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Hardin Valley, other area soccer teams assist Cookeville's cleanup effort

By Ken Lay

The Coronavirus pandemic has halted area high school athletics but several area soccer teams recently came together to help in the relief effort after recent tornadoes wrought heavy damage on Cookeville.

The city and other parts of Middle Tennessee were hit by tornadoes on Tuesday, March 3, just days before the Hardin Valley Academy boys soccer team was scheduled to play its final preseason scrimmage against Cookeville.

The Hawks made their scheduled trip to Cookeville High School on Saturday, March 7.

But they didn't play the Cavaliers on the pitch.

Instead, Hardin Valley's players helped with the relief effort.

"We canceled our game with Cookeville," said HVA second-year coach Brad Delano said. "We went down and helped with the cleanup."

And Hardin Valley's work didn't stop there.

The Lady Hawks also assisted as they gathered supplies and gift cards for the victims.

Other area teams also joined in the effort. Those schools included Catholic, Central, Farragut and Bearden. Area coaches including the Admirals' Ray Dover, the Bobcats' Chris Quinn, the Bulldogs' Ryan Radcliffe and the Irish's Gordon Heins took different roles in helping with the relief effort.

"We had a lot of people get involved,"



PHOTO BY BRAD DELANO.

Members of the Hardin Valley Academy boys soccer team assist in the Cookeville cleanup effort after the city was hit by a tornado earlier this month.

Delano said.

"Between them, our team and our girls teams, we donated supplies and hundreds of dollars worth of gift cards.

Dover and his wife made a trip to deliver relief supplies to Cookeville.

"Our parents got together with some parents from Catholic and gathered the supplies and I drove them down there with my wife," Dover said.

The 2020 high school boys soccer season is on hold due to recent

happenings but area teams began the campaign before students departed for Spring Break and it was Central that made the final donations for the effort before the season came to a standstill.

The Bobcats played their home opener against Seymour on Thursday, March 12 at Dan Y. Boring Stadium, and in lieu of paying for tickets, fans were encouraged to donate supplies and non-perishable food items to the Cookeville tornado victims.

Commission workshop cancelled, agenda moved to next meeting

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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Knox County Commission Chairman Hugh Nystrom has called off the commission's work session scheduled for today.

"While I don't say this enough, I wanted to share how much I enjoy working with all of you. Our commission has come a long way in demonstrating leadership to the community. We debate, review, pass legislation, and ultimately act in a manner that reflects what we each believe to be in the best interest of our community. With that in mind, I have made the decision to cancel this month's work session and Chairman's briefing scheduled for March 23, 2020," Nystrom notified the commissioners.

"I am in contact with the Mayor's office to review the items on this month's agenda that need to be passed to insure the operations of Knox County Government. Sufficient to say that any items that are not essential to operations will be postponed. Based on the outcome of this determination, I will make a decision on the need for us to have the full commission meeting that is scheduled in two weeks on March 30th, 2020

"Ultimately, our first and foremost concern is for the health and well-being of our constituents and our community as

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Master Sergeant Roddy Edmonds to be honored

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The Knox County Commission has a resolution agreement with Knoxville Jewish Alliance to honor an East Tennessean who saved more than 200 American Jewish soldiers.

Master Sergeant Rodrick (Roddy) Edmonds was not a Jew but his actions as a prisoner of war in a German prison camp in World War II were heroic and the corner of Market Street and Clinch Avenue will soon see a marker in his honor.

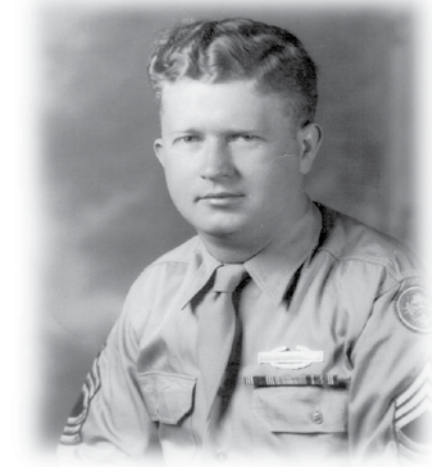
Edmonds was captured in 1944 and imprisoned at Stalag IX. On a bitter cold January morning Edmonds, the highest ranking non-commissioned officer there, was ordered to assemble every Jewish soldier. The Germans were separating the soldiers for "special treatment."

American Jewish soldiers were warned that, if captured, to remove their dog tags.

Edmonds ordered all 1,275 soldiers to assemble outside and the German commander was frustrated. Edmonds was told to identify the Jewish soldiers immediately.

"We are all Jews here," Edmonds replied. He said that if the Nazi wanted to shoot all the Jews he would have to shoot all the soldiers. The German commander backed off and no one was separated or shot.

Three months later Allied Forces



Master Sergeant Roddy Waring Edmonds will be honored with a memorial marker at the corner of Market Street and Clinch Avenue. The Knoxville native stood up to a German commander and saved at least 200 Jewish American soldiers.

liberated the prison camp. Edmonds returned home and never spoke of the incident and his actions were never recognized by the Army nor did he receive a medal.

Edmonds died in 1985 and was buried with military honors. His son, Chris Edmonds, pastor of the Piney Grove Baptist Church in Maryville, began researching his father's history.

In 2015 Edmonds was recognized by Yad VaShem as a "Righteous Among the

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Help Keep Illness from Spreading

Take actions every day to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds —especially

after using the bathroom or blowing your nose, and before eating.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.



Cover your cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue.



Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.



Stay away from people who are sick.



Stay home when you are sick.



Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces regularly.

From the TN Department of Health

Knox County Health Department hotline

KCHD has launched a COVID-19 Public Information Line. The hotline number is 865-215-5555 or individuals may call toll-free at 888-288-6022. The information line will be available from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Call volume is expected to be high. Callers are urged to be patient if they receive a busy signal and try their call at a later time. People with concerns about their health should contact their health care providers.

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The Ability of Married Women to Have Wills

Occasionally, in my travels through the internet I will come across an article that lists out quirky laws that exist in different places. This might be hard to believe, but Tennessee has some quirky laws that are still on the books.

One of them that comes to mind is Tennessee Code Annotated section 32-1-111. That law states, "Married women, after February 15, 1941, may dispose of their property by will...wills executed on or before February 15, 1941, by married women twenty-one years of age or over, are valid to dispose of their realty or personalty, legal or equitable, in as complete manner as if executed by femes sole."

Okay, so apparently it required an actual law being passed to allow married women to dispose of their property by will when they passed. Reading between the lines, it would appear that before that time all property that a married woman would own would be considered the property of their husband and therefore the married woman would have no need for a will, or be able to dispose of their possessions by will.

Perhaps some of my more historically-inclined colleagues might have



By Jedidiah McKeehan
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further insights into this law, but in reviewing the laws addressing wills, apparently, several laws involving wills went in to effect at the same time, which would indicate there was a significant overhaul of Tennessee laws applying to wills in 1941. Before that time, I have no idea, what laws, if any existed in Tennessee regarding wills, who could make them, what needed to be included in them for them to be valid, etc.

I do find it interesting that the legislators found it necessary to specifically state that married women disposed of property through wills. In the extremely unlikely event that you are a married woman and you were concerned that you had the ability to dispose of your property by will, breath a sigh of relief, there is a specific law that states that you can!

Jedidiah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knoxville 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.

Roddy Edmonds

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Nations" and six months later Pastor Edmonds received the medal and certificate of recognition.

Edmonds was the fifth American so recognized. A congressional legislation also honored the sergeant

with a Congressional Medal of Honor.

The Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation purchased the interpretive roadside marker to tell his story.

Roddy Edmonds is buried in the Berry Highlands Memorial Cemetery.

McBee Ferry Landing Park to preserve history

By Mike Steely
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Imagine you are traveling by horse, carriage or stage in the early 1800s. You've come from North Carolina headed into East Tennessee and you come to the Holston River.

How will you cross the water? There are no bridges and few places to ford the wide river.

You pass through the little village of Strawberry Springs and, just beyond there to the west, you see a line of people back up along the water's edge. Across the river you see a wooden ferry slowly coming toward you.

You have arrived at the McBee Ferry, founded in 1790, and the only crossing of the Holston River between Kingsport and Knoxville.

The ferry was developed by a Halifax, Virginia, native, William McBee, who recognized the need for a crossing. In 1792 he purchased the north side of the river and built a ferry large enough to carry passengers, wagons and livestock. He later bought the land on the south side of the river and became a wealthy person with a holding of some 1,000 acres.

It is interesting to consider what major Tennessee historic figures and other famous people crossed at McBee's Ferry. French botanist Andre Michaux wrote about crossing there while visiting East Tennessee.

The ferry passed to his son when William died in



The only way to cross the Holston River from Kingsport to Knoxville in the early 1800s was at McBee Ferry near Strawberry Plains. The historic ferry landing has been purchased and turned into a park by Knox Heritage. Photo from McClung Collection.

1826 and Ganum McBee abandoned the ferry after building the first toll bridge to cross the Holston River. A flood demolished the bridge and the McBee family resumed operating the ferry crossing.

The family operated the ferry until 1902 when Knox County apparently bought it. A bridge was built just downstream from the ferry entrance in the 1930s. A historic marker about McBee's Ferry is located along Mascot Road on the south side of the bridge. Just across the bridge is McBee Lane that leads to the homestead and to the north ferry landing.

On the south side of the bridge Mascot Road comes from Andrew Johnson Highway 11E and, shortly before entering the ridge, intersects with old Strawberry Plains Pike. There's a new park there near where Old Strawberry Plains Pike joins Highway 11E and that three-acre park is all about McBee Ferry.

Legacy Parks acquired the property and plan to create McBee Ferry Landing Park. The matter will appear before the Knox County Commission with the idea of the county taking ownership so the parks group can apply for

grants and funding.

According to information from Legacy Parks the new county park will create access to the Holston River in a 22-mile stretch of the river. The park seems ideal for fishing and boat entry as the original ferry ramp still exists.

Legacy Parks plans to improve the historic and scenic property with environmental and shoreline protection measures and include interpretive signage, a gathering space and parking.

Remains of the ferry site can still be found along the shoreline on both sides of the river.

Commission workshop cancelled

Cont. from page 1

a whole. This will require us to find innovative ways to carry out our duties to Knox County," Nystrom said.

The commission has many important items on its agenda, including buying the TVA Tower Summer Place Complex and moving the funds from the sale of the Andrew Johnson Building toward the TVA Tower lease.

Two commissioners are asking that the county

be declared a "Second Amendment Constitutional County" to permit the open carry of firearms without a permit.

The commission is also being asked to approve moving \$150,000 from the Litigation Tax Fund to the Knox County Sheriff's Department's litter control

efforts.

It may also vote to have public forum sessions at the beginning and end of their meetings.

The commission may also amend the county code to pay special judges \$300 for half-day substituting for ill or missing judges.



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Cocooning at home brings story ideas

My family and I have been cocooning at home, more or less, for more than two weeks. I might as well considering most of the events I attend have been cancelled or postponed.

That makes putting stories together about local

More Than A Day Away



By Mike Steely

news almost impossible.

We've stocked up and get out very briefly now and then for needed items. We've turned our attention to spring cleaning and home repairs. We

getting some much-needed weeding and cutting done.

But what do you do to create a story for the Knoxville Focus?

There are agenda stories for the city council and county commission, if they meet, and if not I can tell folks what they might do when they meet again.

Many people are turning to the internet during the seclusion and I've done the same, always looking for story ideas.

have two acres and the yard, weather permitting, is

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Published by Fountain Printing and Publishing, Inc.

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Deadline for Classified ads is Thursday at noon.

Deadline for submissions is Thursday by noon.

Articles, announcements, photo attachments and cutlines may be submitted by e-mail to staff@knoxfocus.com.

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Submissions for the paper are on a space available basis and are subject to publisher and editor approval. We want your news: that is what makes this paper truly a community newspaper.

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State candidate list continues to grow

By Mike Steely
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The upcoming August State Primary continues to draw candidates and April 2nd is the deadline for filing qualifying petitions. The primary election is set for August 6th with the general election set for November 3rd when voters will also select the President and Congress members.

Much of the current attention centers on two races. Incumbent District 15 Representative Rick Staples, hobbled by financial problems, is being challenged by former Knox County Commissioner



Rick Staples



Sam McKenzie



Matthew Park

Sam McKenzie whose wife, Gwen, is vice mayor of Knoxville.

Both men are Democrats and are joined in the party primary race by Matthew Park, a business and technology consultant. The general election may also see Michael Covington, who

filed as an Independent, challenge the Democratic winner. Pete Drew has a petition in that race as a Republican.

Thus far state Senator Becky Duncan Massey has no Republican opponent but two Democrats have petitions to oppose her.

Sam Brown and Jane Ann George may face off in their primary.

Republican incumbent Representative Jason Zachary may face Elliott Schuchardt in the primary to represent the 4th District and the winner may face Democrat Justin Davis in the general election.

Since Republican state Representative Bill Dunn decided not to seek re-election two party members may face each other in that primary. Both Patti Lou Bounds and Michele Carringer have filed petitions to represent state District 16. Bounds is

a former chair of the Knox County School Board and Carringer is vice chair of the Knox County Commission. Farragut will elect two new aldermen and Michael B. Bellamy and Laura Fangman have petitions for Ward 1. So far Drew Burnett is the only candidate for alderman in Ward 2.

Unopposed in their primaries thus far are District 3's Representatives Gloria Johnson and District 5's Martin Daniel. Republican Daniel may face Democrat Virginia Couch in the general election. Republican Representatives Dave

Wright and Justin Lafferty, in the 19th and 89th Districts, have no opposition as of now.

Congressman Tim Burchett so far has no Republican opposition but two Democrats, Renee Hoyos and Chance C. Brown, may face each other in their primary. Hoyos opposed Burchett two years ago.

Other people may enter the primary before the April 2 filing deadline and some may withdraw by April 9. Early voting starts July 17.

Knox area hospitals announce changes in procedures

Working together with the Knox County Health Department, local area hospitals including Covenant Health, East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Tennova Healthcare and The University of Tennessee Medical Center as well as numerous other healthcare facilities have collaborated to address the evolving COVID-19 impact on

our region. Utilizing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) standards and recommendations, area facilities will be temporarily ceasing non-essential adult procedures on Monday, March 23, 2020. East Tennessee Children's Hospital is limiting certain non-essential pediatric procedures. Ultimately, hospitals will rely on

providers to use clinical judgment and standards of care in determining when to complete a procedure.

Non-Essential Procedures (Utilizing Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services criteria): Delay in the procedure will not likely contribute to significant progression of disease or harm to the patient, or symptom reduction

measures are available to the patient during the delay.

Essential Procedures: The procedure is deemed necessary to treat the disease or injury and/or to create bed capacity during healthcare states of emergency. Postponing or delaying an essential procedure may result in increased risk to the patient and/or delay needed healthcare access for others at risk.

Patients who have questions about whether their procedure or service is essential, should contact their provider's office directly.

In addition, all local hospitals are currently evaluating Visitor Restriction policies in conjunction with CDC guidelines and Tennessee Department of Health recommendations. The community should expect changes to these restrictions soon.

Dogwood Arts postpones all events through May 11

Following recommendations from the City of Knoxville and the Center for Disease Control, Dogwood Arts has made the difficult decision to postpone all events through May 11, 2020.

The current recommendation is that for the next eight weeks all gatherings of 50 or more people either be postponed, canceled or held virtually. This recommendation impacts several popular events including Chalk Walk (April 4th), Spring Featured Gardens (April 18th & 19th) and the Dogwood Arts Festival (April 24th-26th).

The health and safety of our community, artists, volunteers, and staff are always the top priority and Dogwood Arts must all do its part to help slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

At this time, the recommendation does not impact the Southern Skies Music Festival scheduled for May 16, 2020.

Editor's note: While the annual events have been postponed, the trails will remain open. Look to the next four editions of The Knoxville Focus for maps of this year's Dogwood Trails and Open Gardens.

Corryton Elementary's 5th Annual



Golf Tournament

Saturday, April 4, 2020
Three Ridges Golf Course
1:30pm Shotgun Start

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Area senior homes taking action

By Mike Steely
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Knoxville area senior living, assisted living and nursing homes have a unique challenge as the area faces the growing coronavirus outbreak. The Knoxville Focus reached out to several area facilities and here's what they told us:

Knoxville High

"I just wanted to let you know what we are doing here at Knox High during this coronavirus pandemic," said Amber Burchett, executive director of Knoxville High.

"At this time we are limiting visitors to only our staff, medical personnel, and caregivers. Anyone who is not a resident or staff that enters the building must complete a screening questionnaire. The questions are as follows:

Do you have symptoms of respiratory illness?

Do you have a fever? What is your current temp as measured by community personnel.

Do you have a cough?

Do you have shortness of breath?

Have you been on a cruise or to any countries designated at a Level 3 High Risk country by the CDC in the last 14 days?

Have you been exposed to anyone with COVID-19?

Are you under investigation for COVID-19?

"We have removed all tablecloths from the dining area. We are sanitizing our common areas three times a day, seven days a week. We have also cancelled all group activities, both within the facility and outside. We are offering to shop for our residents

to help minimize their exposure. And, as of Friday we will be delivering all meals to the residents, to encourage social distancing. All residents have been advised to stay at least five feet apart when in common areas.

"At this time, most of the residents have self-quarantined. The ones that do come down to check mail, or converse, have been very receptive of the rules and guidelines. Their children have also been supportive, knowing they cannot come visit. Everyone believes that protecting the residents is our highest concern. We are staying up to date with the CDC recommendations, and every day something new comes out, we change up our policy. This is a fluid situation, and we have just been communicating as much as possible with the residents, and they've been really receptive to it."

Morning Pointe

Greg A. Vital, president of Morning Pointe, made the following statement:

Morning Pointe Senior Living values the health and safety of our residents, families, and associates especially at this time when coronavirus (COVID-19) is of great concern. It is important that you know what Morning Pointe is doing to address this concern. To date, none of Morning Pointe Senior Living's residents, family members, or employees are exhibiting symptoms of coronavirus, but the company will continue to aggressively monitor all residents, as well as visitors to Morning Pointe communities.

In September of 2019, the company implemented its annual

flu protocols designed to prevent the spread of the flu virus and other airborne illnesses. In conjunction with recent Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issuance of strong guidance on coronavirus, Morning Pointe Senior Living extended its flu and infection control protocols in order to be proactive against the spread of coronavirus. In addition, each Morning Pointe facility is working closely with State Departments of Health where its communities are located.

Last week, Morning Pointe Senior Living issued additional infection control guidelines for its communities which include:

- Proactively enforcing hand washing and hand sanitization for all visitors;

- Postponing and rescheduling community events to reduce the risk of exposure for our residents;

- Asking families, staff and visitors if they have recently traveled or plan to travel to any of those countries designated as high infection countries;

- Requesting that anyone with symptoms call their physician for evaluation.

Morning Pointe Senior Living extends its thoughts and prayers to those who have been affected by this illness. Information about Morning Pointe's response to coronavirus will be updated and posted on the company's website at www.morningpointe.com.

Windsor Gardens

Tara Wallace, Life Enrichment Director, sent The Knoxville Focus this statement:

Windsor Gardens Assisted Living is working diligently to keep our residents safe. As always, we practice proper hand hygiene and

cleaning efforts. However, these practices have been enhanced to include more constant, scheduled, and thorough disinfecting and cleanliness safety measures. After a series of screening questions, only essential persons are permitted to enter the building. We are staying up to date on current CDC recommendations and adjusting our routines according to each new update.

Currently, because of our visitor restriction, we are encouraging resident's family members to visit with residents via phone calls, Skype, and Facetime. This helps both residents and family members feel connected. In turn, residents can continue this practice long after this time of uncertainty has passed. Additionally, because of social distancing efforts, residents receive an activity packet in their room each day containing a Daily Chronicle (interesting facts about this day in history), different types of brain games and puzzles, and an adult coloring page. The senior adult population has lived through and prepared for times of sacrifice for the greater good. Now it is our turn to sacrifice for them.

Maple Court

Jim Strom, executive director, shared the following statement from Jeffery Smith, senior vice president of Sales and Marketing, Integral Senior Living:

We are taking coronavirus (COVID-19) very seriously.

The health and safety of our residents and our associates is always our top priority. At this time, we have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 at our communities.

We are limiting visitors in all

of our communities. The only exceptions are for a medical professional or an end-of-life situation. These visitors are having their temperatures taken, they are screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and we are logging their visits in a private screening log.

We are committed to keeping our residents, their family members and our associates updated on the latest information about COVID-19 and our community's preparedness. We've had ongoing communications through letters, emails, text messages, community websites and social media platforms to keep them updated on how we are responding to COVID-19. We've created a website www.ISL-Updates.com as another vehicle to keep our residents, their family members and our associates informed.

We have and will continue to educate our residents on COVID-19 signs and symptoms and prevention measures. We are taking residents' temperatures daily and monitoring for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Our Vibrant Life® directors have come up with some creative activities to keep our residents moving, engaged, laughing and enjoying life.

Family members are Facetimeing and Skyping with our residents, and sending cards and letters so they can still "visit" with them and feel connected.

Many of our dining rooms have been temporarily closed, but our wonderful Elevate® dining associates are preparing fresh, home-style meals and delivering them to our residents' apartments. All with a smile on their faces.

We are continuing to ask

Continue on page 6

Cocooning at home brings story ideas

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The Knoxville Focus online readers live all over the region and many responded to my Facebook query.

Sylvia Woods responded: "This letter is from my son (David) and concerns my granddaughter. I am reaching out to my friends to see how we can turn this situation around. Maybe they can hold graduation outside at the football field. Maybe The Focus can make a difference."

Her son David made a plea to UT President Boyd: "Mr. Boyd, My Daughter is graduating this spring. Now we hear there will be

no commencement ceremonies. This is not right. I represent many workers in many states and have been working to keep food on shelves and factories working. They are practicing safe solutions to keep from spreading anything. Such as spacing, sanitizing, self awareness of there conditions, and no hand shaking.

"This is the University of Tennessee with an abundance of creative minds. There has to be a solution.

"Graduation isn't until May 9th. Students have purchased cap and gowns \$\$\$\$\$. Paid for dorms that will not be used \$\$\$\$\$. Meal plans that will not be fulfilled

\$\$\$\$\$.

"The email sent to my Daughter said they will come to appreciate this moment as the greater good. BS!!!!!!"

"This is the wrong decision. Only thing my family will remember is that Randy Boyd didn't try to come up with a solution nor cared.

"From one South Knoxville to another, I will not forget or forgive."

Justin Biggs replied: "I got an idea for you. How about the process of the tax sale and its importance of keeping Knoxville beautiful. A story on Phil Keith and his new position in Washington DC as he was appointed

by the president? Or the impact that the sale of alcohol has had on Knoxville (UT ATHLETICS) since it's been around a year.

The back stage at the coliseum and its thousands of signatures on the walls and years of history."

My friend, **Ronnie Collins**, has been working for more than a year to create a Vietnam War Memorial at Fulton High School to honor those former students who served and those who died during the conflict. Monday I got the following from him, I know it is heartbreaker.

"Just to let you know we are postponing our Veterans Memorial on the 28th.

We hope to have a new date soon."

Michelle Ivester replied, "A story about the service industry... both my kids were basically laid off this afternoon when their companies decided to close for a time... many people are worried about how to make ends meet when there's no work to go to.

Mae Moody replied to Michelle: "So sorry about this Michelle. I don't know what people will do. Our daughter works for Walgreen's and may get hours cut. I hope not. Our son is in transportation locally with Southeastern Freight. This is serious."

"Of course, we always help when our kids need something. They try and work hard too. We share what we can, they would do the same for us. God will provide, prayers for answers and help.

"How about your series of 'Getting To Know.' Everyone likes that feature."

An old high school friend

in Ohio, **Dennis Lovitt** replied, "Ohio has shut down everything but we are having election tomorrow!" (The election there was postponed until June.)

Melanie Jennings Monday chimed in: "School closings really needed?"

Leon Alder suggested, "Good news story about someone shopping for elderly who are fearful of contracting this new virus."

Diann Morris Byrd wrote, "Or about how hard this is going to be in families with special needs kids who need routine!"

From Becky Roberts Harmon: "The O'Connor center has closed and I wonder if the people that ate lunch there are having food delivered. That \$2 lunch was often the only hot meal many had every day." (All Senior Citizen Centers closed because of the virus.)

"What about all the high school seniors that were planning to go to prom and other activities?"



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Tennessee Governors & the Path to the US Senate, VII

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

With the sudden death of U. S. senator William Brimage Bate, Tennessee would send someone else to the Senate. Bate had died just days after being sworn-in for his fourth term. Indeed, only two men had ever been elected to serve a fourth term in the United States Senate from Tennessee. Both, William B. Bate and Isham G. Harris, never lived to complete their terms. To this day, only one man has surpassed being elected to four terms in the U.S. Senate from Tennessee.

The senatorial contest to serve the remainder of Senator Bate's term - essentially a full term - would be held in the Tennessee legislature. It would be more than another decade before Tennesseans would cast ballots to nominate and elect their own U.S. senators. There was no lack of serious contenders, but the race boiled down to three men: Robert Love Taylor, Benton McMillin, and James B. Frazier. Taylor and McMillin had served terms as governor and James Beriah Frazier was the incumbent governor, having just been reelected to another two-year term the previous fall. "Our Bob" Taylor had already amply demonstrated his astounding personal popularity with the voters of Tennessee, having been elected governor three times. Taylor had run for governor once opposed by his brother Alf, who had been the Republican nominee. The gubernatorial contest of 1886 is remembered in Tennessee even today as the "War of the Roses." Accustomed to the rough and tumble of heated gubernatorial campaigns, voters were mesmerized by the candidates who traveled together all across the state. It was Bob Taylor who suggested both he and his brother were roses, albeit he claimed he was a white rose while Alf was a red rose. From that time forward, supporters of Bob Taylor wore white roses in their lapels, while those backing Alf wore red roses. While the Taylor brothers poked fun at each other, as well as the other's politics, the campaign was free of the usual rancor of political contests. Bob Taylor won the governorship, although Alf would come back decades later to win a term in the governor's mansion in 1920. After defeating Alf, Bob Taylor was as governor in 1888 rather easily. Taylor was

enormously popular with Tennesseans who enjoyed his showmanship, as well as his kindly personality. Kenneth D. McKellar, Tennessee's longest serving U. S. senator, knew Bob Taylor well and in his book "Tennessee Senators", opined Taylor was more philosopher than politician and "intensely romantic", meaning the governor had an idealized outlook on life. McKellar wrote Taylor "knew and cared nothing about money."

Taylor was vulnerable on one point and was criticized by his opponents for his liberal use of the governor's pardoning power. Governor Taylor was well known for being unable to resist the compelling story of any mother or wife pleading on behalf of her son or husband. McKellar remembered how he had been both astonished and aghast when his senior law partner insisted he handle a murder case involving a crime of passion. A young man, in a fit of jealous rage had killed another man. McKellar protested he had never tried a criminal case and thought it would be foolhardy for him to attempt to defend a young man without any experience in the criminal courts. McKellar's senior partner insisted and McKellar was right inasmuch as his client was found to be guilty. Bringing his usual tenacity to the job, McKellar first pondered an appeal, but finally decided it would likely not be successful. McKellar then simply petitioned for a pardon from Governor Robert L. Taylor. The pardon was granted, which infuriated the trial judge, Julius J. Dubose. The judge had the now free killer jailed for carrying a pistol. The young man was tried and convicted and sent back to jail for eleven months and twenty-nine days. McKellar sent a copy of the court proceedings to Governor Taylor, who promptly pardoned the young man yet again. Judge Dubose became even angrier and had the young man indicted on still another charge. The judge gloated that Taylor could not pardon the boy any more often than he could convict him. Governor Taylor retorted the judge could not convict the young man any more often than he could pardon him. Judge Dubose finally laughed and McKellar's client went free.

As governor, Bob Taylor



Governor and U. S. Senator Robert Love Taylor of Tennessee.

asked the legislature to approve and build a facility for juvenile offenders. The legislature refused his request and as a result, Taylor pardoned almost every juvenile offender in the state. Bob Taylor was certainly a "pardoning governor", but K. D. McKellar believed it was due to the governor's tenderhearted nature.

If his opponents thought Bob Taylor was too lenient on criminals, the people of Tennessee didn't much care. When Tennessee's Democrats worried in 1896 the Republicans had a very real chance to win the governorship, they came running to Bob Taylor, begging him to run for a third term. Taylor was unenthused and pointed out his real desire was to serve in the United States Senate. Once again, Bob Taylor's good nature got the better of him and he accepted the Democratic nomination and won the general election. Taylor refused to run for governor again in 1898 and returned to the lecture platform where he made a handsome living, commanding large fees for speaking. Unfortunately, McKellar's assessment of Taylor's financial acumen was all too accurate. Evidently the former governor could easily make money, but had a very hard time holding on to it.

Taylor's senatorial ambitions continued to be thwarted by the legislature until 1906. Incumbent U. S. senator Edward W. Carmack was up for reelection that year and legislators had agreed to be bound by a special primary election. Taylor entered the senatorial primary and began stumping the state. Carmack, a red-headed and fiery former editor, was well able to take his own part in any quarrel and he was an excellent orator, but he proved to be no match for "Our Bob", who still sang,

played his fiddle and charmed his audiences. Taylor won the primary and the legislature duly elected him to the United States Senate.

Bob Taylor left for Washington, D. C. and his ability to spin entertaining yarns made him quite popular in the nation's Capitol. One of "Our Bob's" warmest admirers was a Republican, who also happened to be President of the United States: William Howard Taft. The two had first become acquainted while Taft was serving as Theodore Roosevelt's Secretary of War. Senator Taylor accompanied Taft and several friends on the presidential yacht, the Mayflower, to Hampton Roads, Virginia. Taylor sat up well into the summer evenings enjoying the cool breezes blowing across the ship's deck and entertained his fellow passengers with stories from his Tennessee experiences. Taft never forgot one such story, which involved a young man who enjoyed moonshine. The more moonshine the young man swilled, the more certain he became convinced he could lick anyone who challenged him. Soon, the boy was boasting he could beat all comers. Believing he had bested every man in Tennessee, the youngster finally encountered another lanky young man who proceeded to give him the thrashing of his life. The beaten and battered young man finally sighed and admitted he "had covered a little too much ground."

Bob Taylor's admirers in Washington ranged from the powerful to the powerless. Senator Taylor was especially popular with the Senate's pages, many of whom he befriended.

Finally having achieved his long cherished ambition to win election to the United States

Senate, Bob Taylor was appalled when he was once again called to run for governor by his fellow Democrats. Tennessee's Democratic Party had been torn to pieces by incumbent governor Malcolm Patterson and his feud with former senator Edward Ward Carmack. The feud ended with Carmack shot and left dead in the gutter in Nashville. Patterson inflamed tensions by pardoning one of Carmack's assailants, Colonel Duncan B. Cooper. Governor Patterson had been running for a third two-year term, but eventually discerned he could not be elected again. Dissident Democrats had announced their independence and joined Republicans in a "fusion" movement that threatened to win the governorship. Democrats quickly concluded they needed a candidate of surpassing popularity to forestall a GOP victory in the fall election. Only Bob Taylor fit that bill. With great reluctance, Taylor agreed to run and made a spirited campaign in the general election. Virtually everybody was astonished when Bob Taylor lost to Republican Ben W. Hooper. It was the only statewide election "Our Bob" had ever lost.

Taylor was devastated by his defeat, hardly believing his people could reject him at the polls. Kenneth McKellar believed the defeat led to Taylor's early death, for the senator was heartbroken by his loss.

Fortunately, Taylor had not resigned his seat in the United States Senate to wage his gubernatorial campaign. Senator Taylor returned to Washington and resumed his senatorial duties. Taylor entered the hospital in the spring of 1912 for what was to have been a routine operation for gallstones. After the operation the senator became

increasingly ill and never left Washington's Providence Hospital alive. By the end of March, the Nashville Tennessean published an editorial noting Senator Taylor was critically ill. The editorial was more a prayer for the senator's recovery and the Tennessean noted all political "swords are sheathed and every heart is bowed down" as Taylor hovered "on the brink of eternity."

The following day the Tennessean's banner headline announced the passing of Senator Robert Love Taylor.

For sometime, the senator had looked ill and worn. Taylor's complexion was an unhealthy gray and his former energy and dissipated. Worst of all, his boundless sense of humor seemed to have disappeared. Still, Taylor was busy planning his reelection campaign that year. He had intended to go home to Tennessee, but only managed a brief visit to Nashville before returning to Washington.

Taylor's physician noted the senator was suffering from toxemia. Among the callers visiting Senator Taylor in the hospital were President and Mrs. Taft. The President was profoundly worried about his friend and made several visits, oftentimes bringing bouquets of American Beauty roses. Once Bob Taylor died, President and Mrs. Taft visited the Taylor apartment to personally express their sorrow to his widow. That day the President arrived with a bunch of lilies for Mrs. Taylor.

Bob Taylor spoke in the flowery and lyrical language that has passed away with the ages. When a fellow senator died, Taylor eulogized his dead friend, saying, "The flowers in the field rising from the countless graves; the unfolding leaves of the forest heralding the approach of summer; the orchards and the meadows bursting into bloom and the myriads of winged minstrels filling the world with melody; all are the Evangels of the Lord, demonstrating before our very eyes the universal victory of Life over Death."

"Mr. President, look how the rose hears the far away call of the sun and blushes in the presence of its god. Look how the violet comes forth from its tiny tomb and opens its glad, blue eyes to greet the spring. Are they not God's own answer to the question, 'If a man dies shall he live again?'"

For many, Bob Taylor never truly died. His funeral in Knoxville was the largest ever recorded, with 40,000 people gathered to pay their respects to "Our Bob." The funeral procession accompanied Bob Taylor's body to Old Gray Cemetery where he sleeps to this day.



Rosie's World

from my Daily Psalms and Prayers book and I depend on it a lot. It also says, "though the sorrow in our hearts causes us to tremble and weep, the Lord holds us tightly in his comforting embrace."

These thoughts are great to hold onto during these trying times. Also last week I saw on Facebook in honor of St. Patrick's Day, these words:

"May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two
May the sun always shine on your window pane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you"
So, cheer up. Christ said, "this too shall pass away!"

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

Are you discouraged?

Full of depression? Depressed? Angry? Wondering what is going on? Well, don't be. Listen to what God says:
"In the middle of my pain, loving Father, sometimes there are no words I can bring to you-only groans of anguish, tears of sorrow, and the silence of suffering in which I can sense you sitting with me; also silent. But your presence has its own language of communion with my broken spirit. You don't despise my grief; you share in it with me. Thank you for always being here with me no matter what."
The lovely paragraph is

The magnitude of our nation's most recent health crisis has been mind boggling. Only one week ago I was writing about what I thought was big news--no fans would be allowed at the NCAA Basketball Tournaments. That seems like a year ago. Since then, the intensity of the Coronavirus has escalated dramatically.



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

Our fast-paced world has come to a grinding halt. Our new normal has become a virtual world--virtual meetings, virtual classes, virtual church, and even telehealth doctor appointments for seniors. "Social distancing" has been added to our vocabulary. Closed and cancelled signs are everywhere, including the malls. I heard from a parent this week whose travel on the job has come to a halt. With families asked to stay at home, he said it has been nice to be able to spend time with his teenagers. The "stay at home" guideline gives families more bonding time. Some parents are using this time at home to teach their children how to cook and even do laundry.
Clergy, doctors, and politicians have encouraged people to pray. The President declared a National Day of Prayer, though many churches were closed out of precaution. Easter is just

weeks away. That day alone should give hope that we can endure this crisis. Be blessed with these words in Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV): "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

A cross, always a reminder of hope to those who believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, by Ralphine Major.



Shortened Agenda for City Council

By **Mike Steely**
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Amid all the closings and postponements this past week came a surprising announcement from the City of Knoxville. "The Council meeting is definitely being held on March 24. There's no provision under the state Open Meetings Act that allows us to meet remotely or come up with another option that allows appropriate public engagement," announced Eric Vreeland, deputy director of communications.
"The agenda has been shortened, so there's not much business being handled that we anticipate will generate a large audience turnout. Our intent is that Council can meet and people can either follow it on CTV or attend in person but spread out and exercise CDC-recommended social distancing," Vreeland said.
The council will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Important items on the original agenda included bond issuances for Wastewater, Gas System, Electric and Water Systems funding. The four bond issues total about \$88 million.
Mayor Indya Kincannon has several appointments the council should quickly approve and there is an ordinance dealing with busses parked in residential areas. Another deals with nonconforming lots of record and there are some alley and street closing on the agenda.
Zoning changes are on the shortened agenda for Lower Lane and Old Broadway.
Funding of \$642,752 for historic preservation grants may be considered and KUB's In Lieu of Tax Payments will probably be extended.
The annexation of a track of land along Cogdill Road may also be approved.

Area senior homes taking action

Cont. from page 4

associates to stay home if they have any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, and to seek medical attention. We are now taking our associates' temperatures before they start their shifts, and we are monitoring for other signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Our fabulous associates are working tirelessly to make sure all our residents are comfortable and feel loved. We can't thank them enough for all they are doing for our residents right now.

BeeHive Homes

Layne and Kelly Lohman sent the following:
In an effort to keep our seniors safe and healthy we have implemented several precautions. We are following all CDC and TN Dept of Health guidelines

and will continue to monitor for further instruction and guidelines as they come about. For the time being, we have closed the facility to any non-essential personnel, family and visitors.
We are still allowing medical personnel, staff, and other essential personnel after they have been screened for temperature and symptoms. We have, of course, canceled all activities involving people coming into our facility or residents going out of the facility. We have reviewed our infection control plan and added processes and chemicals that will best kill the virus and reduce our risk. The focus of all that we are doing is to protect our family of seniors, who are the most vulnerable at this time.
We appreciate the support of our wonderful staff, the community, and their families, at this time.

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Area hoopsters receive all-district honors

By Ken Lay

Several area high school basketball teams had a memorable 2019-2020 season and local districts and their coaches honored some of the top local players recently.

In District 4-AAA: Fulton coach Jody Wright was named the league's Coach of the Year and Falcons' guard Edward Lacey was named the league's Most Valuable Player.

Lacey was joined on the team by teammates Adam Robinson and Dominic Holland. Austin-East also had a pair of all-district standouts in LaRon Dixson and Jarrett Kyle.

In District 4-AA: Carter's Ty Hurst and Gabe Harper were named to the team along with Gibbs High's Caden Cupp.

In District 2-AAA: South-Doyle had a pair of First Team all-district selections in Kendrick Holland and Quentin Carr.

In District 3-AAA: Central and Karns each had three all-district selections. Tevon Summers, Greg Moore and Darian Bailey were named to the team from the Bobcats. Tre Hawkins, Dalton Greer and Trevon Jackson were selected from the Beavers.

Powell's Logan Sutton and Lance Davis were named to the team from Powell.

In District 4-AAA: Bearden had three all-district standouts including A.J. Pruitt, Cahlib Edwards and Tyler Nordin.

They were joined on the squad by Will Biven (West), Houston Dyer (West), Jack Niezgoda (Hardin Valley Academy), Justin Sharp (Hardin Valley Academy), Robby Geron (Farragut) and Isaiah Smith (Farragut).



PHOTOS BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Sean Ragland pitches to his daughter Addison, a Hardin Valley Academy sophomore, in the batting cage Thursday. The Hawks' trip to play in a tournament in Gulf Shores, Ala, last week was cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

HVA sophomore feels bad for senior teammates

TSSAA's Childress offers some hope

By Steve Williams

If things had gone as planned, Addison Ragland and the Hardin Valley Academy softball team would have spent spring break week playing in a tournament at Gulf Shores, Ala.

But Addison, instead, found herself in a batting cage last Thursday afternoon, working on her hitting in summer-like weather with her father throwing the pitches.

The coronavirus pandemic forced Knox County Schools to cancel all of its high school teams' games in and out of state.

Not getting to make that trip and play in the tournament was very disappointing, but Ragland understood the bigger picture.

"I think we are taking the right precautions with not being in sports and schools, because that's how it (the virus) would spread," said the sophomore first baseman and outfielder.

"But I just feel really bad for our seniors because I love them to death, and if we don't get to play, they won't get to play their senior year."

In an effort to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, Knox County Schools will remain closed through Friday, April 3.

High school student-athletes, coaches and fans across the state



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

On a beautiful day for baseball Thursday afternoon, the Grace Christian Academy field is off limits unfortunately for players because of the coronavirus pandemic.

did receive a glimmer of hope early last week when TSSAA Executive Director Bernard Childress extended the suspension of the girls and boys state basketball tournaments instead of cancelling those two events along with the spring sports and Spring Fling.

One scenario Childress and the TSSAA are exploring is playing the remainder of the girls state basketball tourney on a Monday and Tuesday during a week in mid-May and the boys state tourney that same week on Wednesday through Saturday.

Childress also still hopes the

spring sports can get in some regular season action and possibly have the annual Spring Fling in early June this year.

Reacting to Childress' latest plan of postponing instead of cancelling the rest of the season, Ragland said, "I just hope we get to play, even if it's in the summer. I miss it, so that would be good."

Hardin Valley played two games in the opening week of the season, which began March 9. The Lady Hawks defeated Maryville 2-1 and lost to Farragut 12-0.

The Hawks found out later that

Continue on page 3

Area girls basketball players earn all-district honors

By Ken Lay

Area girls basketball coaches honored the top players in their respective districts recently and several local athletes were acknowledged.

In Division II-A East Region District 1, Jennifer Sullivan, from The King's Academy, was the league's Most Valuable Player. She was joined by teammates Bailey Burgess and Taylor Carter.

Christian Academy of Knoxville had a pair of selections in Hannah Carroll and Keira Leffew.

Grace Christian Academy's Jade Barfield and Chloe Duggins were named to the team along with Webb School of Knoxville's Shea Berry and Madelyn Ladd.

Berean Christian was represented on the all-district team Gracie Palmer and Catelyn Lowe.

Concord Christian had Ashley Penland and Madi Mee selected while First Baptist Academy was represented on the team by Jade Mullins.

In District 3-AA: Carter's Evie Depetro was received first-team honors while Jordan Heifner and Emily Irwin were named to the second team.

In District 4-AA: Fulton's Radashia Bailey and Jamia Simmons received all-district honors along with Austin-East's Ahya Moreno.

In District 2-AAA: Seymour's Maci Pitner received all-league honors.

In District 3-AAA: Powell's Bailey Trumm was named Most Valuable Player. She was joined on the team by Reagan Trumm, Savanna Parker and Taylor Rogers of the Lady Panthers.

Central had two players named to the team including Ashton Blair

Continue on page 3

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10U Boys Silver Division - Knoxville Falcons-Bennett



10 Boys Bronze Division - New Breed



10U Girls Gold Division - WBBL-Mize



10U Girls Silver Division - EKAA Dream

Successful WBBL puts emphasis on respecting the game

By Steve Williams

When Robert Hewgley was informed the West Bearden Basketball League had the most teams to reach the finals in the 2020 City of Knoxville Youth Basketball Tournament, his response had nothing to do with victories or championships.

"The WBBL believes the word 'respect' is very important in youth sports," said Hewgley, the league's commissioner for close to 30 years. "We want all our athletes, coaches, parents

and referees to respect the great game of basketball. We want a culture where the players work on getting a little better every day, and on game day to play as good as they can to help their team.

"If they have prepared well, then they have done their best, and should have a sense of accomplishment; regardless of the outcome of the game or whether their shots went in."

For the record, the WBBL had three championship teams and four runner-up

teams in this year's post-season tournament that concluded on Feb. 28 at the Christenberry Community Center. Following close behind with six finalists was the East Knoxville Athletic Association, which had four championship teams and two runners-up.

"Our parents cheer for 'all' the young athletes on the court," added Hewgley. "Basketball is a difficult game for young athletes to become proficient at, much less to master. It is all about getting a

little better today than you were yesterday. With that approach, what they learn will help them be successful later in life at whatever career they choose."

The WBBL is over 50 years old.

"It has always been 'only' basketball," said Hewgley. "I took over from Steve and Shirley Watson around 1992 and started using the acronym WBBL."

Its girls 'only' leagues have really grown and had 40 teams this past season. "Except for our 5-6 year

old age group, where this past season we played boys and girls together, we had successful girls leagues in all of our age groups: 7-8, 9-10, 11-13, and 14-17," said Hewgley. "We are expecting a lot of growth in our girls program."

Mechanicsville Community Association had two championship teams, while Knox Youth Sports, the Knoxville Falcons and New Breed had one each. KYS and the Falcons also had two runner-up teams each.

"We had 101 teams participate across 12 different divisions," said Nathan Nease, Athletics Coordinator of the Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department. "This is up nine teams from the 2019 tournament."

One special rule the City of Knoxville Youth Basketball League has is each player on a team gets to play at least one quarter in a game and each player has to sit a quarter.

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CITY OF KNOXVILLE YOUTH BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS



The Falcons' Orange girls team didn't win the title, but we made it to the respect of their opponent as they took second place in the 10U Boys Division in the City of Knoxville's youth basketball tournament this season. Front row (left to right): Leeyauna Stewart, Lamyiah Jarret, Xylia Boatwright and Lacy Young. Back row: Coach Shavar, Jaziya Knuckles, Tymirrianna Brown, Ja'onna Witt, Kendall Mays and Coach D.

Falcons' talented girls take second in boys' tourney

By Steve Williams

Nathan Nease said there was a "buzz" about one team in the City of Knoxville's youth basketball program this season.

Nease, the Athletics Coordinator of the Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department, was referring to the Falcons Orange 10-and-under girls team that played in a boys league and eventually placed runner-up in the finals of the 10U Boys Gold Division in the post-season tournament.

"They ended up losing to EKAA-Wydnr," said Nease. "Great games!"

The East Knoxville Athletic Association team and the Falcons played each other three times in the double-elimination tournament. The Falcons' girls defeated EKAA 28-19 in the first round, but the EKAA boys climbed out of the losers' bracket and beat the Falcons 26-22 and 21-17 in the finals on Feb. 22 at the Christenberry Community Center.

"They weren't happy about it," said Shavar Young, who coached the talented girls team, which also had played in a boys league last year under another coach.

But Young said they got over the loss

pretty quickly and he reminded them they had "accomplished what they set out to do" and that was to get ready for middle school basketball next season.

"We didn't win the championship, but we made it to the finals and that's good for a girls team," said Young.

"It's a pretty good group, and their parents put a lot of time and money into them for training," said Young, explaining why the girls played in the boys league. "We're basically trying to get them ready for middle school basketball - the toughness of it and all of that."

Young said EKAA coach JaMichael Blair knew his team was in for a battle in the title game.

"He told his boys that if they didn't win the first quarter, then they were going to be in for a dogfight in the second half," said Young.

The Falcons Orange had a 6-2 record in the regular season against the boys.

"They came to practice ready to work," pointed out Young. "I was hard on them. I told them I wasn't going to take it easy on them because they were girls. They wanted to finish the season. I was just proud of them for

that."

Young said he believes the girls knew he wanted to bring out the best in them.

Finishing in second place in the boys tournament "was a good thing for them," he said.

New Knoxville Falcons Commissioner Robert Stokes remembers being "wowed" by the girls team when he first saw them practice and scrimmage a couple of boys teams at the beginning of the season.

"What really impressed me was the way they played as a team," added Stokes. "It wasn't just one person doing it all. Every person on that team had a job to do when they stepped out on that court."

"I noticed as well that these girls were bigger than the average 10-year-old boys. They had a lot of endurance and got down and physical with the boys."

"Shavar and his wife Alicia coached these girls with such emotion and excitement; you would think you were at a high school championship game. These girls will have a bright future. I'm just glad they played with the Falcons' organization."

City of Knoxville Youth Basketball Tourney Results

- DIVISION**
CHAMPION / FINALIST
- 8U Boys Gold**
MCA 16, EKAA-Davis 14
 - 8U Boys Silver**
EKAA Giants 10, KYS Pacers 8
 - 8U Boys Bronze**
KYS Wizards 11, Falcons-Thornton 9
 - 10U Boys Gold**
EKAA-Wydnr 21, Falcons-Young 17
 - 10U Girls Gold**
WBBL-Mize 17, WBBL-Hodges 12
 - 10U Boys Silver**
Falcons-Bennett 25, WBBL-Sasinouski 13
 - 10U Girls Silver**
EKAA Dream 12, WBBL-Graves 3
 - 10U Boys Bronze**
New Breed 24, CCYSP-Riley 10
 - 12U Boys Gold**
EKAA-Minor 37, CCYSP-Smith 19
 - 12U Boys Silver**
WBBL-Underwood 23, KYS Rockets 15
 - 12U Boys Bronze**
MCA 29, WBBL-Garner 9
 - 14U Boys**
WBBL-Burton 37, EKAA 31

Key to teams: CCYSP - Center City Youth Sports Program; EKAA - East Knoxville Athletic Association; Falcons - Knoxville Falcons; KYS - Knox Youth Sports; MCA - Mechanicsville Community Association; WBBL - West Bearden Basketball League.



12U Boys Gold Division - EKAA-Minor



12U Boys Bronze Division - Mechanicsville Community Association



12U Boys Silver Division - WBBL-Underwood



4U Boys - WBBL-Burton

HVA sophomore feels bad for teammates

Cont. from page 1

week that they would not be allowed to play in the Gulf Shores tourney.

"We were all emotional," said Addison. "Coach (Whitney Cruze) loves us. She told us, 'I just love spending time with you guys.'"

"With this pandemic, we never know what's going to happen. She might not be able to spend time with us. She started crying and we all started crying. It

was not good."

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE:

Tennessee Governor Bill Lee on March 16 urged all school districts across the state to close by March 20 at the latest and remain closed through March 31 "to further mitigate the spread of this infectious disease and we will issue further guidance prior to March 31.

"We understand the tremendous burden school

closure places on families and we will continue to work with both the federal government and school districts to ensure we continue essential supports like meals for students in need. Every Tennessean has a role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and I urge Tennesseans to be quick to help neighbors as new needs surface with the closure of schools."

Area girls basketball players earn all-district honors

Cont. from page 1

and Morgon Webb. Macy Kirby (Halls) and Anna Kate Reichter (Karns) also made the squad.

In District 4-AAA: District regular-season and tournament champion Bearden had three players pick up all-league honors

as Jakhyia Davis, Zneyah McLaughlin and Jah'nya Bussell were selected. Farragut's Ace Strickland and Claire Wyatt were named to the team along with Hardin Valley Academy's Maliaka Grice and West High's Alexis Porter.

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS NOTEBOOK

Johnson, South-Doyle kicker, makes All-America team

By Steve Williams

Ewan Johnson was named to the Kicking World All-America high school team in February after having an outstanding 2019 season as a place-kicker and punter at South-Doyle.

The team recognizes the best kickers in the country and Johnson will be going into his senior year for Coach Clark Duncan's Cherokees this coming season.

On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 2, Coach Brent Grablachoff announced the team, celebrating the best high school kickers in the country.

Johnson was named to the first team that included eight kickers. Six more received honorable.

"There were so many awesome performances in the 2019 football season with many students' teams making it deep into the playoffs," said Grablachoff, "It was very difficult picking



South-Doyle's Ewan Johnson kicks a 32-yard field goal against Powell during the 2019 season. Johnson has been named to Kicking World's High School All-America team for kickers and punters.

only the best of the best for this year's All-America team, but after thorough research and careful evaluation, we were able to lock it in."

A recent addition to the "Hot Prospect List" after a steady 2019 National Showcase performance, Johnson validated his spot after an impressive season, hitting 8 of 11 field goals

(73 percent) and 54 of 59 PATs (2 blocks).

Johnson also put 50 percent of his kickoffs (42 of 84) in the end zone for touchbacks.

Ewan has shown lots of potential on all three skills and has as good of a punting leg as his kicking leg, added Coach Grablachoff, who looks for him to get on college football programs'

radars this year.

Johnson also has been training with Kicking World's Knoxville coach - Alex Walls, a former four-year starting kicker under Coach Phillip Fulmer at UT. Walls also is West High's varsity soccer coach and an assistant football coach.

"Ewan was one of only 60 students (from over 1,500 we evaluated this season) who were invited to our National Showcase in Austin, TX in December," said Grablachoff. "He did so well at that event that he earned a spot on our Hot Prospect List, which is a listing of the best prep football kickers and punters shared with every college football team in the country."

KNOX COUNTY has had a participant (boys' or girls' team) in the TSSAA state basketball tournament in every season since 1993 - a 28-year streak that the Catholic and Webb boys extended this year in the

Division II-AA and Division II-A tournaments, respectively.

HALL OF FAME: Amid the concerns of COVID-19 and the recommendations being made by the CDC, the TSSAA staff last week felt it was in the best interest of all involved to postpone the 2020 TSSAA Hall of Fame luncheon and induction ceremony, which was scheduled for April 18 in Murfreesboro.

The TSSAA hopes it can have this event sometime this fall and will make an announcement when a new date is finalized.

OPENING DAY DANDY: West nipped Farragut 2-0 in a season-opening pitching duel March 9 on the Rebels' diamond.

UT signee Drew Patterson was on the mound for Farragut and sophomore Parker White started for West Coach Buzz McNish. Patterson threw five scoreless innings and struck out four. Ben Zyburt pitched the sixth and Adam Birkholz the

seventh for the Admirals.

White went four innings with one strikeout. Jake Wilhoit entered for West in the fifth inning and got the win. Zyburt took the loss after the Rebels' RJ Collins came through with a go-ahead two-run hit in the bottom of the sixth.

AARON GREEN: The current Oak Ridge boys basketball head coach, whose Wildcats qualified for this year's state tournament, was a guard on the Sweetwater Wildcats' Class AA state championship team in 1994. He scored 15 points and had six assists in a 71-53 win over Giles County in the finals.

Danny Green, Aaron's father, was head coach then at Sweetwater and is now an assistant coach on the Oak Ridge staff.

Aaron also played for his dad on Sweetwater's state runner-up showings in 1993 and 1995.

No Big Dance? No March Madness? Say it isn't so!!!

A Dance fanatic tries to deal with severe withdrawal

By Bill Howard

(Prologue: To our readers, thank-you for supporting The Focus. From all of us here, we wish you the very best in these most difficult times. Please take all precautionary measures to protect you and your loved ones. We don't need to panic; we do need to be vigilant. We will get through this together.)

The Big Dance. March Madness. Either phrase is, of course, a metaphor for the NCAA men's basketball tournament (and the women's tournament is huge too, thanks in large part to Pat Summitt). Merely saying either phrase likely brings about in any serious sports fan all manner of memories, disappointments, feelings of triumph, and profound anticipation. Whatever is your favorite sport, there's nothing quite like the Dance. One sports-writer called it the best 19 days in American sports. He didn't lie.

But...

As I write this - St. Patty's Day, about 9:30 p.m. - I'm watching on TV yet more of the endless coverage about this @#\$%^! Coronavirus. What I SHOULD be watching are the NCAA Tournament play-in games, in preparation for the tournament - the Dance - which would be starting Thursday, the 19th. Oh it's March Madness alright, but not the kind of madness it's supposed to be, not even close.

Years ago, the NCAA expanded the tournament draw from 64 to 68 teams, creating four play-in games that would finalize the 64-team field. I wasn't too sure about it at first, but hey, it created more games and more Dance, so it didn't take me long to get on board.

But ...

This year it's all gone. Along with countless other

events, sporting and otherwise, the Dance isn't gonna be played. Conferences first canceled their tournaments (starting the day Tennessee was gonna play Alabama), then the NCAA quickly followed suit, and shut down the Dance floor. So I and my ilk are left floundering around, feeling a bit lost and aimless.

It's the third week of March, and gosh-darnit (it's a family paper, keep in mind), we're supposed to be planning how many dozens of hours we're gonna be able to go Mad over the next 19 days. We're supposed to be filling out our brackets and trying to decide whether we're gonna watch the games at home, at a friend's, or in this or that bar. We're supposed to be griping that this team got in, and that team (ours, probably) was left out. We're supposed to be debating, and arguing -- don't be stupid, man, the East Region is a lot harder than the West -- and far more than anything else, waiting like a kid at Christmas.

Please hear me loud and clear. Not for a second do I disagree with the decisions by the powers that be to shut things down. As much as the Dance rocks my and my fellow sports fans' worlds, as much as we look forward to it, as much as it defines the month of March each year, of course - OF COURSE - the health of the public is a million times more important. That

needn't even be said.

But...

It will still be a difficult time. From the time college basketball starts in November, the Dance drama is always there. Even before it hardly becomes relevant, you're still thinking about your team's chances of making the Dance. The famed bracketologist Joe Lunardi starts putting out his Dance predictions early in January. If you're a college basketball fan, then The Dance is always hanging around; you can't escape it.

When your team has a huge, unexpected non-conference win in December - months before the Dance starts - your first thought is "man, the Dance committee is gonna look favorably at that." When they lose a game they obviously should have won, you can't help thinking "oh lord, that's not gonna get 'em in the Dance."

Yes, life will go on. Yes, we'll find something to do with our time. Heck, maybe we'll use it productively and get stuff done around the house we've been saying we're gonna do since 2012. Maybe we'll do some of the reading we've been claiming we're gonna do since the '90s. Maybe we'll take that trip with family or friends we've been planning for at least a decade. Maybe it will even give us a needed change in our perspective about what's important in life.

But...

I'd a thousand times more rather be Dancing.

(The Tennessee men's team has its share of Dance history. Of course, the Dance and the Lady Vols are synonymous. More on both of those next week.)

Q&A with Kaden Martin

By Mark Nagi

Recruiting talk never stops. Even during a pandemic.

Tennessee is working on the Class of 2021 of course, but they also are looking to the classes that follow. They hope that one of the key gets for the Class of 2021 is a legacy pick. Kaden Martin, son of SEC/BCS national title winning quarterback Tee Martin, received a scholarship offer a month ago. Kaden is currently finishing his sophomore year at nearby Knoxville Catholic High School.

Does Kaden's future include a few years on Rocky Top?

We recently caught up with Kaden Martin (over the phone... practice social distancing, people) to talk about football, baseball, and staying active during this odd time.

Mark Nagi: First of all I hope that everyone is healthy and safe over there. How are you dealing with this pause in activities?

Kaden Martin: I'm just working out with my Dad, trying to focus on certain parts of my game. I'm talking with my Dad about what I have to work on. I have to be ready for baseball season when we get back started. It's baseball season now so that is number one. I'm still gonna work at football and all that, but it really sucks for the seniors that are having their season taken away. I'm just trying to get ready for it when the season starts back up."

MN: Is there added pressure to attend Tennessee because your Dad played there and now is an assistant coach there?

KM: I think I want to find the best path for me. My family is always going to support me no matter what path I want to go towards. My Dad has never pressured me to go where he coached or played. He's always asking me what I want to do and will support me no matter what decision I make.

MN: You took over as the Irish starting quarterback for Knoxville Catholic midway through the 2019 season and had a lot of success. (Martin threw for 1,226 yards and 11 touchdowns, and rushed for 9 scores.) This was also the Fighting Irish's first year playing Division II-AA football.

Did you expect to thrive in this situation?

KM: I've always believed in myself, knowing I had something special. It wasn't a surprise. I walked in and knew what I had to get done. Anytime I step on the field I feel like I'm the best player on the field so no, it wasn't a surprise or anything new. I just had to get the job done. I had fun with my teammates, Tyler Baron, Cooper Mays and those guys (Baron and Mays both signed with Tennessee in the Class of 2019). They welcomed me with open arms after moving from California. But I had a great time in our first year in the big league and seeing how you line up against the best in Tennessee. It was fun and this year we have to get a little farther in the playoffs.

MN: What do you like the most about football?

KM: Really just being the leader. When you are the quarterback, everyone looks towards you. When something good happens you get the kudos and when something bad happens everyone looks towards you too. So really (I like) being a leader, leading the team and just being with my teammates on the field.

MN: You aren't a one sport athlete, and have also had a good deal of success on the baseball diamond (Martin batted .252 in 2019 with 21 RBI and 29 runs scored). What do you enjoy about that sport?

KM: Baseball really is a mental game. Being the pitcher you try to get someone off their timing or blow something past them. I like hitting of course... really battling and trying to focus on your mechanics.

MN: You still have a couple of years to go before entering college. Do you want to play football at the next level? Baseball? Both?

KM: I don't really know. When the time comes to make that decision, I'll make that decision. As of right now I'm trying to play both sports in college.

Mark Nagi is the author of "Decade of Dysfunction" which takes an up close look at all that led to Tennessee's crazy coaching search of 2017. The book is available on Amazon.

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| <p>BOYS BASKETBALL (Weeks 9 and 10)</p> | <p>Austin-East - Trey Foster Bearden - Cahlib Edwards</p> |

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|---|--|



The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

The Plague

I'm fascinated by the ever-changing English lexicon, defined as the vocabulary or corpus of a language. I've written about words, our tools of expression. I've described being "woke," exercising "intersectionality" and the definition of "leftism." And now a new term, social-distancing, is being used by everyone. This is a "tossport" term, a word derived by combining a verb and a noun.

You may have limited interest in words, but I maintain there are few in the world who are not interested in COVID-19, the scientific name for scourge that entered our world and lexicon in January 2020.

Some consider it xenophobic or racist to call this new agent the Chinese virus because it originated in Wuhan, China. The Chinese people are not at fault. Like the rest of the world they are victims of the communist

Chinese government that suppressed information about the novel coronavirus which has now infected the world. If the danger had been known, the now infamous YouTube video depicting an Asian man proclaiming "I'm not a virus, kiss me" would not have occurred. Tragically, progressive virtue signaling carried the day and many did hug and kiss him, contributing to this modern plague now savaging Italy.

Though you may find it strange, I'm a history buff. In my defense, the founders of our country ascribed to the 2500-year old perspective that history should be studied so we can learn from its lessons. The 20th century philosopher George Santayana famously observed, "Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it."

We moderns discount the lessons of history, and think that the present moment

is what matters. We also ascribe to relativism, where everyone's reality is equal to all others. This may work for physics, but not in other areas of thought. A consequence of relativism is there are no absolute standards of right or wrong. And taken to the extreme, sawing off someone's head is morally OK because the jihadist's morality is equivalent to Christ's.

As Becky and I follow President Trump's guidelines and adapt to life in the mitigation phase of the coronavirus war, I've been thinking of historical plagues and what can be learned from history. Mr. Webster defines a plague as an epidemic disease causing a high rate of mortality. The pandemic Spanish flu (racist?) of 1919 killed more than died in the trenches of WWI. Tragically, young adults were especially affected by this flu which took the fictional Mr. Gower's son in the movie It's a Wonderful Life. On the other hand, H1N1 swine flu of 2009, which originated in Mexico, was especially deadly for children. And now, COVID-19 is especially deadly for seasoned citizens.

Most people are unaware of the horrible plague which struck Athens in the second year of the Peloponnesian War. There weren't epidemiologists in antiquity, but modern

science has deduced the epidemic was due to typhoid fever, a salmonella infection which killed 25% of the population of ancient Athens and their leader, Pericles. A half millennium later, the Antonine plague in second century Rome, was due to smallpox or measles. The viral epidemic killed five million along with two emperors.

More commonly, people associate the term plague with the Black Death of 1350-1400 AD, which killed 30-50% of Europe's population. This pestilence was bacterial bubonic plague (*Yersinia pestis*) carried by fleas on rats. Perhaps traders brought the plague to Europe, but historian Martin Armstrong speculates the plague in Asia was carried by a Mongol army besieging a Genoese trading post in Crimea (southern Russia). The first example of germ warfare occurred as the Mongols catapulted plague-infested corpses over the walls into the trading post. The disease spread quickly and the Genoese abandoned the outpost, bringing the plague back to Europe with them.

It may trigger some snowflakes, but I am struck with the epidemiological similarity of the Black Death from Asia and our modern-day Chinese plague which is causing

disease, destruction and death. I don't care that the media-mob says Trump is a racist for calling the Wuhan virus the Chinese virus. I'll go even further. I'm mad as hell at the communist Chinese government and their coverup of the epidemic and then trying to blame America for their mess. The world is suffering because of the Chinese communist overlords.

During a war it is hard to see any light in the darkness. And with social distancing, we're catching up on movies. We just watched *The Darkest Hour* depicting Winston Churchill's election to prime minister of England and his dogged resistance of the Nazis. Historians debate whether leaders arise and then shape history or events promote the rise of leaders. Perhaps it's a bit of both. Abraham Lincoln arose to lead our country through a horrible civil war. Churchill was a born leader and his tenacity saved England and Europe, with our help.

Light can shine from the darkness of this pandemic. Charlie Daniels said, "If we use it here, we should produce it here." Bingo! Humans are too tribal. We are not ready for globalism which is now hopefully dead. Our borders may finally be secured and illegal immigration stopped. Progressive

socialism will hopefully die on the ash heap of history and America will reject a candidate who unfortunately has had two brain aneurysms operations and suffers with accelerated aging of the brain.

Our president is a leader of men in this time of crisis. To think otherwise is delusional or driven by the idolatrous pursuits of power and hatred. Trump's decision to restrict travel from China early during the coronavirus epidemic was prescient, though he was savaged by Democrats, leftists and the corrupt media. Likewise, he was criticized for closing travel to Europe, though the European Union has now closed its borders. And his promotion of a government-private industry partnership is providential.

Our "salty sailor" of a president does not countenance fools like CNN's Jim Acosta nor does he mince his words with communists, jihads or leftist AOC types. Walt Whitman in his famous poem, "O Captain My Captain," celebrated his president Abraham Lincoln at the end of the Civil War.

I celebrate our Captain who is leading us to America's ultimate victory.

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

Difficult Times

The plain truth is that we are in the midst of a worldwide crisis. This coronavirus is sweeping the planet with illness for which we have no answers as of yet. The U.S. failed to react quickly enough



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

and is now playing catch up. It appears that each day's news shows an ever-growing number of new cases and deaths associated with the virus.

In the last few days, dramatic measures have been taken. All sports events have been canceled;

some states have closed bars and restaurants; some areas have enacted curfews; and schools for millions of students have been closed, many for the remainder of the year. In short, the American way of life is turned upside down.

Maybe the most difficult aspect of this crisis is coping with the request to stay at home. Many adults disagree with that because they depend on a weekly paycheck to pay bills and buy food. Only a

small number can work from home, and forecasts predict that a million jobs will be eliminated. Those individuals feel that they have no choice but to work and roll the dice about contracting the virus.

The concerns over education is another area. Schools are natural breeding grounds for such illnesses, even if the data shows that younger people fare much better against it. Parents are angered that their children are at home with no place to go while adults work. Some worry about the loss of education that takes place; they realize that online classes lack the instruction and

help that are needed for especially difficult courses.

Teens are miserable right now. Their activities have been suspended. Sports teams that practiced for the spring season face the possibility that they won't play another game. Proms might well be canceled. Most disconcerting to many young people is the lack of connection with friends. Boredom at home leads to grumpy, moody, and combative teens. Going from active lives to ones spent with parents and brothers and sisters is difficult.

What all groups need to realize is that this

coronavirus is not a hoax. It is a killer that has taken lives in multiple countries. The U.S. is not exempt from these effects, but they can be mitigated if citizens follow recommendations of experts. No, children don't have to stay in their houses. They can play outside if the weather allows. Teens have plenty of devices that can connect them with friends. Adults can spend time educating their children in life skills, things that don't appear in the schools' curricula. Those who are in a lower risk group can stay in contact with older neighbors and family members to make sure they have

food, medicine, and supplies. They can run errands for senior citizens who are at a much higher risk.

This crisis is a serious one for us all. It has interrupted our lives in unsuspected ways. What we might do is take advantage of the time to rest and renew ourselves. We can strengthen relationships between our family members. If nothing else, each of us can do those things that will help to more quickly end the misery of the coronavirus so that we can return to normal life. Until then, be safe and be healthy.



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