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## Jim Haslam authors memoir on leadership lessons, learning and luck

Pilot Company Founder James "Jim" Haslam II has written "Co-Piloting: Luck, Leadership, and Learning That It's All About Others," a book that takes readers inside the journey from owning a single gas station in Gate City, Virginia, to starting one of the largest privately owned companies in the United States.

"This book is written to hopefully inspire people to embrace life," Haslam said. "Hold firmly onto the values you set as the foundation of your life and stay true to them, remembering that life

is not a spectator sport."

The story of the Haslam family and Pilot Company offers an encouraging, engaging and entertaining perspective on family, faith and the discovery of what really matters the most in life. Friends and family offer stories and insights, including contributions from Natalie Haslam, his wife and community philanthropist; Peyton Manning, former University of Tennessee and NFL quarterback; Phillip Fulmer, former UT head football coach and now director of athletics at UT; Rick Barnes,

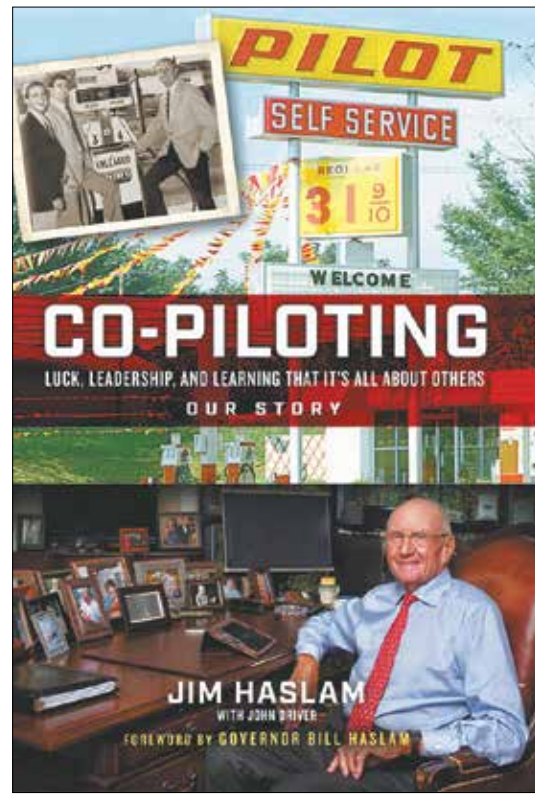
head basketball coach at UT; Lamar Alexander, a U.S. senator and former UT president; Jimmy Haslam, oldest son and CEO of Pilot Company; Bill Haslam, youngest son and former mayor of Knoxville and governor of Tennessee; Ann Haslam Bailey, daughter and vice president of the Haslam Family Foundation; and Lee Scott, former CEO of Walmart.

"I am a little biased, but I think the story before you is unique, inspirational, and often hilarious," Bill Haslam wrote. "You should also know that it has been written

against the will of its author. You don't see that every day, I know. But then again, you don't meet many people like my dad every day."

Haslam, a military veteran who served in the U.S. Army, is the founder and chairman of the board of Pilot Company, which is headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee. Founded in 1958, the company has remained a family business with Jimmy Haslam serving as CEO for the last 25 years and several other members involved, including Bill Haslam serving on

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## Eddie Mannis is confirmed by state Republican Party

By Mike Steely  
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Eddie Mannis had a rocky road to the Republican nomination to represent District 18 in the Tennessee State House. Last Wednesday the Republican Party of Tennessee voted 43-18 to accept the August primary election results of Mannis defeating Gina Oster by 99 votes.

Mannis said he was "grateful for the confidence that the 43 members had in me."

Mannis has been attacked publicly since announcing his candidacy by Knox County Republican Chairman Randy Pace and others questioning Mannis' voting history and his donations to some Democrat

office seekers. Pace spoke at the August Republican Victory Rally the evening of the primary, blasting the results and calling out Mannis.

Oster pleaded with the state party to accept her as the nominee because she said Mannis actively sought Democrat voters in the Republican Primary.

Mannis replied to Oster's accusations through his attorney, Billy Stokes, who stated, "At no point during his campaign did his campaign directly solicit Democrat voters to cross over."

Mannis will face Democrat Virginia Couch in November's general election. The winner will replace retiring Representative Martin Daniels.

## COUNTY OFFICIALS TAKE OATH



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

New Knox County Law Director David Buuck takes the oath of office as his mother, Dorothy Buuck, holds the Bible and his predecessor, Bud Armstrong, looks on at the installation ceremony held at the Tennessee Theatre on Tuesday morning. Seven county commissioners, four school board members, the criminal court judge, public defender and property assessor also took oaths to serve Knox County that morning.

## Jay and Schoonmaker named chair and vice chair of Knox Commission

By Mike Steely  
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Knox County's rural commissioners and the two new Democrats on the body came together Tuesday during the reorganization special session to elect Commissioner Larsen Jay as the new chairman.

Lots of behind the scenes campaigning went on before the four new commissioners were sworn to office earlier that Tuesday morning. Jay was nominated by new District 1 Commissioner Dasha Lundy and new District 4 Commissioner Kyle Ward nominated Randy Smith.

The 4 p.m. reorganization meeting saw Jay get the six votes needed from Commissioners Lundy, Courtney Durrett, Carson Dailey, Larsen Jay, Charles Busler and Richie Beeler. Beeler, who was home with COVID-19, attended via Zoom.

Voting for Smith were Commissioners Smith, Ward, John Schoonmaker, Terry Hill and Justin Biggs.

Chairman Jay said it will be difficult "filling the big shoes" of outgoing Chairman Hugh Nystrom, who chose not to seek re-election.

Following Jay's election as chair he took the seat and called for nominations for vice chair.

District 2 Commissioner Durrett nominated Schoonmaker; Jay nominated Dailey; and Lundy nominated Smith. Smith pulled out in favor of Schoonmaker, who went on to receive seven votes with Jay and Dailey voting for Dailey and Busler and Beeler passing. Dailey and Jay then joined in supporting Schoonmaker, giving him nine votes.

The commission, with direction from newly elected Knox County Law Director David Buuck, then proceeded to fill in all the vacancies in various county committees.

Chosen to chair the Rules Committee and Insolvency Board was Charles Busler; Dailey will chair the Court Committee; Schoonmaker

heads the Legislative Committee and Beeler will chair the Cable TV Committee. Smith was chosen to lead the Finance Committee.

Other assignments included Biggs to the Development Corporation, Ward to the Investment Committee, and Schoonmaker and Beeler to the Audit Committee. Dailey will serve on the UT Arena Use Committee, Jay on the Agricultural Committee, Beeler on the Public Records Commission, Durrett on the Insurance Benefits Committee and Kyle Ward on the Three Ridges Golf Board.

Additional committee and commission positions may be assigned in the new commission's first full meeting or work session this month.

Commissioner Smith suggested a "mock meeting" of the commission for returning and new members and the idea was also applauded by Chairman Jay.

"The new chair would enjoy that also" Jay said.

## Horn re-appointed as chair of KCS Board of Education

By Ken Lay

The Knox County Board of Education had a relatively short work session Wednesday night. That was preceded by a called meeting to reorganize the board for the 2020-2021 school year.

In the called meeting, current board chairperson Susan Horn was chosen to serve for a second year. Vice Chair Virginia Babb will also continue her role for a second consecutive school year.

Wednesday was also the first meeting for new District 3 member Daniel Watson, who replaces Tony Norman.

The board will be one member short until the November election as Terry Hill resigned on Aug. 31 to serve District 6 on the Knox County Commission. Horn said that she was honored to be selected to

serve as the board's chair for a second straight academic year.

"I have enjoyed my time as chair and I guess continuity is always a good thing, especially in uncertain times like this," she said.

She and Babb were both re-appointed unanimously.

Following that brief meeting, the work session ensued at the Andrew Johnson Building. Knox County Schools Superintendent Bob Thomas announced an incentive plan for substitute teachers whose services may be needed if teachers are forced to quarantine.

KCS is looking to hire between 20-25 full-time district-wide subs. If those substitutes work 10-14 days a month, they will earn an extra \$300. If they work an additional 15

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# Coronavirus Is Bad, But Have We Over-Reacted?

## From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.  
duncanj@knoxfocus.com

During the 1957-58 flu season, I was in the fifth grade at Chillhowee School in East Knoxville, there was a worldwide pandemic then that originated in China called the Asian flu.

Both the US and world populations were only a little over 60% of today's figures, but the CDC estimated worldwide deaths at 1.1 million. British estimates were higher, being somewhere

between one and four million.

In the US, we had deaths equivalent to 220,000 today. During that pandemic nothing was shut down and the economy quickly recovered.

Back then, there were not constant 24-hour-a-day newscasts about the numbers of deaths or the numbers testing positive.

As I write this, 1.9% of the US population have tested positive for COVID-19. Well over 90% of those have recovered or will do so without a specific medicine or vaccine designed to treat them.

About 185,000 US citizens have died with it, but the CDC says just six percent of those have had coronavirus as the only cause. All the others have died with

comorbidities such as heart failure, pneumonia, old age, etc. which could have been the main cause.

Our CDC says that over 80% of the coronavirus deaths have been those over 65. I read about one country (maybe many more) where 90% of the deaths were in people 80 and above.

I have had many family members, relatives and close friends who have died. I am not making light of anyone's death.

But some people get very angry if you say there is any good news in the fight against this latest virus or that it may not be as bad as in the past.

Some people hate President Trump so much that they can barely suppress their glee in reporting the

latest "grim milestone". They seem to want the bad numbers to keep going up in order the help defeat Trump.

Dr. Alex Berezow, a microbiologist, wrote a few months ago an article in USA Today entitled "Stop the Panic. Don't let the Coronavirus Win."

He wrote that "a total economic collapse would tear at the fabric of society and also pose a threat to public health. And it raises the spectre that our 'cure' for COVID-19 may be more harmful than the disease itself."

Columnist Peter Hitchens wrote a few days ago in the Daily Mail, a major British newspaper, that his "suspicion is that the wrecking of the economy and state sponsored panic of those times has killed more

people that COVID ever did."

He added that "we will never know how many people were listed as COVID deaths in this country (Britain) whose true cause of death was something else."

Dr. Harvey Risch, MD, PHD, Professor of Epidemiology at Yales, wrote in Newsweek in late July that he was "flummoxed" why there was opposition to "a treatment the data fully support but which for reasons having nothing to do with a correct understanding of the science, has been pushed to the sidelines. As a result, tens of thousands of patients with COVID-19 are dying unnecessarily."

Risch, who has written over 300 peer-reviewed publications for leading medical journals, was referring to an inexpensive oral medication

called hydro chloroquine.

This opposition sprang up because President Trump advocated its use and because it is so cheap big pharmaceutical companies could not make as much money off it as they could off other more expensive drugs.

Thank goodness in 1957-58, my and I classmates never knew how bad the Asian flu of that time was.

We didn't have so many governors and mayors going power-mad then, acting self-righteous and holier than thou, and shutting everything down. Many 10- and 11-year-old students of today will probably never forget this time when millions of their parents lost their jobs and businesses and they had to wear masks at school.

## Western Avenue crematorium again on council agenda

By Mike Steely  
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The addition of a crematorium on a cemetery at 2724 Western Avenue is back on the Knoxville City Council agenda. The rezoning ordinance, changing the Central City Sector Plan and rezoning the property from Parks and Open Space to General Commercial, was postponed for two weeks. Wade Lovin, speaking for Alliance Funeral Group LLC, said the facility would be located away from the neighboring residential area and would become something the area would

be proud to have.

Knoxville-Knox Planning has recommended approval but the city council members wanted to have public comment on the plans.

The council will also consider \$103,800 for the purchase of an app for online reporting to the 311 Center and allotting \$425,000 to the Knox Education Association for funding of Community Schools.

The Northwest Greenway Connector Project may get an additional \$17,000 in funding with Barge Design Solutions Inc., increasing

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## Breaking and entering



By Jedidiah McKeehan  
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On TV you will occasionally hear law enforcement discussing a suspect's criminal history and they will say something like, "well, he had a breaking and entering charge when he was 18." If the cop saying this is hip, they will shorten breaking and entering to, "B&E."

I always find this mildly amusing because, "breaking and entering," is not an actual crime in Tennessee. However, the most similar charges in Tennessee would be the burglary charges.

Tennessee Code section 39-14-402 is the burglary statute, and it states,

(a) A person commits burglary who, without the effective consent of the property owner:

(1) Enters a building other than a habitation (or any portion thereof)

not open to the public, with intent to commit a felony, theft or assault;

(2) Remains concealed, with the intent to commit a felony, theft or assault, in a building;

(3) Enters a building and commits or attempts to commit a felony, theft or assault; or

(4) Enters any freight or passenger car, automobile, truck, trailer, boat, airplane or other motor vehicle with intent to commit a felony, theft or assault.

(b) As used in this section, "enter" means:

(1) Intrusion of any part of the body; or

(2) Intrusion of any object in physical contact with the body or any object controlled by remote control,

electronic or otherwise.

(c) Burglary under subdivision (a) (1), (2) or (3) is a Class D felony.

(d) Burglary under subdivision (a) (4) is a Class E felony

If the place entered is a habitation, then the charge is Aggravated Burglary which is a Class C Felony, and if someone suffers serious bodily injury during the burglary, then the charge is Especially Aggravated Burglary which is a Class B felony.

While the TV shows make a breaking and entering charge sound fairly mundane, even the lowest level burglary charge in TN is a Class E felony, which is not a charge that should be taken lightly.

So now, when you are watching TV, and you hear them say, "breaking and entering," know that in Tennessee that the person would have been charged with committing some kind of burglary.

## Board of Health extends bar curfew two weeks

By Mike Steely  
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After more than three hours the Knox County Board of Health voted Wednesday to extend the

10 p.m. bar curfew for two more weeks. The 6-2 vote saw Mayor Glenn Jacobs and Dr. Dianna C. Drake voting "No."

The decision came after a long discussion of adding

"Brown Bag" businesses to the curfew, which may be discussed in their next weekly meeting this Wednesday. Such businesses allow customers to bring in their own alcohol instead

of purchasing it on site. Jacobs said the proposal to include the Brown Bag businesses is "extremely confusing" and might only apply to about a half dozen establishments.

Dr. Patrick O'Brien reminded the board that if it postpones a decision on the Brown Bag regulations it would need to renew the 10 p.m. bar curfew or that mandate would expire at midnight following the meeting. The board then moved to extend the curfew for two weeks.

The board also asked Attorney David Sanders to look at adopting its own rules of procedures. Currently it must operate under the Knox County Commission's rules of order, requiring a Public Forum at each meeting.

The board seems to want a Public Forum, but once a month and not at every meeting. Sanders said he would look at the rules and adopt a version without a weekly forum. Mayor Jacobs has been pushing the board to open its meetings to public comment

but members say they get plenty of comments via phone calls, email and discussions with citizens.

Dr. Jack Gotcher said the public forum is "helpful to us and the public. It makes the meeting a longer and makes our meetings a little more transparent."

Last week was one of the Public Forum meetings and saw several citizens log in to address the board at the beginning of the meeting. Some called for dropping the mask mandate, others questioned the board's authority, and a few claimed that the death rate is much less due to COVID-19 because deaths were from pre-existing conditions.

Some of the citizens asked when the restrictions concerning masks and other regulations will be lifted. Health Department Executive Director Dr. Martha Buchanan indicated that when test results drop below 5% positive then the mandates would be reviewed. Dr. Maria Hurt said that currently Knox County positive tests are at

9.6%.

"We're on the right track," Dr. O'Brien commented, adding that what is needed before any deregulation are "some good numbers."

Hurt said that other jurisdictions have seen infection rates go up when safety mandates are dropped or relaxed.

The board also heard Donde Plowman, Chancellor of the University of Tennessee, and Knox County Schools Health Services Supervisor Lisa Wagoner report on cases at the university and county schools. Plowman reported that most of the curfew violations are coming from off-campus bars.

Dr. Buchanan said the health department has received complaints that some bars are not closing at 10 p.m. She added that when nearby bars do close at curfew some of the crowds move to restaurants to continue partying and drinking. The board has discussed regulations to place a curfew on alcohol sales in restaurants but no decision has been made.

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# Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,  
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## New County Commission Chair

Congratulations to Larsen Jay, the newly elected Chairman of the Knox County Commission! It was a victory for the new over the old, with Jay winning the chairmanship over veteran commissioner Randy Smith. While Smith had already served one stint as commission chair, perhaps the biggest point of contention for many commissioners was the fact Randy Smith is an employee of County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. It's hardly a secret the mayor's office, if not Jacobs, was pretty put out when Commissioner At-Large Larsen Jay successfully pushed through a bonus for sheriff's deputies. In retrospect, especially with the looting and burning going on throughout much of the country, as well as the constant demeaning and denigration of law enforcement by Democrats and the far left, Jay's insistence upon funding the bonus seems awfully smart right about now.

The rumors are rampant that once again, the mayor's office is pretty peeved by Smith's loss and Larsen Jay's victory.

## Gibbs Is Still Growing

It's no surprise to any of us who live in Gibbs, but others seem shocked the Gibbs community is continuing to grow at a rapid pace. Some of you may not remember the opposition to building a new middle school in the Gibbs community, which was successfully championed by Mike

McMillan, our school board member, and then-mayor Tim Burchett. There was that silly study, much-quoted by opponents of building a new Gibbs Middle School, that said Gibbs likely could not support a new middle school. Nobody who lived here believed that, least of all me. Mike McMillan likes to point out the school opened at almost full capacity and the community continues to grow.

## Willie, No You Didn't!

Willie Brown is the former Speaker of the House of the California State Assembly. Brown served for more than 30 years in the California State Assembly and was Speaker of that body for 15 years. Willie Brown was also the mayor of San Francisco, as well as a young Kamala Harris's... I'm going to be polite... boyfriend. It was a relationship that sure paid off for Kamala; Brown got her appointed to a number of high-paying posts and backed her when she ran as a law-and-order candidate for prosecuting attorney; yep, she's kinda flip-flopped since then, raising bail money to get rioters out of jail. Willie dated Kamala (who was much, much younger) during the 1990s and dumped her right before running for mayor of San Francisco.

Now 86 years old, Willie Brown has a column in the San Francisco Chronicle and his column from a week ago Saturday was a hum-dinger. Willie's gone and done it now. In his column, Willie's World, the former mayor writes, "The biggest threat to a Democratic election sweep in November isn't the Republican in the White House, but the demonstrators who are tearing up cities in the name of racial justice." For those of you who don't know, Willie is Black and he is a Democrat. He warned Joe Biden and the Democrats not to pick his former honey-bunny Kamala Harris as Biden's running mate and the party ignored him once again. Some are beginning to

worry that Democrats turning their collective heads — and the news media has gone right along with this pretense and lied their heads off — stoutly pretending all the protests have been peaceful. Some will very reluctantly say, Well, okay, if they haven't been completely peaceful, the folks starting the violence, burning and looting were righteously agitated and it was probably white nationalists, not rioters looting and burning. The problem is, the story keeps changing and the supposition that the American people are stone-cold stupid is turning out not to be true, much to the dismay of the news media and the Democratic Party. In fact, for the longest time, I can't remember a single Democrat decrying, much less condemning the violence and lawlessness. Not until Willie Brown's column.

Even crazy Ted Wheeler, mayor of Portland, celebrated his 58th birthday with fireworks; now the celebratory fireworks were fired at the condo complex where Wheeler lives. The same rioters, who have wreaked havoc every night for months in Portland, who Wheeler coddled and complimented, showed their collective gratitude by trying to burn him out of his home. Nor did the rioters, whom Wheeler could have dispersed by allowing law enforcement officers to do their jobs and protect the lives and property of citizens, care at all about injuring, killing or destroying the homes of Wheeler's fellow residents at his condo complex. It's no surprise Wheeler sent a letter to his neighbors saying everyone is probably better off if he moved — and he paid more than \$800,000 for the condo some years ago according to property records. More than likely, the condo homeowners' association board strongly suggested Mayor Ted get out as quickly as possible. Ted Wheeler stood by for months, allowing the rioters to do whatever they pleased without regard for

the safety of anyone else. It's awfully hard to feel sorry for Ted Wheeler, who should, at the very least, be removed from office. What about the people who don't have the money to move and are still threatened by the "protesters," i.e. rioters?

The flamboyant Willie Brown gave Democrats some good advice months ago when he wrote defunding the police would be really bad public policy and terrible politics. Even here locally, we have some loud and obnoxious ultra-progressives who bark and howl at the moon as they snarl about police brutality and how we should defund the police department. The image of City Councilwoman Amelia Parker bravely inserting herself by attempting to direct working police officers, which council-people have no authority, legal or otherwise, to do, comes to mind. Parker recounted her adventures on Facebook, painting herself as the heroine of the story, clutching her city council ID as she tried to boss the officers around and simultaneously told us she feared for her life. Amelia, a "Democratic socialist," wanted to start the process of cutting back the budget for KPD here.

Still, some of these same folks quiver like a bowl of Jell-O salad at the church social when some stranger shows up at their door. They begin thinking someone is casing their house to rob it and get nervous. And, if the neighborhood blogs are to be believed, crime is on the upswing. Millennials are stunned as they discover their bikes have been stolen right off their porches. People are finding their cars ransacked in their driveways and worse.

You reckon they don't feel safe with a social worker instead?

Willie Brown is politically smarter than most of these ultra-leftist Democrats and his political IQ would be several times that of the entire Squad combined. Brown warns his fellow Democrats they need

to actually denounce the violence occurring in the cities, which are governed by Democrats. "Biden and Harris really ought to decry and indicate how awful it is to engage in the kind of conduct that's being translated into violence attributable to them," Brown said.

Willie advised legitimate protesters to do their protesting during the day where observers could actually read the signs they are carrying. Then Willie went and did it again: "Nighttime protests are only designed to conceal who's doing the protesting and what they intend to do."

Willie Brown, as shrewd a politician as there ever was, thinks his fellow Democrats are handing Donald Trump and the Republicans a genuine issue that will make suburbanites, including suburban women, mighty nervous right around election time. If the Democrats were smart, they would listen to ol' Willie.

Considering Kamala has been busy raising money to bail out rioters and Joe Biden rattles on about healing the soul of the country and hasn't even noticed the rioting, destruction, looting and burning, maybe he doesn't know. He sure wouldn't hear about it on CNN, CBS, ABC, NBC, or MSNBC.

## Biden Plays Blame Game

Well, at last Joe Biden did hear about the violence and rioting going on in the country. And now, Old Joe Biden is trying his best to blame Donald Trump for the rioting going on across the country. Yes, that's exactly what he's trying to do. I watched it with my own eyes and heard it with my own ears. The news media has trumpeted Biden's blast at Trump, which is simply a lie. The governors of most of these states affected by rioting are Democrats. Universally, the cities where the rioting has occurred are governed by Democrats. Usually, there isn't even a single Republican on the local governing bodies. The

city council in Seattle has actual socialists as members. Not a Trump supporter to be found anywhere in the vicinity, much less in a position of power.

Finally, Joe got the gump-tion to actually fuss about rioting, but is lying about who's to blame. I'll tell you who's to blame: the people doing the rioting and breaking the law. I'll tell you who has abetted the rioting and made it worse: the governors and mayors like Jenny Durkan of Seattle who have failed to do their jobs. Remember, two people were killed in Seattle where a group of communists proclaimed downtown Seattle to be a new country. These mayors and governors wouldn't let law enforcement agencies and officers do their jobs and still won't. If Biden had an honest bone in his body, he'd call those failed officeholders out and hold them accountable for refusing to protect the people who elected them.

Trump has repeatedly offered help of every variety, just as he did during the worst of the coronavirus pandemic. The press wouldn't report that either. The difference this time is the people have seen the failure of the Democrats governing these states and cities; the people have heard their repeated refusals of help to keep order and protect law abiding citizens. The people have watched and heard those officials repeatedly refuse to protect the businesses that provide income and jobs for the people.

What good ever came out of an angry mob? None, not a single thing. Now Joe Biden is trying to blame the rioting on Donald Trump? Really? Look in the mirror Joe, you and your friends are squarely to blame. You can't unite the extremists in your own party posing as Democrats and you and your kind are too afraid to call them out, much less toss them out.

## Horn re-appointed as chair

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hours or more, they would receive an extra \$500 per month.

"Our hope is that these steps will increase the pool of substitute teachers that we can draw from and enable us to continue operating in the yellow attendance mode," said Thomas, who also commended the district for working hard

during the first week of school, both in-person and in the virtual model.

The superintendent also announced that Knox County Schools would participate in a federally funded program to provide all students with free breakfasts and lunches, regardless of their families' income.

That program is set to begin on Tuesday, Sept. 8

and could go until the end of the calendar year.

But it could end sooner if federal funding from the USDA runs out.

"We are very pleased that every student at every school will be able to receive free breakfast and free lunch, starting on Sept. 8," Thomas said. "This USDA program could continue until Dec. 31, 2020, but

it could end sooner if funding runs out."

The KCS Board of Education will have its regular session meeting Wednesday at 5 p.m. at the AJ Building.

Seating will be limited due to social distancing protocol.

## Jim Haslam authors memoir

Cont. from page 1

the board of directors and Whitney Haslam Johnson as chief experience officer and board member. Under the family's leadership, Pilot Company has grown to become the 10th largest private company in America according to Forbes and is the leading supplier of fuel and largest operator of travel centers in North America.

The former Vols football captain played on the 1951 national championship football team led by coaching legend and mentor Gen. Robert R. Neyland. Haslam would go on to serve as vice

chair of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees and become a UT Distinguished Alumnus. The Haslam family recently contributed \$40 million to the university's Haslam College of Business, following a landmark gift in 2014 that established the business school as UT's first named college and brings the family's total historic giving to the university to more than \$100 million. As a first-generation college student, Jim Haslam credits his first-class education as key to successfully founding Pilot Company and is passionate about creating opportunity for others to pursue higher

education.

All proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit nonprofits that support small business, entrepreneurial and community-based ventures. It is Haslam's wish that others be afforded the chance to be as fortunate in their endeavors as he has been in his.

The book is available online at copilotbook.com and at other retail and online outlets, including select Pilot and Flying J travel centers. An audio version of the book, narrated by Vol Radio Network lead announcer Bob Kesling, also is available.

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# Reigniting old friendships

It's been 50 years since my class graduated from high school. Just like students in the 2020 class with their proms and graduations, we've fretted over having to cancel the celebration of such an important event. Things look up just a bit right now, however, in that the class will meet in mid-September at an outdoor facility.

I remember how enthused Mother was as her 50-year reunion neared. She'd been the valedictorian that year and wanted to see folks that had all but disappeared after graduation. My interest is just as great as hers was. The most fun of any



By Joe Rector  
joerector@comcast.net

reunion is watching folks as they enter and trying to figure out who the hell they are! The images of old friends and classmates from back then don't always gee-haw with what stands before us. Many of us have grown larger foreheads; others have put on more than a few pounds over that time; most of us now sport fleshier jowls and necks. Only a few people have aged little. One friend, Ken Mills, still looks as he did as an 18-year-old.

Another interesting aspect of a reunion is discovering what folks have done over the last half-century. So many classmates excelled in the classroom. They

studied hard and sported top-tier grade-point-averages. Others, like me, survived most classes and squeaked out of high school. It was only after beginning to pay for our education that we took classes and studying seriously. I'm curious as to what professions others chose and what roads they've traveled during those work years.

Several of us have spent most of our years married. My brother Jim and his wife celebrated their 49th anniversary a week ago. A couple of classmates married immediately after graduation and have shared life with their partners even longer. At earlier reunions, we talked about our coming children or teenagers. This time around, the reports from proud grandparents, and, and perhaps, great-grandparents,

will be the focus.

Of course, we'll fall silent at some point and grieve for the loss of classmates. Some died during our time in high school. Others lost their lives much too soon, and as happens with folks our age, some have passed in their later years. It will be difficult to wrap our minds around their deaths because, to us, they are still young, energetic individuals who hold hopes and dreams for the years to come.

After that 50th reunion, Mother's class met each year. She lamented about the steady loss of classmates every time they met. As we too will realize more vividly, each year pushes us just a bit closer to the end of our times on this planet with the people whom we've loved and with whom we've

have shared so many good times.

Maybe next year, the classmates with whom I was the closest will meet at someone's house or at a public place. We can catch up on the last year, not the last 50. One thing is for sure: if we do meet again, we'll gather someplace that allows or serves alcohol. The surprises and disappointments and losses will a bit easier to numb. Plus, embarrassing stories told about us won't sting quite as much.

I'm excited to attend this 50-year reunion. I'll wear my mask and social distance as much as possible so that I protect myself and others. At the same time, I'll laugh and share stories from those "good ol' days."

## Life is a Gift: A Tribute to Zane Daniel

Following is my tribute to legendary criminal defense attorney, the late William Zane Daniel, which was first published in *The Knoxville Focus* on 9-5-2006 shortly after his death. It was my first feature ever published in the *Focus*.

It was a pink bag with black and white polka dot trim, but it was not the color that caught my attention. It was the words printed on it: "Life is a gift, and so are those around us." Three days later those words seemed more poignant than ever when I heard Zane Daniel had passed away.

It started the summer of 1973. I was a college student working in the late Congressman John Duncan's office. A visitor walked in and I asked, "May I help you?" He extended his hand to shake mine and replied, "Hello, I'm Jim Duncan, Mr. Duncan's son." I remember thinking I should have recognized him since he so strongly resembled his father.

The next time I spoke to Jim Duncan was during Christmas break just after my 19th birthday. He was starting law practice with Zane Daniel and called to ask if I would work for them. I remembered Jimmy; but I had never heard of Zane. In eager anticipation, I wondered what it would be like—maybe small talk about classical music? At least I knew some after years of piano from Mrs. Atkins, step-mother of Chet.

Monday morning, armed with my strong work ethic and a willingness to learn, I marched into the law firm of Daniel & Duncan. No sooner had I set foot inside when my preconceived notions vanished. Zane's infectious smile erased my image of lawyers, and the interview seemed more like a fireside chat. I felt like I had known these lawyers all my life.



By Ralphine Major  
ralphine3@yahoo.com

That is attributed to what I most admired in both of them—their "down-to-earth" personality. My classical music theory went out the window! Daniel & Duncan were bluegrass and country music fans! Zane even went to college with "The Happiest Girl in the Whole USA," Donna Fargo.

I was the only office employee, and Zane took me "under his wing." He used a tape recorder resembling a cell phone (hi-tech for '73) to give me mini lessons in law about such things as depositions, court reporters, and statute of limitations. Zane took it home one night to record; I took it home the next night to listen. He gave me names of secretaries I could contact if a problem came up while they were away. This popular criminal defense attorney thought of everything.

One morning Zane had no sooner left than he returned from a deposition. His clients had not shown, and I knew why. So did Zane. He gave a glancing grin and in his good-natured chuckle mumbled they probably had not been called. Zane could have lashed out but never said another word, choosing to overlook my youth and inexperience while juggling classes at UT.

Zane added spice to ordinary days. He often called to say he would be there soon. As I hung up the phone, Zane strolled in wearing that infectious smile. He loved seeing the surprised look on my face. There were no cell phones—he had called from the elevator phone! Zane loved having fun. He once told me I needed to be writing more receipts and seeing the puzzled look on my face, let a boyish grin slip out. I was beginning to learn this was typical Zane.



Zane Daniel

Bob Ritchie and Zane were once on their way to Nashville to hold a trial lawyer's seminar. Realizing they did not have the handouts, Zane called and asked me to pick up the copies and meet them. In my haste I missed the exit, but somehow managed to find them—finally. Zane met me with a smile and casually asked, "Have any trouble?"

Zane tossed the keys to his Cadillac on the desk and asked me to pick up some medical reports. I just looked at him. Now Zane had the puzzled look. "It has a full tank of gas," he said. But Zane did not understand, the gas tank was not my concern. I was worried that I might have an accident. Zane just laughed. "I've got insurance," he said.

One of Zane's buddies always called him "Zorro." Maybe it was because of the letter "Z" or because of Zane's black suit. Nevertheless, the name stuck with my family and others.

Zane loved watching his boys raid the candy dish. Todd would sit in my lap while stuffing his

pockets with candy, and I helped him.

It is amazing how time changes our perspective. When I started working for Daniel & Duncan, Jimmy was 26 and Zane 33. I thought they were both old! Last fall at Chris Morgan's wedding, he looked so young! My math tells me Chris must be in his very early thirties—about Zane's age when I worked for him. Zane was really young! And he entrusted all of my nineteen years with much more than anyone ever had before or has since. Zane and Jimmy both made me feel like I "hung the moon," and all the while I felt like they did. It still amazes me that these two attorneys hired this teenager from Corryton! They believed in me like no one else. I thought the world of Jimmy and Zane and named our German Shepherd pups Daniel & Duncan. They often told that I thought they had gone to the dogs!

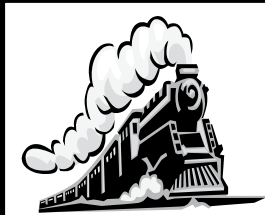
It is so hard to believe those little boys who once raided the candy bowl are now practicing attorneys just like their father,

and they have children of their own. I now tell everyone that Congressman Jimmy Duncan is East Tennessee's best friend in Washington, and he is still just as down to earth as he was that day. I met him in his father's office. After all these years, I can still see Zane flash that infectious smile; I can still remember his charm; I can still see him dashing into the office looking dapper in that black suit; and I can still hear the kindness in his good-natured laugh. I will always remember and appreciate the respect Zane showed me and the trust he placed in me. Zane endeared himself to so many people; and as one lady said so simply: "Zane never talked above us, and he will be missed."

I will always cherish the last time I talked to Zane just days before he left for Seattle. I told him he was on Wallace Memorial's prayer lists as well as my family's. We truly believed in a miracle for Zane, but God did not answer our prayers the way we thought He would. Knowing that was a possibility is why I penned a lengthy letter to Zane, and I am so glad I did.

As for the bag, I just had to have it—whimsical looking though it was. Its words bear repeating: Life is a gift, and so are those around us. One of "those around us" is now gone, and those of us who knew him have lost a precious gift. But I can still see that infectious smile . . . smiling down from heaven.

Words of Faith: The inspiring words from Micah 6:8 shared by John J. Duncan, Jr., at Zane's memorial service: "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" To learn more about William Zane Daniel, visit [www.forevermissed.com/william-zane-daniel](http://www.forevermissed.com/william-zane-daniel).



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# The 1964 Senate Races in Tennessee, V

## Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

1964 was a presidential election year and Lyndon Johnson was running hard to win a term in his own right against Arizona senator Barry Goldwater. Tennessee was slowly, but surely, becoming a two-party state. The Republican nominee for president had carried the Volunteer State in 1920, 1928, 1952, 1956 and 1960. Democrat John W. Davis managed to carry Tennessee, but little else against incumbent president Calvin Coolidge in 1924. Herbert Hoover won Tennessee in 1928 against New York governor Alfred E. Smith, quite likely largely due to prejudice against Smith's Roman Catholicism. Even heavily Democratic Davidson County (Nashville) opted for Hoover over Smith. E. H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County political machine had his hands full in carrying Memphis for Smith. Smith lost decisively even with U. S. senator Kenneth D. McKellar campaigning hard for the New Yorker. McKellar was easily reelected to the Senate over credible GOP opposition and Henry Horton won the governorship by a similarly large majority over a lackluster Republican nominee.

The Great Depression and the advent of Franklin D. Roosevelt and his New Deal did much to consign Republicanism, if not to Hades, then safely to the First and Second Congressional districts. Roosevelt was immensely popular in Tennessee and carried the state the four times he ran --- 1932, 1936, 1940 and 1944. McKellar, the first U. S. senator to be popularly elected by Tennesseans, was the architect of constituent service in the state and served longer than any other from the Volunteer State: thirty-six years. McKellar and his personal friend and political partner, E. H. Crump, dominated the politics of Tennessee for almost two decades, 1932-1948. Crump destroyed the domination over state politics when he consented to Governor Jim Nance McCord instituting a sales tax for education and refusing to back Tennessee's junior United States senator Tom Stewart for reelection in 1948. Crump gave his backing to an obscure Circuit Court judge, John A. Mitchell, from Cookeville for the senatorial nomination. The Memphis Boss had been astonished by Senator Stewart's refusal to withdraw and subsequent announcement he would run with or without the Boss's endorsement. Crump's support for Judge Mitchell gave Chattanooga congressman Estes Kefauver precisely the opening he needed to win the Democratic nomination. Split three ways, Kefauver won a plurality of the vote. Judge Mitchell ran a dismal third and it was readily apparent had Crump stayed with

Stewart, the senator would have certainly been renominated.

Governor McCord, rather than being the beneficiary of gratitude from educators, who had been the recipients of much of the largesse of the implementation of the sales tax, saw many teachers back his opponent, Gordon Browning. Browning had been one of the most overwhelmingly defeated governors ever to seek reelection in the state in 1938. Browning's career was revived by excellent timing, good luck and the sales tax. Irrespective of how noble the purpose, Tennesseans almost invariably punished any incumbent to increase taxes and Jim Nance McCord was no exception.

Browning, a veteran of Tennessee politics, was swept out of office in 1952 by thirty-two year political wunderkind Frank Clement. That same year saw an aging and ill Senator K. D. McKellar lose to forty-four year old Albert Gore. The decade of the fifties belonged to Estes Kefauver, Albert Gore and Frank Clement. Kefauver died in office in 1963. After a four year absence from the governor's mansion, Frank Clement made a comeback, winning the governorship once again in 1962.

Both Albert Gore and Frank Clement were on the ballot in 1964. Albert Gore was seeking a third consecutive term in the U. S. Senate while Clement ran for the Democratic nomination to serve out the remaining two years of the late Estes Kefauver's term. Never before defeated, Frank Clement was stunned by his loss to Congressman Ross Bass of Pulaski, Tennessee. Bass had been in Congress for ten years when he sought to succeed Senator Kefauver. Although he represented a largely rural district in the House of Representatives, Ross Bass was thought to be more liberal. Only Bass and Congressman Richard Fulton of Nashville had voted for President Johnson's Civil Rights Act of 1964. Bass managed to rally much of the coalition that had supported Estes Kefauver, organized labor, and African-Americans to deal Frank Clement the first defeat of his political career. Nor was the race close, with Bass winning more than 50% of the vote, while Governor Clement did not even win 35% of the primary voters.

Neither Ross Bass nor Howard Baker had ever sought statewide office before, although Bass was a veteran campaigner. Baker could not hardly be considered a political novice, growing up as the son of Congressman Howard Baker, Sr. The younger Baker had been his father's campaign manager during the latter's successful 1950 race. Bass had



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PRIVATE COLLECTION

An aging E. H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County political machine, with Frank Clement during the latter's first race for governor of Tennessee in 1952.

an advantage inasmuch as Tennessee was still considered to be a Democratic state, but Howard Baker had some advantages of his own. Baker presented very well on the relatively new medium of television which could reach tens of thousands of voters instantly. While television did not entirely replace the meet-and-greet events of a statewide campaign or campaigning at rubber chicken dinners, it familiarized thousands and thousands of voters immediately inside or one minute or thirty seconds.

Tennessee politics was evolving. There were certainly rural and conservative Democrats in Tennessee's Democratic Party, but many were deserting to either become Republicans or vote for GOP candidates. The loss of Tennessee's Third Congressional District was a prime example. James B. Frazier, Jr., son and namesake of a Tennessee governor and U. S. senator, had served in Congress fourteen years when he was defeated for renomination in 1962. A stately and courtly man, Frazier was perceived as a much more conservative Democrat than the young and handsome Wilkes Thrasher, Jr., who won the Democratic nomination. Thrasher was seen as the kind of Democrat in step with the youthful Kennedy administration and the politics of senators Estes Kefauver and Albert Gore. Yet Thrasher lost to Republican Bill Brock, who won over many of Jim Frazier's more conservative supporters. That same year, veteran congressman Clifford Davis, the last vestige of the old Crump machine in Shelby County, very nearly lost to Republican Bob James. Some Democrats worried the bitter battle for the Democratic senatorial nomination between Ross Bass and Governor Frank Clement could give Howard Baker a boost in the 1964 general election. Ever the loyal Democrat, Clement had announced he would support Bass in November. "If I can do it, you can do it," Clement told supporters. For decades, Tennessee Democrats had been

fighting one another and they seemed not to realize divisions inside their own party might make it more difficult to heal wounds in a two-party state. Ellis Binkley, the political reporter for the Kingsport Times, wrote a story about the deep divisions inside Tennessee's Democratic Party caused by the brutal primary between Frank Clement and Ross Bass. According to Binkley, days before the primary election, a dejected Ross Bass believed he would lose to Governor Clement and was planning to run in the general election as an Independent. Clement was stunned by his defeat and the magnitude of his loss, while, at least in Ellis Binkley's opinion, Ross Bass had been equally surprised by his victory and the size of his win. Binkley's column not only purported to reveal the widening fracture inside Tennessee's Democratic Party, but Binkley also contended the recent senatorial primary had been argued not on national issues, but state issues, making the campaign more about the coming 1966 gubernatorial election. Binkley wrote about the rumors Ross Bass evidently thought he had a mandate to choose the next governor of Tennessee and the congressman's candidate would be thirty-four year-old Nashville attorney John Jay Hooker. Politics is always swirling with the little, petty, mindless spats and the people who enjoy promoting them, as well as those who enjoy being offended by them. In no other place do rumors take flight and soar like a hawk than politics. In politics, all too frequently delusion and the wildest of rumors, if not related, hold hands. A similar example was Hooker having seemingly grabbed the spotlight from Senator Albert Gore with the opening of the Democratic headquarters in Nashville. Some Democrats, Ellis Binkley reported, were miffed Ross Bass had brought Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. to campaign in East Tennessee on the same day vice presidential nominee Hubert Humphrey was campaigning in Memphis. Humphrey certainly

did nothing to smooth over hurt feelings when he urged support for the entire Democratic ticket, including his good friend "Ross Bennett." Naturally, the news media noticed the gaff by Humphrey. Binkley speculated the unity of Tennessee Democrats would hold through the November election; after that, it would surely disintegrate.

With the passage of time, it is difficult to tell if Ellis Binkley had some sort of agenda, or if he was merely stirring the pot to the discomfiture of Tennessee Democrats, or simply taking a topic and squeezing a column out of it. Yet Ellis Binkley most surely did relate one thought that likely ran through the minds of most Tennessee Democrats: it was quite nearly unthinkable a Republican could be elected to the United States Senate from the Volunteer State.

The Knoxville Journal, edited by avowed Republican Guy Smith, gleefully fanned the flames of fear of supporters of Frank Clement and former governor Buford Ellington. Bass was only mildly less liberal than Clement, but Ellington was far more conservative than either Clement or Ross Bass. It was an open secret in Tennessee that Buford Ellington wanted to return to the governor's mansion in 1966. Smith penned an editorial in the middle of the 1964 senatorial campaign chortling that if Albert Gore and Ross Bass were sent to Washington, "the Clement-Ellington organization will be as extinct as the dodo bird." Smith opined if those "two leftwingers" were in the Senate, John Jay Hooker, "the political man Friday of Bobby Kennedy" would almost surely be the next governor of Tennessee. "Would you, as a Tennessee Democrat, want to help Bobby Kennedy?" Smith wondered.

One source of strong support for Ross Bass remained constant throughout the congressman's campaign for the U. S. Senate, as well as the general election. The Nashville Tennessean had strongly backed Estes

Kefauver from the time the East Tennessean had first announced his candidacy for the Senate in 1948. Owner and publisher Silliman Evans had been one of Kefauver's original supporters and likewise supported Albert Gore when he challenged incumbent Senator Kenneth McKellar in 1952. Evans died in Fort Worth, Texas of a heart attack and his son Amon Evans ran the newspaper after his father's death. The hostility of the Tennessean to Frank Clement was as hot as the surface of the sun and just even more unrelenting. At least the sun disappeared at night.

The thought Frank Clement sought to sit in the United States Senate in the place of Estes Kefauver seemed to positively mortify Amon Evans and the leadership of the Tennessean. Ugly cartoons depicting Governor Clement in a suit decorated with dollar signs appeared regularly on the Tennessean's editorial page. One editorial cartoon showed the dome of the U. S. Capitol and an arm reaching out, grasping for it wearing a suit sleeve decorated with dollar signs.

The Tennessean resolutely supported Congressman Ross Bass in his race to succeed Estes Kefauver. Bass enjoyed almost daily favorable exposure in the pages of the Tennessean, while Frank Clement received daily exposure as well, although not at all favorable. The Tennessean was equally dedicated to helping Ross Bass beat Howard Baker in the general election for the United States Senate.

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# Sevier Days set for Tennessee's first governor's 275th Birthday

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Don't know about John Sevier? You're not from around here are you?

Let me introduce you to a pioneer who was not only Tennessee's first governor but was the governor of the Lost State of Franklin, a military commander, father, farmer, legislator and patriot.

If you've driven around our area you've seen the "Sevier" name on lots of things. Streets are named for him, neighborhoods are named for him, schools have his name, and then there's Sevierville, home of Dolly Parton.

Sevier is buried in the lawn of the old Knoxville Courthouse along with his two wives. He's featured in museums and dozens of books have been written about him. Aside from Davy Crockett, he may be the earliest historic figure from East Tennessee.

If you'd like to step back into our history there's an event coming you don't want to miss. It's mostly an outdoor event if the COVID-19 pandemic permits it. It's also a family event and it's not far away at all.

Marble Springs State Historic Site is located, appropriately, along John

Sevier Highway just south of downtown Knoxville off either Chapman or Alcoa Highways. It is the historic home site of the pioneer, named for the little spring on the property where the early family got its water. There are several period buildings there and a welcome center and gift shop. Admission during the Sunday, September 27th event, is FREE and runs from noon until 4:30 p.m.

During the annual event you'll need to wear your mask, practice social distancing, etc., and find vendors with local foods, treats and trinkets.

You'll also find staff and volunteers in period dress, living historians, historic crafts and a local militia as well as plenty of interactive hands-on experiences. A re-enactor portrays John Sevier and opens his home to you.

Funding for the event is provided by Humanities Tennessee and the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act

Marble Springs State Historic Site is funded in an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the Tennessee Historical Commission.



Marble Springs State Historic Site

## Western Avenue crematorium again on council agenda

Cont. from page 2

the contract amount to \$269,000 and extending the completion deadline.

A \$30 million agreement for Waste Water System Revenue Bonds may be approved and an agreement with Waste Connections of Tennessee for disposal of municipal solid and other waste is on the agenda.

Zoning requests are also on the agenda for properties at 942 Piney Grove Church Road, O Nickle Road, and 1549 and 1541

North Sixth Avenue.

Mayor Indya Kincannon is asking for confirmation of her appointment of Beth Eason to the Historic Zoning Commission. Also on the agenda are appointments and reappointments to the Mayor's Maker Council including Mary Thom Adams, Kiame Biandudi, Jasmine Newton, Brigid Oesterling, Marshall Prado, Kelly Sullivan, Marcus Williamson, Marianne Canada, Barron Hall, Forrest Kirkpatrick and Haseeb Qureshi.



Architect George Ewart has designed this concept for a tribute to early baseball games in Pond Gap, where Black and white neighbors played ball together in racial harmony.

## Pond Gap's baseball monument closer to happening

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Pond Gap, wedged between the Marble City and Bearden neighborhoods, has been desperate to hang on to its identity. In recent years the little neighborhood along Sutherland Avenue has created unique community banners and tee shirts, demanded it be removed from the "Bearden Plan" and opposed the rezoning of a large apartment complex on the hill overlooking their community.

The preservation of the small pond, atop Hollywood Drive there, has been a main effort in Pond Gap's ongoing struggle for recognition.

The Pond Gap Neighborhood Association, headed by the very active David Williams, has organized rallies, marches, events and approached the planning commission and city council on numerous issues.

It appears that one of Pond Gap's projects, one dreamed of for many years, may actually happen. The concept is a memorial to early baseball games played in the community with Black and white players as a tribute to racial harmony.

"George Ewart knew our University of Tennessee contact, Jeff Maples. George helped me line up a survey and put together the park design," Williams told The Focus. But the community ran into problems because the land they want to use along Sutherland Avenue belongs to the university.

"This plan fulfilled UT's requirement to proceed in granting our easement request for use of a small parcel of their land across from the Pilot Station. It is adjacent to the baseball field where mixed teams played all before mixed audiences in the 1930s, 40s and 50s," Williams said.

"Now our request must go to the UT Board and then the state building commission. I am continuing my research on the teams and players that took part in those games," he said.

"Those games were an example of racial harmony that brought the Pond Gap neighborhood together," he added.

"We are working to replace banners posted along the 3600, 3700 blocks Sutherland Avenue that

depicted history of Pond Gap, like the circus, airport, driving range, and local residents," he said.

The neighborhood is also planning to make T-shirts and yard signs that would illustrate their theme:

**"Pond Gap baseball —it was More than a Game—the way we should treat one another."**

In other Pond Gap news, Williams gave an update on the new development there. The Flats at Pond Gap broke ground in 2019. The \$22 million project includes affordable housing and should be ready for occupancy come first of the year.

"I think we are due a crosswalk near the new apartments. Also I have spoken to traffic engineering about signage for Papermill and Hollywood that would route big trucks away from Hollywood because of the weight limits," Williams told The Focus.

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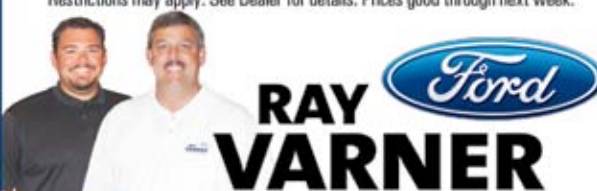
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## SOCCER

### Notes from the scoresheet

By Ken Lay

The Bearden Invitational always features some of the best players and the best teams from throughout the state on Labor Day Weekend. And 2020 is certainly no exception.

The tournament field is smaller this season as schools from Middle and West Tennessee didn't make the trip to West Knoxville but the event got off to a roaring start as Knoxville Catholic notched a 2-1 comeback victory over Class AA powerhouse Greenville Thursday night at Bearden's Turner-Allender Field.

After falling behind 1-0, the Lady Irish got goals from Ceci Pumariega and Rachel Brettin.

Brettin's game-winning marker came in the 77th minute on the same field where Catholic dropped a 4-2 decision to the Lady Bulldogs on Tuesday night.

**Powell stifles CAK, plays West to scoreless draw:** The Lady Panthers picked a shutout victory over Christian Academy of Knoxville 3-0 Thursday night.

Powell knocked off the Lady Warriors thanks to markers from Caelin Cole, Annabel Reiche and Gabby Barnes. Bella Mutta, Reiche and Paige Rood had assists in the match for the Lady Panthers, who played the West High Lady Rebels to a 0-0 draw earlier in the week.

**Farragut-West match postponed:** The Lady Rebels had their match against the Lady Admirals postponed Thursday night.

Farragut athletic director Donald Dodgen said the game at West's Bill Wilson Field was scrapped for precautionary reasons but noted that he hoped the game could be

**Continue on page 3**

## West rolls over Karns 44-0 as teams open regional play

### Rebels build early, insurmountable lead

By Bill Howard

It was a wonderfully normal night – no virus, no storms – at Karns High School Friday as the Beavers hosted West to open play in Region 3-5A. Unfortunately for Karns, they were

no match for their guests.

Combining quick-strike offense and a stingy defense, West built a 34-0 halftime lead, then cruised to a 44-0 win. The Rebels improved to 3-0 overall, 1-0 in the region. Karns fell to

0-2, 0-1.

The game was over almost before it started as West opened up a 28-0 lead with 3:35 left in the first quarter. Taking the opening kickoff, they drove 65 yards in five plays. The score came on a 29-yard pass from quarterback Baker Dance to wide receiver Shannon Blair.

With but a minute and a half gone, West led 7-0.

A Karns punt gave the Rebels the ball on the Beavers' 41. On first-and-goal from the 10, Dance and Blair again hooked up, and with fewer than four minutes gone in the game, the Rebel lead was now 14.

One minute later it was 21-0 and the rout was on. The score came on a one-play, five-yard run by Tre'von Barfield that was set up by

a fumble recovery by Zion Mattress due to a bad snap.

When Karns unsuccessfully attempted a fake punt on their own 33, West was right back in business on Karns's 40. A 33-yard run on second and three by Barfield made it 28-0.

Rebels' coach Lamar Brown obviously had plenty to like about his team's

**Continue on page 2**



Junior linebacker Curtis Young leads a swarming South-Doyle defense in getting to Gibbs running back Nathan Butler Friday night in Corryton. The Cherokees had it all going -- offense, defense and kicking game -- in a 37-17 win over the Eagles. Photo by James Spears.

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL AT A GLANCE

### WEEK 3 SCORES

- CAK 10, White Co. 7
- D-B 49, Bearden 7
- Kingston 35, A-E 14
- Carter 22, Seymour 15
- Central 45, Sevier Co. 22
- GCA 44, Lakeway Christian 7
- Halls 29, Clinton 14
- Webb 45, B. Buchanan 28
- West 44, Karns 0
- Powell 57, Fulton 28
- Science Hill 48, HVA 21
- South-Doyle 37, Gibbs 17

### WEEK 4 SCHEDULE

(Games start at 7:30 unless noted)

#### Thursday

Oak Ridge at Farragut, 7

#### Friday

- Anderson Co. at South-Doyle
- Bearden at Bradley Central
- Webb at David Crockett
- Morristown East at Gibbs
- West at Jefferson Co.
- Mt. Juliet Christian at TKA
- HVA at Central
- A-E at Fulton
- York Institute At GCA
- Union Co. at Halls
- Carter at Lenoir City
- Karns at Powell
- Campbell Co. at Seymour

## Cherokees regroup and roll past Gibbs, 37-17

By Steve Williams

What a difference a week makes.

After being shut out and stunned by Grace Christian, South-Doyle responded with a 37-17 Region 2-5A win over Gibbs Friday night in Corryton.

The Cherokees' offense was clicking from start to finish, while the Eagles made a number of mistakes and couldn't climb out of a deep hole after being outscored 17-0 in the second quarter.

Terrell Brown and Shawn Gary led South-Doyle's impressive ground game, but it was a 95-yard catch and run by wide receiver Preston Sisler that gave the Cherokees a three-score lead (31-10) with 4:23 remaining in the third quarter.

South-Doyle Coach Clark Duncan said the 15-0 loss at GCA was "uncharacteristic of us" after the game.

"Our guys know we've got a really good football team and quite frankly I think a lot of us were embarrassed with how we played last week," added Duncan.

"They regrouped and we

probably had one of the best weeks of practice that we've had in a long, long time. It was a difference maker tonight."

The win lifted S-D to 2-1 overall and 1-0 in the region. The Cherokees will have a tough non-region test at home against Anderson County (2-1) this Friday.

"We shot ourselves in the foot," said Gibbs Coach Brad Turner. "We can blame a thousand things, but we didn't execute."

South-Doyle took a 7-0 lead midway through the opening quarter on a 2-yard run by Brown, but Gibbs quarterback Colton Qualls scored on a 7-yard run and John-Aidan Pittman's PAT kick pulled the Eagles even.

The game matched two of the best place-kickers in the area and Ewan Johnson's 38-yard field goal put South-Doyle back on top 10-7 at the start of the second quarter.

The Cherokees struck for two touchdowns within a 30-second span late in the period. Brown broke loose on a 41-yard run and

quarterback Nick Martin jogged into the end zone from 10 yards out after a fumble recovery by Levi Herold at the Gibbs' 10-yard line.

Johnson's third PAT kick made it 24-7 with 2:20 on the second quarter clock.

After Gibbs had failed to extend a scoring opportunity midway in the quarter, "they(South-Doyle) scored two touchdowns before half-time and got the momentum," said Turner.

Gibbs appeared to open the second half with more fire and a sense of urgency. Pittman drilled a 41-yard FG to cut the deficit to 24-10 with 5:26 left in the third quarter.

On the ensuing kickoff, however, the Eagles were flagged with back-to-back offside penalties and Gibbs also was hit with an unsportsmanlike conduct foul after an outburst by Turner over the calls.

"I probably should have kept my cool, but at some point I'm out here for these players and I'll do whatever I got to do for them," said

Turner after the game.

Despite having to kick off from deep in its own territory, the Eagles flipped the field. South-Doyle's kick returner was tackled at the 6-yard line and a personal foul on the Cherokees put them at the 3.

Brown gained two yards to the 5 on first down and on the next play Martin passed to Sisler in the flat and the Cherokee senior went the distance.

Gibbs drove to the South-Doyle 2 in the fourth quarter but a fumble recovery by Austin Mikles ended that threat.

Brown added a 3-yard touchdown run to make it 37-10 with 7:07 remaining.

Qualls plunged into the end zone from the 1 for the game's final TD at 4:13.

"We're right where we were last year (1-2 overall and in the region)," said Turner. "Last season we turned it on and went on a win streak, and hopefully we can do that this year."

Gibbs hosts Morristown East in a non-region contest Friday.



PHOTO BY DANNY DUNLAP

Webb wide receiver Jackson Baker (22) reaches for the football as he makes a touch-down catch in the Spartans' 45-28 win over Boyd Buchanan Friday night.

## Robinson leads Spartans to victory over Boyd Buchanan

By Ken Lay

A little resilience helped Webb School of Knoxville erase a couple of bad memories last week. The Spartans were dominant on the field Friday night.

But longtime head coach David Meske said the team began to bounce back in practice early in the week and Webb didn't look like the same team that was shut out by Chattanooga McCallie in Week 2.

"We put that game behind us," Meske said after the Spartans proved they could rebound with a 45-28 victory over Boyd Buchanan Friday night at David Meske Stadium. "We came in on Monday and the kids were enthusiastic and they worked hard."

"Our kids gave a great effort tonight. They played hard and we made plays. We made plays on offense, we made plays on defense and we flipped the field on special teams."

Webb (2-1 overall, 1-0 in Division II-AA East Region play) came up on the wrong end of a 55-0 decision against the defending Division II-AAA State Champion Blue Tornado, but the Spartans wasted little time putting that game in the rear-view mirror.

"Our kids put McCallie behind them," Meske said. "This was a big win for us. It was Senior Night. It was our first region game and we got beat by (the Buccaneers) last year, so to turn it all around was a big win and it was important to us."

Webb lost at Boyd Buchanan 28-21 in 2019 but sophomore quarterback and defensive back Charlie Robinson said that the loss to McCallie and last year's set back against the Bucs were ancient memories by the time the Spartans took the field and got the Labor Day Weekend started with a bang.

"We just came out here and played. We just did what we do," said Robinson, who went 5-for-10 and threw four touchdown passes while amassing 120 yards through the air and had an interception on defense. "We just came out and played and we didn't think about McCallie and we didn't think about last year."

If last season was, indeed, on Webb's mind that memory faded rather quickly when Robinson connected with Jackson Baker on a 30-yard scoring strike to give the Spartans the lead. Kicker Otto Nienendorff made the score 7-0 with two seconds remaining in the first quarter.

Then, Webb's defense joined in on the scoring parade when Bradee McCoy had a 60-yard interception return for a touchdown to make it 14-0 with 10:22 remaining in the second frame.

Boyd Buchanan (0-1, 0-1) would respond and pull to within 14-7 on a touchdown plunge by Matthew Stone a short time later.

Robinson then closed out the first half by throwing two more scoring strikes. He hit Baker again, this time from 44-yards out, and connected with Ford Wagner on a 25-yard effort to give Webb the 28-7 advantage it enjoyed at halftime.

The Spartans, who forced the Buccaneers into five turnovers (including two interceptions by McCoy, another by Robinson and two fumbles) extended their lead to 28-7 when Robinson connected with Wagner again, this time on a 9-yard scoring strike.

Nienendorff's 34-yard field goal made it 38-7 and freshman Marcus Roberts had a late touchdown run for the Spartans.

The Buccaneers did score three fourth-quarter TDs to make things a bit interesting down the stretch.

## A GLANCE BACK AND A LOOK AHEAD

# Central makes it eight straight with win over Smoky Bears

By Steve Williams

Central High's football team is working on another win streak. The Bobcats have won eight straight since beginning their run for the Class 5A state championship in 2019.

Central had put together a 21-game win streak before losing at South-Doyle during the regular season last year.

Hardin Valley Academy will play Central Friday in Fountain City. The Hawks are still looking for their first win of the season.

The Bobcats won at Sevier County Friday night, defeating the Smoky Bears 45-22 in a Region 2-5A game.

"Our offense did a really good job of being physical and executing their assignments," said Nick Crane, first-year Central head coach, Saturday. "Defensively we played together and fought through personnel challenges, but got some young guys a lot of meaningful reps / experience."

In other highlights, sophomore quarterback Jordyn Potts threw six touchdown passes as Powell remained unbeaten with a 57-28 win over Fulton.

Grace Christian improved to 3-0 with a 44-7 win over Lakeway Christian.

Halls stayed unbeaten with a 29-14 win at Clinton.

Playing on the road in Middle Tennessee, CAK

also won its third game without a loss, defeating White County 10-7.

Carter played in its second overtime of the young season and came from behind to knock off upset-minded Seymour 22-15. The Hornets are now 2-1.

**BUILDING ON IT:** Knoxville Catholic Coach Steve Matthews reflected on his Irishmen's 49-14 loss to Trinity Christian, Tex., last week.

"Trinity was an excellent team," said Matthews. "We played well in the first half, but wore down in the second half ... (and made) a lot of mistakes that are correctable moving forward."

"For 24 minutes, we want toe to toe with one of the best teams in the country, and we can learn from a lot of our mistakes."

The Irishmen were off Friday and have another open date this week before playing McCallie Sept. 18 in Knoxville.

### HOW GOOD IS MCCALLIE?

Veteran Webb School coach David Meske was asked that after his team's 55-0 home loss to the McCallie in Week 2.

"Maybe the best team in the state," answered Meske. "If not, (they're in) the Top 5."

McCallie lost to Brentwood Academy 30-27 in

Week 3.

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS:** Halls Coach Scott Cummings was asked to comment on playing games in the daytime after his Red Devils had a 1 p.m. kickoff at Karns Saturday, Aug. 29.

"Much more of the players prefer the Friday night lights versus a daytime game," said Cummings. "It was hot and humid and those are real issues that high school players aren't necessarily conditioned for. But it was fine because we have good kids and they take their hydration seriously."

### PREPS OF THE PAST:

Five years ago, Sept. 4, 2015 - Farragut senior tailback Tanner Thomas rushed for 187 yards on 25 carries to lead the host Admirals to a 31-14 win over top-ranked Oak Ridge and junior standout Tee Higgins, who caught two touchdown passes to give the Wildcats a 14-3 lead in the second quarter.

Cole Strange led the Farragut defense and quarterback Jacob Naumoff threw TD passes to Cole Morgan and Alex Tindal in the victory.

(Higgins went on to have an outstanding collegiate career at Clemson and will be making his NFL debut with the Cincinnati Bengals this season.)



PHOTO BY ELLA WILDS

Central High fans cheer on the Bobcats in a 45-22 victory over Sevier County Friday night.

## West rolls over Karns 44-0 as teams open regional play

Cont. from page 1

performance.

"I was really pleased with the way we started the game, both offensively and defensively," he said. "We got a bunch of weapons. Shannon Blair had a great game at wide receiver.

(Running back) Isaiah (Mattress) had a great game running it. Trevon Barfield I think had two early touchdowns running it. All that goes back to the offensive line; they did a great job."

The 34-0 halftime score would have been even

bigger had West not committed numerous crucial penalties. One, an ineligible receiver infraction, negated a touchdown late in the half, and the drive ended with an interception by Riley Keegan of Karns.

"There in the second

quarter we got real sloppy offensively with some penalties," said Brown. "We gotta get all that stuff tightened up. We just lost some focus there."

"They're a good football team," said Beavers' coach Brad Taylor. "Their offense is

really explosive, and they've always had good defense. Their offense has matched their defense right now. I felt like in the first half we didn't compete like we're capable of. I felt like at the end of the first half and second half we had a little fight in us. Hopefully we can grow off that."

The first-half offensive team stats starkly summed up the game. Counting penalty yards, West ran 25 plays for 206 yards. Karns ran 28 plays for a mere 21 yards on but eight carries. In limited action, Dance was eight of 13 for 107

yards and three touchdowns. West played three quarterbacks and substituted widely in the second half.

"Really happy with the way our defense played, getting the shutout," Brown said. "I was happy with the way our young kids played in the second half. They went out there and competed and did a really good job."

"We're young in a lot of places so we've got to take steps to improve every week," said Taylor. "And that might not look like wins or losses. There's a lot of things we got to fix."

Tyson Siebe's 22-yard field goal midway through the third made the score 37-0 and triggered a continuous clock the rest of the way.

"We told the kids all week this game is a lot bigger than the Farragut game (a 30-7 win) because it goes a long way to getting us in the playoffs," said Brown. "And our kids accepted that challenge, and they were ready to go tonight."

Things get no easier for the Beavers: they travel to regional power Powell Friday night. West hits the road against Jefferson County in a nonregional game.

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# 'Committed to what they were doing'

Sometimes a team can win a game before they actually win it, even before they come out for pre-game warm-ups. There are times that the seemingly "little things," ones no one else sees, can definitely make a difference.

That was the case Nov. 8, 2003, when No. 18 Tennessee showed up at the Orange Bowl for the first time in more than 35 years for a contest between the Vols and No. 6 Miami. The Vols had played in this famed arena twice before, both times against Oklahoma. Tennessee won 17-0 on Jan. 1, 1939, and lost 26-24 on Jan. 1, 1968.

When the Vols arrived at the stadium around 10:30 a.m. to prepare for the 12:30 p.m. kickoff, several of the players had a prayer circle in the end zone just outside the Vol dressing room to help them prepare for the game.

It was something team chaplain, the Rev. James "Mitch" Mitchell, had started, and it grew and grew. It was really impressive. You just had to know where and when to look. Several of us remember watching the whole deal transpire from a discreet distance away. "At the Miami game," said Mitchell, "the fans were already, can we say, indulged into the spirits. Our guys were trying to pray, and those guys in the stands were cursing, yelling, and screaming at them. I'm over there chuckling. As they walked off the field, I said,



*Derrick Tinsley (20) scored the game's only touchdown in the Vols' 10-6 victory over Miami in November 2003, but events happening before the game were equally significant in leading to the game's outcome. Photo courtesy of the University of Tennessee Sports Information Office.*

"Guys, what do you think?" When no answer was immediately forthcoming, Mitchell was ready. "I told them that was a great example of spiritual warfare. That was a great challenge for them, not to move to the other end zone, but to stay right there and be committed to what they were doing." Here's the context of the game. The Hurricanes had defeated the Vols 26-3 on Homecoming Day at Neyland Stadium the year before in a contest that wasn't nearly that close. Over the summer, many Vol fans seemed to have mentally chalked up this

game as an almost-certain loss in their analysis of the season. No one really gave the Vols a chance. Before a crowd of 69,722 and an ABC national television audience, the Vols surprised nearly everybody with a 10-6 win. James Wilhoit booted a second-quarter field goal, and Derrick Tinsley scored on a fourth-down, 2-yard run seconds before halftime. "I thought we could make it, and I felt we needed to make a statement that we were down here to win the football game," said Fulmer. "We had no fear of the Hurricanes and what they've accomplished."

The drive had taken 9:19 off the clock, part of the Vols holding the ball 32:44 for the game. Tennessee defenders recovered two fumbles and had two interceptions. Tinsley garnered the final Miami turnover on punt coverage, setting up Casey Clausen to run out the clock in a well-deserved win. It was the Vols' sixth consecutive win following back-to-back losses to Auburn and Georgia. The Volunteers thus became the first visiting team to celebrate a victory at the Orange Bowl since Penn State did it Sept. 18, 1999. Tennessee won with a mere 170

yards of offense, 81 passing and 89 rushing. "It was probably the prettiest, ugliest win I've ever had," said Fulmer. The aftermath of the contest also featured a post-game rant by Miami's Kellen Winslow II that made national headlines in a New York Times story by Joe Drape. Drape reported that Winslow had shown his disdain for the SEC officiating crew working the game. Winslow did apologize to Miami president Donna Shalala for his remarks. The win snapped a 26-game Hurricane home field win streak. The Vols held Miami without a touchdown on their home field for the first time since 1984. It was an amazing defensive performance. Clausen, the ultimate "Road Warrior," ended his Tennessee career with road wins over Alabama (twice), Florida (twice), Notre Dame, Kentucky (twice), at the Citrus Bowl against Michigan, at South Carolina (twice), Memphis, Vanderbilt (twice), and Arkansas. The Vols took the lessons Mitchell taught to heart. From the time they arrived at the stadium until zeroes hit the game clock at the end of the fourth quarter, they proved to be up to the challenge. It was the type victory Vol fans enjoy discussing years later. On that November day in 2003, they refused to yield to the Miami mystique and pulled off a significant win. "They didn't back up," Mitchell said. "They finished it. It was a great learning experience."

## Many coaches like TSSAA classification changes

**West's McNish: 'long overdue'**

By Steve Williams

"I think many baseball, softball and basketball coaches are excited about the changes in these sports."

That's how Jody Wright summed up the TSSAA's two-year classification cycle that starts in 2021-22.

The Board of Control voted last month to go from three classes to four in Division I basketball, baseball and softball. The Board also voted to continue to bring eight teams to the state tournament in each of the three sports.

"I think the biggest reason for the Board to vote in the change was due to the state office giving the opportunity for eight teams to qualify for the state tournament," said Wright, who is a Board of Control member and head boys' basketball coach at Fulton.

"We have been with the three class system since the mid-1970s, so I think many coaches were ready for a change. The Board looked at a couple of possibilities, and the four-classification with all classes split evenly was the best option we thought."

In July the Board of Control voted to classify

schools using the 20-day enrollment figures for a two-year period, compared to the usual four-year cycle. This will go through the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years.

Matthew Gillespie, Assistant Executive Director of the TSSAA, told The Focus Friday that the district and region alignments starting in 2021-22 possibly will be announced sometime in October or early November.

"Any time you create more classes, you increase travel and get smaller districts and we will see that in some areas," pointed out Wright.

Football didn't see any changes, as the Board voted to keep the same number of classes in both Division I (six classes) and Division II (three classes). All other sports will have the same number of classes as the previous classification cycle.

Comments from other local coaches on the new classification setup:

**Buzz McNish, West baseball coach:** "I think that moving to four classes is long overdue ... The TSSAA stated that they would split the four classes evenly, and that will most likely put West in 4A, based off current enrollment numbers."

**Matt Buckner, Farragut**

**baseball coach:** "I think overall it's a win for everybody ... Essentially, eight more teams get to go to the state tournament and that's a good thing ... There were a lot of schools that wanted it. I understand why they want it - when you've got schools that are 900 to 1,100 (in enrollment) competing with schools like we are at 2,000 or Memphis schools that are 2,500. I totally get that."

**Justin Underwood, Bearden girls' basketball coach:**

"Now 32 teams can make the state tournament (instead of 24). We are always going to be one of the bigger schools in classification, so this change won't directly impact Bearden ... but it can bring some changes within our district and region. I just hope we can keep intact some of the long standing rivalries."

Marcus Stanton, Austin-East boys basketball coach - "I would like to know all of the details before I make a definitive statement. I do feel that any time you increase the opportunities for success for high school students; that is always a positive."

**Ryan Burkhart, Carter softball:** "I wasn't too concerned either way. My biggest question is what will our district look like?"

## Q&A with author Jeff Pearlman

By Mark Nagi

From time to time, we like to catch up with a prominent member of the sports media. Recently I had the chance to speak with best-selling author Jeff Pearlman. His latest book, "Three Ring Circus," goes into great detail about the Los Angeles Lakers from 1996-2004. They won three straight NBA titles from 2000-2002. The book is available everywhere on September 22.

**The Knoxville Focus:** You've written books about some of the most memorable and controversial teams of this era (1986 Mets, 1990s Cowboys). Why did you want to write about the Lakers dynasty of the early 2000s?

**Jeff Pearlman:** Honestly—because it just struck me as this untapped reserve of amazing material, all revolving around an all-time sports dynasty with larger-than-life stars coached by one of the greatest talent manipulators ever to grace a basketball court. I mean—Shaq! Kobe! Phil! Mike Penberthy! It's all there. And it'd never really been done before.

**KF:** How did Phil Jackson's stops in Albany and Puerto Rico prepare him for his time with a team like the Lakers? Like the Bulls, there were massive egos he had to figure out ways to make work together...

**JP:** I think it taught him how to be a coach. A lot of former players try coaching and stink at it. Because, really, it's not always easy to teach how to do what you do. That's why so many of sports greatest make for terrible coaches and managers. How was Ted Williams going to work with a .210 hitter? How was Bill Russell

going to show a 6-10 clomper how to post up? Jackson wasn't a star, but he was a high-level player. So, I think working inside the margins of pro hoops gave him a chance to develop his teaching skills.

**KF:** Kobe Bryant's legacy is certainly tarnished to some from the events of Eagle, Colorado... but most basketball fans have seemed to put that aside in their reverence... is it simply a case of winning trumps all?

**JP:** Maybe, and a little bit of time healing old wounds, and also perhaps the story of a young man growing into himself and seeming to because of a high-quality father and husband. I dunno. We all love comebacks. We're suckers for them, whether we admit it or not. So, I believe—even with alleged rape—we want to see people do good and rebound. I'm not saying that's right. Or wrong. But it's how we tick.

**KF:** The Bulls dynasty that preceded the Lakers has taken on a somewhat mythical status in American sports. Do the 2000-2002 Lakers kind of get overshadowed because of the lofty MJ status?

**JP:** I dunno—I think a bigger shadow was Kobe's later success sans Shaq. It almost lessons the impact of those Shaq-Kobe years, because what Kobe did without the big man was pretty miraculous and unexpected. But I'd also make the point that I don't believe those teams have been forgotten. Google "Shaq" and "Kobe"—and you'll get millions of hits. I live in SoCal, and people still worship and pine for those teams.

**KF:** Shaquille O'Neal seems to have a

complicated legacy. Personable, caring and charitable, yet egotistical and selfish in other respects...

**JP:** Disagree. He definitely had multiple sides, but I'd say his legacy is as a dominant, beloved big man who treated teammates very well and knew to enjoy and embrace the fleeting nature of a career in pro sports. Did he have an ego? Certainly. Could he be selfish? On the court, perhaps a bit. But, for me, his No. 1 legacy is as this ubiquitous presence of joy who—more than a decade after his career ended—is still embraced. Maybe more now than ever.

**KF:** You laid it out in the book pretty well... but was there any way the Shaq/Kobe marriage could have worked past 2004?

**JP:** No. And that's 100 percent on Kobe. He wanted to be the star. He needed to be the star. He didn't want to take a back seat to Shaq or play little brother. And I get it, because pro sports is the terrain of egos. But 2004 Kobe—for all his positives (and there are many)—could no longer exist in Shaq's shadow. And that was that.

**KF:** I didn't realize how hated those Lakers were within the league, especially the disdain many hold for Jackson to this day. Was it his personality? His penchant for only coaching teams with the best talent? His abrasive nature? A combination?

**JP:** He could be really arrogant and dismissive and demeaning. I love the guy. Awesome to hang with, very smart, wide-ranging discussions. But he thought he was better than the other NBA coaches, and he made that clear. His only defense? He was right.

## SOCCER

### Notes from the scoresheet

Continued from page 1

rescheduled. The Lady Admirals (6-0-1) toppled Morristown West 4-1 Tuesday night as they got goals from Madilyn Stark, Chloe Chase, Annabelle Ekern and Sammie Harville.

**Lady Cherokees get hat trick from Gosnell in win over Lady Hurricanes:** South-Doyle's Jaiden Gosnell scored a hat trick to lift South-Doyle past Morristown East

Thursday night. The Lady Cherokees also picked up markers from KayKay Dunn and Maris Morton in the 5-0 victory at Billy K. Nicely Field.

Dunn and Morton were also credited with assists in the match along with Diana Aguilar and Elizabeth Rhines.

Earlier in the week, the Lady Cherokees edged Webb School of Knoxville 4-3 at home.

## SPORTS NOTEBOOK

## McCown leads Hardin Valley runners in Fall Classic

By Steve Williams

Hardin Valley Academy's Mitchell McCown was a surprise winner in the Knoxville Livestock Center Fall Classic Saturday.

Competing in the High School Varsity A Division, McCown covered the 5,000-meter course in Mascot in 16 minutes, 51.03 seconds to finish ahead of HVA teammate and the meet favorite Kaden Keller, who was clocked in 16:54.82.

Zimri Kuhn of the Knoxville Ambassadors Home-school team also made a strong showing and took third in 16:54.99.

Hardin Valley runners Alex Brittain (17:08.10), Daniel Blackston (17:18.96) and Nathan Hillis (17:20.02)

placed fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively.

The Ambassadors' Carter Rivera (17:20.35), HVA's Asa Mazow (17:27.20) and HVA's Isaac Legault (17:44.64) came in seventh, eighth and ninth, respectively, as Knoxville runners dominated the boys' field.

In the Varsity A High School girls' division, Andie-Marie Jones of Maryville won with a 5K time of 19:15.05.

Maddie Archdale of Hardin Valley Academy was runner-up at 19:55.01.

The top 10 also included third-place finisher Savannah Rivera of the Knoxville Ambassadors Home-school (20:12.13) and Emma Dewalt of West in ninth place with a time of

21:36.97.

### COVID-19 ends 49-year tradition at Percy Warner Park

The TSSAA state cross country championships will be held at a different venue this year.

Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 and the city of Nashville's phased reopening plan, the TSSAA has made plans to have the event at Sanders Ferry Park in Hendersonville. It also will be held over a two-day period instead of being the traditional one-day event in order to allow for safe social distancing.

This will be the first year since 1971 for the Steeplechase Course at Percy

Warner Park in Nashville to not be the site of the state.

Division I Large and Small meets for girls and boys are scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 5, while the Division II AA and A girls' and boys' meets are slated for Friday, Nov. 6.

### A high school golf oddity

Have you seen this before?

Check out the nine-hole individual scoring for the Farragut High boys' golf team in a four-way match at Beaver Brook on Aug. 31.

Farragut (140): Lance Simpson 35, AJ Rinehart 35, Connor Price 35, Brady Harville 35.

CAK (147) took second place followed by Alcoa

(156) and Halls (157).

In girls' action that day, seniors Lexanne Halama (37) and Lindsay Ott (41) combined for a winning total of 78. Halls (80) was two shots back of the Lady Admirals and CAK totaled 85.

District tournament action for high school golfers is coming up soon.

Farragut will play in its district tourney Sept. 16 at the Egwani Golf Course.

### Bearden unbeaten in MAC football

After three weeks of play, Bearden sits atop the MAC varsity division standings with a 3-0 record after last week's 56-24 win over West.

In other Week 3 action in the Middle-School Age Conference, Alcoa handed Farragut its first loss 24-18. Karns cracked the win column by beating Carter 19-0 and Gibbs edged rival Halls 16-14.

In JV games last week, unbeaten Farragut shut out Alcoa 24-0, Bearden also improved to 3-0 with a 14-12 win over West, Carter nipped Karns 14-12 and Halls blasted Gibbs 34-7.

This Thursday's schedule matches Farragut at Carter, Karns at West, Halls at Alcoa and Hardin Valley Academy at Gibbs.

JV games start at 6:30 and Varsity games at 8 on the high school fields.

## Bearden V-ballers sweep Central on Senior Night

### Lady Bulldogs storm back from big deficit in 2nd game

By Bill Howard

Erin Biddle is in her third season as Bearden High School's volleyball coach. In her first two years, her teams haven't made it past the district tournament. Biddle is confident this year is gonna be different.

If her team's play on senior night, Mon. Aug. 31 against Central, is any indication, Biddle just might be right. Playing a best-of-three-game match instead of five because the teams aren't in the same district, the Lady Bulldogs cruised to an easy 25-11 win in the first game. It was easy to think Bearden would win the second game with equal ease, and close out the match.

But after the Lady Bulldogs jumped to 7-2 and 9-4 leads, the Lady Bobcats suddenly caught fire. Four straight points put them down one, 9-8. They took their first lead at 11-10, then, up 15-13, ran off six straight points for a seemingly commanding 21-13 lead. It seemed the teams were headed for a decisive third game.

But back came the Lady Bulldogs with four straight to make it 21-17. Two straight for Central made it 23-17. Five more in a row for Bearden put Central's lead at just one, 23-22. The next point went to Central for a 24-22 lead, and game point. They wouldn't win another one.

Four straight points for Bearden gave them the game 26-24, and a sweep of the match. The Lady Bulldogs improved to 7-3 overall. They're undefeated in the district (AAA, Region 2, District 4) so far at 3-0. Central fell to 3-7 overall.

"This year we're more mentally tough than we've been in the past," said Biddle, explaining her team's comeback in the second game. "One of the things we've really been working on is staying mentally tough. So this was a real test of where they were and they proved that they've really grown a lot. I feel like if this had been last year in the same situation, we wouldn't have pulled it out." The Lady Bulldogs' three

seniors - Mary Tasket, Lizzy Young, and Kate Myers - never lost confidence in the second game.

"I was not giving up hope, trying to stay in it and getting a lot of energy," said Young, who had five kills, a block, and three digs in the match. "I knew we could do it. We're a good comeback team I would say."

"I think we all just kinda came together as a team and thought, ok we're done monkeying around ... let's get this done," said Myers. Myers had four aces in the match, along with 16 assists and two kills.

"I chose not to give up and I knew we could pull through," said Tasket, who had three assists and six digs.

Susan Davidson is Central's coach. "That was a great run by us. We're a really young team. I thought (junior) Brandy Coleman did a great job and gave us a spark in the second match, and (senior) Emma Biddle has been solid."

Coleman scored 12 points, and had four aces and seven digs. Biddle had three aces, three kills and 10 digs.

"Bearden is a great team; Erin does a great job with them," Davidson said. "I thought our girls did a good job of picking up some short balls. I was excited that we got to book this match but it wasn't originally on either of our schedules. Bearden will be in top three of their district, maybe the top one." "I just am thankful for the opportunity to play my senior season," said Tasket. "With everything going on with COVID, I'm just glad we got the chance."

All three agreed that there was extra motivation playing on Senior Night, especially since the crowd was considerably bigger than usual. "The student body that showed up gave us extra energy," said Myers. "It was really nice knowing they were supporting us."

"I'm so thankful for the coaches and all the support we've had for four years and making it such a special night," Young said.

Added Biddle: "I think they all did a really good job. They've been working hard on being in tough spots. I'm proud of the seniors for fighting tonight. They all just did awesome."

## South-Doyle falls but gives 'effort' against Lady Admirals

By Ken Lay

South-Doyle High School volleyball coach Haven Anderson knew her team faced a tough order Thursday night.

In fact, the coach knows that any District 3-AAA match will be tough for her squad. But late last week, the Lady Cherokees made a visit to Farragut to tangle with a team that has Class AAA State Tournament aspirations.

And the Lady Admirals were coming in off a tough league road loss to Maryville Tuesday.

It took Farragut less than an hour to get its season back on track as the Lady Admirals swept past South-Doyle 25-10, 25-8, 25-10 at Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium.

But even in defeat, Anderson saw some things that she liked.

"Our girls really put up a fight tonight and I'm really proud of them," Anderson said. "They really gave an effort tonight."

"We knew that this was going to be a tough game and we knew this was going to be a tough league, but we know that we can play with these teams if we fight."

The Cherokees (2-8 overall, 0-3 in District 3-AAA) scored the first points in each of the first two sets but the Lady Admirals (5-3, 2-1) responded with big service runs and seized control of the games.

In the first set, Farragut's Megan Carlton scored six points and served up an ace after a side-out to give the Lady Admirals a 7-1 lead.

The long service runs continued for Farragut but South-Doyle would pull to within 14-7 on an ace by Ashlynn Ahern before the Lady Admirals scored nine of the next 10 points to take a 1-0 lead in the match.

Farragut coach Jo Madden said her team served well against the Lady Cherokees.

"We had great serving tonight, and we did what we had to do. We took care of business," Madden said. "Nothing is easy in this league but the girls are really working hard and we've won both of our district matches at home."

with the Lady Admirals down 1-0 after the Lady Cherokees scored on a side-out and the home team returned the favor, Livi Holley served up five straight points to give Farragut a 5-1 lead.

The Lady Admirals also got big service runs by Kennedy Holley, Reese Schroeder and Ashley Hibelink in the set.

In the third and final set, Farragut would dart out to a 12-4 advantage thanks to back-to-back aces from Kelly Su and the Lady Admirals' service game would continue to spark their effort.



Farragut High School volleyball player Ira Au prepares to receive a serve from South-Doyle in a District 3-AAA match Thursday night at the Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium. The Lady Admirals swept the Lady Cherokees in three sets. Photo by Ken Lay.

*Rich Barney*

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## The Doctor is in

a weekly column by  
Dr. Jim Ferguson

### Malevolence

"The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those who speak it."

George Orwell.

Well, Boo Radley has come out. You remember, the character played by Robert Duval in the movie adaptation of Harper Lee's classic novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird." However, I'm referring to Joe Biden who was forced out of his basement for a trip to Kenosha, Wisconsin. Hid'n Biden, along with the town's Democrat Mayor and Wisconsin's Democrat Governor, had begged President Trump not to go to Kenosha, savaged by recent protests and riots. Trump's trip to Kenosha was a success, so now plagiarism prone Joe was compelled to leave his basement. Good! I want the Presidential candidates to actually campaign for my vote.

I've never been to Wisconsin. The first time I heard the name Kenosha was in one of my favorite movies,

Home Alone. John Candy's character was the leader of a polka band named the "Kenosha Kickers" who gave Kevin's mother a lift home at Christmas.

I've missed music in my life. I used to have classical music playing in my office all the time, but in semi-retirement my daytime "territory" has expanded beyond my office and the hospital next door. I still enjoy Pandora selections at the dinner hour, but so many other things seem to intrude or distract me during my daytime travels. Unfortunately, too often, it is the war.

It is impossible to stay informed and avoid the battle for America. Sometimes I shirk my responsibilities as a citizen and run away from TV, news, newspapers, radio and the internet. I could take the easy way out and just surrender my beliefs and principles. However, there's no place to run, and I can't be something that I'm not. So, the

battle continues despite the personal consequences.

Jesus actually offered an additional course of action. He demonstrated agape or sacrificial love. However, I'm a sinner and not the Master. I am not capable of turning the other cheek to injustice or evil.

I've been thinking a lot about the current America mess. As I've written, the reason for our war is beyond Democrats, Republicans, Independents or whatever. I believe the insanity of riots, murder, looting and mayhem has its roots in hatred. And hatred is the tool of evil.

Burned into my memory is Mel Gibson's movie The Passion of Christ. I often think about the cinematic depiction of evil, as a malevolent, androgynous entity, floating invisibly and producing howling crowds of hate. "Sometimes the best explanation for the otherwise inexplicable, is evil."

Apparently, it's not working for the Democrats because the mantra of various "news" talking heads, media types and Democrat operatives suddenly changed last week. Previously, all you heard was support for the "peaceful" protests. Now, the plea is to stop the rioting, looting and anarchy. They've pivoted (a baseball and political term). And, of course, they also blame President

Trump.

The insane see Trump as the devil in everything. C. S. Lewis wrote a book called "The Screwtape Letters." Screwtape was a major devil who advises a minor devil (Wormwood) how to destroy a man's soul. Donald Trump is not a devil, but we all watched the power of evil transform Democrat congressman Adam Schiff during the preposterous Russian investigation and impeachment.

It's difficult to write a relevant essay when events are so fluid and The Knoxville Focus is published only once a week. (No, I'm not advocating more frequent publication.) This week of September 7th will bring us to the anniversary of the 9/11 attack. Have we forgotten the modern Pearl Harbor? Or, have we been distracted by COVID and its politicization, the ongoing assault on our churches, businesses and the economy, as well as riots, looting and arson? Becky and I are flying our 9/11 memorial flag, but it seems so insufficient nineteen years later in the middle of our Civil War. And make no mistake about it, we are at war with ourselves.

Abraham Lincoln famously paraphrased Jesus saying, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Lincoln, the first Republican President, was talking about slavery. He brought the country through the

American Civil War and Republicans then passed the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution, abolishing slavery and promoting equality under law. How soon we forget the lessons of history and even our immediate past.

The election in November is a choice between two vastly different perspectives. The pithy phrase "jobs versus mobs" is apropos. President Trump's economy before the Chinese coronavirus pandemic was an unparalleled success. Then the scientists recommended the country be shut down and for us to shelter in place. As a result, the economy was severely damaged and some still thwart its recovery. Now as protests, riots and anarchist mayhem abound, Democrats have sided with the Antifa, Marxist BLM and looters for political gain.

Another contrast is equality under the law. Mayors, governors, media and the Deep State don't seem to operate under the same rule of law as John Q Public. Nancy Pelosi's hair styling visit is a classic example. Pelosi scheduled an appointment with a salon, closed under San Francisco law. She did not wear a face mask and had her hair washed and blown dry indoors against standing regulations. Then, she accused the salon owner of "setting her up" when

she was discovered. Come on! The Speaker of the House of Representatives and second in line to the Presidency was set up by a salon owner? This was a modern "Marie Antoinette moment." Oh, and as expected, the mayor of San Francisco blames Trump for shutting down the salons and barbershops in her town.

The party of the common man and America is Trump's reconstituted Republican party. RINOs (republicans in name only) like Lamar, Romney and Jeff Flake - what an appropriate name - are GOP dinosaurs. May they RIP. The Democrats have become the party of progressive socialists like AOC and Bernie Sanders, BLM, illegal aliens and rich Wall Street and Silicon Valley donors.

Frankly, I do not want my town to become like Portland or my state to become like California. Blue cities and blue states are failing financially and refuse to protect their citizens, the primary function of government.

I have voted for Democrats in the past, but the John F. Kennedys are all gone. I can't vote for a Democrat because they have been supplanted by progressive socialists. And I cannot override reason and vote out of hatred.

You may email Dr. Ferguson at [fergusonj@knoxfocus.com](mailto:fergusonj@knoxfocus.com)

## Let's go hiking at Norris Dam *part two*

Norris Dam, the first project of the Tennessee Valley Administration, has a large number of trails and walking paths not only inside the large state park

### A Day Away



By Mike Steely

or drive into the Norris community as well. The town was built originally to house employees and officials during the 1930s construction of the dam. About 1,500

people live in the town now and take pride in their history and their community.

Song Bird Trail Loop, a favorite of my wife and I, stretches one mile each way from just below the dam along the waters of Clinch River. The path is

wide, level and easy to walk. Along the way, you'll see people fishing from the bank or from the short piers. There's usually lots of parking available on both ends.

Andrew's Ridge Trail is almost two miles long and rated "easy to moderate." It goes along the park's highest point near the rim of the West Campground.

Sinkhole Trail is .85 miles long and is also "easy to moderate" and located along part of the Andrew's Ridge Trail. It loops back to connect with the trail and there's one very large sinkhole along the route.

Lake View Trail is almost five miles long and can be

difficult now and then. Along the trail are the remains of old homesteads that existed before the dam was built.

Lakeside Trail is about half a mile long and is an easy hike. The heavily-used trail begins near the dam and passes by the Information Center where, if it is open, one could stop in for a visual history of the creation of the dam. There are also restrooms at the building.

Christmas Fern Trail is one-half mile long and rated as "easy." Along the way, you'll find lots of American holly, umbrella magnolias, pawpaws, white oaks, red maples and many other plants. In

season you may also find raspberries.

Following an undefined trail between the town of Norris and the park, High Point Trail and is rated "moderate to difficult" for hiking.

Fitness Trail is almost a mile long and rated as "moderate." It is popular with local residents and designed with senior citizens in mind to create a physical workout in an outdoor setting.

The Marine Railway Loop is four miles long and can be difficult at times. It's the park's most diverse trail with elevation changes that give the walker a view of the different plants and terrain.

While you're in the park you may also want to visit the Lenoir Museum, the Rice Grist Mill or the Cosby Threshing Barn. All three are located along Highway 441, just south of the dam. You may also want to visit the rustic "east side" of the park and view the cabin rentals there, have a picnic, or drive through the original campground there.

If you'd like more information about Norris Dam you may contact the Friends of Norris Dam by calling (865)426-7461 or find the non-profit group online or on Facebook.

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