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Council approves COVID-19 additional funding

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The Knoxville City Council approved Mayor Indya Kincannon's request for additional funding from the current budget to compensate several organizations and provide a bonus for

the police and fire departments. The idea is to fund those groups for losses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The police department will receive \$228,000 in additional money and the fire department will get \$189,500. Councilwoman

Amelia Parker objected to the police and fire funding because of what she described as police not responding in a timely manner to some calls from citizens. She suggested the funding go to KAT drivers and other city workers.

Parker also questioned

why the city police have a military-type assault vehicle that she says is "intimidating" to some citizens.

Barbara Cook of Chinkapin Lane called into the ZOOM meeting to question the \$124,000 donation to Second Harvest and the \$62,000 to Mobile

Meals.

"We're likely to have a much greater need down the road," she said.

Parker was the lone "No" vote as the funding passed as part of the current budget. The ordinance also includes additional funding to the United Way,

CAC's food security, Nourish Knoxville and Senior Citizens Home Assistance. Councilman Andrew Roberto successfully moved to have the funding passed as an emergency allocation.

Following that vote the council turned to a routine **Continue on page 3**



CAK athletes, performing arts students receive tribute

Christian Academy of Knoxville had a socially distant parade honoring its senior athletes and performing arts students recently. The students lost the majority of the spring semester and spring sports season due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo submitted.

By Ken Lay

The COVID-19 pandemic may have halted the spring semester and brought an end to high school sports but Christian Academy of Knoxville wanted to give its athletes and performing

arts students a final tribute.

So it had a parade for the student-athletes and arts students. The event was held on Saturday, May 2 and was conceived by CAK athletic director Ried Estus and the Warrior Athletic Club.

Estus, who also coaches the school's girls soccer team, said he knew that it wouldn't make up for a lost season for athletes in baseball, softball, boys soccer, tennis, track and lacrosse or actors, singers and other musicians at the school.

But he felt that he and the school had to do something for these students and that was a socially distant parade where cars drove the length of campus to honor athletes and stage performers.

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Converting to a 1:1 District Dominates BOE Session

By Amy Box Fellhoelter

A virtual moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance wasn't left off the BOE May 6th agenda which focused on moving forward using safety precautions during COVID-19 times, and discussing how KCS can become a 1:1 district. Before these two items were discussed, announcements given by Chairperson Susan Horn included May 3-9 as Teacher Appreciation Week, a budget meeting for the 2020-21 school year slated for May 20, and the uncertainty of June BOE meetings to be held virtually or in person. BOE members were also reminded to complete their required annual Tennessee School Boards Association training by June 30.

Once the agenda was approved, Superintendent Bob Thomas gave his report. He thanked school nutrition workers, teachers, staff, administration, and volunteers for their hard work of supplying 673,000 meals in such difficult times. "I've been inspired by the example of the KSC community and I'm so proud of the 'can-do' spirit of our employees who have come together to serve students and families at this time. Thank you to our teachers, and not only for their dedication and their hard work during this crisis but for their commitment to the community every day of the year." Meals will continue to be served until Wed., May 20 at 39 locations.

He announced 2020 graduations will be held between July 27 and August 8 at the high school football fields. For those schools without a football field, the World Fair's Park pavilion will be substituted instead. Ceremonies will be closed to families and the public but will be live streamed, and a recording will be sent to each graduate's family of their child's ceremony.

Next, Dr. Martha Buchanan from the Knox County Health Department weighed in on the conversation and thanked the BOE and superintendent for all of their hard work during the pandemic. "I know graduation is not ideal," said Buchanan who

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New City Human Resources Department questioned

By Mike Steely
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Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon and her staff keep reminding people that the proposed Human Resources Department is needed. They point to the city having both a personnel office and a Civil Service Merit Board until 1986 when a financial situation caused the civil service board to take the duties of the personnel office.

They also say that the civil service department will remain and oversee many personnel duties including doing background checks and hearing requests of employees denied by a HR director.

Kincannon said that the current duties of the civil service director creates an "inherent conflict of interest." She said that the director has been administering employee rights while, at the same time, being the

final say in a complaint.

Some city employees are against the creation of a new department. In her first Zoom meeting on the subject earlier this month, 18 callers had questions and comments.

Wednesday afternoon Mayor Kincannon held her second Zoom meeting, this time with the police department. Chief Eve Thomas took part in the discussion, joined by several officers at police headquarters. She spoke briefly about

changes in the HR creation and one line has been added that she requested stating appeals of HR decisions could be appealed to the Civil Service Merit Board.

Kincannon reassured the police employees they will have "full protection" by the Merit Board.

Many of the duties assigned for years to the civil service director are shifting to the new HR director if the

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Absentee Voting by Mail requests now being taken

Knox County Election Commission encourages eligible voters to request an absentee ballot well in advance of August 6th Election

Eligible voters can begin requesting an absentee ballot for the August 6th Federal/State Primary, County General, and Town of Farragut Municipal Elections starting today (Friday, May 8th). To vote Absentee (by mail), a registered voter must meet one of the following criteria:

- sixty years of age or older;
- hospitalized, ill,

or physically disabled and because of such condition, cannot vote in person;

- a caretaker of a person who is hospitalized, ill, or disabled;
- outside Knox county during the early voting period AND all day on Election Day;

You or your spouse is enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited college or university

outside Knox County;

- have a physical disability and an inaccessible polling location;
- reside in a licensed facility providing relatively permanent domiciliary care, other than a penal institution, outside Knox County;
- a candidate for office in the election;
- unable to vote in person due to service as a juror for a Federal or State court;
- Election Day official or as a member or employee of the Knox County Election

Commission;

- observance of a religious holiday prevents you from voting in person during the early voting period AND on Election Day;
- member of the military or are an overseas citizen;
- commercial driver working out of county.

The last day to request an Absentee Ballot is seven days before the election (Thursday, July 30th, 2020).

“Our recommendation is that the voter complete

this application as soon as possible and return it to the Election Commission,” said Chris Davis with the Election Commission. “We want to make sure the voter receives his or her ballot with plenty of time to complete and return it by mail.”

The completed application must have the voter’s signature and can be faxed (865-215-4239), emailed (tammy.cole@knoxcounty.org), or mailed to the election office (Knox County Election Commission, 300 Main Street, Ste. 218, Knoxville, TN 37902).

Ballots will begin being

mailed out to voters the week of June 22nd to voters that have requested them. The ballot MUST be returned by mail, FedEx, or UPS. It CANNOT be hand-delivered to the Election Commission office or a polling place.

The application for absentee ballot is posted on the front page of the Knox County Election Commission’s website: www.knoxvotes.org

For more information contact the Election Commission at 865-215-2480.

What is Parole?

You may be watching the news, or reading an article online about a high-profile criminal case and the criminal defendant is found guilty and sentenced to a long prison sentence.



By Jedidiah McKeehan
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What the articles and stories

usually do not discuss is how much of that sentence the defendant will actually have to spend in prison. Contrary to popular belief, someone convicted of a crime almost never serves the entirety of their sentence in prison.

For example, if someone is convicted of a crime and they are sentenced to serve 10 years in prison, if they do not have much in the way of criminal history, they will become parole eligible after they have served 30% of their sentence in prison.

Yes, this may come as a surprise to you, but the person who has been sentenced to a 10-year prison sentence may be out on the streets living their life after only 3 years behind bars. How is this possible? Well,

first off, let me tell you that someone is not guaranteed parole at any point while they are in prison. They are only guaranteed the ability to become parole eligible after they have served 30% of their sentence. In practice, most prisoners are not given parole at their first hearing, and there is no guarantee that they will ever be given parole. If you have seen the movie

Shawshank Redemption then you may have seen Morgan Freeman’s character go before the parole board multiple times over the course of the movie before he is released on parole.

If someone is given parole

that means that they are allowed to leave prison early and serve the remainder of their sentence under the supervision of a parole officer.

How is parole different from probation? Individuals are almost always given probation instead of going to prison, while parole is given after someone has already served some amount of time in prison.

Probation and parole operate very similarly in that the person must comply with very strict rules in regard to their conduct, living situation, and behavior. If they violate their parole, then there is a very real chance that they will be sent back to prison to serve the remainder of their sentence.

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

Commission to catch up with postponed items, rehire external auditor

By Mike Steely
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When the Knox County Commission meets next Monday they will pick up several agenda items that have been postponed as the body shortened its agenda over the past two months because of the coronavirus pandemic. Whether the May 18 work session will be held in the City-County Building or again on Zoom and CTV isn’t known yet.

Forty-eight items are on the agenda not counting the zoning items that will be discussed in the regular meeting on Tuesday, May 26. The chairman and commissioners will select which items to discuss and which to place on a consent list to be voted on in one motion.

Possibly the most unusual item is a resolution from Commissioners Carson Dailey and Richie Beeler calling for Knox County to become a “Second Amendment Constitutional County.” The resolution says that the commissioners will not authorize or appropriate government funds, resources, employees, agencies,

contractors, buildings or offices for the purpose of enforcement of any element of such acts, orders, laws, rules or regulations that infringe on the right of the people to keep and bear arms.

If the resolution is adopted Knox County would join Blount, Sevier, Jefferson, Roane, Loudon and Monroe Counties in a largely symbolic proclamation.

A memorial to Master Sergeant Roddie Edmonds, the World War II hero, may be approved for placement on Market Street and Clinch Avenue. Edmonds saved Jews in his regiment from death in a German prisoner of war camp. The memorial is due to the efforts of the Knoxville Jewish Alliance.

Pugh & Company PC, the county’s external auditor, is on the agenda for a one-year extension of their contract. The commission changed its rules in order to continue with that company for another year.

The commission may also change its rules to have Public Forum at the beginning of meetings and at the end. During a meeting the public

may also request to speak on individual issues.

The county’s Recovery Court and Veterans Treatment Court may be continued in a plea from the commission to the state Department of Mental Health and Association of Recovery Court Professionals. The Juvenile Recovery Court may be allotted \$10,000 in state funds.

Election officers and workers may get a pay boost in a request from the Knox County Election commission with a footnote in the resolution saying “budgetary impact yet to be determined.”

The commission is also considering changing zoning regulations to permit fewer off-street parking spaces at businesses.

Commissioner Beeler wants to discuss illegal littering and dumping on private property. Commissioner Charles Busler wants to talk about hospital guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic and new regulations for storm water, detention ponds and testing for water contamination.

Council looks at 202 funding

By Mike Steely
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Every year Knoxville City Council members are allotted \$10,000 they each can use to donate to non-profit organizations. These “202” or Community Improvement Funds were explained in detail by Savannah Maupin, the city’s internal auditor, to the council in a work session Tuesday.

Council members Tommy Smith, Janet Testerman, Lynne Fugate, and Amelia Parker are new to the body and Maupin’s presentation was a refresher course for the other members.

Maupin said the use of the funds are authorized by the city codes and

can go to three groups of non-profits, but not to religious organizations. She said that non-profits may request funds or the members may request a contribution and applications must include the organization’s charter, bylaws, IRS statements, the nature of the program, the proposed use of the funding, a copy of a recent audit, the proposed use of the funding and the amount requested.

The internal auditor said she spends lots of phone time with applicants who have a hard time qualifying and provides a check list with all the documentation required.

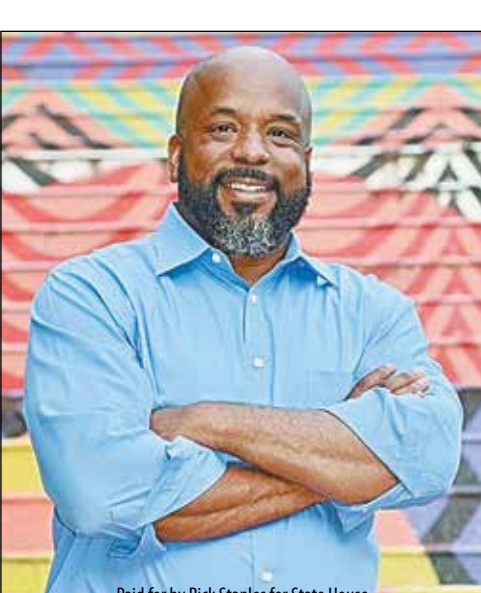
Once all the qualification information has been submitted the auditor

submits the request to city council.

She said council members may ask her to look at organizations for possible funding. Because of missing information or a possible applicant not responding an application for funding isn’t granted for more than year.

The council had several questions and suggestions including possibly setting a time-limit on applications, possibly reviewing applications each quarter, or requiring applications at least 30 days prior to an applicant’s event.

For the moment the city council plans to continue the current system of 202 funding.



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New City Human Resources Department questioned

Continued from page 1

matter passes the city council. “A Human Resources Department will move us forward and the police department may be the biggest beneficiary of this,” Kincannon said.

Duties that would pass to the new department, under the mayor, will include marketing for new employees, and managing pay and job positions, training, talent acquisition, benefits,

performance rules, and paid and unpaid leave. The civil service department would continue to handle background checks, drug testing, health exams, posting positions, and appeals.

Compensation and classification would move to HR but be monitored by civil service.

Mayor Kincannon carries her pitch for an HR department to the fire department at 1 p.m. Friday.



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Publisher's Positions

Odds and Ends of This and That



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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Lest you think otherwise, this column is aptly named for there are all kinds of odd things going on in our community and you ought to know about them! Here we go for this week:

PUBLIC BANNED BY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Mike McMillan, East Knox County's member of the Board of Education, is on a tear. The Central Office staff has been working feverishly to have a graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020. Apparently any old graduation ceremony will do. The announcement was made with the same kind of fanfare as another worldwide tour by Madonna. The Central Office Staff heralded their plan to have the graduation exercises take place in the stadiums of each high school, attended by the principal, the six or seven assistant principals larded into the system, and the teaching staff. Who is not invited? Mom and Dad, Mamaw and Papaw, uncles, aunts and cousins. "It would be difficult to conceive of a more terrible plan," McMillan grouched. "The

school bureaucracy is NOT a substitute for family."

The graduates would be greeted by the waiting school bureaucrats, handed their diploma and are to march straight to their car or a waiting car and zoom off to safety.

The school system tried to blame Dr. Martha Buchanan, head of the Knox County Health Department, for excluding family. Only problem is Dr. Buchanan never said Mom and Dad couldn't attend, leaving the decision up to the school system about social distancing. "Good Lord," McMillan sighed, "there's enough room in the football stadiums where they are having the graduations for social distancing, requiring masks and any other precautions that might be necessary."

Only the public school system would herald a plan that excludes the public.

FLIP-FLOP RICHIE

Running without opposition has caused County Commissioner Richie Beeler to soar like a hummingbird bird. It's also given him room to do some flip flops and change his mind. Beeler's first notable flip flop was when he went from opposing Knox County's sale of the Andrew Johnson Building and the school system's move to the TVA East Tower to supporting both. Closer to home, now Beeler has started a verbal brawl with residents inside his own district over a re-zoning issue. Rezoning can be highly contentious, very emotional and have a

pretty long shelf-life in politics. Communities can hold onto to their resentments for years until they become red hot. After a promise to support area residents, Beeler has abandoned constituents in favor of the developer and the home folks are pretty peeved about it. Richie Beeler tried to play the man-of-the-cloth card and referred to how hard he's prayed about it. Some folks feel a man-of-the-cloth ought to be a little more true to his word.

JUSTIN BIGGS IS ESSENTIAL, JUST ASK HIM

Commissioner At-Large Justin Biggs collects - - - count 'em - - - TWO county paychecks. One is from his part-time job as a Knox County Commissioner and the second from his employment in the Knox County Trustee's office. As Mayor Glenn Jacobs requested fellow officeholders to furlough some employees to save money, those same officeholders designated certain employees as less essential than others, which probably wasn't easy to do, politically or personally. Rumbblings from the courthouse indicate Justin Biggs went up in flames when he was designated as non-essential by Trustee Ed Shouse. Biggs has big ambitions, one of which is to succeed the term-limited Shouse as trustee in a couple of years. Biggs grew up in the shadow of his father, Eddie Biggs, who was one of many chiefs inside the sheriff's department before he retired after the election

of Tom Spangler as sheriff. Justin Biggs is essential, just ask him. However, obviously, Trustee Ed Shouse doesn't agree.

TAKING ONE FOR THE TEAM

Sheriff Tom Spangler must have had a little fall-out from the furlough issue as the sheriff's department is laying off some courtroom bailiffs. Originally the sheriff's department seemed to take the same line as the school system - - - every employee was essential - - - but announced late last week bailiffs would be laid off as courtrooms were empty. It is true most courtrooms were empty, but it is also true the Tennessee State Supreme Court is busy preparing for the re-opening of courts. Some courts are functioning on a limited basis and the Clerk's offices are daily resetting cases for the future. It looks like the bailiffs took one for the team.

SPEND IT ALL INDYA

Could the attitude of Glenn Jacobs and Indya Kincannon be more different? Probably not. Jacobs has been furloughing his own employees and asking other county officeholders to do the same to save money. Kincannon, the beneficiary of a tax increase inside the City of Knoxville by her predecessor Madeline Rogero, is giving a bonus to firefighters, cops, and others who have been on the frontlines during the Corona virus. Of course most of the

employees working hard on the frontlines were those in medical-related fields and the IT Department of Knox County and the Health Department have done yeoman-service for the taxpayers. Kincannon is also planning to boost contributions to local charities like United Way with the taxpayer's money. The varying attitudes of the county mayor and the city mayor may well come down to experience. Jacobs is an entertainer and businessman who has some respect for money while Kincannon, despite her frequent bragging about her degree from an ivy league college, has not run so much as a peanut stand. During her stint on the Knox County Board of Education, Kincannon dutifully followed Jim McIntyre across the street every year to ask for more money. So be sure to thank Indya for making a charitable contribution in your name next time you see her.

THE MONEY TRAP

Speaking of asking for more money to spend, the school system will almost surely have some hard choices to make at budget time and they should. Jim McIntyre never hesitated in the larding of the school bureaucracy that was the hallmark of his reign. For instance, McIntyre hired the teacher coaches with one-time money that became a recurring annual expense for taxpayers. Glenn Jacobs will have some hard decisions of his own to make while the school system will almost certainly receive

generous special funding from the feds. As noted previously, the proposed free-spending of other people's money by folks like the Knox County Education Coalition, may put the county mayor in a bad spot. It shouldn't and we have yet to see the end of coronavirus and its effect on local, state and federal budgets, as well as the economy. Nor can we truly count the cost to working families who have suffered job loss as bills continue to pile up.

GET READY FOR OVI

State Representative Rick Staples has yet another challenger inside the Democratic primary. Ovi Kabir, one-time president of UT's student body and a contestant on the "Big Brother" TV show, has published a platform that was decently plotted out.

A first generation American, Kabir's candidacy drew a lot of media attention and he attracted a social media audience as big as Matthew Park inside of about twelve hours. Political observers wonder if Kabir's candidacy might end any hope Park has of winning the Democratic nomination in a district that has a large minority population.

Matthew Park has a platform worthy of Alexandria Ocasio Cortez and while Ovi Kabir is no conservative, his positions on issues are actually thoughtful and articulate. Kabir seems to have thought his out and prepared his own; they don't smell like leftovers from AOC's table.

Council approves COVID-19 additional funding

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vote on the first reading of the mayor's proposed budget, which must be passed by the end of June. Mayor Kincannon said that council will meet on May 14th and 15th for budget hearings.

Councilwoman Seema Singh asked why a successful first vote on the budget is necessary since the charter says it must pass. Council Attorney Rob Frost replied that

the city charter prescribes the vote take place. In between the first vote and the final second vote the council and the mayor will discuss next year's budget. Kincannon made a point of stating there's no new tax increase.

Parker voted "No" in the 8-1 passage on first reading.

The vote was unanimous on increasing the funding to Barge Design Solutions, Inc. for a \$15,100 increase for

the First Greek Greenway and Broadway Streetscapes Project.

In other action the council approved Kincannon's appointments of Sandra Korbelik and Karyn Adams to the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission. The council also approved an appeal of a Board of Zoning Appeals denial of a driveway entrance along Sevierville Pike and allowed building and site

elements and the Cal Johnson Building to encroach on Fire Street Alley.

The mayor was authorized to apply for four different state and federal grants for the Knoxville Area Transit and approved to sign an agreement with Goodwill Industries for recycling maintenance.

Also approved was applying to the federal government for a firefighters grant for personal protective equipment.



Mayor Indya Kincannon's ZOOM screen during Tuesday's City Council meeting.

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Converting to a 1:1 District Dominates BOE Session

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follows up on contact tracing, reporting, and helping to support and guide the community. "We have to do this slowly ... we all need to do our part ... if we don't do this properly the first time, we are going to end up going backwards. We have to take it slowly ... in little baby steps," she added.

Members Kristi Kristy and Mike McMillan asked if changes could be made to the graduation plan to consider family members being present should improvements be made in Knoxville regarding the virus.

KCS Executive Director Danny Trent and Buchanan answered affirmatively that there is a chance parents can attend depending on what happens between now and the time ceremonies are to be held.

Buchanan stated, "So much is in the hands of our community. We are depending on our community to follow guidelines and to not step back" by using evidence-based ways to reduce the virus — wearing masks, washing hands, and not having large gatherings. "We have to make these tough choices in order to hope to open school in August ... so, we have to do the right thing between now and then ... we need to be really conservative," she explained.

McMillan asked if virus cases decline would adjustments be made to the plan to include parents and family. He stressed, "No one would do anything to jeopardize parents or students. It's that this is such an important thing to so many people."

Trent explained there are

several plans in place for graduation. The plan used will depend on the degree of the virus impacting our community at certain times leading up to the graduation dates. Plans are being reviewed which make room to adjust for parents. He explained the dates were chosen after researching weather, assessing the stadiums, and counting bleachers. Ceremonies will be scheduled early and late in the day.

Member Patti Bounds expressed concerns for students leaving after receiving their diploma, and being unable to witness their classmates receiving their diplomas.

At that point, McMillan asked Buchanan if it might be possible to schedule the May 20th budget meeting in person if board members use social distancing because of the meeting's content. Deputy Law Director Gary Dupler noted the governor's executive order of only allowing ten people per room would require using several rooms because of how many people would be involved in the meeting, and would require technology to be linked between the rooms for communication. Buchanan recommended following the recommendations for elected bodies made by the state, and said the BOE has the power to make that call. The KCHD is involved in writing guidance for reopening businesses, and not so much for governing over elected bodies.

In other business, the school board discussed agenda item 8E:

"Approve Knox County Schools 1:1 Student Device Deployment plan for grades K-12 for the 2020-2021 school year."

"This proposal it is not intended to replace the work of teachers in classrooms," said Thomas beginning the conversation of Item 8E. "We do believe that technology can enhance instruction and improve student engagement during an extended closure but also in the traditional classroom setting."

He expressed the primary concern is to provide equitable and accessible teaching to all students by allowing for every student to have a device and internet access. 1:1 computers will give students tools to succeed, and will give administration more options to students when school closings happen. "This proposal gives the opportunity to fund at the district level, not the school level, which is where it should be," said Thomas. He mentioned 1:1 technology is essential for students to be prepared to enter the job market and be prepared for post-secondary partners, such as UTK and Pellissippi State CC.

KCS Chief Technology Officer Gail Byard affirmed, "We have been doing 1:1 in this district for some time, in more of a pilot program. We have seen a surge in Chromebooks in our schools, 40,000 in our district. We have a lot of experience with the Chromebooks. What we are proposing with the CARES Act funding is an opportunity to provide a current device for students that will last at least five years... to be under support until June 2026. Using these

one-time dollars to create a sustainable tech line item in the budget to propose enough devices for each student K-12." The account would include a sustainable repair budget with an insurance fund option to be paid by parents. Parents are billed per occurrence if they choose not to purchase the insurance.

Unfortunately, most of the current Chromebooks will go out of support June 2021. She proposed a current device that will last five years, while paying for them over three budget years.

In addition to student devices, Byard spoke of creating a sustainability account to replace staff devices as well which would include protective cases and software purchases that include off-network content filtering. Should the BOE approve this proposal at the May 13 meeting, the computers will be available the first week of August to distribute to students.

KCS Assistant Superintendent Dr. Rysewyk mentioned that colleges are very much online and Knox County students need to navigate that world. "This is not a brand-new idea. We have become much more efficient training teachers. Ideally this is probably a one-to-two-year roll out, but even though we have built expertise on that, unfortunately, our current situation as a nation doesn't allow us two years to roll this out ... so we will learn from the other districts," he said. He pointed out L & N Stem Academy 1:1 launched eight years ago, followed by Bearden High School, and West Valley Middle School.

Rysewyk pointed out

distributing computers is the first step, but internet access is the second. Internet accessibility is a greater Knoxville issue, and not just a KCS school issue. Lack of this accessibility isn't only a socio-economic matter, but a rural one too.

KCS Curriculum and Instruction Director Shannon Jackson explained teacher training is how to best support the student -- the teacher is the component, and the computer is the tool. Teaching technology to teachers is key to the success of 1:1.

Reviewing the budget for 1:1, Board member Virginia Babb asked how the three-year lease of \$5 million would be structured. KCS CFO Ron McPherson said it could look like using \$7 million of the \$11.8 million available from the CARES Act fund for the first budget year, leaving \$4.8 million left to be used for the second year or to use those monies to close part of the budget gap. McPherson is in process of receiving information from the state, and the state, in turn, is trying to get information from the federal government. "A lot of this is guess work. My best guess is we would be able to use a lot of these funds ... not for revenue, it would have to be used as saving positions," he added. Ideas of setting up a technology reserve that would set aside money for the following year's budget and a sustainability plan were also discussed.

The conversation of what type of computers visually impaired students would receive was led by Bounds. Jason Myers referenced that KCS is applying for grant dollars from the DOE geared toward those students. He said an IEP would determine an appropriate device for them, just like it will for special education students. K-2 student devices will look different by flipping into a tablet to be more hands on. Ryswick added that the classroom will have more options, but the classroom will not be drastically changing. These devices won't be replacing other tools.

"We want young students who are learning to write to do that on paper and pencil," said Shannon Jackson. If students are separate from the classroom, then the teachers can direct them through the computer for remote support. She emphasized tech training has to happen for kids and teachers. Jackson said

the question used in creating this layer of support is, "Does the computer make learning more efficient, increase engagement, and deepen critical thinking?"

The question was posed by Chairperson Horn about students carrying devices home. Rysewyk responded with leaving it up to the schools to make that choice because one size doesn't fit all. "We are hopeful we can do this at a pace that those communities are comfortable with, students are comfortable with, and teachers are comfortable with," he remarked.

Byard gave the statistics of more than 19,000 will go out of support in September 2021, and 14,000 will go out of support in June 2022. She added, "We do know the status of each device and what operating system is on them."

Satterfield reminded members to not compare classes, and devices, and schools. Although some schools use Chromebooks, others do not which affects the types of software that can be used by students. She noted that since 40,000 devices are already in use, she questioned if it makes financial sense to buy a computer for every student when thousands have not yet aged out. She suggested a roll out approach for replacing devices instead of purchasing two years of devices before they are needed.

Babb explained that many community members are interested in funding computers for schools. She also stated that there are negatives to the 1:1, "Just having a device does not make for good instruction. We have to do great professional development for our teachers."

"The biggest thing I've seen is it reconfirms how important our teachers are ... and how important their relationships are with their students," said Horn. She highlighted how a child won't get as much out of his or her class if a teacher doesn't care for them. "This is the only time that we are going to have funding like this that we can utilize for technology ... and we hear all the time how behind we are with technology ... it will continue to be a challenge with the budget," she added.

All board members showed their sincere gratitude toward the teachers and congratulated the 2020 seniors, alongside Owen who thanked those running the Teacher Supply Depot.

CAK athletes

Cont. from page 1

"These seniors didn't get their final curtain," Estus said. "We wanted to do something for these kids."

"I love sports and I love the fine arts. We invited the players from all of our spring sports teams."

While the event was meant primarily to honor seniors, the socially distant event that kept everybody 12 feet apart, was for all athletes and performance artist, according to Estus, who said that everybody -- coaches, players, parents and athletic administrators -- lost something when the coronavirus took hold of the community, the country and the world.

"As an athletic director and a coach, I felt the disappointment and the emotional setback. We all did," Estus said. "We all look

forward to going to the ballpark at 4 o'clock every afternoon to watch tennis, softball and all of those sports.

"Every athlete lost a season and now, they'll only have three years to play. Our band will only have three years to play and others will only have three plays to audition for and perform in."

Warrior Athletic Club Board Member Lori Asbury said that the club wanted to do something for CAK's students that was similar to other events around the country.

"This was a big movement around the country where you had great ways of honoring these kids," she said. "We just wanted to do something similar to other schools around town and around the country."

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Tennessee Governors & the Path to the US Senate, XIV

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Thomas Clarke Rye was twice the governor of Tennessee. From rural West Tennessee, Tom C. Rye had little formal education, a fact he readily admitted. "Subscription schools were the only ones we had then, so I didn't go very regularly and stopped altogether when I was 17 years old," Rye said. The future governor must have been quite bright as he went to Charlotte, Tennessee where he studied law with his uncle, Thomas C. Morris. Rye's uncle was quickly impressed with his nephew's ability as Morris and another lawyer were arguing about fine points of real estate one Sunday morning. The conversation awakened young Rye and his uncle came into his room and said, "Tom, you've been reading Washburn's text on real property. Maybe you can help us out, but be sure to shave and dress before you come out." Tom C. Rye later recalled, "They must have thought I was a slow dresser, because before I put in an appearance I slipped out the window, ran to the law office, got the book and looked up all of the answers to the questions under discussion. Then I casually settled all their problems, practically quoting from the very words of the book."

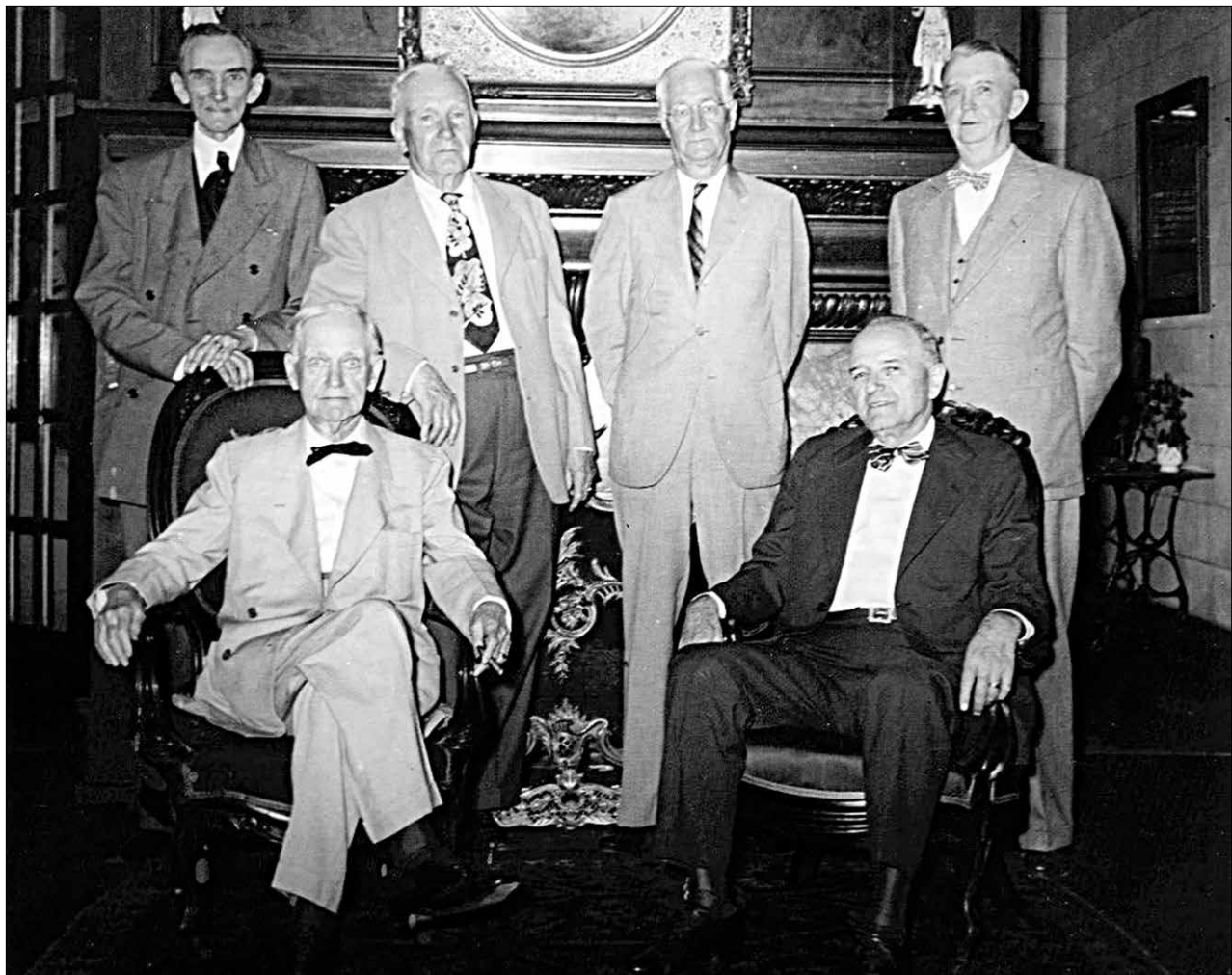
Uncle Tom Morris stared at his nephew and finally said, "I don't see how you remember that material, boy. I always thought it rather dull." The future governor chuckled, remembering his uncle "bragged about it for weeks, and I felt nothing short of a genius."

Tom C. Rye enjoyed a lengthy legal career and while it was hardly unusual for an attorney to do well in politics, the future governor was not the typically colorful politician of his time. Dignified, although retaining a homespun air that served him well when meeting people, Tom C. Rye had a serious way about him. While many successful politicians were experts in the art of ridicule, Tom C. Rye had a self-deprecating humor; he liked to say he quite nearly never became a lawyer. He took his oral examination for the Bar on his 21st birthday and recalled, "They asked me three questions and I got so mixed up I missed four."

When Tom C. Rye returned to Camden, Tennessee, he married seventeen-year-old Bessie Arnold and they were together for the rest of his life. "But do you think we had a honeymoon?" Bessie Rye wondered years later. "Tom only had 50 cents in his pocket and it took that to move my trunk from my mother's house to a friend's home, where we stayed a couple of weeks before

setting up housekeeping." The Ryes moved to Paris, Tennessee in 1902, but Tom Rye remembered Camden fondly. He thought Camden "a great little place, that started improving as soon as I left."

Only eight years after moving to Paris, Tom C. Rye was elected district attorney general. Rye's political rise was swift. Tennessee's Democratic Party had been coming apart at the seams for several years, first over the question of prohibition and then during the administration of Governor Malcolm R. Patterson. Patterson was an unapologetic believer in local option, rather than prohibition. Patterson was regarded as the leader of Tennessee's "wets" and his political opponents denounced him as a tool of the liquor lobby. A brilliant orator, Malcolm R. Patterson gave as good as he got. Former U. S. Senator Edward W. Carmack, the white knight of the prohibitionists in Tennessee, challenged Patterson for reelection inside the Democratic primary in 1908. Carmack had defeated Patterson's father to win a seat in Congress and the two men cordially hated one another. As might be expected, it was an especially bitter battle for the nomination, which Patterson eventually won. Carmack resumed his profession as the editor of the Nashville Tennessean. The redheaded editor delighted in dipping his pen in acid and excoriating his political enemies in editorials. One of his victims, a former employer, Colonel Duncan B. Cooper, the publisher of the Nashville American, did not especially care to be spit roasted in print and issued a dire warning to Carmack. Feelings were so heated, both Carmack and Colonel Cooper traveled about Nashville armed. A chance meeting between Carmack, Colonel Cooper and Cooper's son Robin proved to be fatal for the editor. Shots were exchanged and Edward W. Carmack lay dead in the gutter, hit three times. A court acquitted Robin Cooper, and Governor Patterson boldly pardoned Duncan Cooper. If the killing of Edward W. Carmack had caused outrage amongst many Tennesseans, Patterson's pardoning of Colonel Cooper led to a furious frenzy of almost statewide hysteria. Patterson was forced to withdraw as a candidate for a third two-year term as governor and while Democrats turned to the most popular Democrat in the state, U. S. Senator Robert Love Taylor, the unthinkable happened. Independent Democrats



Sitting from left, former Gov. Tom C. Rye and (right) Gov. Jim Nance McCord, circa 1947.

joined with Republicans and elected a Republican governor, Ben W. Hooper. Worse was still to come; the same combination of "fusionists" elected a new United States senator in 1911, promoting Luke Lea, owner and publisher of the Nashville Tennessean to the nation's Capitol. Democrats tried to dislodge Governor Hooper in 1912, nominating Benton McMillin, "the old warhorse" of Tennessee Democracy. Hooper beat McMillin and the fusionists elected another United States senator, John Knight Shields, who was Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court and an Independent Democrat. Within two years, Tennessee Democrats had lost the governorship and both seats in the United States Senate.

When Governor Ben Hooper sought a third two-year term in 1914, it was imperative to Tennessee Democrats to heal old wounds and find a candidate who could garner the support of all Democrats in the state. They nominated Tom C. Rye.

Rye proved to be a unifying candidate for Tennessee Democrats and narrowly defeated Governor Hooper in the general election. Even former fusionists like Luke Lea gave hearty support to Rye's campaign. Tom C. Rye proved to be a popular governor and won reelection in 1916. As governor, Rye proved to be a stickler for enforcing the law. Rye supported the "ouster bill", which helped to remove E. H. Crump as mayor of Memphis for not enforcing prohibition laws.

It seemed only logical that Rye would run for the U. S. Senate in 1918.

The incumbent, John Knight Shields, was an irascible East Tennessean and many Democrats believed the senator was not supportive enough of President Woodrow Wilson. Much of the senatorial campaign would center around which candidate would be more supportive of President Wilson and his administration. Governor Rye ran as an unabashedly pro-Wilson candidate.

The United States was fighting on the side of the Allies in World War I and Governor Rye's son Paul was serving overseas as a first lieutenant. Most Tennesseans were filled with patriotic fervor supporting the war effort as well as President Wilson. Rye announced he would be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for United States senator on May 28, 1918. Rye's announcement acknowledged he would conduct his campaign "in such manner as to comport with the true ideals of Tennessee" and vowed he would not forget "that the hearts of our people are with the boys in the line of duty."

Politics being politics, not everyone was pleased with Governor Rye's declaration of candidacy. The Crossville Chronicle grouched "in the face of so much talk of laying aside politics" why would Rye decide to run for the Senate and "muddy the waters"? The Chronicle sniffed, "Gov. Rye was never a big man, but he has tried as best he knew how to serve the people as governor." The Chronicle thought that no real achievement as "his party is with him and no active opposition is in evidence from the opposing party." The Crossville Chronicle supported Senator Shields who, in the Chronicle's opinion should simply be returned to Washington without a fuss.

Tom C. Rye had every reason to believe his campaign for the United States Senate would be successful; he had twice been nominated and elected governor of Tennessee. John Knight Shields had never been popularly elected to the U. S. Senate, as he was the last man ever elected by the legislature to the Senate. Rye was well known for his rectitude, sense of fairness and had been an able chief executive. Shields was cantankerous, a poor public speaker, and had managed to antagonize not only President Wilson but also many of his own political appointees. Advertisements prominently displaying the

governor's picture began appearing in newspapers across the state. The campaign broadside featured the slogan: "He has made good every pre-election pledge. He has kept faith with the people. He will stand by our President."

It was Kenneth McKellar who likely saved John Knight Shields from defeat that year. Senator Shields telephoned McKellar from his home in Tennessee and urged him to see President Wilson. Shields had heard Wilson was going to publish a letter stating the senator had not been his friend nor a friend to his administration. Wilson's popularity was such that an open letter to the people of Tennessee would have been catastrophic to Shields's reelection campaign. McKellar hurried to the White House and the President confirmed he intended to write a letter flatly stating John Knight Shields was not his friend. McKellar begged, pleaded and cajoled Wilson not to write the letter. McKellar left and got what he thought was a commitment from Senator Shields to support the President. McKellar returned to the White House and reiterated a promise made by Senator Shields to support Wilson. President Wilson gently insisted John K. Shields would never be a friend to him or his administration, but he did not write the letter and Tom C. Rye lost the Senate race, 66,389 to 55,845.

Rye left office in 1919 and returned to his home in West Tennessee. Years later, Rye admitted, "Being governor is the most thankless job on earth and I never did like it very much." At the time, the governor's mansion was located near where the War Memorial Building stands today. "I can count on the fingers of my hand all the nights I slept during the war," Tom Rye remembered. "I answered the telephone as many as 25 times during the night. People who didn't want to go up the hill to the capitol would wait to call on me at night."

After his defeat in the Senate race, President

Wilson offered Rye an appointment to the Court of Customs and Appraisals, which the former governor turned down. In 1922, Rye was elected Chancellor of the Eighth Judicial District. In 1940, Rye agreed to have his name entered once again to seek reelection as Chancellor but drew an opponent in J. B. Avery of Alamo. Rye's only condition upon running once again was that he have no opposition; when Avery qualified to run, Rye withdrew. Seventy-eight years old at the time, Rye said, "I realize at my age I cannot afford to enter into a campaign." Avery was defeated by another former governor, Gordon Browning.

Tom Rye had repeatedly broken his hip in his twilight years, once while alighting from a streetcar when he was hit by an automobile. Rye was content in retirement, sitting on his porch or looking out the window while he smoked his "smelly old pipe." During his final illness, the former governor fell once again and was thought to have broken his hip for the third time. The ninety-year-old governor was too weak to move to a hospital and quietly died in his bed.

Aside from the Wilson administration, another point of contention between the senatorial candidates was the issue of women's suffrage. Tennessee's junior senator, Kenneth McKellar, was an ardent supporter of voting rights for women. Governor Rye, like McKellar, believed in giving women the right to vote. Senator Shields was far from enthusiastic over the idea.



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Valedictorian



Faith Andrew,
Co-Salutatorian



Abygale Dixon,
Co-Salutatorian

Central High



Joe Brown,
Co-Valedictorian



Lauren Turrentine,
Co-Valedictorian



Amanda McDonald,
Salutatorian

Fulton High



Chloe Hammock,
Valedictorian



Thomas Barnett,
Co-Salutatorian



Hannah Hobby,
Co-Salutatorian

Gibbs High



Micayla Domingues,
Co-Valedictorian



Annie Powers,
Co-Valedictorian



Savanna Leath,
Salutatorian

Halls High



Carly Minhinnett,
Valedictorian



Justin McKnight,
Co-Salutatorian



Gavin Pretorius,
Co-Salutatorian

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Central High School Alumni Association



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Congratulations to the Halls High Class of 2020!

SHINING THE BRIGHTEST IN TRYING TIMES

Blair and Bost helped lead Central to new heights

By Steve Williams

Student-Athletes of the Year Ashton Blair and Tyler Bost were a big part of unprecedented accomplishments for Central High before the COVID-19 coronavirus impact during the second semester resulted in an unprecedented school year.

Blair, a 6-3 goalkeeper, helped lead the Lady Bobcats to their first state tournament appearance in school history last fall, while Bost and the CHS football team were on its way to repeating as Class 5A state champions.

Both seniors excelled on the field and in the classroom plus gave their time to community efforts when conditions were safe.

Head soccer coach Bill Mize calls Ashton "the epitome of a student-athlete. She was a dream to coach and it's an

honor to know her as an athlete, student and person."

Academically, Blair ranked in the top 10 percent of her graduating class and was a member of the National Honor Society.

In athletics, she was a varsity player in soccer and basketball all four years. Honors came her way in both sports, too.

In her senior year of soccer, Blair was the MVP in District 4-AA and Region 2-AA and made both the Tennessee Coaches' and Tennessee Sports Writers Association's All-State teams.

Blair also earned a spot on the All-District 3-AAA basketball team in 2019-20. Her career totals, according to Coach Ben Collins, were 1,237 points, 971 rebounds, 461 blocks, 167 assists and 167 steals.

She was a volunteer in



Seniors Tyler Bost and Ashton Blair are Central High School's Student-Athletes of the Year for 2019-20.

Raising the curtain on local Student-Athletes of the Year

The Knoxville Focus' annual feature of recognizing the Student-Athletes of the Year from the 25 local high schools in our coverage area begins today and will continue for the next couple of weeks.

In this issue, we shine the spotlight on the female and male honorees from Austin-East, Carter and Central.

The Focus would like to thank the athletic directors for submitting their schools' selections and coaches and other faculty members for helping in providing information and photos of the honorees.

HVA baseball gets virtual visit from top Major League manager



By Ken Lay

Joe Maddon is normally busy managing Major League Baseball this time of year and his schedule would probably be a bit more demanding in 2020, considering that he has a new job.

But he hasn't managed the Los Angeles Angels since March and has yet to skipper his new team in a regular-season game due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Meanwhile, in Knoxville, the Hardin Valley Academy Hawks could normally be on a postseason run in the high school game now.

But the pandemic ended the 2020 prep baseball season before it ever really got started.

But Wednesday afternoon, the HVA team, which won the Region 2-AAA Championship in 2019, got a visit from the man who guided the Chicago Cubs to the World Series Championship and lifted a 108-year curse and bringing joy to one of the game's most beleaguered fan bases.

Maddon was a guest speaker at the Hawks' online meeting on Zoom.

Hardin Valley coach Tyler

Continued on page 2
 Los Angeles Angels manager Joe Maddon spoke to the Hardin Valley Academy baseball team at its Zoom meeting last week. Maddon guided the Chicago Cubs to the World Series Championship in 2016. Chicago broke the longest title drought in sports history. Photo submitted.

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Farragut's Loveday to play volleyball at Coker University

By Ken Lay

A top local high school volleyball player recently announced her college commitment.

Farragut High School senior Lauren Loveday announced her plans to continue her academic endeavors at Coker University in Hartsville, South Carolina.

She committed early last week.

She had a stellar career with the Lady Admirals, which included an outstanding senior campaign in 2019. She plays outside hitter.

She was an all-District 3-AAA standout at Farragut last season and help lead the Lady Admirals to a Region 2-AAA Championship and a state sectionals appearance, where they lost to Daniel Boone at the Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium.

Farragut went 22-17 last season in an ultracompetitive district that included the likes of Maryville, Heritage, William Blount, South-Doyle, Hardin Valley Academy and Lenoir City.

Farragut rallied from the loser's bracket to eliminate the Lady Mountaineers before losing to the Lady Rebels in the title match.

Loveday was named to both the District 3-AAA and Region 2-AAA all-tournament teams.

She also earned a spot on the inaugural *Knoxville Focus* All-County Volleyball Team. She was a first-team selection.

In college, Loveday will play for the Coker Lady Cobras. The team competes in NCAA Division II and is a member of the South Atlantic Conference, which is home to Carson-Newman University and Tusculum University.

Highly respected 'Papa Bear' loved Rule High

By Steve Williams

Doug Polston was nine years old when DM Miller hired his dad as head football coach at Rule High School in 1970. As Doug grew up over the years, so did his respect for Miller.

Bob Polston was head coach at Austin-East in the early years of integration when Miller selected him to take over at Rule.

"I don't remember how long my dad worked with DM at Rule for sure, but I know one thing, my dad had the upmost respect for DM Miller.

"I heard my dad say many times, 'He ran a school the way a school needed to be run, from dealing with the staff to the students.

"They continued to be friends right up until my dad passed away (in 2011). They talked quite often."

Miller passed away April 15 at age 94.

"He was a man who was always very gracious, always a gentleman," recalled Polston. "I never heard DM say a bad thing about anybody."

Doug has been teaching and coaching in the Knox County School system 33 years and is Halls' longtime head baseball coach.

"DM was always there if you had a question or there was something you needed," said Polston. "You always felt like you could call him. He made you feel that way. I respected the man for who he was more than anything, not because my dad did, but just for whom he was; the way he carried himself."

Those outside Doug's immediate family didn't know DM but quickly gained respect for him at Bob Polston's funeral.

"When my dad died," said Doug, "he stood in that line forever to pay his respects and was 85 years old at the time, and I know the line was three hours long."

Doug's family was surprised Miller didn't "come up front" and wouldn't have minded at all if he had.



Vi and DM made an attractive couple in their younger days. They would have been married 69 years this coming June 2. They met while going to Maryville College. Vi, who was a cheerleader at Young High School, turned 89 Friday. She is currently at Morning Pointe in Powell, an assisted living facility.

"That wasn't DM's way," said Doug. "He wasn't going to do that."

DOYLE HUMAN, the "Outstanding Back of the Year" in Knoxville at Rule in 1952, didn't play for Miller but remembers him as an assistant football coach and the B-team basketball coach.

"He would replace Ralph Hutchins as head football coach soon after then," said Human.

"I remember Coach Miller was strictly up and up," pointed out Doyle. "In other words, he didn't leave any gray area when it came to instructions. It was either black or white. If he told you something, you could count on it. In other words, he didn't put up with any foolishness. He was just a strict disciplinarian, but he was fair."

JACK WILLIAMS, a 1960 Rule graduate and Rule High historian, said Miller came to all of the school's reunions of any type.

"He started a little breakfast meeting out at Shoney's on Broadway for Rule High graduates on Monday mornings for the classes

from the early 40s up to about 1965," pointed out Williams. "And then on Saturday mornings, those who graduated in '65 up until '91 could come to a same type breakfast meeting at Shoney's.

"He attended all of those meetings and any of the Rule classes that had a reunion always invited DM and he always came and he would always speak."

The past 15 years or so, Beaumont Baptist Church has annually hosted a special Sunday honoring Rule High graduates and DM always came to those and spoke, noted Jack.

"Our Class of 1960 presented DM with a "The Greatest Among Us" award at a class reunion in 2017," said Williams.

"Other classes often refer to DM as 'Papa Bear.' He loved the people of Lonsdale and the surrounding area and loved Rule High School for all of those years. He was a great inspiration to members of all the classes.

"It was always good to have DM in our company because he knew the history of Rule High School and understood the students better than anyone."

GLENN WORLEY, who coached at Rule and was a great friend of Miller's, said his "most lasting memory" of DM and his wife Vi was that they "sacrificed their life for that daughter (Libby) they had that was mentally challenged. They took care of her until she was over 60 years old and gave their life for her and anybody else that needed it.

"There was a man named Harold White that taught at Rule and he became an invalid," added Worley. "DM and Vi would take him to UT football games and tail gate with him when he was in a wheelchair and wasn't able to do anything. They were the most giving people you've ever seen."

Blair and Bost helped lead Central to new heights

Continued from page 1

Special Olympics, assisting Central's CDC students.

"I love working with these students," Ashton said. "It's one of my favorite things I have been able to do at Central."

She also volunteered through AYSO to work with special need players.

Bost pretty much came out of the same mold as Ashton, as for his production in academics, athletics and community service.

The 6-foot, 225-pounder started every game his senior

year, playing both ways as a line-backer and offensive left tackle and also was a captain as Coach Bryson Rosser's Bobcats came on strong in the playoffs to capture their second state title in a row.

As for accolades, Tyler was a two-time All-Region 2-5A line-backer and All-State as a senior as he racked up 117 total tackles, 14 tackles for loss, four sacks, seven quarterback hurries and two forced fumbles.

Bost's work in the offseason and weight room (squat 460 pounds, bench 325 and power clean 285) contributed to his

success.

In academics, Tyler had a 3.8 weighted grade point average and 26 on the ACT. He ranked in the top 15 percent of his class. His classroom success comes from studying for tests, staying organized for classes and doing homework.

On top of that, Bost accumulated 300 hours of community service throughout his high school career.

Nick Craney worked closely with Bost as the team's defensive coordinator before being elevated to head coach after the 2019 season and has been very

impressed.

"Tyler is an incredible young man that exemplified what it means to be a Bobcat to the fullest," said Craney. "He performed at an extremely high level not only on the field but in the classroom and in our community. He was the heartbeat of our team and his love for his football 'family' was one of the most significant reasons the Bobcats are back to back state champions."

As for the future, Bost signed with Maryville College. Blair has committed to ETSU in soccer.

HVA baseball gets virtual visit from top Major League manager

Cont. from page 1

Roach set up the meeting through Maddon's Respect 90 Foundation and told his team that it would have a guest speaker.

"We set this up through Joe Maddon's foundation," said Roach, who is a die-hard Cubs fan. "Every day for about two weeks, we gave our guys hints about

who our guest speaker would be.

"I didn't figure that he would be too busy right now, so we asked his foundation if he would be willing to speak."

And on Wednesday, Maddon surprised the Hawks and he spent an hour talking baseball with the Hardin Valley squad.

"It wasn't until Joe came on that the kids knew who our guest speaker was," Roach said. "And for someone who has accomplished as much as he has, he's really down to earth.

"He spent an hour talking baseball with us and some of the things he said were really deep. H gave us an hour and most of the things he said could go on a t-shirt or they could be a slogan"

Maddon was relieved of his duties as Chicago's manager following the 2019 season and was hired a short time later by Los Angeles.

He was no stranger to Angels fans. He was the bench coach for manager Mike Scioscia when the Angels won their only world championship in 2002.

He left Southern California to become the manager of the Tampa Bay Rays. He guided the Rays to an American League Eastern Division Championship in 2008. In the same year, Tampa Bay made it to the World Series where they lost to the Philadelphia Phillies.

Roach said that he asked Maddon's foundation for him to speak to help his team forget the lost baseball season.

"We wanted them to get away from everything that was going on for a while

and we also wanted to give them something to remember," Roach said. "You don't always remember your stats from your sophomore year, or you don't always remember your batting average from your junior year.

"But you'll always remember something like this. We wanted to give them something to remember."

Roach said that there will be more guest speakers and also announced that the Hawks would launch a podcast soon. "Unfinished Business" launches on June 1.

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7

Hearings held in my office, notices can be filed and proceed without personal court appearance. Cases can proceed as usual even during these trying and perilous times.

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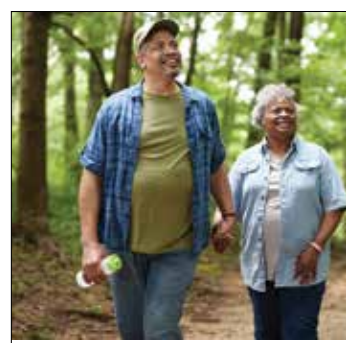
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SHINING THE BRIGHTEST IN TRYING TIMES

DePetro and Hurst, a pair of No. 1's, are Carter honorees

By Steve Williams

Evie DePetro ended her high school basketball career on a high note.

Battling back from a torn ACL injury, the Carter High senior should have fond memories of Lady Hornet basketball.

Not only did DePetro join the 1,000 Point Club this season, the 5-8 guard helped lead her team to the school's first Region 2-AA championship in 20 years and only the second in school history, according to Carter Coach Bo Lewis. The team also posted one of the best records in school history with a 22-11 record.

DePetro, who also was on the Carter girls' bowling team, was selected the school's female Student-Athlete of the Year for 2019-20. Senior classmate Ty Hurst is the Strawberry Plains school's male honoree. Both wore No. 1 and are college basketball signees.

DePetro made the All-District 3-AA team and was runner-up for Player of the Year. She also was named to the All-Region 2-AA team



Evie DePetro finished her prep basketball career with a strong senior campaign. Ty Hurst earned All-State honors and was a nominee for TSSAA's Mr. Basketball award as a senior.

and was a High School Heroes Player of the Week.

The Furman University signee totaled 358 points this past season, averaging 11 points per game. An all-round player on the

court, she also averaged 3.5 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.7 steals per outing.

A Top 9 finalist for the TSSAA Class AA Mr. Basketball award, Hurst was a consistent contributor



on the basketball court throughout his prep career and will continue to play on the collegiate level at UNC-Pembroke, a NCAA Division II member located in southeast North Carolina.

Ty, a versatile 6-3 guard, was named to the 15-man Tennessee Sports Writers Association's Class AA All-State team and also was a Basketball Coaches Association of Tennessee All-Star

Game selection.

The 1,000-point plus career scorer earned first team All-District 3-AA and All-Region 2-AA honors in his final season playing for the Hornets.

Coach Drew Richards took over Pembroke's program in March and Hurst is one of six high school seniors and a transfer in his first signing class.

"We would like to welcome these young men into our Braves basketball family," commented Richards on Pembroke's website.

"Even though it is a large class, we feel like we accomplished our goal of identifying both tough, competitive players and high-character people. All seven have played winning basketball during their careers, and we expect each of them to have a significant impact on the upward trajectory of our program.

"I also want to thank our coaching staff for working their tails off to bring in such a strong class at a difficult time for the world."

Austin-East quarterback's talents include dancing

By Steve Williams

Trey Foster was a versatile performer at Austin-East High and is probably best known for combining for 4,149 yards and 45 touchdowns passing and rushing during the 2019 football season. The All-State quarterback also played basketball and was on the track team in his prep career. He took part in another performance outside of the traditional sports, too. "During his time in school he has participated in all sports and was a member of our dance company," said football coach Jeff Phillips in his comments regarding Foster's selection as A-E's male Student-Athlete of the Year for 2019-20. Foster's versatility may pay off for him in football at East Tennessee State. Prior to his signing with the Buccaneers early this year, Coach Phillips said, "He is not concerned about the position he plays. Trey can play any position a school would like for him to play and play it at the highest level, all because of his work ethic, determination and passion." Foster achieved a 3.1 GPA and



received a 19 on the ACT, and his goal is to major in Exercise Science (kinesiology and physiology), said Phillips. "Trey is an exceptional young man; he is extremely loved by everyone in our building," added

Phillips. "He has worked extremely hard during his high school career and has overcome obstacles that most adults aren't able to. He has done this all while smiling and being a caring person."



Left, Trey Foster played in the East-West All-Star football game after his outstanding senior season at A-E. Austin-East's Blake Blakemore is ready to continue her track career at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

Blakemore was preparing hard for track season

Track star Blake Blakemore is Austin-East's female Student-Athlete of the Year. The Lady Roadrunner senior has been one of the state's fastest runners throughout her high school career that was cut short this spring due to the COVID-19 coronavirus. "Blake signed early to Georgia State, because they saw what we knew about her

for a long time," said A-E Athletic Director Alvin Armstead. "Prior to school closing, Blake was working very hard in preparation for this spring's track season. I truly believe Blake would have done some remarkable things this season." Blakemore was a 200-meter state champion and KIL 100-meter champion in her career and held a Top 10 ranking in the state in the 200 meters. She also was a two-time Knox Sports Awards nominee for track. With a 3.7 GPA,

Blake was a Project GRAD Scholar and a Knoxville Area Urban League National Achiever Scholar. "Blake is a very special young lady who is liked and admired by all," added Armstead. "She is a tireless worker athletically and academically. As a school and Athletic Department, we could not be more proud of Blake and all she has accomplished. We know that Blake will continue to keep the A-E tradition of Excellence and make us all very proud."

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Is Tennessee... Back?

By Mark Nagi

Somehow, during the horrific COVID-19 pandemic, Tennessee's football program is thriving.

I mean, thriving in the only way you can thrive when there are no games being played.

At last look, the Vols are second in the nation and first in the SEC in recruiting rankings for the Class of 2021. They went on an absolute roll at the end of April and beginning of May. Their recent haul includes 5-star outside linebacker Terrence Lewis of Hollywood, Florida and 5-star defensive end Dylan Brooks from Roanoke, Alabama. Tennessee also picked up a couple of 4-stars from Georgia, running

back Cody Brown and wide receiver Julian Nixon. There's also 4-star safety Kamar Wilcoxson of Bradenton, Florida.

In all, eighteen players have verbally committed to Tennessee, and they can't sign for more than six more months. Certainly, there will be some kids that de-commit, and others will be added to the class as time goes on. But this news is nothing but positive for the future of the program.

Tennessee grad and SEC Network staple Paul Finebaum had this to say last week about what Vols head coach Jeremy Pruitt is doing on Rocky Top.

"I think he has momentum," Finebaum said of Pruitt. "He's getting players that

Tennessee has not gotten in a long time, so he's learned from others, especially his old boss (Nick Saban) in Tuscaloosa. I think he feels and senses the momentum, so he's playing to it. No matter how you slice it, Jeremy Pruitt's recruiting has been the story of this spring."

Tennessee's rivals have taken notice. Georgia tweeted a video of their win in Knoxville in 2019 shortly after one of the Vols new commitments made his decision public. A Florida assistant did something similar. Oklahoma's twitter account posted a video from their 2015 win over Tennessee as a response as well. Finebaum believes this is the kind of thing that shows the Vols are

moving in the right direction.

"The reason why I'm convinced Tennessee is on the cusp of returning to power, is I'm hearing criticism from other schools, competing schools, from rivals, that he's not doing that great. I haven't heard anybody mention Tennessee recruiting in so long... outside of a brief moment with (former Tennessee coaches) Butch Jones and Lane Kiffin for about twenty minutes, you have to go back to the heyday of Phillip Fulmer. It is amazing."

The Butch Jones years do present reason for caution for Vols fans. His recruiting classes were ranked in the top 15 multiple times during his five-year tenure.

That said, player development was not the strong suit of those coaching staffs.

With the Pruitt staff, things look different. Players actually improve from week to week, game to game. This fall, we will see if that progress continues. If it does, the Class of 2021 could be a special one at Tennessee.

So, is Tennessee back?

We won't know for a while... but things are looking good.

Mark Nagi is the author of "Decade of Dysfunction," which takes an up-close look at Tennessee's crazy coaching search back in 2017. The book is available on Amazon.

CLASS of 2020

Austin-East High



Eliza Croom,
Valedictorian



Joy Griffin,
Salutatorian

Grace Christian



Lili Cooper,
Valedictorian



Connor Moon,
Salutatorian

Webb School



Sidney Vafaie-Partin,
Valedictorian



Meryl Ye,
Salutatorian

entrepreneur • broadcaster
volunteer • swimmer • programmer
tutor • painter • scientist • actor
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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Mots Justes

Somewhere along the way, I developed an appreciation of history and language. Maybe I was born with recessive historical or writing genes which somehow became activated. I don't know how this occurred, but I've come to understand there are a lot of things I don't know, and there are things I'll never fully comprehend. The apostle Paul articulated this beautifully in 1 Corinthians 13:12.

Most have heard of Alexander the Great, the only person to have conquered Afghanistan and the known world. Fewer have heard of Alexander's father, Philip II of Macedon, who taught Alexander how to be a leader of men and a mighty general. Philip coined the term, "divide and conquer" which is the perfect phrase/word or mot juste. Dividing and conquering is the modus operandi that

remains operative in America today. A classic example is the politicized diversity movement.

Easter is over, but America remains entombed. I'm praying for "freedom at last" and America's resurrection.

Recently, I was challenged by a church marquee. Paraphrasing the caption, it read, "Your faith should be greater than your fear."

I've read that some groups are meeting during the coronavirus pandemic without social distancing and claiming the Lord's protection. Well, I believe the creator and sustainer of the universe can do anything, but I also believe humans are imbued with reason and should use common sense and good judgment. It would be ill advised to walk some places in Knoxville at one o'clock in the morning and claim the Lord's protection. I will remain prudent during the COVID-19 crisis,

but I refuse to be paralyzed by fear which is now being used as a cudgel to take away American freedoms and damage the economy for political gain.

I recently saw an impactful FaceBook meme depicting a sheepdog herding a group of sheep. Sheepdogs use fear to control the sheep. The analogy is clear.

I know people who are paralyzed by fear and have become lost to reason and simple common-sense precautions. Interestingly, NY Governor Cuomo just released a coronavirus analysis which revealed that two-thirds of New Yorkers who were hospitalized with coronavirus infections were exposed at home while sheltering in place. And most of these denied using mass transit. Perhaps if they had been allowed to be out in the sunshine in parks rather than locked up in apartments, and if the NY subways had been regularly disinfected, rather than just last week, the exposure would have been less.

The decision to shut down America was predicated on what we now know were flawed apocalyptic models and observations of COVID-19 infections in other countries. The original goal was to flatten the curve and prevent hospitals and our healthcare system from

being overwhelmed. The first mistake of our experts (Fauci and the boys) was to trust the Chinese Communists. We now know that China was lying to the WHO (World Health Organization), the CDC and the NIH about the disease's human to human transmissibility. The Chinese Communists also systematically destroyed COVID-19 data, suppressed the warnings of Chinese doctors and shut down air travel from Wuhan to Beijing, but not air travel to the rest of the world. And yet, in a recent poll, 60% of registered Democrats blame President Trump rather than the communists for the coronavirus. This is delusional thinking and insanity.

Jesus was once asked when the so-called apocalypse heralding the end of the world would occur. His prophetic answer is recorded in what is known as the "Little Apocalypse" (Matthew 24). Throughout history, people have been contemplating end-times, especially as plagues, wars and famines rage. I am not an apocalyptic-minded person and I'm certainly no prophet. But it does make me wonder about America's fate as power-mad Governors, mayors and judges deign to usurp We The People's freedom. Progressive-socialist-Democrats and their perverse

media mouthpieces have become nothing but fear mongering sheepdogs.

In his famous soliloquy, Hamlet mused, "To be or not to be, that is the question." Businesses are now confronted with, to open or not to open. The original mission of the experts was to prevent a collapse of the healthcare system. This mission has now morphed into "saving lives." Granted, saving lives was the ultimate goal, but now saving lives has become sacrosanct without consideration of societal safety ramifications.

The book and magnificent musical, "Les Misérables," addresses the fundamental question of need. The protagonist Jean Valjean is imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his starving family. In Dallas, Texas, the owner of a hair salon was recently imprisoned for defying local executive dictates by opening her salon to "make a living."

This woman was imprisoned at a time when criminals were being released from jails due to fear of COVID-19. The activist judge's salary was not in jeopardy as was the private business owners. I suspect that America would experience a resurrection if the salaries of government officials were suspended and

they were forced to choose between their personal risk of the coronavirus and starvation.

Early in my early medical education I, like Dr. Anthony Fauci, almost chose a career in infectious disease, a subspecialty of internal medicine. I decided that I was more a generalist than a subspecialist, and internal medicine was sufficiently specialized. And I have secondary subspecialty boards in geriatrics.

How fortunate that I had the freedom to make this choice of career, and my conscience now tells me it was the right choice. By analogy, I have the right to choose to be responsible or irresponsible and suffer the consequences. I do not need Nancy Pelosi, SCOTUS, POTUS or other petty functionaries to tell me what is right or what I should do. I welcome the guidelines of experts. However, guidelines are not laws which are constructs of imperfect men and too often politicized.

Philosophically, I am trinitarian and often sense perspectives of three. I have common sense, conscience and a Constitution to guide me. It is enough. At our own peril, we violate these precepts.

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

Some use stimulus money to pay it forward

By Bill Howard

Not only has the coronavirus pandemic threatened the nation's health and killed tens of thousands, but it has also wreaked economic havoc, both nationally and in people's personal finances. Millions have lost jobs and as a result, have struggled to provide even the basics for their families. Probably thousands of businesses of various kinds are gone and won't return.

The \$1200 stimulus checks the federal government sent people provided some temporary relief, allowing them to keep their head above water, or at least keep the debt monster away for another month or so.

For some, however, the money provided a chance to give back.

Bre Mommaerts is a traveling nurse currently living in Knoxville. The 34-year-old Wisconsin native followed a friend to Tennessee ten years ago and "fell in love with the place and the

people." She returned regularly to visit friends and requested Tennessee as the last nursing stop before she settles down.

Mommaerts donated every bit of her government money to two organizations: Planned Parenthood and a mental health organization back home in Wisconsin.

"These are near and dear to my heart," she said. "I lost a cousin in 2018 who was struggling badly, and this is a way to keep his memory alive. I'm very lucky that I didn't have to have the money, and I was glad I was able to help out these worthy causes."

Michelle Baird, 61, worked for years in financial aid at various colleges. Now semi-retired, she plans to contribute to a variety of groups and causes she deems worthy. She guesses she'll donate more than half of the \$1200.

"It's a bit frustrating because

there are so many needs in the community," said Baird, who hails from Minnesota. "So many people, groups, organizations ... all have been badly hurt by the pandemic. So many ... you wish you could help them all."

One of Baird's daughters works with special-needs children in Virginia, and Baird recently contributed to a fundraiser-auction for a school that helps such kids. She put together a "Great Smoky Mountains" basket of items purchased from various local small businesses that could sell only online. She also contributed to a GoFundMe drive that helped out-of-work service workers: waiters, bartenders, etc.

Baird is a regular at community and arts events - plays, concerts, festivals - and often volunteers. Among the beneficiaries of her stimulus money are Zoo Knoxville and Theater Knoxville Downtown, and she's considering others.

"How awful it would be if we lost some of our arts culture," she said. "I'm trying to keep everything in the local area to support people in my community."

One man who wished to remain anonymous said that he recently delivered several bags of groceries to an elderly couple in south Knoxville. The husband recently had a stroke and the wife is essentially imprisoned in the house for fear of leaving him alone.

He found out about the couple through a friend who works at CAC (Community Action Committee), a public agency that serves a wide range of people with various difficulties and challenges. He plans to buy groceries for several more families in the next few weeks after seeing the wife's reaction when he showed up at their door with the food.

"She was so appreciative," he said. "My contact at CAC told

me the wife started to cry when she found out what I wanted to do. She almost did when I was there."

"I won't lie," the man went on, with a laugh, "it was tempting to take the money and just have fun with it. I'm lucky in that I don't need it for immediate bills or necessities. In fact, I even felt a bit ambivalent about receiving it, since I didn't earn it. And while I'm glad it's gonna help people - and many really need it very badly - it just puts the government more in debt. So I'll have fun with some of it, but I'll give back probably at least a few hundred, and maybe more."

Of course, these few cases are a tiny, tiny fraction of those locally and nationally who are using their money to help ease the plight of others.

Here's to all the mothers... hoping Sunday was a great day.

Weighing your options?

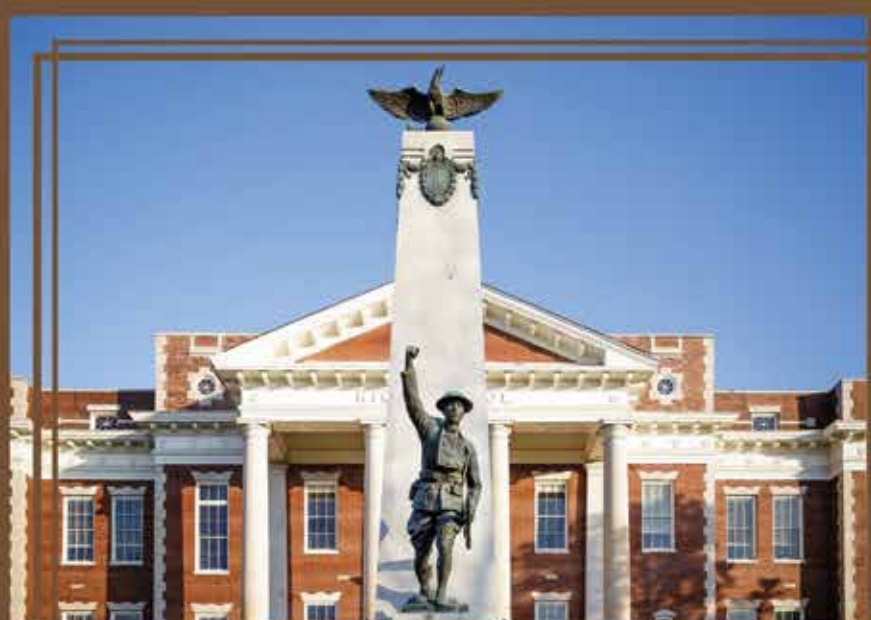


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**‘The Virginian,’
the Hero**

Cont. from page 2
a team. Years later, Drury was kind enough to let us put “The Virginian” link on our Major Books of Joy website for our children’s picture books.
James Drury died April 6, 2020, at 85 years old. Though his passing leaves one less cowboy hero in our midst, his action-packed adventures can still be enjoyed on cable

television today. It was truly an honor to meet the soft-spoken Drury, and that picture made at the festival has become a treasured keepsake. It brings back memories of a special day and a special cowboy that rode into our hearts and homes so many years ago.
Words of Faith: Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you... James 4:8 (KJV)

**Work to begin May 11
on Main Street Trolley
super stop**

Cont. from page 3
block to the west, in front of the Bank of America building.
The food truck zone in front of Bank of America has been temporarily discontinued to make room for the interim trolley stop.
Due to the pandemic, KAT is currently offering

reduced trolley service, with Blue and Orange Lines running until 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. KAT is limiting passenger loads to 10 persons per trolley, encouraging the use of face coverings when riding, and asking passengers to use the rear doors for entering and exiting when feasible.

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