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PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Local candidates David Buuck, John R. Whitehead and Richie Beeler greeted voters Tuesday night at the Corryton Community and Senior Center. Pictured with them are Knox County Law Director Bud Armstrong, Rebecca Longmire and Jack Huddleston.

Large turnout for District 8 Meet and Greet

By Ken Lay

Local leaders seeking re-election stumped at the Corryton Community and Senior Center Tuesday night.

County Commissioner Richie Beeler, Knox County Property Assessor John R. Whitehead and Knox County Law Clerk candidate David Buuck appeared at a community get-together.

One person seeking

re-election was absent as Knox County Board of Education member Mike McMillan, who is hospitalized, continues to battle pneumonia. *Knoxville Focus* Publisher Steve Hunley spoke on behalf of his friend.

Beeler, who is running unopposed for the Eighth District seat on county commission, served as emcee at the dinner, where hot dogs, cole slaw and potato chips were served to community

members.

"It has been my pleasure to serve as your county commissioner after replacing Dave Wright (who moved on to the Tennessee State Assembly), and I look forward to serving as your county commissioner for at least the next four years," Beeler said. "I'm probably the least qualified person to run unopposed in this room.

"But that's the way the Good

Lord would have it. We're facing an important election. You hear that all the time. The next election is always important. But this election is extremely important. It's important for our nation, our county and our community."

Buuck was the one candidate at Tuesday night's meeting who is not an incumbent. He's looking to succeed the term-limited

Continued on page 3

Who will replace Councilwoman Stephanie Welch?

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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Today is an important day for District 1 within the city. Councilwoman Stephanie Welch has resigned her position to become part of Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon's administration. The resignation becomes effective on Saturday and today at noon is the deadline for applications to replace her.

The Knoxville City Council convenes in special session on Thursday, February 20 at 5:30 p.m. to interview applicants for her position. District 1 covers south Knoxville, Fort Sanders and the UT campus on the north side of the river.

Persons wishing to be considered for the appointment to this vacancy must return a completed and signed application in person. Applicants must provide proofs of age and

Continued on page 6

Knox Co. Charter Review Committee elects officers

By Mike Steely
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The Knox County Charter Review Committee met for the first time last week and chose E-911 Executive Director and County Commissioner Brad Anders as chairman. Anders was not at the meeting but received the highest number of votes from the members.

The committee is made up by the county commissioners representing districts; at-large commissioners Larsen Jay and Justin Biggs do not serve. Twenty-seven people serve on the committee including nine commission members, nine citizens from each district selected by their commissioner and nine named by the Knox County mayor.

Initially several members were nominated as chair. Commissioner Randy Smith suggested Anders. Committee member Dan Davis suggested Daniel Herrera and Michele Carringer nominated Lisa Starbuck. Former Councilman Nick Pavlis suggested former Commissioner Sam McKenzie.

The roll call elected Anders, who had written the commission chairman of his agreement to serve, and then chose McKenzie as vice chairman. McKenzie took the chairman's seat and led the review committee to elect Starbuck as secretary.

The county is required by state law to review the charter every eight years. Meetings are public and may be held for months if there are changes, additions or revisions proposed by the committee. Final recommendations go onto a county-wide ballot for



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Knox County Commission Chairman Hugh Nystrom (right) and Knox County Charter Review Committee Vice Chairman Sam McKenzie talk prior to the committee meeting last week.

approval or rejection by voters.

The charter is the document of authority for the county, covering everything from the number of commissioners to the powers of officers and how

Continued on page 4

Commission action on AJ Building depends on school board vote

By Mike Steely
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The Knox County Commission meets in work session next Tuesday, February 18, and two of the agenda items will be determined by what the Board of Education does in its meeting this Wednesday. Work session items discussed will go on to the regular meeting on February 24.

The school board has the proposed move of the Knox County Schools system from the Andrew Johnson Building to the TVA Towers on their agenda. That vote, to accept or deny, will determine what the commission will discuss.

Item 14 on the commission agenda is "approving a memorandum of agreement between the Board of Education regarding relocation of the central offices to the TVA East Tower." Should the school board move to reject the move that item would be mute.

The second item on the commission agenda that depends on a school board vote is to approve selling the Andrew Johnson Building for \$6 million to BNA Associates, LLC. Obviously if the school board votes not to move, the building would not be sold.

Superintendent Bob Thomas, who at first opposed the move, changed his mind when Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs offered to cover the expenses of the relocation and operation there. From a quick survey of some BOE members, the vote looks very close.

The commission recently approved Mayor Glenn Jacob's proposal to approve the easement between TVA and the county. The mayor has said that if the school board does not approve the move there are other plans, including moving the Knox County offices out of the City-County Building and relocating some other county offices into the towers. The University of Tennessee may take the top six floors and ORNL has voiced an interest in some office space.

It all depends on what the board of education decides to do.

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Does the Other Side Get To Be There When I Argue In Front of the Judge?

We have probably all seen a tv show or a movie where a lawyer is walking down a hallway next to a judge arguing why a judge should make a ruling in their favor.

Conspicuously absent from these scenes is the attorney for the other side of the case. Is this how it works? You just track down the judge and just start talking about your case without the other side there?

The answer is no, this almost never happens, and this kind of one-sided presentation of the issues of a case is disfavored by the legal system.

The court instead, prefers that both sides be present when any arguments, motions or other proceedings are made to the judge. The court system wants both sides of a case to get to present their reasons why the judge should rule in their favor prior the judge making their ruling.

When only one side gets to present their side of a case,



By Jedidiah McKeehan
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this is called “ex-parte” communication with the court. Ex-Parte communication is only allowed in a very few circumstances, and it is not the preferred method of handling cases. Courts will allow ex-parte communication when there is some emergency present that requires the judge to make an immediate ruling. The most common example of this is an order of protection.

So, for example, someone is being threatened by their spouse and they are in fear for their safety. That person can go to the court and fill out a petition for an order of protection detailing what has occurred. If the judge reads those facts and determines that there is a substantial and immediate risk of harm to the petitioner (the person filling out the paperwork), then he has the ability to issue an ex-parte order of protection.

The catch to an ex-parte order is that it is only good for a short period of time

because it was granted before the respondent (the person who is alleged to have threatened the petitioner) even got to tell their side of the story to the judge.

Typically, when an ex-parte order of protection is signed, there must be a hearing on that order of protection within 14 days and at that full hearing, the petitioner will have to present why the order should stay in place and the respondent will get a chance to argue why the order should be dismissed.

To circle back to our original question though, it is very rare for there to be any circumstance where both sides of a case are not present to argue their side of the case.

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

First week for state and federal contests sees ten petitions for election

By Mike Steely
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It’s definitely a political year for Knox County and last Monday was the first day for candidates to pick up nominating petitions for state and federal office. Nine candidates did just that and there were some surprises.

Republican Congressman Tim Burchett’s petition was picked up. A Democrat, Chance C. Brown, also picked up a petition for the U. S. House seat.

Incumbent Republican state Representative Jason Zachary picked up a petition for re-election in District 14. Democrat activist Justin Davis also got a petition for that position.

While State Representative Rick Staples didn’t pick up a petition on the first day two other citizens did. Fellow Democrat Matthew Park got one as did East Knoxville activist Michael Covington, who is running as an Independent.

State Representative Bill Dunn isn’t seeking

re-election but two Republican women active in Dunn’s District 16 were at the Election Commission to get petitions. Patti Lou Bounds, a school board member, and Michele Carringer, a Knox County commissioner, both were there to get petitions.

Incumbent state Representative Dave Wright also picked up a nominating petition to seek re-election for the District 19 seat.

Chris Davis, assistant administrator of the Knox County Election Commission, told The Focus that Sam Brown picked up a petition Wednesday for state Senate District 6, making him the tenth to enter a contest last week as of press time.

Candidates have until April 2 to present petitions and until April 9 to withdraw.

Early voting for the state and federal primary starts July 17th and Election Day is August 6th. Winners of their primary move on to the General Election on November 3rd.

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Selection of law directors discussed at candidate forum

By Mike Steely
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Should the Knox County Law Director be appointed by the county mayor or elected by the voters? Currently the voters choose the chief law enforcement officer.

The question came up during a League of Women Voters forum Tuesday at the offices of the News-Sentinel. Moderator Gene Patterson asked three questions of the candidates including their opinions and proposals involving the new Knox County Charter Review Committee.

The charter question brought up different opinions on how the Knox County Law Director should be chosen.

Terry Hill, running unopposed for District 6 commissioner, said the law director should be appointed so they would “support and work with the administration.”

Clayton Wood, who is opposing John Schoonmaker in District 5, agreed, saying that the current law director has “been a constant problem.” He also said he also supports moving the school offices to the TVA Towers.

Schoonmaker said the current charter should be “cleaned up” and that at-large commissioners should be on the charter committee. He referred to 1988 when the county voted to go to a “Charter Government” and said only five counties in the state



The three District 1 candidates, Evelyn Gill, Reginald Jackson and Dasha Lundy, respond to questions during the League of Women Voters forum Tuesday.

have that type of government. He told The Focus Wednesday, “As a conservative I believe you should not remove that right” regarding the election of a law director.

Kimberly Peterson, the Democrat who will oppose either Schoonmaker or Wood, said a “check and balance” is needed in county government and said it is “insulting if the people don’t get a choice.” She said she has concerns that if someone “gets their people in they’re not going to be objective.”

Todd Frommeyer, the Democrat who will face either Scott Broyles or Kyle Ward in the District 4 race, said he agrees with Peterson that the law director should be elected.

“If you have an appointed law director then Mayor

Jacobs says, ‘Go, figure out a way for me to do this,’” Frommeyer said. He referred to the TVA Tower agreement and said the law director “did the right thing” by raising the issue.

Broyles said he favors an appointed law director and wants the charter committee to look at process driven issues.

Kyle Ward was not present for the event. He told The Focus Wednesday morning that he had a business appointment he had to attend.

Grant Rosenberg who has no challenger in the Republican Primary will face Democrat Courtney Durrett in the General Election for the District 2 commission seat. Rosenberg said he basically likes a mayor-appointed law director but added he has strong questions about how an appointment would be made. He added, “The devil is in the details.”

Durrett said the new

charter should be transparent so a “layman can understand what it means.”

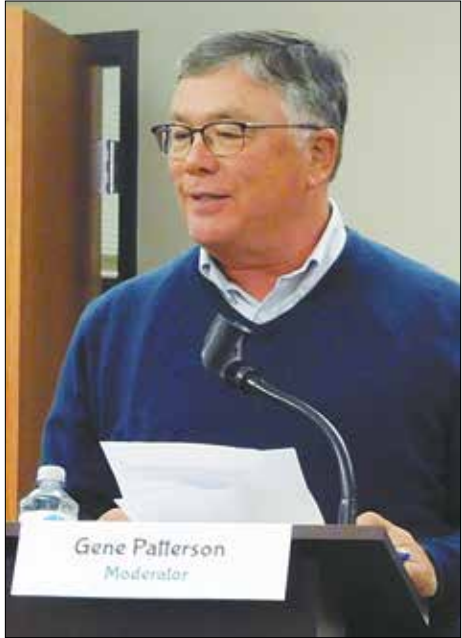
She said that “right now the people are the check and balance” and she would want to see a job description developed.

District 1 incumbent Commissioner Evelyn Gill suggested putting the selection of the law director on the ballot and added, “I favor direct election.”

Councilwoman Gill said she is on the charter review committee and the voters of Knox County should decide the appointment or election of a law director.

“I am in favor of an elected law director because safeguards are there for the legislative body to do its work.” She said the charter, a 400-page document, needs to be updated.

Dasha Lundy, who will face Gill in the Democratic Primary, said the charter review committee needs to listen to “the voices of



Gene Patterson, former WATE news anchor, moderated the commission candidates forum last week. The League of Women Voter event drew a large crowd to meet and hear the various candidates.



District 5 Commissioner John Schoonmaker (right) talks with Charles Lomax, Director of Community Empowerment for the City. Schoonmaker, the finance committee chairman, is seeking re-election to the District 5 seat.

the people, especially the people of District 1.” She said she agrees with Durrett’s position.

Jackson, an Independent who will face Lundy or Gill in the general election, said the charter should be transparent so the “people can read it.” He added that the law director should

continue to be elected.

Each candidate also replied to questions about raising property taxes and rural development in Knox County.

Following the three questions the meeting broke and the candidates stayed there to casually chat with potential voters.

CORRECTION:

It has come to the attention of The Focus that an incorrect photo ran of candidate for the District 4 commission seat, Kyle Ward, in the story “District Four Candidates Answer Focus Questions.”

Here is the correct photo of Mr. Ward. The Focus regrets the error.



Charter Review Committee

Cont. from page 1

they are selected, and how the county operates.

Knox County Law Director Richard (Bud) Armstrong spoke to the members about the open meeting rules and said they cannot discuss the charter with each other outside the meetings. He said when two or more committee members meet by chance outside the meeting to “say hello and keep some distance” from each other.

Any meeting of two or more, outside the regular sessions, would need to be cleared by the secretary, publically noticed, and minutes taken. He added he doesn’t advise such meetings.

One committee member, Mike Arms, said, “We need to clearly understand what we are to do,” in reviewing the charter. Armstrong said each member will get a copy of the current charter.

The law director said the charter, changed or

unchanged, will need to be put on the ballot for the August or November election.

He said the committee can decide to include a public forum but it is not required. He called the Knox County Charter “our Constitution” and said the law director’s office will assist the committee as needed.

The review committee voted to set their next meeting date for today at 5:30 p.m. Commission

Chairman Nystrom told his fellow committee members he reviewed times and dates when the main assembly room is available and suggested future meeting dates.

The committee agreed to reserve the future dates as proposed by Nystrom.

Today’s meeting will apparently take up the public forum issue, procedures, and rules of order.

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District Five Commission Candidates Answer Focus Questions

By Mike Steely
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Early voting for seven Knox County Commission seats starts on February 12 when voters begin going to the polls to select 7 of the 11 commissioners, a public defender, law director, property assessor, and four school board members. That Primary Election will end on March 3rd when nominees from both political parties will be chosen.

We now turn to District Five, which has Republican incumbent John Schoonmaker facing fellow Republican Clayton Wood. The winner of the Primary will face Democrat Kimberly Peterson.

We asked the candidates the following questions and here are the replies.

What's the largest problem in your District?

Schoonmaker: The 5th District has enjoyed tremendous growth in residential development. The road systems need to be updated and expanded to accommodate the increase in traffic. I have been pursuing funding for the Canton Hollow Road project for the past 4 years to address this issue. This \$7 million road upgrade is scheduled to begin in July. In addition, I look forward to working with the Town of Farragut and Knox County to prioritize other road improvement projects.

Wood: The 5th District faces the problem of politicians who want to raise taxes. We have great schools with wonderful and involved PTA's that contribute enormously, we need smart growth with the necessary investments in infrastructure, but our biggest threat is politicians who think the solution for any challenge the 5th District faces is more government and higher taxes. I strongly disagree and will oppose any property tax increase.

Peterson: The largest challenge we face in District 5 is indicative of the largest problem facing Knox County as a whole - responsible development and growth. District 5, which includes parts of West Knoxville, Concord and Farragut, struggles with the issue of how to continue to grow to accommodate the need for more housing and businesses while remaining considerate of environmental factors and the desires of the neighborhoods and

community members it serves. Our district is often plagued with flooding and it can partly be attributed to not taking into greater account the environmental landscape (natural flood plains, sinkholes, etc) upon which much of our area's development was established.

County Commission, the Metropolitan Planning Commission and all governmental entities must make plans with greater input and cooperation with the communities they serve. As it stands now, there seems to be an adversarial relationship where growth and development is being thrust upon neighborhoods and yet, it is the neighborhoods and the citizens who must deal with the aftermath of such decisions. I think a prime example of this tension is evident in proposal to amend the Knoxville Growth Policy Plan. The 2001 plan aimed to limit forced annexation, discourage urban sprawl and preserve rural and agricultural areas. The amendment would eliminate some of those protections that the plan established. We are seeing resistance to this change not only amongst neighborhood associations but by the Town of Farragut officials as well. I stand with them that in relaxing the plan's protections, we are pushing development with little to no regard to infrastructure. It is unfair to have developers and the county benefit from growth while the community members are punished with more traffic and congestion, for example. We must find a reasonable balance which takes into consideration growth and progress but does not cause further problems down the road for our future tax payers. We can find a balance where it is more a collaborative relationship between developers and the community so that this is not an "us vs. them" situation.

How do you feel about moving the school offices to the TVA Towers?

Schoonmaker: Once official documents were finalized and the financial package was in place, I supported the initiative to move county offices to the TVA East Tower. In the near future, it gives Knox County the option to move other county departments to the adjoining Summer Place Complex.

Wood: I strongly support

it. The AJ Building is a hotel that is now working poorly as offices and as a building has a tremendous amount of deferred maintenance. Congressman Burchett was right to want to move the school administration out, and Mayor Jacobs is going to have a deal that I believe will be looked upon as fiscally brilliant for the next 25 years. The deal with TVA seems too good to be true, but the truth is that TVA has specific security requirements because of the connectivity of the two tower buildings that make the tower attractive only to other governmental entities. Some have voiced concerns that some Knox County School employees may not be able to pass a federal background check, and my response is that if you cannot pass a federal background check I do not think you are the right person to work with children. We are getting a 20-25 million dollar parking garage for less than 1/10 of its market value, we are creating synergies between the University of Tennessee system and Knox County Schools and we are getting better office space than what the school system currently has for well below market rates. We also will be getting a building that is currently off the tax rolls back on them, and mixed use development in that building will bring taxes to Knox County.

Peterson: At the January 27th meeting, Knox County Commission voted unanimously to move forward with the proposal of the county purchasing the TVA East Tower and the Summer Place parking garage. There seem to be "loose ends" that need to be cleared up and State Senator Massey has requested advice from the State Attorney General. I am pleased to see that there is language in the proposal that gives a deadline of September 2020 to have these outstanding issues resolved. Though Superintendent Bob Thomas is supportive of the move of school offices to the TVA Towers, I would like to learn more about the Knoxville School Board's position as well as teacher's groups such as the Knox County Education Association and SPEAK - Students Parents and Educators Across Knoxville. I believe Commissioner Busler's concerns that he has voiced about access by parents and taxpayers to the offices is a valid one and needs to be satisfactorily resolved.



John Schoonmaker



Clayton Wood



Kimberly Peterson

Incidentally, it is important to point out that at a November 2019 meeting with governmental officials and community members which took place at Farragut High School, all 65 people in attendance voted in opposition of the school system moving to the TVA Tower when asked by current County Commissioner Schoonmaker. I believe that we must listen to the voices of the educators, educational and support staff, as well as the taxpayers, regarding this move and if a majority are opposed, we should not move forward.

What type of business or industry is needed in your District?

Schoonmaker: The 5th District is about 70% residential. The Turkey Creek Shopping complex and the Kingston Pike business corridor provide a variety of business opportunities. However, there is a need for flexible office space for new companies that support the technology in Innovation Valley and Oak Ridge.

Wood: Glenn Jacobs has a regional approach to development that I strongly support. Knoxville is the prettiest place to change the world, and as ORNL develops metamaterials and other breakthroughs that have massive economic impact, as logistics companies grow in the key hub we are, as software companies and marketing companies realize that they can sell their products anywhere, what will attract them and retain them here is unparalleled quality of life. We have great schools, safe neighborhoods with excellent law enforcement, great residential neighborhoods that are affordable and a low tax burden. As the 5th District Commissioner I will support efforts that keep Knox County business friendly for the high wage jobs that give us such a great quality of life.

Peterson: I am hearing that they would like to see more small local, not

franchised or chain owned, businesses. Many of them have expressed envy at the types of businesses with progressive concepts that are popping up in other areas of the county. We need businesses that reflect the diversity within our district and county. 5th District citizens have also cited a lack of gathering places which foster community as well as venues for meetings and special events.

It is imperative, as we consider what type of businesses and industry we bring to the 5th District, County Commission, the Town of Farragut, and the planning commissions that we come up with a strategic plan for growth that takes into consideration adequate infrastructure - roads, sidewalks, and utilities - as well as environmental factors and the natural landscape. The 5th District has been plagued with flooding issues as well as horrific traffic and with any talk of growth, we must seriously address these challenges as well as their effect on the community. Lastly, the 5th District needs to address the issue of the large number of abandoned properties and empty buildings which need to be repurposed.

How do you feel about greenways in the county?

Schoonmaker: I support greenways in Knox County. I am also supporting the Northshore Drive Greenway initiative which includes the greenways from Concord Park to the Loudon County line and from Concord Park to Pellissippi Parkway. Knox County Commission should begin discussing funding for these needed greenways during fiscal year 2021 budget meetings.

Wood: I am a big fan of greenways and I hope we will continue to develop and implement plans to connect them.

Peterson: Again, 5th District is extremely blessed to have a large number of greenways in our district, many of which I personally

utilize. I have walked many of the greenways including the one at Grisby Chapel Road and near McFee Park. I find greenways provide an opportunity to increase exercise, foster a sense of community by getting people out of their homes and interacting with one another, as well as connect with nature. The greenways have the potential to also be a means of using alternative transportation if the routes were connected. I am pleased to see that Mayor Jacobs has made this a priority during his tenure and that the current Knox County Commission voted to adopt the findings of the Knox County Greenways Corridor study.

With that said, I am disappointed that at that same County Commission meeting, County Commission decided 6-2 to support Mayor Jacobs's ordinance to loosen the regulations that require subdivisions put in sidewalks in all new subdivisions. The argument against such requirements has mainly come from those developing those new subdivisions who say that the sidewalks are not connected to anything at this time so should not be required. I disagree with this logic and also with the County Commission's vote. We must be forward thinking and have a comprehensive or holistic view when planning current developments as it is more expensive and difficult to go back and retrofit sidewalks later. I have heard from a number of constituents in 5th district complain about the lack of sidewalks and accessibility in getting around the area. I believe not building new construction to include sidewalk infrastructure is a decision which we will regret in the not so distant future.

Please visit knoxfocus.com/archives/the-daily-focus/district-five-commission-candidates-answer-focus-questions/ to read additional Q&As with these candidates.

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From giant sloth fossils to John Sevier and Davy Crockett, the area of East Tennessee is very well represented in the new Tennessee State Museum in Nashville.

Located at the end of the Bicentennial Capitol Mall near the state house the state museum is very well organized and the self-guided walk through begins with displays of fossils and bones from the Gray Fossil Site in Gray, Tennessee near Johnson City and proceeds to provide

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

information about Native American villages in the Overhill town near Vonore.

The display is on the second floor of the large building and begins as you enter the “Time Tunnel.” From there you can follow the history of the state as it progresses or use the printed guide and skip to the part of the Volunteer State’s story you wish to see.

Better plan at least two hours for the venture. Parking next to the museum at the Farmer’s Market area

is free. Winter is a great time to visit because the museum isn’t crowded and you can usually find a place to park. The museum is kid friendly and there’s lots to see.

Permanent exhibits include Natural History, the First People, Forging the Nation, the Civil War and Reconstruction, Change and Challenge, and Tennessee Transformations, which details the state’s modern history.

East Tennessee’s contributions are scattered throughout the museum and features Dolly Parton’s costumes, a Chet Adkins guitar, and so much more.

There’s also information on Civil War encounters in our state, including the

Fort Sanders battle and the history of the KKK following that war. There is a display of Oak Ridge’s “Secret City” as well as Alex Haley’s story.

Driving to the state museum can be a bit confusing. Coming from Knoxville you can take I-40 to I-24 North to Jefferson Street. Turn west and follow Jefferson to Rosa L. Parks Blvd, turning left to the museum. Admission is free but you’ll need to check in at the information desk and let them look at whatever you are carrying into the building.

You can find more information at www.TNMuseum.org or by calling 615-741-2692.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

One of Dolly Parton’s costumes is just a small part of East Tennessee’s presence in the new Tennessee State Museum. There are also exhibits about Davy Crockett, Andrew Johnson and many other examples of our area’s contributions to state history.

Welch leaves with many city donations to groups

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Councilwoman Stephanie Welch is leaving Knoxville City Council to join the administration of Mayor Indya Kincannon, but not without proposing several donations from the Community Improvement Fund. The proposals come before city council’s meeting Tuesday as “consent” items that will probably be passed along with other consent items with one vote.

Welch has asked for \$200 to go to the Epilepsy Foundation of East Tennessee to purchase helmets and \$250 to the Alpha Pi Omega Foundation for the



Councilwoman Stephanie Welch

Annual Scholarship Brunch. She’s also asking for \$500 to go to the Centro Hispano de East Tennessee for a leadership conference and \$500 for SEEED Inc. to go to career readiness and community engagement training programs.

Her proposals continue with a \$500 donation to the East Tennessee Design Center for software updates and repairs, \$1,000 to Metro Drug Coalition toward recovery housing, and \$300 to The Muse to be used toward the annual STEAM Carnival.

Welch joined four others in cosponsoring a \$1,250 donation to the Knoxville Urban League for the Shoes for Schools event in a resolution sponsored by Vice Mayor Gwen McKenzie.

McKenzie and three others also sponsored a \$1,500 donation to The Carpetbag Theatre for their 30th Annual Youth Theatre Festival.

Who will replace Councilwoman Stephanie Welch?

Cont. from page 1
residency in the District 1. Applications must arrive to the City Recorder’s Office at 400 Main Street, Room 467, in person, email or fax.

Applicants are encouraged to include a letter of interest, cover letter and/or a resume.

The order of interviews and speeches will be determined at the beginning of the February 20 meeting when applicant names will be drawn at random. Each candidate will be allowed three minutes to explain their interest.

Up to two supporters will be permitted to speak for three minutes and names

of the supporters, or who will speak in place of the candidate, should be transmitted to the city recorder prior to the meeting.

City council members may not nominate someone outside the applicants but will question candidates. All candidates will be asked the same questions but follow up questions may be asked. Candidates will be asked to leave the meeting before questions begin.


Once the interviews are completed the selection of a replacement will be done by roll-call vote. Candidates with the fewest votes will be eliminated until one

applicant is selected for the position. That person will immediately be administered the oath of office and take the District 1 seat.

Who has voiced an interest in the position?

The Knoxville Focus has asked anyone wishing to apply to contact us and so far those include Janice Tocher, Rebecca Parr, Tommy Smith, Ben Ream and David Hayes.

City Recorder Will Johnson said that applications have been received, as of Friday afternoon, from Anne Wallace, Thomas Warren Smith and Ben Ream.

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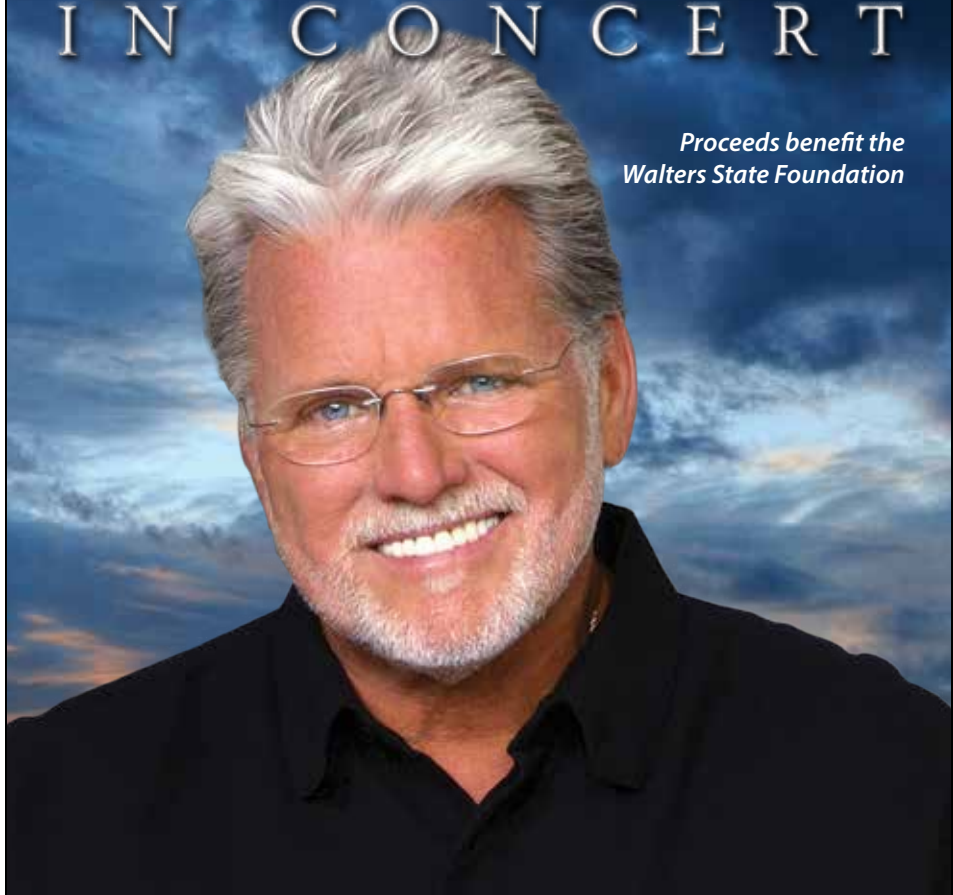
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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

The League of Women Voters of Knoxville and Knox County were well represented during the 2017 Neighborhood Conference, offering information on voting and upcoming elections. Pictured are Anne Skutnic, Rynn Dupes and Helen Tews.

Kelley receives prestigious McGill Scholarship from Maryville College

By Ken Lay



Noah Kelley

A Karns High School senior received a full scholarship to attend Maryville College last week.

Noah Kelley was awarded the prestigious McGill Scholarship Wednesday night at the Knox County Board of Education's work session at the City-County Building.

Kelley, who has served on the school board as the student representative during the school year, was one of five recipients of the scholarship that is given to an incoming freshman at Maryville College annually.

He was awarded the scholarship to open the meeting after being introduced by First District board member Evetty Satterfield.

"Sitting in my First District seat, I have the honor of sitting next to our student representative, Noah Kelley, and he is a very intelligent young man and has great conversations," Satterfield said. "It is my honor to introduce him to receive this scholarship tonight."

Kelley, who said that he plans to major in

biochemistry at Maryville, said he was honored to receive the elite scholarship after a long screening process.

"I'm very excited and I think this is the second time that they've done this," Kelley said. "You have to be invited to apply. You can't just apply. You have to have at least a 3.8 GPA and you have to score at least a 30 on the ACT."

"They have 200 applicants and then they cut it down to 60. Then, they give out 20 fellowships (or partial scholarships) and then they give five full rides."

Kelley also noted that the McGill scholarship winners all live in the same dormitory and that they all take a class together during their first semester together at Maryville College.

Neighborhood Conference taking shape

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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Planning for the annual Knoxville Neighborhood Conference is well underway and the March 23 event should draw a huge crowd of local advocates, private citizens, community organizations, local government officials and departments, and political candidates.

This Wednesday five local breweries will donate part of their proceeds from evening sales to the upcoming conference. Those breweries include Abridge Beer Company, Hexagon Brewing Company, Last of Autumn Brewing, Pretentious Beer Company and Printshop Beer Company. The establishments are located across

town in the west, north, east, south and downtown areas.

Last year almost \$1,000 was raised in the promotion and the brewery to raise the most money on Wednesday will be recognized.

The brewery contest starts at 5 p.m. that day.

Neighborhood Coordinator Debbie Sharp told The Focus the conference so far will have four workshops and the topics include Blight Remediation, Great Ideas, Workforce Development and Government 101.

"There will be three different awards announced," she said. Officer Liaison of the year was announced last fall and Eric Parks will be honored.

"We will also name the Neighborhood Achievement Awards

and the Dianna Conn Good Neighbor of the Year. Mayor Kincannon will announce those," Sharp said.

She said that more than 80 booths featuring city departments, county departments, non-profits and sponsors. Current sponsors include Waste Collection, Eason Architect, Hatcher Hill, Knoxville Area Association of Realtors, Mast General Store, The Compass, and Sanders Place.

Registration begins Tuesday and closes March 23rd.

Information is available from Debbie Sharp at (865) 215-4382, on Facebook, or online at the Neighborhood Conference page on the city's website, knoxvilletn.gov.

School board looks into new Visitor Management System

By Ken Lay

The Knox County Board of Education discussed the possibility of adding another security measure to its schools.

The board mulled over a proposed contract with Eyemetric Systems, LLC to install a new Visitor Management System at its work session Wednesday night at the City/County Building.

The board is slated to vote on the proposed contract at its regular session this week, on Wednesday night.

If the new system is approved,

it would be implemented throughout the system and in every KCS school.

The new computerized system would cost of \$109,731.60 for the term spanning from March 1, 2020 to Feb. 28, 2021 and the contract could possibly be extended for four more years using the Community Oriented Policing System (COPS) Grant Funds.

The system is designed to screen visitors to Knox County Schools campuses. It will be directly linked to the Sex Offender Registry. It will also be connected to a criminal

background checking system and will also be utilized to notate those who have been issued a no-trespassing letter.

"It will help us keep folks that belong on our campuses engaged in our students, and it will help keep people that cannot come onto our campuses off our campuses," Knox County Schools Chief of Security Gus Paidousis said.

He also explained how the system would operate if it was to be implemented.

Visitors would log in with a driver's license or other state-issued identification card. They

would then receive a badge with their name, a current photo, date, time and reason for visiting a KCS campus.

Paidousis said that the system would also provide daily updates to the schools.

"One of the things that the vendor will provide is a daily update of the Tennessee and National Sex Offender registry," he said. "So, if you come into your school and you're a member of the sex offender registry, it will immediately identify you as such, and then there will be protocols in place to address those kinds of issues."

Paidousis said that approximately 40 new no-trespassing letters are issued each year and also noted that under the current system, a person could have a no-trespass letter at one school while having children in other schools and that should new office personnel be employed at the school, the letters become difficult to enforce.

The proposed system will be networked throughout the county, virtually eliminating those concerns.

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As soon as I unzipped the bag, that familiar smell wafted out. It was as strong now as back in the 1960s. I'm not sure what's in the backpack that I carry to school, Gallatin, and any other traveling



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

destination that created the same odor. Perhaps it's the laptop and devices that go with it. Maybe it's the mid-morning snacks crammed into the bag. It also might come from more than 10 years of wear from carrying this thing with me. At any rate, that smell hit me and beamed me back almost 50 years ago. What was that powerful essence that filled my nose and flooded my head with memories: valve oil.

Ball Camp School fifth graders had the chance to join beginning band. My older brother was in the high school band, and Jim and I couldn't wait until we also could begin playing instruments. My twin brother started on an old clarinet that I think belonged to an older cousin. He might not have been excited to play that instrument but accepted it and set out to work conquering it.

I wanted to play the trumpet because the screeches from a reed instrument always made me think of scratching a blackboard. Mother and Daddy traveled to Hewgley's Music Store and purchased a coronet. It's a shortened trumpet, and I suppose they bought it because the thing was less expensive. I didn't care; the horn was shiny and new.

At first the only things I could get out of the horn were sounds that resembled wounded animals or wildlife bellowing for a mate. Charles Scott, the band director, worked with his new crop of musicians, and before long, we belted out such popular tunes as "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" and "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

Lots of slobbering occurred as novice musicians struggled with instruments. Mr. Scott showed me where the spit valve was located and how to blow through the horn to clear the stuff from it. When a

bubbly sound came when playing the horn, I knew it was time to empty it out.

After playing the horn for a while, the valves would also become sticky. They no longer glided in the tubes in which they were housed. That meant the time had come to unscrew them, remove them from the horn, and apply a few drops of oil. Bingo! The valves once again worked perfectly.

The downside was at the end of each class, a puddle of spit covered the floor at my feet, and the smell of the oil was trapped on my hands and in my nostrils. It never seemed to fade, and the smell oozed out of the horn case any time I opened it.

I played that horn through my freshman year in high school. No, I wasn't the best, but neither was I the worst. I practiced, on occasion, at home, but the music never sounded good. I wore braces at the time, and the mouthpiece pressing against that metal on my teeth proved to be uncomfortable. I had reached the pinnacle of my musical instrument abilities and decided to leave band.

The next year, Mother sold my coronet so that she could purchase a new clarinet for Jim, who went on to become a music major and a band director. Even though the horn is gone, any time I smell anything that resembled that valve oil, plenty of good memories come back. My best friends from high school were in band also, and I enjoy seeing them and talking about those good times a half century ago. To some, valve oil reeks, but to me, that strong smell is mixed with some sweet thoughts of another time.

TBI to possibly review officer-involved shootings

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knoxville City Police Chief Eve Thomas said that the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation may be used in future inquiries in officer involved shootings.

TBI involvement came up in a discussion at the quarterly meeting of the Police Advisory and Review Committee. Incidents of two shootings, where the police discharged their weapons and killed civilians, were being discussed. Current policy is to have the Knox County Sheriff's Department look into Knoxville Police Department shootings and the city does the same for the county law enforcement officer shootings.

One of the members asked about the policy, saying the interviews being conducted by the county for city incidents included "softball questions." Of three such shootings over the past year, two were found justifiable by the county, referred to the city's internal affairs, referred to the District Attorney and then reviewed by PARC.

Chief Thomas announced that the department, county and district attorney "are now looking to the TBI" to do the shooting investigations.

A third incident, the shooting death of Tom "Philly" Pheap by a police officer in an incident along Merchant Drive, has yet to be reviewed by PARC.

In other PARC news

During the public meeting, held at Haslam-Samson Ministry Complex on Texas Avenue in Lonsdale, the committee and Chief Thomas voiced their approval of the city council for voting on body cameras for city patrol officers. Chief Thomas told the audience the city has been considering

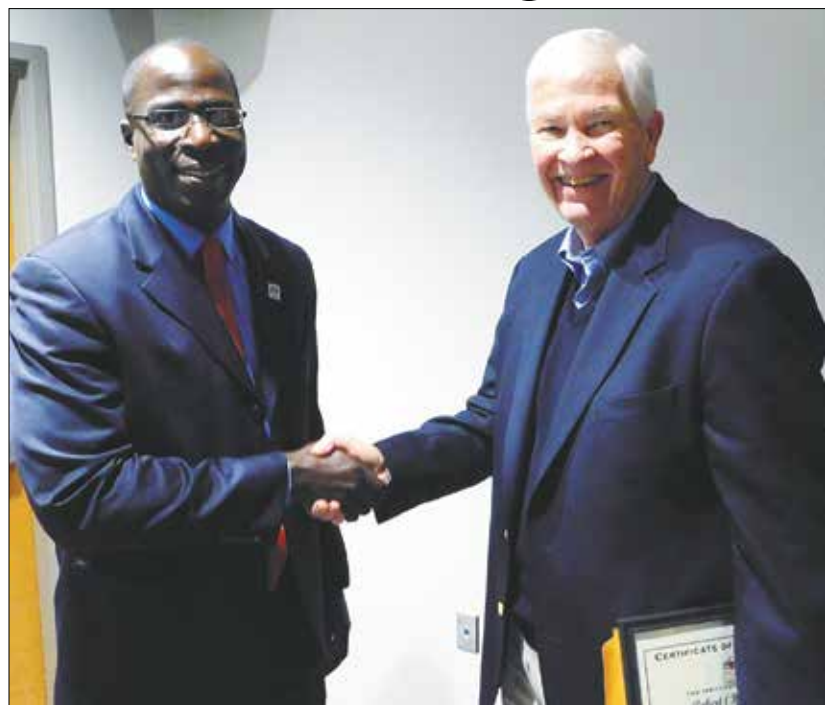


PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Bob Gibson (right) and PARC Executive Director Clarence Vaughn say goodbye. A state law mandating that advisory members must be Knoxville voters is excluding Gibson, a former FBI official, from the local police advisory group because he is a resident of the county and not city.

body cameras for "five or six years." She said the request for bids has ended and that several vendors have submitted bids.

She said the department is really excited about adding the body cameras and called the devices "another tool" in providing information. She also said the cameras would be activated automatically when the patrol officer exists the police vehicle.

Other questions at the meeting involved how officers would approach someone carrying a holstered weapon in public and if officers are equipped and authorized to give first-aid to suspects.

PARC Executive Director Clarence Vaughn III reported that 85 incidents were reported last year and 79 of the complaints resolved. Six incidents

remain under investigation.

Deputy Chief Ron Green reported that 49% of the complaints came from white citizens, 38 from African Americans, 4 from Hispanics and one from an Asian American.

The city police department responded to about 788 calls daily during the year. Overall most categories of crimes decreased slightly from the previous year but homicides increased by 10%.

PARC member Bob Gibson, a retired FBI agent, has to leave the group because of a new state requirement that all members be city voters. Gibson lives in the county and, in making the announcement, Vaughn praised Gibson's participation and gave him a certificate of appreciation for his service.

Creating a Healthy Landscape at UT Arboretum February 20

Have you ever wanted to create a more sustainable landscape but don't know how to start? This question and more will be addressed during the program, "Free from Herbicides: Creating a Healthy Landscape" on Thursday, February 20 at the UT Arboretum

Auditorium, 901 S. Illinois Avenue in Oak Ridge from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Andy Linville, owner of OBED Forest Gardens, will discuss practical solutions that create stable ecosystems. He will also address plant selection, placement, soil health, native ecosystems, and designed

disturbance.

With extensive experience in designing and maintaining sustainable landscapes, Linville assisted with the design and maintenance of the UT Arboretum Rain Garden.

This is a free program offered by the University of Tennessee Arboretum

Society but donations are gratefully accepted.

No registration is required. The program is co-sponsored by the UT Arboretum Society.

For more information on this program or the UT Arboretum Society, call 865-483-7277.

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Keep Knoxville Beautiful to Host 38th Annual Orchid Awards

On Tuesday, February 25, 2020, Keep Knoxville Beautiful will host the annual Orchids Beautification Awards at The Press Room, 730 N. Broadway from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. The deadline for purchasing tickets is Friday, February 21st.

The reception begins at 6:00 with complimentary beer and wine provided by Sierra Nevada Brewing Co, Elst Brewing, and the Brewing & Distilling Center. There will also be a specialty cocktails available for purchase by Post Modern Spirits for \$10. Cocktail tickets can be purchased

ahead of time with online ticket purchases. During the reception, guests can enjoy live music from Old City Buskers.

Dinner and the awards ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m. The event will be emceed by Discovery Inc.'s Nicki Collett. Keep Knoxville Beautiful. Mandi McKay, Sustainability Manager for Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. will be the keynote speaker of the night.

Tom Salter, retired Knox County Solid Waste Director and previous Keep Knoxville Beautiful Executive Director, will present the fourth Felicia Harris Hoehne Award to Knox County Community Development Director, Dwight Van de Vate. Nicki will present the Orchids Awards to a winner from each of the following seven categories: Redesign/Reuse, Outdoor Space, Community Space, New Architecture, Public Art, Restaurant/Café/Bar/Brewery, and Environmental Stewardship. These awards are given to the individuals who are beautifying our dynamic city.

Finally, Commissioner

Carson Dailey, a longtime advocate for beautifying Knox County, will close the night by presenting the Mary Lou Horner Award to KUB's The Miller Building. The Mary Lou Horner Award is given to a previous Orchid winner that has improved or remains "orchid-worthy." A list of all nominees can be found at <http://www.keepknoxvillebeautiful.org/orchid-awards>.

The deadline for purchasing tickets is Friday, February 21st. Individual tickets are \$85 each and tables for 8 are \$750. Cocktail tickets are available for \$10. Tickets can be purchased at www.keepknoxvillebeautiful.org/orchid-awards/. All proceeds benefit Keep Knoxville Beautiful programs.

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

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

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Tennessee Governors & the Path to the US Senate, I

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

All across the nation governors or former governors frequently attempt to make the transition to the United States Senate. Nor is it particularly odd, at least in Tennessee, for a governor to wait some years before running for the U. S. Senate. Former governor Prentice Cooper waited fourteen years after leaving the governor's office to run for the United States Senate; Lamar Alexander ran for the Senate sixteen years after departing the governor's mansion. Phil Bredesen made his bid for the Senate eight years after leaving the governor's office.

Quite a few governors and former governors have aspired to win election to the United States Senate from Tennessee, yet to date, only nine have managed it. Out of those nine, only one has won election to the U. S. Senate since Tennessee began popularly electing U. S. senators in 1916: Lamar Alexander. Tennessee chief executives hankering to get to Washington had much better success when the state legislature still elected U. S. senators. The first Tennessean to have served as both governor and U. S. senator was William Blount of Knoxville and he only qualifies due to a technicality. Many Knoxvilleians are familiar with Blount Mansion, Blount's home in what is now downtown Knoxville. Blount was never elected governor of Tennessee, but rather was the appointed (by none other than George Washington) governor of Tennessee when it was a territory. William Blount guided the territory to statehood, calling a constitutional convention, which convened in Knoxville. Governor Blount attended the convention as a delegate from his home city. After Tennessee was admitted to the Union on May 6, 1796, Blount could have run for governor in his own right, but he faced a formidable obstacle in the person of John Sevier. Blount opted to seek one of Tennessee's two seats in the United States Senate for a conspiracy involving Great Britain, plotting to seize territories which were part of European empires and motivated by Blount's onerous debt due to his compulsive land speculation. Whatever reputation William Blount had enjoyed as a statesman was ruined by the scandal, winning the former senator condemnation from former president George Washington, who said Blount should

be "held in detestation by all good men." The First Lady, Abigail Adams, wife of President John Adams, lamented the fact Blount could not be sent to the guillotine and believed the scheme hatched by the former senator to be nothing less than a "diabolical plot." Fortunately for William Blount, his reputation in Tennessee seemed little affected by the scorn heaped upon him nationally. Upon returning to Knoxville, Blount was feted by the people who held a parade in his honor. William Blount might have made a political comeback had not he succumbed to illness and died on March 21, 1800. Blount was only fifty years old.

The second Tennessean to win election to the United States Senate after having been governor was James C. Jones, one of the most colorful figures in Tennessee's political history. Standing 6'2 and weighing only 125 pounds, Jones was called "Lean Jimmy" by friends and foes alike. Jones was a formidable candidate being a highly entertaining and witty speaker in an age when it was one of the few ways a candidate could reach voters. After serving in the Tennessee House of Representatives, Jimmy Jones embarked on a campaign to unseat the personal protégé of the most venerable Tennessean of the time: former president Andrew Jackson. James K. Polk was governor of Tennessee and General Jackson's favored apprentice when he sought reelection in 1839. Jones was a Whig and Governor Polk may well have underestimated the thirty-year old candidate when he agreed to a series of debates across the state. Most contemporary observers believed Jones won the debates; he also won the election, beating Polk by a whisker. Undeterred by his loss, James K. Polk was determined to avenge his earlier loss and faced "Lean Jimmy" Jones in the 1843 gubernatorial election. Although he waged an intensive campaign, stumping the entire state, Polk once again lost to Jones. The following year, Polk was nominated as the first "dark horse" candidate in our country's history by the Democratic Party and won the general election by defeating the Whig candidate, Henry Clay. Even though he was eligible to run for a third term, Governor Jones chose not to run again, preferring instead to become the head of a railroad and make money. The former governor returned to politics when he was elected by the legislature to the

United States Senate in 1851. Jones did not seek reelection to the Senate in 1856, as he was apparently in failing health. James C. Jones remained largely semi-retired and lived at his farm near Memphis until he died October 29, 1859. Like William Blount, "Lean Jimmy" Jones was only fifty years old when he died.

Isham G. Harris, like Jimmy Jones, was a colorful and frequently a controversial political figure in Tennessee. Harris served as a presidential elector for Democratic nominee James Buchanan in the 1856 election. At that time, presidential electors actually waged campaigns on behalf of the candidates they supported. Harris stumped the state on behalf of Buchanan, while former governor Neill S. Brown, campaigned for Republican John C. Fremont. It was the first time a Republican candidate appeared on the ballot as the Whig Party had virtually disintegrated following the disastrous election of 1852 and the defection of party members over the looming secession argument and impending Civil War. Even some affiliated with the new Republican Party seemed dubious about its prospects for success. Nathaniel Banks, Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives, refused at least one nomination for president and throughout his career had been a member of numerous political parties. At one time or another, Banks had been a Democrat, American Party member, a Republican, and a Liberal Republican

Party member before once again rejoining the GOP. Banks' elevation to the speakership had been hard fought and the House of Representatives was bitterly divided, not only by party, but also by region. Banks was elected Speaker of the House on the 133rd ballot. Banks would make a determined bid for the 1860 Republican presidential nomination, only to lose to a little known former congressman named Abraham Lincoln.

Isham Harris was an able enough campaigner to make tens of thousands of friends across the state, as well as steal the spotlight from former governor Neill Brown. In spite of Andrew Jackson, Tennessee was not a solidly Democratic state at the time. For years the Whigs had more than held their own in the Volunteer State. James K. Polk had lost his home state in the 1844 presidential contest to Whig Henry Clay. In fact, Tennessee was only one of four states carried by Whig presidential nominee Winfield Scott in 1852. With the rise of Isham G. Harris, Tennessee's Democratic Party also began a steady ascendancy. Harris was nominated for governor in 1857 and defeated his opponent with relative ease. Governor Harris was popular and his personal popularity was amply demonstrated in his 1859 reelection campaign. A conglomeration of former Whigs, as well as other fading political parties joined a number of disgruntled Democrats to form the "Opposition Party", perhaps the most

aptly named political party of all time. Harris was comfortably reelected governor while the Opposition Party showed surprising strength by winning seven out of ten congressional contests in Tennessee. When President Lincoln asked Governor Harris to raise 50,000 troops from Tennessee to crush the growing rebellion, Harris publicly snapped, "Not a single man will be furnished from Tennessee." Isham Harris was governor of Tennessee when the state voted on a special referendum whether to secede from the Union. Tennesseans rejected the idea by a margin of roughly 68,000 to 59,000 votes in February of 1861. By June, opinions in Tennessee had changed materially. Tennesseans voted in favor of secession 104,913 to 47,238.

Harris sought a third term as governor and defeated William Polk, brother of the late president. With the Civil War erupting, Harris joined the Confederate army. By the spring of 1862 Andrew Johnson had been appointed military governor of Tennessee by President Abraham Lincoln, although Isham G. Harris refused to acknowledge Johnson's authority and still claimed to govern the state. With the end of the Civil War, William G. "Parson" Brownlow, a Republican became governor. Brownlow was a staunch Unionist and had made a name for himself as an acerbic editorialist and newspaperman. The Parson was delighted when Congress passed a resolution allowing him to

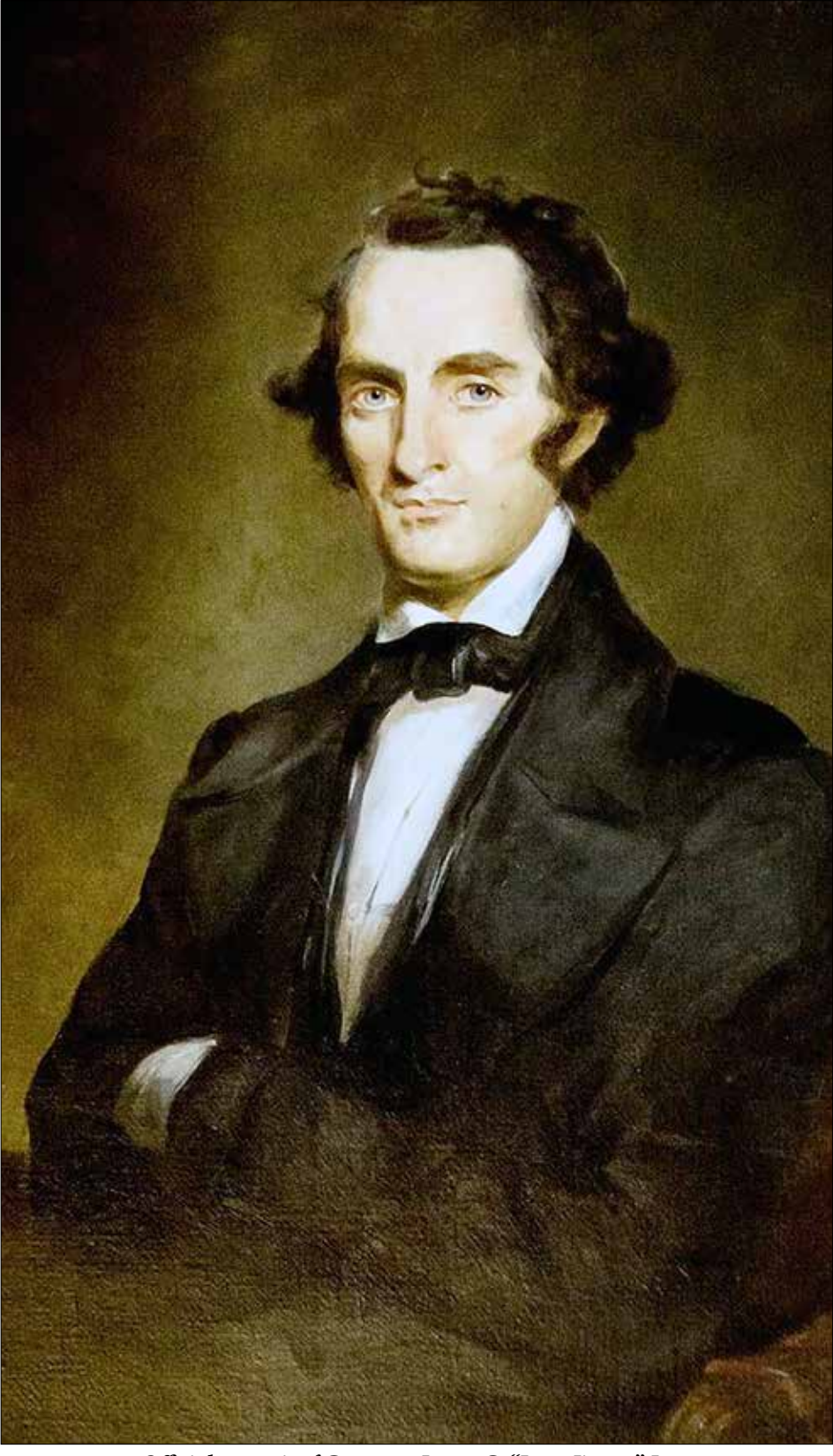
offer a reward for the capture of Isham G. Harris, as the former governor was deemed to be "guilty of treason, perjury and theft." Brownlow, who loathed Harris, moved with alacrity to issue a warrant for the former governor's arrest, as well as posting a \$5,000 reward for Harris's capture. The warrant penned by the governor was a testament to Governor Brownlow's way with a pen. Brownlow described Harris as having "the scowl and frown of a demon" and casually stated Harris' "study of mischief and the practice of crime have brought upon him premature baldness and a gray beard." Never one to spare his enemies any indignity, Parson Brownlow noted Harris "chews tobacco rapidly and is inordinately fond of liquors."

Harris was taking no chances with his personal liberty, thinking it the better part of wisdom to flee to Mexico. Harris, along with other former confederates, offered to ally themselves with the Emperor of Mexico, Maximilian. The brother of the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph, Maximilian had been placed upon the nonexistent Mexican throne by Napoleon III of France, who himself been elected president of the French Republic, only to restore the monarchy and proclaim himself emperor. With the fall of the Emperor Maximilian, Harris' situation became problematic. When Maximilian's government fell and the Emperor was subsequently executed by firing squad, Isham G. Harris once again fled, this time to England.

Eventually, Governor Brownlow rescinded the warrant for Harris' arrest. Isham Harris returned home to Tennessee and paid a call on the sour Parson Brownlow, who allegedly greeted the former governor by sneering, "While the lamp holds out to burn, the vilest sinner may return." Harris moved to Memphis where he began a law practice. By 1877, Republican strength in Tennessee had ebbed following the Civil War and was largely confined to the eastern portion of the state. That year Isham G. Harris was elected to the United States Senate by the legislature.

Harris consolidated his political position in Tennessee and was the acknowledged leader of the "Bourbon" Democrats. Isham G. Harris was routinely reelected by the state legislature, winning four terms in the United States Senate. Harris, although reelected in 1894, died in the middle of his term of office on July 8, 1897. No Tennessean had completed a fourth term in the U. S. Senate; that distinction would fall to Kenneth D. McKellar in 1940.

One other man who had the honor of serving Tennessee as both governor and United States senator was Isham G. Harris's predecessor as the Volunteer State's Chief Executive: Andrew Johnson. Next week's column will detail the stormy political career of the tailor from Greeneville.



Official portrait of Governor James C. "Lean Jimmy" Jones

Losing a Friend Ends an Era

It was one of this area's biggest developments following the 1982 World's Fair.

In 1984, East Towne Mall brought to the east end of Knoxville what West Town gave the west end years earlier.

When the two-story structure opened, gravel parking lots were used for the overflow of vehicles. Area residents and those from neighboring counties no longer had to travel the extra distance to West Town. For years, the mall bustled with activity, shoppers, and special events. Some people came in the early morning to do their daily walking in the spacious center. Others came to casually stroll down the corridors and just enjoy the beauty of the huge



By **Ralphine Major**
ralphine3@yahoo.com

shopping mall. At one time, the atrium was even home to a beautiful flowing water fountain. Along with the larger anchor tenants, bookstores, a food court, and numerous specialty shops filled the vast building. No one could

have even imagined then that decades later it would be any different.

Eventually, the East Towne Mall name was changed to Knoxville Center Mall. Over the years, eerie images surfaced of malls that have closed all across America. Sadly, Knoxville Center Mall is now a part of that group. One can only hope that the future plans for the mall building rekindle some of the excitement and growth the mall brought to East Tennessee—back in 1984.



Picture of Knoxville Center Mall just days before its closing on January 31, 2020, courtesy of Steve Ellis, Light House Studio.

Puppy Love for Valentine's

The days and weeks leading up to Valentine's Day are filled with commercials and conversations about how to shower your Valentine with the ultimate gift.

The ultimate gesture of love and companionship is that



By **Howard Baker,**
RN BSN

of our devoted pups.

Hobo the Wonder Dog is my number one fan. When I leave home, he pines for me until my return. The bond between you and your dog is

one few can break and only understood by those who

share a bond with a dog.

Valentine's Day celebrations have become mostly commercialized. Gifts become a measuring stick of our devotion in which one can gauge their love. If our hearts beat to the beat of true love, then the gift is truly meaningless. It is our heart and our actions that demonstrate commitment and love—the gift is a mere token and show of a soon forgotten celebration.

Hobo demonstrates his love in action and in deed daily. He protects me from all threats on our daily walks. Recently, as we walked along a opossum waddled into our path and stopped to stare. Hobo took this threat very seriously sounding the alarm—quickly the opossum scaled a tree to safety to continue his stare. Protection such as this is hard to come by but, I know no matter the threat Hobo stands guard.

Puppy love for Valentine's is about recognizing the one who loves you no matter what and is always true to you. Showering your pooch with gifts and treats are always welcome—but completely optional.

Your pooch only wants to spend time with you. Snuggle on the sofa, watch a movie, take a walk, bake a treat, or play fetch, any combination of you is really

all Fido needs to celebrate the best Valentine's Day ever. The best part—he doesn't care to let you choose the movie, location, or the menu—it's all about you.

This Valentine's Day celebrate it with those who love you, protect you, and honor your life unconditionally. You deserve a Valentine's Day filled with puppy love!

Valentine's Day is better with a dog—woof!

PK Hope Is Alive Support Group Meeting

PK Hope Is Alive Parkinson's Support Group would like to invite you to join us February 18 for the monthly meeting. The group meets at 11:30 a.m. at Kern Methodist Church in their Family Life Center, 453 East Tennessee Ave., Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

The support group offers education through monthly speakers and the guidance and reassurance from fellow

Parkinsonism's and caregivers who offer social support to each other.

The speaker this month is Eric Wade and Nader Naghavi with the Department of Engineering, UT Knoxville. The presentation will be the "Study of Parkinson's Freezing of Gait." A light lunch will be provided.

Come make new friends, eat lunch and learn something new! For more information contact Jim Brown, 865-607-7195.

Hobo's Valentine Smacker Snacks

Ingredients:

- 4 cups whole wheat flower
- 2 cups wheat germ
- 2 cups Jif® Natural Crunchy Peanut Butter**
- ½ med sized banana peeled and smashed
- 1 ½ cups water
- ¼ cup honey
- ¼ chopped raw peanuts

Directions:

1. Place all ingredients in a large mixing bowl mixing thoroughly to combine
2. On a floured surface roll out snack dough to about ¼ inch thick. Use a seasonal shaped cookie cutter or dog bone to cut into festive shapes. Continue to combine dough until all scraps of dough have been used.

3. Preheat oven to 325°. Place cookies on ungreased parchment paper lined baking sheet, and bake for about 30 to 35 minutes until done. Makes 3 to 5 dozen depending on shapes and size of cookie cutters.

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The making of a 3-point shooter

Trumm breaks TSSAA girls' career record, eyes No. 400

By Steve Williams

What goes into the making of a great high school basketball outside shooter?

There's a lot more to it than Bailey Trumm just pulling the trigger.

First off, it takes a lot of time from a lot of folks.

"It's a really great accomplishment," said the Powell High standout when asked what the TSSAA's career 3-point record meant to her after tying it at Oak Ridge on Jan. 28. "I couldn't have done it without amazing teammates and coaches."

A week later, on Feb. 4, in another District 3-AAA game at Clinton, it took Trumm only one shot to gain sole possession of the record. She drilled a 3-point shot just to the left of the top of the key and about three feet behind the 3-point line.

Just like that, Trumm had moved ahead of Kendall Spray of Mt. Juliet as Tennessee's all-time leader in 3-point shots. Spray, who made 390 at Wilson Central High (2012-16), is now a redshirt junior standout at Clemson University.

Bailey hopes to separate herself even more from others in the remaining games of her prep career. She got off to a great start in the 73-58 win over Clinton as she made a school record tying eight 3-point baskets and scored 37 points. That put her at 398 in her career.

Continued on page 2



PHOTO BY TRACY HEARD

Powell's Bailey Trumm (wearing black hair band and teal shoes) and teammates come back on the court as Trumm's state record-setting 3-point shot continues to be applauded on the sideline by Cassie Sakhleh Feb. 4 at Clinton. Trumm set the record on her first shot of the game and Coach John Fisher called a quick timeout so she could be recognized and the moment celebrated.

Collins calls second place showing in state bowling 'a dream come true'

By Steve Williams

Bearden High brought home the second place plaque from the Unified Bowling Invitational and a lot of good memories.

It was the second year the TSSAA hosted the event at Smyrna in conjunction with Special Olympics of Tennessee and the first year team scoring was kept among the eight teams competing on Jan. 25.

"It was a dream come true," said freshman Michael Collins, a CDC student at Bearden, of the Bulldogs' second place showing. A lifelong lover of the sport, Michael said just reaching the finals was "icing on the cake."

Bearden's team of Collins, senior Max McCosh and sophomore Ethan Shaw defeated Harpeth 246-220 in the first round and outscored East Hamilton in the semifinals 255-236 before falling to Franklin 314-242 in the championship match.

White County placed third,



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Bearden High bowlers wear second place medals from this season's TSSAA Unified Bowling Invitational. From left are Coach Jennifer Allen, Max McCosh, Michael Collins and Ethan Shaw.

Soddy-Daisy fourth, Harpeth fifth and East Hamilton sixth. Volunteer and Bartlett also competed.

"They did a great job," said Coach Jennifer Allen of her Bearden team's performance. "They worked well together. In

my 34 years of coaching, it was one of the most exciting things I've been able to be a part of. It

Continue on page 4

Farragut girls use suffocating defense to roll over Hardin Valley

By David Klein

The Farragut girls' basketball team dominated the home team Hardin Valley Hawks Friday night. Farragut used a suffocating full court press to build a 29-2 lead at the end of the first quarter and never looked back, going on to win 66-38. Avery Strickland led the Admirals with 18 points.

Hardin Valley did not score its first basket of the game until the 2:40 mark of the first quarter on Maddie Norris' basket. Norris was the only Hawks' player in double figures with 11 points.

Farragut Head Coach Jason Mayfield said, "We were able to cause some turnovers and get some easy baskets. I think at one point, maybe four minutes into the game, we already had 24, 25 points. Obviously when you start like that, that's ideal. I like how we sustained that through the first half. It's good to start a game like that for sure."

Farragut kept building on the first quarter to take a 43-10 lead at the end of the first half. Claire Wyatt also scored in double figures for the Admirals, contributing 10 first half points and 17 overall.

"We knew coming in that this would be a tough game," Strickland said. "Coach really emphasizes full-court pressure, just staying on top of them."

According to Mayfield, Farragut got complacent in the second half but still was able to get a continuous mercy clock running in the fourth quarter.

With Knox County schools being out three days at the end of January due to sickness and two days last week because of flooding, it impacted the Admirals' preparation and practice.

"It's tough," Mayfield said. "The county has rules in place. It makes sense, we're not in school, we're not allowed to do anything. We've had to scramble around a little bit. We're actually going to practice on Sunday; we don't typically do that. Our girls did a good job of being prepared. You've always got to be able to handle distractions. This is my eighth year. We've done it about

Continued on page 4

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Key Third Quarter Sparks Admirals to Victory

By David Klein

Friday night at Hardin Valley, the Farragut Admirals used a big third quarter to push out to a 21-point lead over the Hawks but had to hold on and endure a fierce Hardin Valley rally in the fourth quarter before winning 79-69. Four players scored in double figures for the Admirals with Isaiah Smith leading with 22 points.

"We played well, we made some shots," Farragut Head Coach Jon Higgins said. "We got some stops in the third quarter which allowed us to extend the lead a little bit. I thought we played pretty well at the beginning of the fourth. You know the last four minutes, or last three or so minutes, they turned up their pressure and their energy and we made some uncharacteristic mistakes and it got back to where it was a close game. We're young in some areas, inexperienced in some areas, and we're just learning how to win."

Farragut and Hardin Valley played an even first quarter with the teams tying at 15. In the second quarter, Farragut went up 22-18 on Saish Malory's 3-pointer, but a technical foul aided the Hawks and enabled them to tie it up at 22. Farragut would use a 15-8 run to close the first half and lead 37-30. Robby Geron led the Admirals with 9 points in the first half.

Point guard Carter Mayfield played well on the night and drove the ball effectively. "We run four out," Mayfield said. "Once I can get by the first guy, other people open out on the help side and I'm just glad when I get it out to people, they can knock down shots."

"I thought Carter Mayfield played extremely well today,"

Higgins said. "He played hard, he controlled the team, he ran the team pretty well, especially through the first three quarters. He showed his inexperience right there in the fourth quarter, but that's a learning experience for him. But that's going to benefit us going down the stretch."

Farragut increased the first half seven-point lead to 21 at the start of the fourth quarter. Smith scored 14 of his points in the third quarter, half of Farragut's 28 points in the quarter. His scoring onslaught included three 3-pointers.

The Hawks rallied in the fourth quarter to make the game respectable. Farragut had trouble handling the Hawks' press defense and made some turnovers. A 20-point lead shrunk to just six points with 22 seconds left. The Hawks would score 27 points in the fourth quarter, but it would not be enough.

Farragut has three games this week because of the postponed Bearden game from January 31 when sickness closed Knox County schools. The Admirals play Maryville on Tuesday, Fulton on Thursday and close out the regular season against Bearden on Valentine's Day. With the win over Hardin Valley, the Admirals improved to 13-13 on the season, 6-6 in District 4AAA. Hardin Valley fell to 12-12, 6-6 in District 4AAA.

"Maryville, we should be prepared," Smith said. "The thing about Bearden, we'll always be ready. We don't need a pep talk."

"It was good to get a couple of wins this week to get some momentum because we're going to need it next week," Geron said.

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Fulton boys' speed, tenacious defense put away West, 71-46

By Bill Howard

The Fulton High School boys' basketball team used two first-half scoring streaks to build a comfortable halftime lead, then cruised in the second half to an easy 71-46 win over West High School Wednesday night, Feb. 5 in a non-district game. The visiting Falcons improved to 15-4 with the win.

Fulton built a 21-point halftime lead, but outscored the Rebels by only four in the second half. "I thought we came out in the first half defensively, we were active, we made it tough on them," said Falcons' coach Jody Wright. "We were smart with the basketball. We shot it well. Second half wasn't as clean as the first. A lot of it might have been the score."

A layup by Will Biven gave West an 11-7 lead with 4:58 left in the first quarter. Fulton then went on an 18-2 run, and with 27 seconds left in the first, led 25-13. West cut it to seven, 27-20, on another Biven

layup, but a 12-0 run by the Falcons essentially put the game away.

In addition to their balanced scoring attack, Fulton's speed and aggressive defense limited West's opportunities.

"They're a strong, physical team and they took us out of everything we wanted to do," said Rebels' coach Chris Kesler. "We just couldn't execute. They did a great job of being physical with us and kept us from running our sets."

"They're so big and we knew we couldn't let the ball get down low. I thought we did a pretty good job defensively, making them shoot on the perimeter," said Wright.

Fulton led at half 42-21. West cut the lead to 16 a few times in the second half but never got closer. The Rebels fell to 8-14.

Four Falcons scored in double figures, led by senior point guard Edward Lacy with 19. The speedster Lacy also led the team with six rebounds. Junior Tommy Sweat, in only his

second game back after a broken ankle, scored 16. Dominic Holland added 13; Damian Holt chipped in 11.

"He broke his ankle against West in football," Wright said of Sweat. "He presents a lot of challenges for defenses,"

The Rebels were led by Biven with 18, while Houston Dyer got 10. Fulton hit nine shots from beyond the arc to only three for West. The Falcons also out-rebounded the Rebels 27-20, and scored seven more points from the free-throw line

Fulton's lone remaining district game (District 4 in Region 2, AA) is at Austin-East on Feb. 18. The Falcons beat the Roadrunners by 11 on Jan. 4. If they win that one, they'll finish 7-1 in the district and likely tie with Alcoa. The teams split their two games this season. Wright is tentatively confident headed toward the postseason. Last year, his boys lost in the state championship to Wooddale, a team

from Memphis.

"This time of year you want it to be clean for four quarters," he said. "We gotta move the needle to play more than just a good half. In the postseason, I think the key word for us is consistency. Our good is pretty good and our average is pretty bad. We gotta get to where we're more good than we are average."

"We're a lot younger than we were last year, we were tough in the post. That's a big thing right now, develop that toughness down the line that you can win big games like that."

West is battling Hardin Valley for third place in District 4 (Region 2, AAA). Last year the Rebels lost in the first round of the regionals. "We're a young group," said Kesler. "We're learning, we've still got two weeks to go."

In the girls' game, Fulton defeated West 40-34. West's Kyra Buntyn led all scorers with 11.

Trumm breaks TSSAA girls' career record

Cont. from page 1

With Powell scheduled to play at Karns Friday night, Trumm was expected to hit the No. 400 milestone. Maybe they'll put that basketball in the PHS trophy case with Bailey's name under it and her picture beside it.

What has made Bailey Trumm such a good outside shooter?

"Just countless hours in the gym with my family, my sister (Reagan) and my mom (Jennifer) and dad (Will)," answered Bailey. "We go to the gym literally every day. We spend a lot of hours there. You can't really be good, if you don't put in the time and effort to do so."

"And my shooting coach, Tim Sullivan," added Bailey. "I wouldn't be as good a shooter at all if not for him. He is the key to my success for most of it."

"He used to be a NBA shot coach. He lives in New York and I Skype him."

"He has made like 273 3s in a row. It's crazy. He just knows what he's talking about. I give credit to him, because without him, I wouldn't be as good of a shooter as I am today."

With Skype, "I can video tape myself and then (he) sends it back to me with a recording on it of what I'm doing (right or wrong)."

Trumm said Sullivan has been coaching her since her freshman year at Carter, where she started her prep career.

Bailey's parents, of course, have been assisting her in person.

"They take me to the gym. They rebound for me. My dad comes up with lots of drills. He's pretty much my main coach, my main trainer. He has put in a lot of time to help me and my sister become the players we are today."

Bailey transferred to Powell her junior year and Reagan joined her there as

a freshman.

Bailey has signed with Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. Reagan, a sophomore who also is a great shooter from 3-point range, hasn't committed yet.

"I'm hoping she'll come to Appy State with me," said Bailey, "but she'll have a lot of other opportunities she'll have to look at."

Bailey made 182 3-pointers as a freshman and sophomore at Carter, according to Powell Coach John Fisher, and had 216 at Powell going into the Karns game

Not only does Trumm now own the career record in the state, but her accuracy from 3-point land also is impressive. After the Clinton game, she had made 113 of her 255 attempts this season (44.3 percent).

The Trumm sisters and the Lady Panthers are scheduled to host Union County Tuesday night.

The Halls at Powell game that was postponed last Thursday when Knox County closed schools because of flooding conditions has been rescheduled for this Thursday and it will be Senior Night.

THREE-POINT DISTANCE: In high school, the 3-point line is 19 feet, 9 inches from the basket for boys and girls, but Bailey Trumm, during her state record pursuit, was noticed to make many of her 3-point baskets from two to three feet behind the arc or more.

The 3-point line in the college men's game this season was extended to 22 feet, 1¾ inches. The 3-point line for the college women's game is 20 feet, 9 inches.

The NBA distance for the 3-point shot is 22 feet in the corners and 23 feet, 9 inches from the top of the key.

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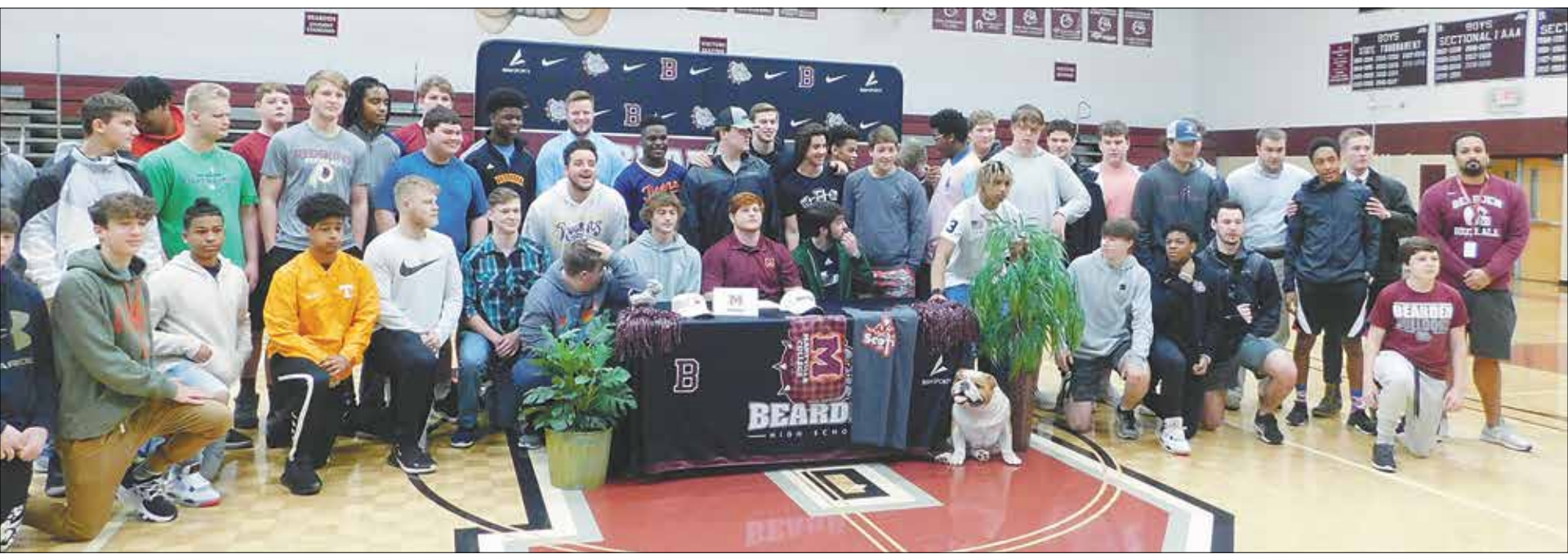


PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Bearden football player Andrew Kregel is joined by teammates after signing to continue his education and career at Maryville College at in a ceremony at Bearden. Kenneth Parker-Smith and Gavin Campbell are also in the photo. Parker-Smith signed with Union College and Campbell will play for ETSU.

Seven Bearden student-athletes sign letters of intent

By Ken Lay

National Signing Day, 2020 was busy for Bearden High School as the Bulldogs had seven student-athletes sign National Letters of Intent and a pair of separate ceremonies Wednesday.

Three Bearden football players who signed answered an early wake-up call to finalize their respective plans. A short time later, four Bearden baseball players made their plans official as family, friends and teammates looked on.

The three football players who signed included Kenneth Parker-Smith (Union College, in Kentucky), Gavin Campbell (East

Tennessee State University) and Andrew Kregel, who will continue his education and football career down the road at Maryville College.

Baseball players who also signed Wednesday morning were Patrick Boles (Georgetown College in Kentucky), Brandon LeJeune (Cleveland State Community College), Jacob Balsley (San Diego State University) and Braden Caldwell (Maryville College).

All three of the football players chose to attend small schools with Campbell opting to ink with a mid-major school in upper East Tennessee.

"It was important for me to go to a small school and I'm not sure what I'm going to major in," Parker-Smith said. "They're going to give me a semester to take classes and figure out what I want to do."

"It was just a better deal for me."

Campbell said that a chance to play for the Buccaneers seemed to be a perfect fit for him.

"I'm going to hopefully major in business or finance," Campbell said. "It's small and I just enjoyed the campus and the coaches."

"It's close to home and that's important to me."

Kregel will play for the Scots

and is looking forward to playing college in the Knoxville Area, in Blount County.

"It's close to home and Maryville College just seemed like another home for me," Kregel said. "I just liked that the coaches really cared about me as a person and a player. They really want me to be successful."

"I met the staff and the teachers all have an open-door policy and that's important for me."

Boles will play baseball at Georgetown College and said the size and atmosphere were big selling points for him.

"I really like it there," Boles said. "I'm going to major in nursing and

they have a very good nursing program."

"It's a pretty college and it's small. It's a Christian school and they have a really nice chapel there and I like that."

LeJeune took the junior college route. He'll play at Cleveland State for two years but he has aspirations to transfer and move on to a four-year program in the future.

"That's the plan," he said. "The main goal is to move on to another school."

"I like the academics (at Cleveland State) and I'm probably going to major in exercise science."



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Five seniors from South-Doyle's 2019 football team attend the school's National Signing Day ceremony Feb. 5 in the Cherokee Media Center. From left are Mohamed Sanoe, Nate Adebayo, Jordun Wilson, Santana Curtis and Mason Brang.

S-D seniors will be remembered as the 'foundation'

By Steve Williams

South-Doyle High was a state title contender in 2019 and lost to eventual Class 5A state champion Central 20-16 in a classic quarterfinal battle.

No other team played the Bobcats as close of a game in the state playoffs. The outgoing South-Doyle seniors will be remembered as "the foundation," if the Cherokees go all the way next season.

Seven South-Doyle seniors have earned the opportunity to continue their own football careers next fall on the collegiate level.

While star running back Elijah Young inked scholarship papers with the University of Missouri during the D1 early signing period in mid-December and is already on campus in Columbia, six more signed on National Signing Day last Wednesday.



That group included WR/DB Nate Adebayo (Morehead State), who signed in the Cherokee Media Center, along with quarterback Mason Brang (Carson-Newman), defensive back Santana Curtis (Air Force), wide receiver Mohamed Sanoe (Austin Peay) and lineman Jordun Wilson (Morehead State).

Offensive tackle Damian Brabson, who has moved out of town since the end of the football season, signed with Union College at Oneida High, but as a S-D representative.

"We've had attention

from all across the country," said Head Coach Clark Duncan. "It's amazing the colleges who have come through our doors to talk about these guys."

"There was a recruiter in here the other day and he said that without a doubt South-Doyle High School has had the best recruiting class in Tennessee over the last three years and what looks projected the next two years. That is a testament to our high school, the community and our program. There are some great things happening."

Duncan pointed out the

group of seniors had an average GPA of 3.8 and an average ACT score of 25.

On the field, the seniors played in the semifinals, two quarterfinals and 11 playoff games, "which actually means they are five-year seniors, because they've played (the equivalent of) an extra season," said Duncan.

The Cherokees were ranked No. 5 in the state at the end of the season, he added.

Coach Duncan finished his talk with a request.

"South Knoxville is a special place," he told the seniors. "When you cross the river, you know you're in South Knoxville. We should always be proud of where we're from. When you become famous and people talk to you about where you're from, don't say Knoxville, say South Knoxville. It's a special place."

Tennessee Welcomes Class of 2020

By Mark Nagi

The Class of 2020 will not go down as the top recruiting class in Tennessee history. But the 23 student-athletes that have signed with the Vols will go a long way towards filling some gaping holes on this team. At last look, the Vols class had jumped up to 10th in the nation and 7th in the SEC by 247 Sports. An impressive haul for Pruitt's second full recruiting class.

While most signees were secured during the early signing period in December, the Vols did make some noise on National Signing Day itself. In the morning of Wednesday, February 5th, 4-star athlete Dee Beckwith picked Tennessee over Florida. Beckwith is extremely versatile, and the Vols could play him at several positions on offense. In the afternoon, 4-star wide receiver Malachi Wideman flipped from Florida State to the Vols. Wideman will get every opportunity to play immediately in that inexperienced receivers' group.

"Dee Beckwith... is a guy that we targeted really early," said Pruitt. "He's one of these guys that in high school football had the ball in his hands a lot. He played wildcat quarterback, running back, wide receiver, safety and some linebacker. He's a guy that projects to play a number of positions, but when you watch him play, where he's the most dynamic is when the ball is in his hands. That's what we're going to do with him when he gets here, we're going to give him the opportunity to put the ball in his hands. But again, he's just a fantastic athlete."

As for Wideman, Pruitt said, "I had the opportunity to watch him play a basketball game and you can just see the athleticism all over the basketball court. When you watch him on the football field, his catch radius, his instincts to play the position, his ability to high point the football, his toughness and the fact that he's a very fluid athlete means that he has a very high ceiling and we're really excited to have him as a part of our program."

Considering the uneven situation at quarterback on the Vols roster, getting their signal caller of the future was key. Tennessee believes they have him with Marietta, Georgia standout Harrison Bailey. He was an early enrollee after arriving in Knoxville last month. The Vols would prefer to redshirt Bailey, but it's possible that he sees the field this Fall.

The Vols did a very good job of keeping in-state talent at home. They bring in ten players from Tennessee in this class. Six of the top ten players in the state, according to 247Sports rankings, picked UT. That list included two players from Knoxville Catholic High School. 4-star offensive lineman Cooper Mays and 4-star defensive end Tyler Baron. There is also the top ranked prospect in the state, safety Keshawn Lawrence from Nashville and the second ranked prospect in Tennessee, defensive tackle Omari Thomas from Memphis.

The Vols went out west for linebacker help.

Continued on page 4

Battling back and beating Bama was a good sign

Don't sell short Tennessee's 69-68 win over Alabama last week. Beating the Crimson Tide in basketball hasn't come easily for the Vols over the years, not even for some of their best teams.

By Steve Williams

And battling back from 15 points behind in Tuscaloosa as Coach Rick Barnes' team did last week could be the launching pad for a good finish to the 2019-20 campaign.

How this UT team fared against Kentucky in this past Saturday's follow-up game also should go a long way in telling us if it is a real contender or not for a NCAA tournament berth.

Tennessee had played a close game in a loss at No. 3 ranked Kansas, but many fans sounded like they had given up on the Vols after an awful home loss to Texas A&M, and who could blame them? Getting beat on the boards as bad as they did was inexcusable.

But UT showed a lot of fight at Alabama, the top offensive team in the SEC.

"Defensively," said Barnes, "it may have been our best

game all year being for locked in from start to finish against a very explosive offensive team." Barnes boiled it down to one key word. "I thought our guys battled the entire game."

Prior to the victory, Tennessee had a 12-18 overall record against Alabama since the beginning of the Kevin O'Neil days, which go back to the 1994-95 season, 25 years ago.

Over that period of time, the Vols were 4-9 against Alabama at Coleman Coliseum, 7-6 at Thompson-Boling Arena and 1-3 in SEC tourney play on neutral courts.

UT once lost seven in a row to the Crimson Tide (from 2002 through 2006, and you probably thought that only happened in football).

Even Bruce Pearl went 3-3 against Alabama during his run at Tennessee, losing twice in TBA.

Barnes' 2018 SEC co-champs were blown out 78-50 in Tuscaloosa.

Grant Williams and Company, unbeaten in the SEC and 15-1 overall at the time of its meeting with Alabama last season in Knoxville, managed to win by three points.

This year's UT team, which lost four starters to the NBA

ranks and LaMonte Turner to a season-ending shoulder injury, has been up and down since a 6-0 start.

Defense has been the strength of the squad, as Tennessee has allowed an average of only 61.5 points per game, while averaging 66.6.

Senior and Carter High product Jordan Bowden, junior John Fulkerson and junior Yves Pons are now leading the Vols, along with freshman point guard Santiago Vescovi, who joined the team in late December and started playing right away.

Redshirt-freshman Uros Plavsic (7-0, 240), another late addition to the roster, made his first start against Alabama.

Guards Josiah-James Jordan and Devonte Gaines and forward Drew Pember from Bearden High also are promising freshmen, and Coach Barnes is expected to have another strong freshmen class coming in next season as well.

For now, though, the Vols (5-4 SEC and 13-9) are trying to rack up enough victories in the second half of the conference schedule to join the madness this March.

Beating Bama like they did was a good way to end the first half.

Ijams Nature Center Seeks Volunteers for Weed Wrangle Knoxville 2020

One of the biggest 'pull' parties of the year needs YOU to help restore East Tennessee's native landscapes

Ijams Nature Center is looking for 100 volunteers to remove invasive species at the fifth annual Weed Wrangle Knoxville® Saturday, Feb. 29, from 9 a.m. to noon.

"Invasive plant removal is vital to protecting natural ecosystems," Ijams Natural Resource Manager Ben Nanny said. "The work can be labor intensive, but it's incredibly rewarding because you're helping to create habitat to support the wildlife that makes Knox County—and East Tennessee—so special."

Weed Wrangle Knoxville will focus on five sites this year including Lakeshore Park, Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum, Fort Dickerson, East Knox County Elementary and Ijams Nature Center.

Preregistration is required; sites will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, visit the Events Calendar on Ijams Nature Center's website at <https://www.ijams.org>. The deadline to register is Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 6 p.m.

Weed Wrangle Knoxville is part of Ijams Nature Center's 2020 Take Action! Big and Small Ways to Save the Planet, which runs Feb. 14-March 15. Sponsored by WUTK 90.3 The Rock and Mast General Store, the four-week series focuses on the many different ways individuals can have a positive impact on the planet. A schedule of events is available on the Ijams website.

Ijams Nature Center is a nonprofit, 315-acre educational nature center for all ages, abilities and walks of life. Ijams' mission is to encourage stewardship of the natural world by providing an urban greenspace for people to learn about and enjoy the outdoors through engaging experiences. Located just three miles from downtown Knoxville, Ijams features 12 miles of hiking and mixed-use trails, a public access river dock, swimming, boating, biking and more. The center offers hundreds of educational programs annually, from school field trips and off-site programs to on-site outdoor and classroom education programs that focus on topics from birding and wildflowers to yoga hikes, cooking classes and art programs. The Ijams grounds and trails are open every day from 8 a.m. until dusk.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS NOTEBOOK

Knox County athletics halted again for flooding conditions

By Steve Williams

Knox County high school athletic teams lost another playing date and practice time last Thursday when schools were closed early for flooding conditions in the area.

The week before Knox County schools were closed for three days due to sickness and athletic games and practice were not allowed to take place from Jan. 29 through Feb. 2.

"Losing games and practice time is never easy, but those are some of the things that are beyond our control," said longtime Fulton High basketball coach and Athletic Director Jody Wright in a reply Thursday to The Knoxville Focus.

"I never like when those happen, but things like illness and bad weather occur and we just have to deal with and make the best out of it. It makes it difficult to plan and stay in rhythm, which is important this time of year.

"We will abide by Knox County policies and hope that we can get back into the gym as soon as possible."

Play was allowed to resume Friday and some

Focus' First Five (Through Feb. 7 Games)	
BOYS	
1 - Catholic (2-1, 19-4)	
2 - Webb (9-0, 20-6)	
3 - Bearden (10-2, 19-7)	
4 - Fulton (6-1, 15-4)	
5 - Carter (8-2, 19-5)	
GIRLS	
1 - Bearden (11-1, 23-2)	
2 - Powell (11-1, 19-2)	
3 - Farragut (10-2, 19-6)	
4 - TKA (10-1, 18-6)	
5 - Carter (6-4, 14-9)	

local basketball teams also had make-up games scheduled Saturday, with district tournament time only a week away.

HORNETS STING: Carter girls' basketball team upset District 3-AA leader Northview Academy 61-57 at home Friday night for one of its biggest wins of the season. The loss left the Lady Cougars 8-2 in the district and 23-3 overall.

EYEING TITLE: Bearden girls can clinch the District 4-AAA regular season basketball title this week, but the Lady Bulldogs have two tough tests as they host Heritage Tuesday

night and play at rival Farragut Friday night.

SPRING SPORTS: The TSSAA's first practice dates for baseball, softball, soccer and track are today (Feb. 10), but this week's weather forecast of rain most likely will keep a lot of teams and athletes inside.

HOMELESS AGAIN: Severe flooding in the Powell area last week has damaged its baseball and softball fields again. Some \$20,000 in similar damages were caused to the PHS fields last February and affected practice time and the schedule of home games.

CENTRAL SIGNING: Athletic Director J.D. Lambert said CHS will have a signing ceremony Wednesday (Feb. 12) at Sam & Andy's on Broadway starting at 4 p.m.

Lambert said Central's signings were scheduled this week "because of family commitments" last week. He expects between five and 10 student-athletes to be signing.

Farragut girls use suffocating defense to roll over Hardin Valley

Cont. from page 1

was a lot of fun and a great experience."

Collins chose McCosh, who is a peer tutor in his class, and Shaw to join him in this part of the state tourney. All three also are regular members of Bearden's bowling team.

Collins commented on the "good sportsmanship" all teams displayed and how they cheered each other on.

Collins calls second place in state bowling 'a dream come true'

Cont. from page 1

six of the eight years, where we've missed things right at the end of the year. You have to be really focused in and take care of the job."

Farragut improved to 19-6 overall, 10-2 in District 4AAA while Hardin Valley fell to 7-15 overall, 3-9 in District 4AAA.

Farragut plays three games next week, Maryville, Fulton, and Bearden on Valentine's Day.

"These three games are very important," Strickland said. "We look forward to some momentum, coming off these three games."

Using a Baker format, Michael bowled frames 1, 4, 7 and 10, while Ethan bowled frames 2, 5 and 8 and Max frames 3, 6 and 9. Each round consisted of two games.

Bearden's Ben Whitaker was District 4's top finisher in the state's Division I individual competition but none of the local bowlers advanced beyond the quarterfinals.

Whitaker rolled a pair of 187 games and had a

four-game total of 692, but missed the cut off by six pins.

Central's Dillon Bunch had a 170 game and 657 total in his four games.

In Division I girls action, Bearden's Kristy Dean rolled a high game of 201 and had a four-game pin fall of 614. South-Doyle's Lucy Edwards posted a 156 game and totaled 534. Catholic's Terra Schaeffer had a 140 game and 526 total in Division II.

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Tennessee Welcomes Class of 2020

Cont. from page 3

Specifically, Whitehaven High School in Memphis. Three players, each of them linebackers, will help fill the room. Bryson Eason and Martavius French will play inside while Tamarion McDonald will start outside.

With the departure of wide receivers Marquez Callaway and Jauan Jennings from the 2019 Vols, they needed pass catching help desperately. 4-stars Jalin Hyatt (Irmo, South Carolina) and Jimmy Caloway (Morrow, Georgia) have the potential to make a difference in the passing

game. 3-star athlete Jimmy Holiday, like Hyatt, runs a sub 4.4 40. Tennessee's coaches need to find a way to use that speed on offense and probably special teams as well.

This is a solid class, and one that puts Tennessee in good position for years to come.

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BOYS BASKETBALL (Weeks 3 and 4) Austin-East - JaQuarius Sanders Bearden - Tyler Nordin		



The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Alchemy

I'm not a numerologist, but I like palindromes. I hope you didn't miss this rare tripartite palindrome on Groundhog Day, 02/02/2020.

Actually, my focus on February 2nd wasn't on numerical arrangements, but on the Super Bowl game and whether Punxsutawney Phil would see his shadow. Fortunately, the Chiefs won in a great Super Bowl game, and Phil didn't see his shadow, so we'll have an early spring.

I am blessed, but admittedly I often whine during February. I maintain the only redeeming aspect of this month is that it's short, and spring will soon be here. Unfortunately, this is a leap year and there will be twenty-nine days in February! Another numerical observation is that leap years occur on multiples of four and in every Presidential election season.

I never take the seasons for granted. Though many

northerners retire to warmer climes, I could never live in a place without demonstrable seasons. We're fortunate to live in Knoxville where we have four seasons and can look forward to the next.

I remember colder winters and more snow in Knoxville growing up in the 1950s and 60s. Weather cycles, and perhaps it has gotten warmer in recent years. Actually, that's fine with me because as I've gotten older, I prefer warmer weather. I just read a NASA report addressing the sun's relative inactivity and the possibility of a mini ice-age. I'm not worried because history shows the earth was quite warm during the Middle Ages, before the industrial revolution. Greenland was green then. And it was colder during the Maunder Minimum of 1645-1715 because sunspot activity was low for decades. Little Greta Thunberg obviously

hasn't studied climate history, and Al Gore is nothing but a charlatan.

These days it's hard to ignore the Democrat impeachment farce, the incompetence of the "Hawkeye Cauci" or that giving Democrats power causes trouble. But, I'll try, and focus on this week's topic of interest: cycles.

I just finished a fascinating book on cycles called The Alchemy of Air by Thomas Hager. I took my garden for granted last summer, and it was a disaster. I didn't know why until I read Hager's book about the nitrogen cycle.

Though our atmosphere is composed of 21% oxygen and 78% nitrogen, the former is readily available and the latter is not. Atmospheric nitrogen exists as N₂ which is tightly bound. This critical element must be split apart before it can be used for plant growth. Amazingly, only lightning bolts and certain microorganisms on plant roots are able to split the critical element into its useful form.

Centuries ago, Europeans discovered what Mesoamerican farmers had known for millennia. Certain salts (potassium nitrate or sodium nitrate) or guano (bird excrement) applied to gardens made them grow abundantly. In the 1800s a worldwide

industry arose to harvest these salts and guano, and bring them to European farmers and governments. Farmers used nitrates to produce food and governments used nitrates to manufacture gunpowder.

Understandably, the reserves of guano and salts were soon depleted and near panic ensued. Two German chemists, Haber and Bosch, in the early nineteen hundred, developed a revolutionary process to literally transform air (nitrogen) into ammonia (guano is largely ammonium urate salts). The Haber-Bosch process is still used to produce ammonia (NH₃) that is then made into fertilizer to feed the world. Interestingly, the ammonia produced in the H-B process can also be made into explosives which supported the WWII German war machine.

Other cycles exist all around us. I've been trying to teach my grandchildren about the water and rock cycles. Water condenses in clouds and falls as rain and is then evaporated by the sun to repeat the cycle. Rain washes sediment into rivers and is then pressed down over eons to form sedimentary rock. This rock is further compressed and heated deep in the earth to produce metamorphic rock which can be further heated to form

igneous or volcanic rock. The black sand beaches of Hawaii are the sediment of lava rocks.

To me the most intriguing cycle is the symbiosis between plants and animals. We use oxygen to drive our machines of metabolism. Carbon dioxide is a waste byproduct which we expire. Chlorophyll in plants (and trees) uses the sun's energy and atmospheric carbon dioxide to make leaves and trees through the process of photosynthesis. This in turn releases oxygen back to the atmosphere for us.

The intricacies of life fascinate me. Consider the hemoglobin in our red blood cells which carries oxygen. Hemoglobin consists of a one hundred thirty-six atom ring molecule with iron at the ring's center. Plant chlorophyll has the same one hundred thirty-six atom ring molecule, but with a central atom of magnesium instead of iron.

Alchemy is an ancient philosophical and pseudoscientific pursuit whose goals were universal cures, immortality or the transmutation of base metals like iron into noble metals such as gold (Merriam-Webster). We now understand that it is impossible to change iron with twenty-six nuclear protons into gold with seventy-nine protons. Ancients observed

that salts like potassium nitrate erupted into fire when heated. We now know this is a chemical reaction involving electrons rather than nucleons (protons and neutrons). Nuclear reactions were beyond the scope of humans before 1919 when Ernest Rutherford first bombarded nitrogen (seven protons) with alpha particles (helium-4) to produce oxygen (eight protons).

Having been trained in science rather than in letters, I understand these concepts, though I would never claim to be an expert. I comprehend Hager's artistic conceit when he entitled his book The Alchemy of Air. Haber and Bosch did change atmospheric nitrogen N₂ to ammonia NH₃, but this was molecular chemistry not nuclear alchemy.

I am a trained observer, and this week I perceived alchemy at the SOTU (State of the Union) address. I witnessed hate's alchemy with the "transmutation" of Nancy Pelosi, who was once human and now has become a harpy. Curious? Look up this mythological creature and consider this entity as third in line to the Presidency.

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

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