in leading Fulton to the Region 3-5A championship and a

10-2 overall record. He also recovered one fumble and blocked one kick. Offensively, he rushed for 654 yards and had 143 receiving yards and 899 all-purpose yards, plus scored 12 touchdowns.

The versatile Falcon earlier was named the Tennessee Titans' Class 5A Mr. Football in the state. He signed early with Marshall University and is expected to play linebacker for the Thundering Herd.

"I expect Deshawn to excel in college," said Black. "Division 1 football has so many support systems in place both academically and athletically.

I think getting away and just focusing on school and football will give him the opportunity to shine in the classroom and on the field."

CLOSE VOTE: Page received five of 17 votes for the Knox County award to edge out Karns wide receiver Thomas Harper (four votes) and Central strong safety Xavier Washington (three votes).

Receiving one vote apiece were Farragut's Kyle Carter, Central's Dakota Fawver, Fulton's JaShaun Fenderson, Central's Demetrien Johnson and Catholic's Bryn Tucker.

THE KNOXVILLE FOCUS / COACHES' ALL-KNOX COUNTY COACH OF THE YEAR

Making every minute count is part of the Rosser way

By Steve Williams

During a lightning delay that lasted close to three hours before the 2018 TSSAA Class 5A state championship game was postponed, Bryson Rosser made that time count and those minutes memorable.

"One of my fondest memories with this senior class will be sitting in the locker room at Tennessee Tech on Saturday night and waiting for the game to be decided after the extended weather delay," recalled the Central High head football coach Friday.

"We sat around in a circle in the corner of the locker room and talked about memorable stories, workouts, punishments, jokes and quotes over the last four years. It was great to hear about all their journeys and to have it come full circle to that moment."

The Bobcats returned to Knoxville very late that night and then returned to Cookeville early the next morning

and defeated a strong Henry County team 14-9 to capture the school's first state title since the TSSAA playoff system was adopted in 1969.

Winning the state crown made it easy for fellow Knox County coaches to pick Rosser The Knoxville Focus / Coaches' 2018 Knox County Coach of the Year.

"I am humbled and honored to have been selected for this award," said Rosser after receiving the news. "There's nothing more special than earning the respect of your peers and I think winning this award is a reflection of that."

"I have the wonderful privilege and honor of working with amazing student-athletes and have the support of an unmatched coaching staff. Winning this award is also a testament to their hard work."

The Bobcats won 13 straight games after losing their first two.

"After starting the season 0-2, we were a bit skeptical yet confident in our ability to win games," Rosser recalled. "We had quite a few miscues in the first two ball games and felt that if we could minimize our own mistakes and capitalize on opportunities during the game we could come out on top of some upcoming matches."

"While Cookeville is always the ultimate goal - that's also where we take our team and staff for summer FCA Camp - our focus during the season has always been one game at a time and we were blessed to play and win the last game of our season."

The historic season included the program's first region title in 18 years.

Rosser too shares the gold football with former players and all those who have been part of the CHS program in Fountain City through the years.

"Our team stood up to the

challenges on that Sunday afternoon and with the unbelievable planning and belief of defensive coordinator Nick Craney, we all came to the belief that 'defense truly wins championships.'

"I'm so proud of this team for what they have accomplished. As always, I am honored, thankful and blessed to be the Head Football Coach of Knoxville Central High School."

HONORABLE MENTION

BEARDEN: Collin Ironside, QB, jr. Kahlil Abdullah, WR/CB, sr. Addison Ironside, TE, sr. Condredge Holloway, DE, sr. Matt Carr, WR/CB, sr.

CARTER: Blaine Galyon, LB, jr. Eunique Valentine, OLB, jr.

CATHOLIC: Xavier Story, MLB/RB, sr. Stiles Moore, DE/TE, jr. Cody Duncan, RB/OLB, jr.

CAK: Gavin Cagle, RB, so. Walker Strange, QB, fr. Max Smith, ATH/WR/LB, jr. Will Sterchi, WR, sr.

CENTRAL: Braden Gaston, CB/WR, jr. Daunte Holliday, CB/WR, sr. Jalyann Clemons, DT/OG, sr.

FARRAGUT: Gavin Wilkinson, QB, jr. Daniel Bethel, PK, so. Cooper Mashburn, OL, sr. Matt White, DB, so. Eli Purcell, OLB, so. Isaiah Gibbs, RB-DB, sr. Ethan Gossage, OL, sr. Alec Keathley, TE, jr.

FULTON: Robquan Thomas, RB, sr. Michael Hobby, OLB/TE, sr. Cameron Stokes, OL, fr.

GIBBS: Dalton Wright, QB, sr. Ethan Humphries, RB, jr. Clytavius Barns, RB, fr. Bryson Shown, LB, so. John-Aidan Pittman, K, so.

THE KNOXVILLE FOCUS / COACHES' ALL-KNOX COUNTY FOOTBALL FIRST TEAM

AUSTIN-EAST

Trey Foster, ATH/QB, 5-11, 205, jr. Chris Stevenson, OLB, 6-1, 205, sr. Isaiaha Ligon, ATH/WR/FS, 5-9, 190, jr.

BEARDEN

Caleb Wilkins, LB/RB/P, 5-10, 200, sr. Shamarcus Brown, DE, 6-5, 215, sr. Fred Cooper, OG/DT, 6-1, 285, sr. AJ Simon, DL, 6-0, 265, sr.

CARTER

Garrett Massey, DL, 6-2, 275, sr. Jon Rynes, LB, 5-10, 185, sr. Ken Cox, RB, 6-0, 175, jr.

CATHOLIC

Tommy Winton, WR/CB, 5-10, 175, fr. Keondre Jarmon, RB/FS, 5-9, 175, fr. Bryn Tucker, OT/OG, 6-5, 300, jr. Cooper Mays, OG, 6-3, 250, jr.

CAK

Luke Simpson, WR, 5-11, 170, sr. Jack Flynn, DL, 6-2, 225, sr. Alex Plese, DB, 6-2, 180, sr.

CENTRAL

Dakota Fawver, QB, 5-11, 180, jr. Xavier Washington, SS, 5-10, 200, sr. Phillip Young, DE, 6-3, 215, sr. Demetrien Johnson, WR/FS, 6-3, 170, sr. Jakobi Troutman, OT/DT, 6-1, 310, sr. Kalib Fortner, OLB, 6-0, 195, so.

FARRAGUT

Kyle Carter, RB, 5-10, 201, sr. Caleb Kuhn, DE, 6-2, 210, sr. Tanner Corum, WR-DB, 6-1, 190, sr. Jaden Gibbs, WR, 6-3, sr.

FULTON

Xavier Maloine, QB, 6-3, 207, sr. JaShaun Fenderson, WR/KR, 5-10, 197, sr. Deshawn Page, LB, 6-2, 217, sr. Dashaun McKinney, WR, 6-2, 203, sr. J'Coryan Anderson, LB, 6-2, 212, sr.

GIBBS

Alex Mase, OL/DL, 6-1, 245, sr. Justin Summers, DE, 6-3, 215, jr.

GRACE CHRISTIAN

Michael Feiden, S, 6-1, 180, so. Wes Dorsey, OT, 6-6, 250, sr. Eli Nordhorn, WR/LB, 6-4, 220, sr.

HALLS

Stanton Herd, OL/DL, sr. Briggs Marcantel, PK/P, sr.

HARDIN VALLEY

Luke Defur, LB/TE, 6-2, 220, sr. Cartez Campbell, WR/DB, 6-2, 210, sr. Grayson Vaughn, QB, 6-2, 200, sr. Kelton Gunn, RB, 5-9, 175, jr.

KARNS

Thomas Harper, WR/DB, 6-0, 175, sr. Daniel Kitts, QB, 5-10, sr. Jalen Tucker, WR/OLB, 6-1, 171, jr.

POWELL

Colton Webb, DL, 6-3, 255, Jr. Riley Bryant, WR-DB, 5-8, 165, sr. Michael Treadwell, OL, 6-0, 275, jr. Tyler Kirkess, WR, 6-2, 180, jr. Fernando Frances, RB, 5-11, 190, so.

SOUTH-DOYLE

Tonquez Ball, WR, 5-10, 190, sr. Mason Brang, QB, 6-0, 180, jr. Elijah Young, RB, 5-10, 175, jr. Jordun Wilson, OL/DL, 5-10, 280, jr. Chaztin Gillette, DL, 6-6, 325, sr. Luke Lynn, PK/P, 5-9, 155, sr.

WEBB

Jahlil Jefferson, RB/DB, 5-9, 180, sr. Alec Boruff, S, 6-2, 190, sr. Roderick Lewis, RB/WR/DB, 6-0, 180, sr. Elijah Howard, RB/DB, 5-11, 185, so. Turley Wall, LB/OG, 5-10, 200, sr. Cameron Fowler, PK/P, 5-10, 180, sr.

WEST

Drew Francis, DE/OLB, 6-2, 190, jr. Tyrece Edwards, DL, jr. Ben Skvara, ILB, 6-2, 210, sr.

GRACE CHRISTIAN: Luke Kirby, QB, sr. Bradley Rash, LB, sr.

HALLS: Avery Robertson, TE/DE, 6-2, 240, jr. Sheldon James, DB/WR/KR, sr. Brian Rockwell, MLB, sr. TJ Holmes, RB/LB, jr. Ethan Campbell, WR, sr.

HVA: Noah Moro, WR, sr. Jaylen Moore, DL, jr. Dawson Hardsesly, OL/DL, sr. Cam York, SS/WR, jr.

KARNS: Jake Brown, OL/DL, sr. Neyland Fendley, OL/DL, jr. Marique Lucas, DE, sr. Zach Forsythe, FB/DE, jr. Caleb Keeter, RB, sr.

POWELL: Eli Owens, LB, jr. Walker Trusley, QB, jr. Deuce Shreve, FS/ATH, sr. Bailor Walker, WR/DB, jr. Alvin Stacy, DL, sr.

SOUTH-DOYLE: Nate Adebayo, DB, jr. Ezra Young, WR, jr. Santana Curtis, LB, jr. David Hull, OL, so.

WEBB: Trey Ridenour, WR/LB, sr. Kaden Armes, QB, sr. David Wade, OL/DL, sr. Michael McClamroch, OG/DE, jr. Grissim Anderson, WR/LB, jr. Grayson Taylor, RB/LB, jr. Luc Nadaud, TE/DE, jr. Jackson Bradley, OL/DL, so. Brik Boruff, OL/DL, so. Jackson Baker, WR/DB, so. Luke Julian, OL/DL, so. Leo Bonifacio, OG/LB, fr.

Jefferson among 66 players receiving 'first-team' recognition

Cont. from page 1

linebacker. Also part of the LB corps are Bearden's Caleb Wilkins, the Region 1-6A MVP; Fulton duo and Marshall bound Deshawn Page and J'Coryan Anderson; Austin-East's Chris Stevenson, a Tennessee Tech signee; and Central

sophomore Kalib Fortner, who was the MVP in the Class 5A state title game.

The secondary includes Washington, Central's impressive strong safety, along with Farragut's talented Tanner Corum and CAK senior Alex Plese, who blocked two punts this past

season.

Other specialists on the team include Halls' Marcantel, who averaged 40.4 yards per punt; South-Doyle's Lynn, who put 38 of his 44 kickoffs in the end zone for touchbacks; and Fulton's versatile JaShaun Fenderson, who can return kicks.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS NOTEBOOK

Byrd excited about taking reins of GCA baseball program

By Steve Williams

Jonathan Byrd has found a new baseball home at Grace Christian Academy.

GCA Athletic Director Gene Baker introduced Byrd as the Rams' new head coach in late November.

"We couldn't be happier with our choice for the school, the program, and, especially, our baseball student-athletes," said Baker. "Coach Byrd checks all the boxes."

Byrd, 29, has coaching experience on the high school and collegiate levels.

"First I would like to thank Gene Baker and Tim Holland (principal) for being so great during this whole process," stated Byrd.

"I feel very blessed to get the opportunity to be the new head coach at Grace Christian Academy."

"Me and my wife Chelsey are so excited to be a part of the Grace community and we can't wait to pour into it."

Byrd grew up playing youth baseball at Lakeshore Park in Knoxville, where his father, Charlie Byrd, was employed with Knox Youth Sports. Jonathan



New Grace Christian Academy baseball coach Jonathan Byrd was an assistant coach at Clinton last season.

was a catcher at Bearden High and played college ball at Columbia State, Hiwassee and Martin Methodist, where the Redhawks won 31 games his senior season.

Byrd stayed on as an assistant coach at Martin Methodist for three seasons as the Redhawks compiled a 92-56 record.

Byrd entered the prep ranks and was head coach at Giles County in Pulaski for two years before returning to East

Tennessee last year to assist his brother Matt, who is the head coach at Clinton.

"We have a great group of kids at Grace and we return a lot of players from last year so it should be an exciting year for us," said Byrd, who noted that the first official day of practice is Feb. 11.

"I would like to thank my dad and Matt Buckner (Farragut head coach) for being great mentors to me throughout the years," added Byrd. "I owe them both a lot."

Byrd played for Buckner when he coached at Bearden.

Byrd replaces Mitch Turner, who now is the head coach at The King's Academy. Turner guided GCA to the Class A state title in 2015.

Grace Christian is now a member of TSSAA's Division II Class A District 1, which is regarded by many as one of the toughest districts in the state. Besides GCA, the district includes CAK, Concord Christian, First Baptist Academy, TKA and Webb School.

The Rams are coming off a 28-13 season that culminated in a state quarterfinal appearance in 2018.

"Knowing the baseball culture at Grace, I'm sure our returning

players have redemption on their minds," said Byrd. "The goal here will always be a state championship. With hard work and determination, I believe that's a realistic goal for this spring."

HOME FOR HOLIDAYS: Chris Hunter, Austin-East grad who is in his first year at Army, was on hand to watch the Roadrunners notch their big win at Catholic Dec. 28.

Hunter said he played linebacker on Army's prep team last fall and was at the Army-Navy game at the end of the season.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: About 20 Halls players came out last week to meet new Red Devils football head coach Scott Cummings.

"He seems like a cool guy," said Brandon Elkins, who will be a defensive tackle next season.

Running back Hunter Cox said he was impressed with "how simple the offensive formations were."

Tyler Holmes, a RB/LB, said: "I feel like he has set plans and he's organized."

Tae Rucker, who will be a sophomore running back, was impressed with "how confident

he was about winning."

The Halls administration will host a "meet and greet" for Coach Cummings tonight (Jan. 7) starting at 6:30 in the school cafeteria.

DOG GONE GOOD: Coach Jeremy Parrott's Bearden Bulldogs became the first Knox County team to win the prestigious Arby's Classic basketball tournament in its 36-year history on Dec. 31 at Bristol.

Bearden overcame an eight-point deficit after three periods to knock off previously unbeaten Carmel Christian (N.C.) 61-57.

The Bulldogs, however, followed up by losing to Hamilton Heights and Southwind this past weekend. Bearden (12-5) will host Catholic in a key district game Thursday night (Jan. 10).

CHICAGO BOUND: Farragut running back Kyle Carter announced Dec. 31 that he was "going to continue to pursue God's purpose for my life by going to Wheaton College in Chicago, Illinois to play football!"



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

New Halls High head football coach Scott Cummings met with some of his players for the first time last week. From left are Tyler Holmes, Brandon Elkins, Hunter Cox, Cummings and Tae Rucker.

The OC Search That Never Ends

By Alex Norman

Who needs an offensive coordinator anyway!

That surely must be what the folks at the UT football complex are thinking these days. As of the writing of this article, 39 days had passed since Tyson Helton resigned as Tennessee's OC to take the head coaching job at Western Kentucky.

As a comparison, Derek Dooley memorably avoided the media for 38 days after the historic loss at Kentucky in November 2011, despite nearly his entire coaching staff resigning and multiple recruits de-committing.

Certainly the program is in better shape than it was in late 2011/early 2012, but a delay of this length is rather troubling.

By the time you read this, maybe Tennessee has an offensive coordinator. Or maybe they don't. What is clear is that the Vols went through the early signing period without one. Pruitt addressed that important development on December 19th.

"I'd rather talk about recruiting right now," Pruitt said at his press conference on the first day of the early signing period. "Ya know the offensive coordinator sometimes is overrated. You look, and you watch these teams out here, and there are some of these teams that it probably doesn't matter who the offensive coordinator is - based off talent, or lack thereof. So I think the most important thing right now is recruiting."

In Pruitt's defense, you can make a case that a lot of positions are overrated. The head coach, the quarterback... they get too much credit when things go right and too much blame when things go wrong. But to say that one of his top two lieutenants isn't crucial to the success of a program is shortsighted. The OC role is probably even more important for Pruitt than the defensive coordinator position since Pruitt is a defensive guy. The offensive coordinator works more

independently.

At a place like Auburn, Gus Malzahn is the offensive coordinator, no matter who has the official OC title. But at Tennessee, they won't have as much meddling from the head coach.

The Vols OC has to figure out how to best use underutilized playmakers like wide receiver Marquez Callaway and running back Ty Chandler. They need to get quarterback Jarrett Guarantano to stop holding onto the football for that extra second or two that leads to a sack. And they must get the offensive line to protect Guarantano more effectively.

It would have been nice to have an OC on the job working on these things over the past 5-6 weeks, but that's not been the case.

All the names you have heard in this search are finding other jobs. Former Ole Miss HC Hugh Freeze is now the Liberty head coach. NC State OC Eli Drinkwitz is the head coach at Appalachian State. Auburn's OC Chip Lindsey joined Les Miles at Kansas. Oklahoma State's OC Mike Yurcich jumped to Ryan Day's new staff at Ohio State.

Pruitt is doing his due diligence here. He's not going to be rushed into a hire. Pruitt has the full support of his athletics director, Phillip Fulmer, who knows better than anyone just how important this decision will be. In 2008, Fulmer hired Richmond head coach Dave Clawson to replace David Cutcliffe, who was leaving to take the head coaching job at Duke. The Vols offense was a disaster in 2008. Despite having a lot of talent, they just never meshed with Clawson's system. That led to Fulmer's firing at the end of the season.

But enough is enough. National signing day is a month away. Spring practice gets underway in March. Pruitt needs to make a decision and close a deal with his new offensive coordinator.

It's beyond time.

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Bibliophile

I was never bookish growing up. I did well enough in school to get by and mostly avoided parental punishment. Admittedly, my primary interests were sports and girls. My fifth grade teacher and I are church members, and she was once asked if she thought her former pupil would ever amount to anything. Never a chatty person, her taciturn response was a painfully honest, "No." In her defense, I remember receiving fifteen black-marks in one day as a grading period began. Sixteen demerits would garner me an "F" in deportment which my father warned would cost me a family spring break trip in Florida. I kept my hands to myself, my mouth shut and made it to the beach.

Soon enough it became painfully clear there weren't many 5'8" professional

athletes, so I buckled down in college and used the gifts afforded me. And fortunately, the lovely Becky is able to see beyond the façade of my exterior which precluded a career in modeling.

Though I disagree with many aspects of modernity, I thank the Lord I live in what many call the Information Age. The Middle Ages were referred to as the Age of Faith or the Dark Ages, as labeled by Renaissance elitists (snobs). Similar sophisticates labeled the Enlightenment as the acme of the Age of Reason. We now describe the Industrial Age as one powered by machines. Maybe the moniker we moderns have given ourselves will stick. Perhaps it is a prescient label. Or is it hubris?

It's hard for me to comprehend that slide rules are now obsolete. These tools, invented in the 1600s and integral to my education,

were replaced in short order by hand calculators in the 1970s. Our Information Age is made possible by the Internet and computers, both invented in my lifetime, but not by Al Gore. The Dell Corporation first promoted the personal computer, but Apple made it truly personal with the first iPhone introduced in 2007. Now, I have available in my pocket the world's library. Yes, the information can be politicized, like everything else. But with filtering by reason and observation, there is wonder. Some worry about computers and artificial intelligence as in the apocalyptic science fiction movie, Terminator. I ascribe to the superior science fiction of the polymath Isaac Asimov whose futuristic vision of robots (thinking machines), bound by the three laws of robotics (see my essay Bots in the Focus archives), seem far more plausible.

Though I love the computer in my pocket, I still love the feel of a book and the ability to jot down my thoughts in marginal notes. A possible exception is a big book which is hard to hold while lying in bed. I hate it when a big book hits you on the nose as you doze off. Becky borrows books from the library and reads them on her iPhone. However, experts

caution against looking at computer screens late at night because the blue wavelengths of computer lighting can suppress pituitary melatonin release and promote insomnia. I encouraged her to buy inexpensive readers to use at night. These have lenses to block the blue wavelengths of light, allowing melatonin release and keep her from roaming the house at odd hours of the night and waking the dog!

I'm not an antiquarian, but I opine, "He who dies with the most books wins" - at least if you've read them. I am a bibliophile, a lover of books, and so was Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson donated his huge library to the United States after the British burned the national library in the War of 1812. Jefferson's collection became the nucleus of the Library of Congress. I love modern conveniences and technology, but I respect the wisdom of books, thoughts on paper bound together and shared. Books are real and don't disappear when the computer is shut down.

The earliest known writing is not from Samaria, but from ancient Sumeria in Mesopotamia, the land between the two rivers (Tigris and Euphrates). Cuneiform was made by pressing a delta shaped

stylus into wet clay tablets. It looks somewhat like chicken tracks in the mud.

One of the earliest collection of writings which we now label as books was the Pentateuch, the first five "chapters" of our current day Bible. Hebrew scribes painstakingly wrote the ancient stories onto scrolls of animal hides, usually sheep, occasionally cows or deer, but never pigs who were considered "unclean." The first five "books" on one scroll were called a Torah and was more than one hundred and fifty feet long! Any mistake, such as a letter touching another letter, would cause the entire panel of three, if not four, columns of text to be discarded along with the adjacent panel! When you hear that scripture is altered over time, consider the meticulous and reverential work of ancient scribes and compare their work with today's media.

My daughters read books to my grandchildren every night. Studies have shown the benefits of reading to your children. I'm not aware of any similar research showing developmental benefits from an iPad or video game. You would think kids might have improved hand-eye coordination from gaming, but you'd have to balance benefit against violent

images and non-reality situations. I grew up on Looney Tune cartoons and Captain Kangaroo. I turned out OK. By comparison, my two year old granddaughter "reads" "Moby Dick" and "Jane Eyre" for toddlers. I suspect she'll do just fine, though she might lag in appreciation of classical music instilled in me by Merrie Melodies Cartoons and Heckle & Jeckle.

In antiquity few could read and communication was principally aural. With education and Gutenberg's printing press and then cinema, communication became visual. Recently, I experienced VR (virtual reality) at a friend's home. The experience was somewhat like the Regal Cinemas video enticing you to buy popcorn by taking you visually on a roller coaster.

I'm not a fuddy-duddy, but VR is not for me. Though I think the next leap of humans may be the virtual interface of machines and man, my reality is here and now with my Lord, my wife and my family. There's plenty to occupy my mind and fill the library of a life.

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

KCHD's next Diabetes Management Series starts Friday, January 11

Free classes open to the public

The Knox County Health Department's (KCHD) next Diabetes Management Series takes place Fridays, Jan. 11, 18 and 25, from 1 to 2 p.m. at KCHD, 140 Dameron Ave. The organization offers the free, three-part series quarterly to help those affected by the disease.

"While we offer these classes throughout the year, we encourage those

affected to join us in January as a healthy way to jump start the new year," said Shanthi Appelo, KCHD nutritionist and registered dietitian. "In the class, we'll go beyond diet, medications and exercise to teach participants the science to help them recognize what affects blood sugar levels."

Those with Type 2 diabetes or pre-diabetes are encouraged to attend. Spouses and friends of those affected are also encouraged to attend as

a strong support system is important in managing the disease. Parking is free. Those interested should call 865-215-5170 or visit surveymonkey.com/r/Jan2019DMC to register.

Having diabetes is a risk factor for developing serious health complications including heart disease, blindness, kidney failure and lower-extremity amputations. In 2014, it was estimated that 10.5 percent of Knox County adults (18+ years) have been diagnosed with

the disease. Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the U.S. and the eighth leading cause of death in Knox County. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, if current trends continue, as many as 1 out of 3 U.S. adults could have diabetes by 2050.

Due to the prevalence of this disease, KCHD also provides several prevention programs aimed at reducing diabetes rates, including

the Nutrition Education Activity Training (N.E.A.T.) after-school program, the walking school bus program, worksite wellness initiatives, breastfeeding promotion and advocacy, community engagement programs, and others.

About Knox County Health Department:

As the first health department in Tennessee to achieve national voluntary accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board,

the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is dedicated to ensuring the conditions in which every resident can be healthy. KCHD investigates disease outbreaks, identifies community health threats, conducts extensive outreach and education, prepares for public health emergencies, provides and connects the public to medical care, enforces food safety and air quality laws, and more. For more information, visit www.knoxcounty.org/health.



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Three scouts achieve Eagle rank

Scoutmaster Scott Newby Troop 448, on November 17, 2018 presided over the Eagle Court of Honor awarding the eagle rank to Trent Pyles, Isaac-Ion Gabriel Stout and Justin Nolan Thompson (pictured above). The ceremony was held at the Trinity United Methodist Church with special guest Mr. Anthony Hancock speaking.

Eagle Scout is the highest

advancement rank in Boy Scouting. Since 1912 more than two million Boy Scouts have earned the Eagle Scout rank. In the words of the Eagle Scout Promise, Eagles do their best each day to make their training an example, their rank and their influence court strongly for better citizenship in their troop, in their community, and in their contacts with people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FCBPA Meeting

The Fountain City Business and Professional Association meeting is Wednesday, January 9th. Meetings are held 2nd Wednesday of each month at Central Baptist Church, 5364 North Broadway Knoxville, TN 37918. Please plan to arrive by 11:45. Lunch will be from 11:45-12:15. Introductions begin promptly at 12:00

This month's speaker is Knoxville's Police Chief Eve M. Thomas.

Mayor Jacobs to host January constituent meeting

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs will host the January constituent meeting from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8 at the Howard Pinkston Library (7732 Martin Mill Pike). These meetings are designed to give citizens the opportunity to meet one-on-one and speak individually with him about issues that are important to them.

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

PK HOPE IS ALIVE meeting

PK HOPE IS ALIVE Parkinson's Support Group would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year! The first meeting of the year is on January 15 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Kern Methodist

Church in their Family Life Center, located at 453 East Tennessee Ave., Oak Ridge, TN. 37830.

Steve Quam is the speaker this month. Steve Quam was diagnosed with Parkinson's almost 11 years ago and will be talking about the importance of exercise. Steve will share his inspirational stories of him bicycling across the country three times and motorcycling from his home in SC to Fairbanks, Alaska and back!

Lunch will be provided by Acadia Pharmaceuticals. For more information see: www.pkhopeisalive.org or contact Jim Brown 865-607-7195.

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

Longstreet-Zollicoffer Camp 87, Sons of Confederate Veterans, will have their monthly business meeting on Sunday, January 13, 2018 at 2pm at The East Tennessee Historical Society, 601 S Gay Street, Knoxville. Prior to the meeting, Former Tennessee SCV Division Commander Mike Beck will discuss how to attract and process new members into the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Program is free and is open to the public.

Town Hall East meeting

Jack Neely, Knoxville Historian, will speak about East Knoxville at the

January 14, 2019 neighborhood meeting. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our community. Starts at 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall, East Minister



Pictured are Donna Phillips, Director, Joe Gibson, General Manager at Walmart, and John F. Kramer, Library Board Chair

Parrott-Wood Memorial Library Receives a \$1,000 Community Grant from Walmart

Walmart general manager Joe Gibson was also able to give a great discount on a 70" Smart TV for the library for educational programs. The \$1,000 grant will be used for Summer 2019 STEM Programs (Science, technology, engineering and mathematics). STEM programs are very important when it comes to the development of children and youth. These educational programs will produce critical thinkers, team players,

innovators and better prepare our future leaders.

Donna Phillips, library director, would like to thank Walmart for supporting Jefferson County Public Library System's educational programs for over 18 years. Phillips stated without grants and in kind donation from local businesses, Parrott-Wood Memorial Library could not provide excellent enrichment programs for the community.

Presbyterian Church.

Don't Miss It! All are invited. Public welcome. Come and meet your neighbors. This is a special opportunity, not-to-be missed, event.

UDC Meeting

The Captain W. Y. C. Hannum Chapter 1881, UDC, will meet on Saturday, January 26th, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. Visitors are

welcome to attend. For more information, please call Rebecca at (865) 382-1979.

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from Lillian's Bean Pot

HERB ROASTED ORANGE SALMON

2 tbsp. olive oil
Salt and coarsely ground black pepper to taste
¼ cup fresh orange juice
4 (8 oz) salmon steaks
Finely grated zest of one orange
2 tsp. fresh chives, chopped
2 tsp. garlic, minced
2 tsp. dried tarragon

Mix marinade: In a bowl, combine the olive oil, orange juice, orange zest, garlic, tarragon, salt and pepper. Add salmon to marinade for one hour at room temperature, tossing once or twice. While fish marinates, preheat oven to 475°. Place the salmon in an ovenproof dish and pour marinade on top. Bake for 7 to 8 minutes or until salmon is just cooked through. Turn and bake 7 to 8 minutes. (Fish should flake easily when tested with a fork.) Carefully remove to a serving platter and sprinkle each piece with ½ tsp chives. Serves 4.