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## COVID-19 Weekly Focus

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2019 Knox County Total Population <sup>1</sup>	Total Confirmed COVID-19 Cases <sup>2</sup>	% COVID-19 Cases/ Total Population	Total COVID-19 Deaths <sup>2</sup>	% COVID-19 Deaths/ Total Population
470,313	37,872	8.1%	497	.11%

SOURCES 1. U.S. Census Bureau 2. Knox County Health Department data from 2/6/2021.



The proposed baseball stadium complex would be financed by a local Sports Authority created by the city and county and leased to Randy Boyd's minor-league baseball team. Questions from the city and county elected officials raised several issues and members of the Authority will apparently be named soon.

## Inclement weather policy, bus passes discussed at KCS session

By Ken Lay

The Knox County Board of Education's February work session meeting took just 52 minutes Wednesday night and was fairly uneventful.

In his report, KCS Superintendent Bob Thomas pleaded for patience as the district deals with inclement winter weather.

"The safety of our students, our families and our employees is our No. 1 concern," Thomas said. "We understand that the winter weather provides challenges for our families but we ask that they have an alternative plan in place."

"We try to make decisions early and we understand that winter weather can be challenging."

Thomas also announced a recently developed partnership between Knox County Schools, Knoxville Area Transit and the City of Knoxville to provide the district's students in grades 6-12 with KAT's Youth Freedom Pass, which will enable Knox County Students to ride on the city's public transit system free

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# Proposed Baseball Stadium Gains City & County Mayors' Support

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
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Randy Boyd's proposal to have the city and county finance a baseball stadium near the Old City came under several questions Thursday when the county commission and city council held a joint work session on the topic.

Knox County Commission Chair Larsen Jay led the combined virtual meeting and the

officials heard from Boyd, County Finance Director Chris Caldwell, Knoxville's Chief Economic & Community Development Officer Stephanie Welch, and Bond Counsel Mark Mamantov. Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon also spoke on the matter.

Jacobs told the joint meeting that he was initially against the stadium proposal because it would require public funding. He said such a project would allow

the county to compete with other communities and said, "You couldn't find a better partner" than Boyd.

Kincannon called the stadium idea an investment in our community and called Boyd "a great partner."

To kick off the campaign to fund the stadium both the commission and council will hear the nominees for a "Sports Authority" soon. That public body might eventually issue its own bonds

to secure funds, oversee the design and construction, and own the stadium. The facility might be open daily for people to visit to walk, exercise, etc., but leased for 10 years to Boyd's Knoxville Smokies minor league baseball team. The lease would permit the team to manage the stadium, secure events like concerts, and profit from such activities. The city and county might benefit from taxes and increased

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## Ethics to hear complaint against county chairman

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
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When the Knox County Ethics Committee meets on Wednesday, it will step into a complaint that is typical of past political charges. In the midst of the Knox County Commission discussing whether the Ethics group is needed the committee will hear a complaint against Knox County Chairman Larsen Jay. In recent years most complaints going to the committee were deemed political in nature and dismissed.

The Knox County Law Department reviews each complaint and, if found possibly credible, the complaint is passed along to the ethics committee.

Local businessman Andrew

Continued on page 4

## Mac's Pharmacy vaccinates Knox High seniors



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Excitement was in the air at Knox High Senior Living Friday morning as residents were eager to get their COVID-19 vaccinations. Three representatives from Mac's LTC Pharmacy of Powell gave the vaccinations and the pharmacy, according to Morgan Honeycutt, Mac's director of pharmacy, is administering vaccines at nursing homes and assisted and senior living facilities in Knox and surrounding counties. As of Friday, 49,034 vaccinations in Knox County had been reported to the health department, which means 7.41% of people in the county have had at least one dose of the vaccine.

By Mike Steely  
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An appeal to have a 45-foot tall Christian cross placed at a business in North Knoxville will be heard by the Knoxville City Council Tuesday.

Dr. Todd Stinnett, pastor of Black Oak Heights Baptist Church, is asking the city for permission to increase "a detached accessory structure" from 18 feet to 45 feet. The "work of art in the shape of a cross and bearing no advertising" is for 4605 Central Avenue Pike. That's the address of Backflow Specialty Inc, a company founded by Larry Stinnett in 1995.

Dr. Stinnett is the son of the company's current owner, Ginny Stinnett. He is appealing a decision by the Department of Plans, Reviews and Building Inspections.

The council is also being asked by Benjamin C. Mullins for an appeal of a denial of a zoning change for Acre Kingston Pike T5, LLC. Knoxville-Knox County Planning voted 7-6 to deny a change

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# Faulty Intelligence

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.  
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The deployment of 26,000 National Guard troops to Washington for the inauguration was totally unnecessary and was a waste of many millions of taxpayer dollars that could and should have been spent for better things.

It was done purely for political purposes, attempting to reinforce the very false, left-wing narrative that all those who voted for Trump are potentially racists.

As I write this, there are still 7,000 Guardsman on duty there, and the plan is to have 5,000 in place until March 4th, which was the traditional inaugural date until it was changed to Jan. 20th in 1937.

Extra security was put into place at most state capitols too, and nothing happened at any of those places either. It was and still is very expensive and very boring military duty.

It sounded very dramatic

and made some officials feel more powerful and important to say that their intelligence reports indicated potentially violent demonstrations by Trump supporters in Washington or at state capitols around the nation.

All that was really shown was that their "intelligence" was faulty and/or greatly exaggerated.

As I wrote in an earlier column, those who vandalized the Capitol on Jan. 6th, should and will be prosecuted. However, far less than one percent of those who attended the Trump rally actually went into the Capitol.

Antifa and Black Lives Matter supporters have rioted and looted in cities all over this country over the last several months, including those cities in just the last few days. Almost none of them have been prosecuted and Vice President Harris has even praised them.

Some in the national media have been trying desperately to stay relevant, such as Eugene Robinson on MSNBC, and have even gone so far left that they said Trump supporters should be "de-programmed."

Actually, the ones who need psychiatric treatment are those who are still so

obsessed with hatred for former President Trump, such as the women on the tv show "The view."

Obviously, and unfortunately, hatred won the last election. There was no enthusiasm for candidate Biden as shown by the 50 or 60 cars that would show up at his rallies compared to the 30,000 or so that would come to Trump rallies in almost every state with very little advanced notice.

Someone said that most who voted for Biden hated Trump so much that they would have voted for Kermit the Frog if he had been the Democratic nominee.

The election boiled down

to Trump versus anti-Trump, and the antis won.

The theme of President Biden's inaugural address was unity, but his words rang hollow when he did nothing to stop the impeachment of the former president, which he could have easily done.

Victor Davis Hanson wrote; "If Democrats and the left wished to reinvigorate the Trump legacy, they could have done no better than unleashing their unhinged and often repulsive hatred of the last two weeks.

Now, the country will go through an impeachment that is based on nothing but hatred. Sad. Very Sad.

## The Illogic of the Cancel Culture

Two movements have characterized the left's takeover of our schools, politics and media. They are the cancel culture and the muzzle culture. While most of us have heard about the cancel culture fewer of us have paid attention to the muzzle culture where voices not aligned with political correctness are silenced.

The muzzle culture is a greater threat to our freedom because it bans free speech. However, the cancel culture is important as well since it seeks to ignore or rewrite our history. Here certain symbols of the past are removed from public view. Thus statues of historic figures have been desecrated, torn down, tossed into rivers or relegated to museums. Streets, parks and schools have been renamed as well. First it started with Confederate notables. I have no objections to the renaming of military bases. I always thought that those who named the bases had a satiric sense of humor in that the bases were named - with the exception of Robert E. Lee - after perhaps the most incompetent generals in the rebel army. I wouldn't object to removing all vestiges of Nathan Bedford Forrest who was an odious individual even in his time. Although Bedford Forrest had essentially a deathbed recantation in his Jubilee of Poll Bearers speech, I still would not celebrate his life.

The recent recommendation by the San Francisco school board to remove the names of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington from schools in the city is another example of the cancel culture's view of the world. George Washington, of course, was a slave owner. That in the view of the cancel culture trumps any other of his other accomplishments. It didn't matter that his triumph with a rag tail motley army over one of the greatest armies of the day is the stuff of legends. It doesn't matter that he opted to be a limited term president rather than an autocrat. The only thing that matters is that he owned slaves. In 1774 Washington denounced



By Dr. Harold A. Black  
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slavery on moral grounds and called for its gradual abolition. He even emancipated his slaves upon his death. Yet while he lived, he was dependent upon slaves to maintain his standard of living. Lincoln, the school board argued did not do enough to aid blacks and mistreated the Sioux. Certainly it is true that Lincoln likely thought that blacks like Frederick Douglass was an exception and believed that as a whole blacks would not be able to rise to the level of whites. However, Douglass was an exception regardless of color as was Lincoln. Nonetheless, it is not difficult to understand Lincoln's view given the status of enslaved blacks. And then there is Thomas Jefferson who wrote eloquently about the freedom of all yet owned slaves. Yet Jefferson opposed the spreading of slavery to the western territories when Ohio was being settled by whites. Martin Luther King, Jr., while acknowledging Jefferson's faults still praised his ideals.

What I have always tried to do is not judge those in the past by the mores of today. If historical figures were evil by the standards of their time, then they should not be canonized today. Examples of such figures are Bedford Forrest and Andrew Jackson. But they should not be ignored either for their accomplishments. Few people in our past or present are saints. Martin Luther King, Jr. was as impactful on our society as most figures in our past. Yet he was deeply flawed. Are we supposed to cancel out Dr King? George Floyd is now considered a martyr by many and some school districts are seriously considering naming schools after him. Yet I wager than none of those school districts can cite one meritorious act by George Floyd. Those school districts apparently think that his killing overcomes his considerable flaws as a human being. It's interesting that they do not give the same consideration to the individuals whose names they have stricken from their schools.

## Paul's Oasis found guilty of curfew violations

By Mike Steely  
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What defense could a bar owner take when charged multiple times with violating a COVID-19 pandemic curfew regulation? How about the bar was open beyond the mandatory closing time but wasn't serving alcohol and you can't prove otherwise?

That seems to be the position taken by Paul Osterbrink, owner of Paul's Oasis at 8021 Kingston Pike, in a hearing Tuesday. The bar owner, testifying on behalf of the bar's corporation PTO Inc, repeatedly took the Fifth Amendment when asked about breaking the curfews mandated by the Knox County Board of Health.

City of Knoxville Beer Board Hearing Officer Celeste Herbert replied each time that refusing to answer those questions was "a negative response" and that the Fifth Amendment does not apply to corporations.

Osterbrink continued to reply by "taking the Fifth" and his attorney, Rick Owens, told the hearing there was no proof that Paul's Oasis violated the curfew because the policeman who served eleven citations there never stepped inside the bar.

Knoxville City Attorney Alyson Dyer presented employee records Osterbrink filed with the city showing a bartender working well beyond the curfew hours, until 3 or 4 a.m., and asked him about it. He replied, "She was there."

## Proposed Baseball Stadium Gains City & County Mayors' Support

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tourism. Boyd is also planning a \$140 million development next to the stadium with apartments, retail businesses, and the like. That development is likely to require a tax break to get underway. Caldwell said the stadium and the proposal offer "much more than baseball" with opportunities for concerts, markets, weddings and more.

Welch said the stadium would be financed and owned by the Sports Authority and could hold up to 200 events a year including baseball games. Mamantov said the rental to the team, the taxes on ticket sales, and income from out of town visitors, would go a distance in paying any bond debt issued for the project.

Welch said the project is in the early stages and said nominees to the Authority would probably

Dyer questioned Osterbrink and other witnesses including Sergeant John Coward, the city's enforcement officer. Coward said each visit to the bar saw Osterbrink come out of the bar to receive the citation. Coward said he witnessed customers still in the bar after curfew hours, partying and drinking. He said that Osterbrink took a citation back into the bar, held the paperwork above his head, and the customers cheered.

Knox County Board of Health member Dr. Patrick O'Brien testified that the board has the authority to place a curfew during a health emergency and the orders not only covered serving of alcohol but curfew hours for restaurants and bars except for drive-through, pick up or carry out service.

"That was our intent," O'Brien said.

Owens said the city had to show the burden of proof and said the citation showed no allegation of alcohol service after the curfew hours. Dyer said that the Board of Health regulation not only covered serving of alcohol but forbade bars and restaurants remaining open after hours. She asked for a \$1,000 fine for each of the 11 offenses and a 60-day loss of their city beer license.

Owens asked any ruling be "held in abeyance" until Osterbrink can get his day in court at which time he could answer questions. If the ruling went against

be before the commission and council in March. She said many community meetings and work sessions will be held and a development agreement presented this summer.

Construction could start later this year with the stadium possibly open in the spring of 2023.

Questions from both bodies included how many employees there would be at the stadium, if the project would mean a tax increase, and if Boyd would get community input from the African American neighborhood surrounding the project. Mamantov was also asked about a third-party review of the proposal and he replied that a Request for Proposal would be issued by the Authority and reviewed before approval.

Asked why Boyd doesn't pay for the stadium and nearby complex himself, Boyd replied, "It is not

his client, Owens asked for a fine rather than suspension.

Herbert asked what would happen to the business inventory if the beer license were to be suspended. Dyer said it could be held in storage and a notice placed on the business door.

Herbert said she would make a ruling within 24 hours and on Wednesday afternoon she released her opinion.

"All the evidence examined lead the Hearing Officer to conclude that it is more likely than not that the Permittee is guilty of the charged non-compliance offenses and there is sufficient justification for the immediate suspension of the Beer Permit for a period of 60 days from today's date and the imposition of a \$1,000 per charged offense for a total of \$7,000 which must be paid in full before the beer permit is reinstated.

The hearing officer cited the testimony of Dr. O'Brien and Sgt. Coward and Osterbrink's several attempts to assert the Fifth Amendment on behalf of a corporation as evidence. She also noted the payroll records as part of the evidence in the decision.

Two other bars with citations face similar hearings with Billiards and Brews to go before a hearing officer on Tuesday and Club XYZ to have a hearing on Thursday. Billiards and Brews has been cited at least 17 times for being open after curfew.

economically viable." Mamantov said that public financing of stadium for minor league baseball is common.

Several lengthy questions and comments came from Councilwoman Amelia Parker, who called for many more work sessions. Chairman Jay attempted to pause her questions to permit others to comment. Parker said that two hours was not long enough for the work session.

"We have to have an end point and let other people ask questions," Jay told her.

"Come on, you all, we are the government, this is ridiculous," Parker replied. She called for a work session just on financing before members of the new Sports Authority are approved.

"This is not a done deal, there's lots more to iron out," said Council Woman Lauren Rider.



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# Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher  
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## Legislators Show Board Members A Paddle

The Knox County Legislative delegation did a mighty interesting thing recently and folks ought to know about it. Every member of the legislative delegation - - - Senators Randy McNally, Becky Duncan Massey and Richard Briggs, along with Representatives Eddie Mannis, Dave Wright, Justin Lafferty, Jason Zachary, Michele Carringer, Sam McKenzie and Gloria Johnson - - - signed a letter sent to Superintendent Bob Thomas, Board of Education Chair Susan Horn and Mayor Glenn Jacobs. The letter was copied to every member of the Knox County Board of Education.

The legislative delegation pointed out the Tennessee General Assembly had approved \$42 million in the Basic Education Formula (BEP) designated for teacher raises. The legislators gently reminded board members it is the Local Education Authority (LEA), in this instance, the Knox County Board of Education, that

has the ultimate authority to allocate the money appropriated for teacher raises to... teachers. The legislative delegation specifically asked the board of education to use the money for teacher raises and to teachers ONLY. The legislators were helpful inasmuch they defined in their letter just who they meant, stating, "For purposes of this pay increase, we consider the classroom teacher to be a person licensed to teach and who spends 50% or more of their time instructing students in the classroom, in the library, in the gym or other instructional means including online instruction."

Then came the pointed part of the letter. "Too many times in the past when the Legislature has passed salary increases for classroom teachers, the LEA has chosen to distribute the pay increase to other personnel including administrative personnel that is far removed from the classroom." In other words, the Knox County School system has taken the money allocated for teacher pay raises and divvied it up to give raises to most everybody, including the frequently highly paid folks in the Andrew Johnson Building. Also, the Knox County School system is way over the number of employees the State of Tennessee will pay for, so there again, pay raises of say, \$500, become considerably less once divided. The Knox County legislative delegation noted that "defeats the purpose of the salary increases and further

perpetuates the inaccurate narrative that the Legislature did not provide a pay increase for teachers."

Most folks don't realize teachers oftentimes receive raises from both the state and local governments.

So finally the legislators have tired of a practice the Knox County School system has used for decades. It will be interesting to see if the board will do as the Knox County legislative delegations asks. They should. The emphasis should be on those folks at the forefront, which are the classroom teachers.

## Dollar Dan Rides Again!

Daniel Watson, member of the Knox County Board of Education, seems to have taken Virginia Babb's title as the board's chief babbler. It's difficult to ascertain just what Watson has accomplished in the few months he's been on the board. The first thing he did was protest the idea he should be expected to help determine the board's leadership. Ordinarily, the board would routinely elect a chair and vice chair, yet Danno objected. He said he thought it more appropriate to participate in the meetings for a bit so he could have a better feeling about his colleagues.

What is the first thing ANY legislative body does? Elects its officers of course. The U. S. House of Representatives elects its speaker, the U. S. Senate elects its majority and minority leaders. The Tennessee

state Senate elects the lieutenant governor and the state House elects its speaker. The county commission elects its chair and vice chair at its September meeting.

One would think someone running for the board of education would be at least somewhat informed about its functions and the people who serve on it. It doesn't seem wildly outlandish to suppose that someone elected in March, would have some sense of his colleagues by the following September when board members take the oath of office. That also presupposes one is keeping up with board meetings and doings. But no, Watson evidently likes things nice and slow, except maybe for the board meetings where he talks like a wind-up doll whose winder is stuck.

Now Watson thinks it's necessary to delay doing an evaluation for the superintendent within the time prescribed by Tennessee state law because newly elected members might not have an opinion. There may be no penalty expressly provided in the law for failing to comply with state law, but it sends a signal of incompetence more than caution. Whether they like it or not, the board is obliged to follow state law, just like everybody else. If someone isn't prepared to make difficult decisions, he/she doesn't belong in any public office.

Now Daniel seems to have no difficulty in taking the plunge when it's none of his business. Nope, Dan

isn't content to stay in his lane, so to speak. Daniel Watson circulated an email to his colleagues on the board expressing his opinion members should back the proposal of City Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie to give away \$100 million of taxpayer money. Money that didn't belong to the City of Knoxville or theirs to spend or give away for any reason, but Daniel didn't see any reason to delay that for a single second. Of course, there is also the fact they pledged money for unnamed and unspecified projects in the first place with money that doesn't exist unless the city council has the will to triple taxes.

While Watson's missive stated the money would come from federal, state, local and private grants, there are no such grants in the offing. That also begs the important question, if these grants have existed, what exactly has kept the City of Knoxville from seeking them in the first place? When you have a spare moment, telephone your city councilman and ask them why they haven't been looking for such grants from those sources long before now? Considering then-Mayor Madeline Rogero gave Indya Kincannon the vitally important task of recommending folks to serve on various City of Knoxville Boards to insure diversity, you'd think the City would have already employed someone to chase down grants. Of course they do and of course they've chased grants. Maybe they just haven't chased them

hard enough, I don't know.

The City's total budget is \$330 million, so \$100 million represents quite nearly a third of the City's entire annual budget. Watson urged his fellow board members to "reach out" to Mayor Indya Kincannon as well as the city council members to express their support for the give-away.

Watson urged his colleagues to take a stand on Gwen McKenzie's resolution as he believed it would somehow affect the disparities in education. Really? That likely has more to do with the breakdown of the family units than anything else. The highest per pupil expenditure in Knox County of all our high schools by far is Austin-East for example. And Daniel, have you ever decried the City of Knoxville's annexation policies which gobbled up sales taxes that would have otherwise gone to our school system? No, you haven't and I suspect you still haven't a clue about that. I wonder if you know how long it's been since the city operated a school system?

Without any definite source of funding, the McKenzie resolution was little more than an empty gesture intended to placate some folks, which is precisely what more than a few of our community's Black activists said at the time.

But Dollar Dan is too busy virtue signaling to realize fictional grants never helped the first child to read or add. For that matter, virtue signaling never educated the first kid either.

# Biden, Washington Watch

By Steve Hunley, Publisher  
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We've reached the point of the surreal in this country. You just couldn't make this stuff up.

As Old Joe signs anything placed in front him, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has managed to make the assault on the Capitol all about her herself and her own trauma. Of course as this is written, her story seems questionable and the seams appear to be about to come apart. Did the media bother to do any verification of any kind? Oh Lord, no! AOC must be believed of course.

Then there is the spectacle of the Democrats trying to make Georgia congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Green the new face of the Republican party and urging she not be allowed to serve on the House Education Committee.

As far as punishments are concerned, that ranks right behind no dessert after supper. It also ignores the problems inside their own party, but we're not supposed to talk about that. The Democrats have tried to pretend nothing is wrong when they have two rabidly anti-Semitic members roaming the halls of Congress: Ilhan Omar and Rashia Tlaib. Omar has had the nerve to label those who call her out for her racism Islamaphobes.

Old Joe's cabinet seems less a collection of solid professionals than a motley crew of folks picked to meet quotas. Secretary of Education designate Miguel Cardona skipped and skated all around Senator Rand Paul's direct statement asking if he favored biologically born male students being allowed to participate in girls' athletics. Cardona made some general and bland statement he

avored all students, including trans students, having the same opportunities. Well, Miguel, they do have the same opportunities now. Anyone can try out to play sports; the question is on which team? One way or the other, Cardona really didn't answer the question.

Nor would Jen Psaki really say if Biden will stand up to teachers' unions about reopening schools. Instead, she moaned the question was "a little unfair" in the way it was posed. If the teachers' unions, who are prodigious fundraisers for Democrats, stand in the way of reopening schools - - - yet expect teachers remain on the payroll at full salary - - - what would Biden do? Would he cave in to the demands of the unions or do what was right? Psaki skated around that one, too.

Even San Francisco, yes, SAN FRANCISCO, is suicing its board of

education to reopen schools. One California student, Isaiah Navarro, who plays football at his high school, had a special word of thanks to the Golden State's Hypocrite-In-Chief, Gavin Newsome, who can dine out without wearing a mask, but closes churches, schools, businesses, and everything else. Navarro's comments remind parents and grandparents just how devastating COVID-19 has been to the lives of young people. An athlete, Navarro posted, "Zero looks, zero commitments, zero time on campus, zero homecoming, zero prom, zero traditional graduation. What a wasted final year of school." Navarro tweeted, "Worked hard and dedicated for absolutely ZERO." Then Isaiah gave a shout out to Governor Gavin Newsome, writing, "You got what you wanted!" There are untold numbers of students whose dreams of

college scholarships have evaporated because of shut downs.

The New York Times is calling for Old Joe to appoint a "Reality" Czar. As the Wall Street Journal pointed out, the NYT is calling for state censored media. It would involve not only the policing of ideas, but actually defining reality itself.

There are all kinds of examples throughout history of societies where free speech died out, to be replaced by ideologies; Nazi Germany comes to mind, as do the Soviet Union and Communist China. None tolerated dissent. None encouraged free thought and all were ruled by an elite class of brutal tyrants who lived far better than their own subjects.

They all have one thing in common: they were all authoritarian regimes and they brought misery and suffering to their own people.

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# Stepping away from sports

As Big Orange fans know, the past football season has been one filled with disappointment. We fans expected much better results from the team, even though some “cream puff” teams were replaced with an all-SEC schedule of teams. The men’s basketball team has hit a slump for a couple of games and looked much different from the one that squashed early opponents. No doubt, Coach Barnes will have the problem resolved shortly, but right now, the balm that could have soothed Vol fans



By Joe Rector  
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after football failures isn’t working.

Sports fans approach games, whether they are youth-league contests or professional rivalries, with anticipation and an emotional fervor that falls well outside what is healthy. For some reason, we identify with teams and agonize with their losses of games and players. Too many times I’ve screamed at the television set as my favorite teams make mistakes, fall behind, and lose games. I fret over recruiting classes and keeping young folks true to their words. A loss of a game or a recruit has plunged me into a funk for several days.

I know that sports are nothing more than games that teams play. I realize that their goals are to entertain fans enough so that they want to buy tickets to games

and purchase merchandise sporting teams’ logos. I also acknowledge that no game’s outcome in any way will bring about change in any global problem. Still, a week-end of games certainly affects the moods of millions of folks.

For those reasons, I’m seriously considering taking a holiday from sports. I no longer will schedule my weekends to view a ball game. Oh, I might check in on the score of a favorite team, but I’m not willing to invest any more three-hours or more blocks of time to sit on the couch and watch a game. My dear wife will be excited that we can leave the house and go on some day trips that hadn’t before been possible.

One benefit of this attempt will be an improvement in my overall attitude. I might just turn out to be a nicer person. Sadie, our

dog, will be glad that I no longer snap at her when she has to go outside just as a third down and goal arises or the outcome of the game is being determined.

Another positive to passing on games is that I can spend more time outside. Our yard always demands attention. The mowing and weed eating can take several hours. Amy can always find new places to plant new flowers or reset existing ones. In the fall, leaves are knee-deep every day, and shrubs need pruning. Winter is the best time to burn the piles of limbs and clippings. I’ll be able to keep up with those tasks if I turn off games.

I’m not sure how long I can hold out. Maybe my face will be in front of the television within a few days. The effects of withdrawal from sports might be too

severe for me to stand. On the other hand, I might just find out how little I really need to watch games that drive me nuts and drive my blood pressure toward stroke territory. I’ve given one team too long to turn the corner. I just don’t have the energy to go through another head coaching hire and to wait for that philosophy to develop a competitive team.

Yes, I want my favorite team to win, and I hope they once again become a force with which to deal before I die. I’ll be back to watch them, but as a different person. I’ll smile when they win and shrug my shoulders when they don’t. Giving up a dependence on athletes and contests is healthier, both physically and mentally. Let’s see how it goes.

## The real McCoy

By Ralphine Major  
ralphine3@yahoo.com

February, the “heart” month that emphasizes the importance of heart health. My first story printed in this weekly column was about this very subject.

On February 7, 2011, “The Real McCoy” was published in The Focus sharing about our mother’s cardiologist, Dr. Kyle McCoy. That was ten years and 500 columns ago, and the topic is just as relevant today as it was

then. As I read it again, I am reminded how quickly our lives can be disrupted, how important faith and family are to us, and how blessed we are that God places certain people along our path. Once again, meet “The Real McCoy” in the reprinted segment below from ten years ago:

I reached for my necklace, but it was gone. It must have slipped off while I was shopping. Little did I know just how symbolic my floating heart necklace would become. The next day was Palm Sunday, April 1, 2007. Mother was not feeling well

and decided against going to church. My brother and I helped teach a class of thirty kindergartners, and this was a big day. They got to march over to the sanctuary, wave palm branches, and shout “Hosanna” as a live donkey carried “Jesus” down the aisle. Mother assured us she would be fine, and we left.

After returning home, I noticed the health book opened to angina. Mother had become nauseated the day before at the mall, but I thought it was the unseasonably hot weather. Now, she was experiencing discomfort in her upper back, cold sweats, and nausea. Most telling was her asking me to pour Sprite over ice

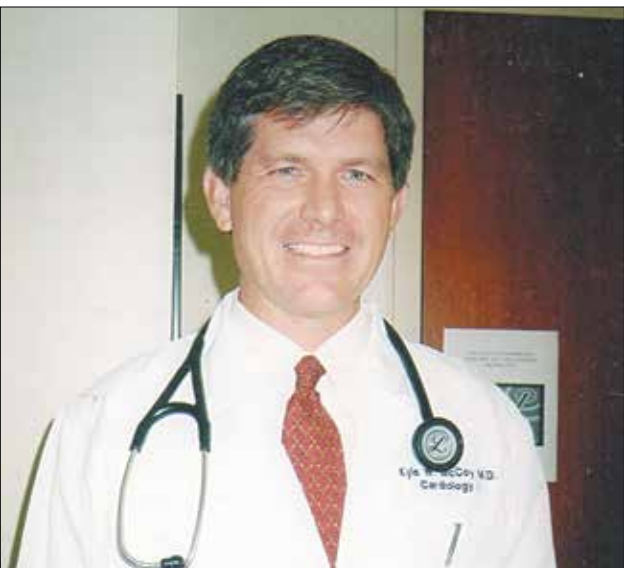
instead of doing it herself.

In the emergency room mother was connected to a maze of monitors, and tests confirmed she was having a heart attack. A nurse with a long blond braid must have noticed the stunned look on my face. She walked over and asked, “Do you understand what is happening?”

“Not really,” I answered. Another figure arrived, and his very presence commanded our attention. He was wearing a white lab coat and tie and was holding a chart. “Get her things and come with me,” he said with authority, but kindness. In the hallway we stopped to part ways. The nurse with the long blond braid turned to us, “You may kiss her,”

she said in a calm voice. I looked down at my mother. Our eyes met, and I leaned over to kiss her. “I love you,” I said. I watched as my brother kissed her, too.

The distinguished gentleman in the white lab coat began walking with us in the opposite direction. “I’m Dr. McCoy,” he said with a pause. “Like the real McCoy’s,” he added with a smile as if to lighten the mood. It did. I almost smiled, too. It was clear this doctor had walked these halls before, but we had not. He quickly explained what would be happening and assured us he would check back halfway through the surgery. Then he was gone.



Cardiologist Dr. Kyle McCoy, by Ralphine Major

## Ethics to hear complaint against county chairman

Cont. from page 1

Flores, a critic of the Board of Health, filed a complaint against Jay critical of his

\$1,400 effort to assemble 2,000 snacks for local health workers. Flores claimed that Jay obtained the funds to do so from organizations that favor mask wearing and oppose dissolving the Board of Health.

The Knoxville County Law Director’s office said there’s no possibility of a violation if the funds were raised to help health care workers

and used as intended. The bags of treats were delivered by Jay and other volunteers on January 1.

“It’s incredibly sad that basic kindness has now been politicized. I’m committed to continuing the tireless work to support our public health officials and health care professionals. I urge every citizen in Knoxville County to come together in productive and civil ways,”

the commission chairman said.

“It’s on the agenda because it was received and the law director’s office gave the complainant time to amend his complaint. Absent an amendment to the complaint it is likely to be dismissed after brief discussion,” Ethics Chairman Michael Covington told The Focus Thursday.

## 45-foot tall cross on council agenda

Cont. from page 1

for the business property there from General Commercial 3 to General Commercial 1.

Also on the agenda, Rogers Group Inc. may get a resurfacing project for \$4.2 million as requested by the Department of Engineering and the Community Action Committee may receive \$26,000 for Mobile Meals and Public Services.

Knoxville Leadership Foundation and Compassion Coalition could get an

additional \$60,000- from the city’s COVID-19 Housing Assistance Fund.

The mayor may be authorized to accept kitchen cabinets, flooring and countertops from the RTA Store for the Knoxville Fire Department and in turn express appreciation for the value of \$13,000 in product.

The council will also approve 13 pensions for retiring city employees from the fire and police departments.

Requested name

changes for streets on the council agenda includes changing Leroy Avenue between Marion and Val Streets to Marion Street. That name will also apply to Val between Leroy and West Baxter.

Zoning changes are also being requested for properties at 8300 East Walker Springs Lane, 1301 West Weisgarber Road, Zero Jackson Road, 931 Piney Grove Church Road, 200 Emmett Street, and 1712 Liberty Street.

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# 'The Terror of Tennessee' Parson Brownlow

## Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill

rayhill865@gmail.com

Reprinted from  
April 21, 2014

William Gannaway Brownlow was one of the most controversial figures in Tennessee history. "Parson" Brownlow was highly controversial during his own time and few figures ever relished the political battles he waged more than the man who was a pastor, editor, governor and United States senator.

Brownlow was born in Virginia in 1805. He found himself an orphan ten years later after both of his parents died. The five Brownlow children were separated and taken in by various kinfolk. Brownlow lived on the farm of his uncle John Gannaway, while he learned carpentry from yet another uncle. Carpentry was a trade Brownlow never employed to support himself. After attending a revival, William G. Brownlow decided to become a Methodist minister.

At the age of twenty-one, Brownlow was allowed to become a circuit-riding preacher. Brownlow traveled throughout an area of North Carolina and was soon at odds with many Baptists. Already a young man of pronounced likes and dislikes, he was evidently unable or unwilling to hide his dislikes of many Baptists successfully, feeling many of that faith were ignorant, bigoted, and practiced religious rituals he found personally distasteful. Brownlow was reassigned to Tennessee and found himself in Maryville.

Yet again Brownlow found himself an adversary in a young Presbyterian who apparently mocked Brownlow's beliefs. To the surprise of some, W. G. Brownlow proved to be an able debater, who not only took the hide off of other Protestant beliefs, but religious opponents as well. Brownlow never hesitated to rip into the personal character of his opponents and rivals. One such effort caused a Baptist who had been verbally mauled by Brownlow to sue for libel. Brownlow was assessed the sum of five dollars as compensation from the suit.

Once again, the Methodist Church sent Brownlow to a different area, but the minister found himself in South Carolina amongst a sea of Baptists. Frustrated with his lack of success, Brownlow displayed a talent for writing when he published a vitriolic pamphlet excoriating Baptists. The pamphlet inflamed local Baptists, many of whom decided Brownlow ought to be hanged. W. G. Brownlow hurried back to Tennessee and managed to avoid being lynched.

As facile with the pen as he was with his tongue, W. G. Brownlow would soon learn his living through writing and lecturing.

William Gannaway Brownlow settled in Elizabethton, Tennessee and

found himself a wife. After marrying Miss Eliza O'Brien, Brownlow abandoned circuit riding, although he remained throughout his life as partisan a Methodist as he would later be a Whig and Republican.

Having already proven his ability as a writer, friends encouraged Brownlow to make an occupation of writing. Partnered with Mason Lyon, Brownlow rolled out the first edition of the Tennessee Whig newspaper in May of 1839. It was not long before Brownlow's fiery editorials divided his own community. W. G. Brownlow was truly one of those figures one either loved or hated and there was an abundance of both.

Brownlow's editorials brought him to a physical altercation with one Landon Carter Hayes. Mr. Hayes had been a Whig at one time, but evidently converted to the Democratic Party, an apostasy which Brownlow found especially hellish. Brownlow encountered Hayes on a street in Jonesborough, Tennessee and proceeded to attack him with a cane which contained a hidden sword inside it. As Brownlow thoroughly battered and beat Hayes with his sword cane, Hayes drew a pistol and shot the parson in the leg. When Hayes was employed by a rival newspaper which supported Democratic candidates, Brownlow and Hayes feuded bitterly in print for years.

Parson Brownlow actively entered politics as a candidate for office when he challenged Andrew Johnson for Congress in 1845. As was usual for him, the parson boiled Johnson in his own special brand of vitriol. Brownlow charged Johnson with all sorts of sins, not the least of which was being an atheist. Johnson won the election, but Brownlow was as vocal as ever, castigating the Democratic Party and praising the Whig Party, whose leading figure was Kentuckian Henry Clay. Brownlow did not spare the first genuine Democrat, who even then was an icon of his party and state, General Andrew Jackson. Brownlow snapped that Jackson was nothing less than a curse upon the nation.

Like many of his contemporaries, Brownlow strongly supported Henry Clay's frequent presidential aspirations. Having lost presidential elections twice before, Clay's best chance seemed to come in 1844 when he faced a little known former governor of Tennessee, James K. Polk. The Whigs in Tennessee were a powerful force and Polk had been defeated twice for governor when he unexpectedly won the Democratic presidential nomination in 1844. James K. Polk really was the first of the "dark horse" presidential candidates. Brownlow avidly supported Clay's candidacy, but the



PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

W. G. "Parson" Brownlow, 1871

wily Kentuckian hedged on the question of annexing Texas, while James K. Polk was an open expansionist for American territory. The leading candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination was former president Martin Van Buren. Van Buren, the "Little Magician", had been Secretary of State and Vice President under Andrew Jackson and had enjoyed the Tennessean's warm support. Van Buren, like Henry Clay, misread the public's mind with regard to acquiring Texas and Jackson himself supported Polk instead. Clay recognized his mistake before the election and altered his position, but the result was that he appeared to many to have no fixed views. The election was extremely close and while Henry Clay carried Polk's home state of Tennessee, James K. Polk won the presidency.

It was a bitter disappointment to W. G. Brownlow to see an apostle of the hated Andrew Jackson win the presidency and even worse still that his idol Henry Clay had been defeated. Brownlow was so devoted to Clay, he literally wept when he received the news some years later that Clay had died of tuberculosis.

W. G. Brownlow moved his newspaper to Knoxville in 1849 and was subsequently greeted by being literally knocked in the head by someone who did not admire the parson. No one ever discovered just who had assaulted Brownlow, but the injury was grave enough to keep the parson confined to his bed for sometime. Eventually Brownlow recovered and he began an editorial war with a rival paper, the Knoxville Register. Brownlow also began promoting temperance in his newspaper and a favorite charge against opponents was labeling them as being, to put it politely, victimized by alcohol. It was not unusual for Brownlow to dismiss opponents as mere drunks.

W. G. Brownlow's attitude on the issue of slavery evolved over the years; he had apparently supported abolition, then backed a proposal to repatriate slaves to Liberia, and later became a supporter of slavery. Brownlow's support for slavery seemed to become more rabid during the 1850s and he once invited prominent Northerners to debate the issue with him, a challenge which was accepted by Frederick Douglass. Brownlow indignantly refused Douglass's

offer to debate slavery due to his race. Brownlow was also violently anti-Catholic, denouncing what he referred to as "Romanism."

Although Brownlow was a supporter of slavery, he was profoundly opposed to the Southern states seceding from the Union. Brownlow, a speaker of note, canvassed much of East Tennessee in an effort to stave off secession. Parson Brownlow finally closed his newspaper, announcing he expected to be arrested by the Confederates. Brownlow was granted permission to leave Tennessee by the Confederate Secretary of War, Judah P. Benjamin, but enemies in Knox County helped to persuade District Attorney J. C. Ramsey to have the editor arrested. Brownlow was charged with treason and jailed. Brownlow did not accept his arrest meekly, but rather immediately wrote Secretary of War Judah P. Benjamin, who promptly informed Knox County authorities he would pardon the parson if he were not released. Brownlow was indeed released and made his way to Nashville, which was then occupied by the Union Army.

Well known throughout the country due to his opposition to secession, Brownlow left Tennessee to go on a speaking tour. Brownlow also wrote a book on secession, which sold quite well. Brownlow returned to Tennessee, arriving first in Nashville and then to Knoxville, where he followed in the wake of the Union Army. Brownlow had earned considerable fees from his speaking tour, as well as his book and used the money to revive his newspaper. Brownlow pursued former Confederates relentlessly in the pages of his newspaper.

Former Confederates had been effectively disenfranchised and William Gannaway Brownlow was nominated for governor in 1865. Brownlow won perhaps the most lopsided victory in state history and assumed the governorship where he continued his campaign of hatred against

Confederates. Brownlow's reign as governor would become notorious and his attitude was not sweetened by his loathing of Nashville, which he had referred to as a "dunghill." Brownlow had helped to steer Tennessee back into the Union, making it the first state to officially leave the former Confederacy.

It was not long before Brownlow came to the conclusion the former military governor of Tennessee, his old rival Andrew Johnson, had treated former Confederates far too liberally. Brownlow assumed the same policies and attitudes held by the Radical Republicans, who dominated the Congress. The Radical Republicans saw former Confederates as absolute traitors who deserved the harshest kind of punishment. The Republicans rejected the more forgiving policies formulated by President Abraham Lincoln, which were also basically the policies advocated by Lincoln's successor, Andrew Johnson. The Radical Republicans were far less interested in healing the wounds of the Civil War than extracting a pound of flesh from Southerners.

To the horror of many Southerners, Governor Brownlow sought to give rights to slaves who had been freed. Brownlow frequently utilized questionable methods, if not downright brutal tactics, to accomplish his goals. Brownlow bullied the state legislature and hailed the state's adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution by sending the news to President Johnson, along with a personal message to "the dead dog in the White House."

Brownlow employed similar methods when he was up for reelection in 1867. The governor called out the state militia under the guise of protecting voters, but it also that ensured Brownlow received a healthy majority in the election. The legislature gave Brownlow the power to simply dismiss the election returns from those Tennessee counties the governor thought might be contaminated with votes

from those former Confederates who were disenfranchised. Governor Brownlow also demanded federal troops to be stationed in twenty some odd counties in Tennessee, as the Ku Klux Klan was growing in power in the state. General Nathan Bedford Forrest was a bitter opponent of Governor Brownlow and adamantly stated his belief the Brownlow regime to be both immoral and illegal. General Forrest hinted darkly that the governor and Radical Republicans in Tennessee might meet a bloody fate. The governor, hardly intimidated, announced he thought it entirely proper for Klan members to be shot on sight.

Two candidates for Congress supported by Brownlow had been defeated in the recent elections. Brownlow used his power to invalidate the votes from several Tennessee counties, allowing his favored candidates to emerge the victors.

Brownlow was not a candidate for reelection as governor, but had set his sights on a seat in the United States Senate that was held by Andrew Johnson's son-in-law. Brownlow was easily elected by the state legislature and left for Washington, D. C. Immediately upon the departure of the controversial governor, Klan activities in Tennessee subsided considerably.

The years of stress and conflict had taken a toll on the parson and he came to Washington quite diminished. Frequently weak and ill, the once dynamic Brownlow could not apparently even make his own speeches on the floor of the Senate; Brownlow had to resort to having his orations read by a clerk.

Senator Brownlow realized he had little chance to be reelected and his health was poor and decided against running for the Senate again. The parson returned to his Knoxville home and once again entered the newspaper business. When Knoxville College first opened, it was William G. Brownlow who made the opening address.

Brownlow had little time left to live after leaving the United States Senate. He was stricken while at home and died the following day from an apparent bowel obstruction. His funeral was perhaps the most attended at that time and admittedly, there were almost as many glad to see the old parson gone as those who genuinely mourned him.

The remains of the uncompromising and controversial William Gannaway Brownlow lie in Knoxville's Old Gray Cemetery to this day.



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# Catching up with Garry Tener

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

After 43 years Garry Tener is retiring. The Broadway Carpets chief operations officer and Knoxville community activist is well known in the region and The Knoxville Focus asked him several questions. His responses may surprise and delight you.

Garry and Becky Tener have been married for over 44 years. Becky retired as a kindergarten teacher with Blount County Schools after 35 years of service. She is an avid runner having run the Boston Marathon four times, the New York City Marathon, San Francisco Marathon, Cincinnati "Flying Pigs" Marathon, and all 16 of the Knoxville Marathons.

She has run hundreds of 5Ks, 10Ks and other distances as well. Becky has also been the pianist at their church, Beech Grove Baptist in Louisville, for over 46 years.

Garry and Becky have two grown sons. Joshua is married to Brittany and they have a three-year-old son named Eli. Joshua works for First Bank and Brittany works as a CT RT at Tennessee Urology. Their other son, Jeremiah, is a social studies teacher at Northwest Middle School in Knoxville.

**What was your first job and what did you do?**

My first job was at a business my father was a partner in. It was called The Salvage House in Maryville. We sold everything from furniture to floor coverings. That's where I first got experience in flooring. Since I was one of the owner's sons, my dad made me do all the dirty jobs. I took out the trash, cleaned the toilets, loaded and unloaded the trucks. He wanted me to learn to work and to realize that every job was important. If it wasn't important we wouldn't pay someone to do it. I worked my way up to assistant manager before leaving to go to work for The R.A. Siegel Co., an Armstrong Flooring distributor on Atlantic Avenue in North Knoxville just off Broadway. After 17 years there, I went to work for Broadway Carpets and Flooring and spent the rest of my career there. I have always been very blessed with the integrity of the people I've worked



*Garry and Becky Tener are looking forward to his retirement and staying involved with Knoxville organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and fun with their family. (Photo from Tener's Facebook Page)*

with and for.

Where did you attend school? Are you from Knoxville or how did you come here?

I am an East TN boy having lived in Blount County all my life. I went to Maryville High School and the University of Tennessee. My wife and both of our sons also went to UT. Both of our sons were in the Pride of the Southland Band for their four years respectively. They had a lot of fun and so did we. (We went to a lot of games and still do.) We also went with the band to Ireland as they marched in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland. Wow, that was a great trip!

**In your career what was the most rewarding memory?**

Most rewarding memory in my career—Probably when several of us at work saw a story by Don Dare from WATE about a mother and daughter who were disabled living in a mobile home and were having mobility issues with their wheel chairs. After seeing that story, our sales manager Bo Perkins helped mobilize several companies to get them help. Broadway Carpets and Flooring supplied the floors, former UT football great Daniel Hood got his team helping and several other companies got together to help those ladies who were in real need.

The other would be Broadway Carpets and Flooring being the flooring supplier for Knoxville Habitat for Humanity. I now serve as the chair-elect on

their board. So rewarding to see these hard working people get a hand up to home ownership. It is the only non profit organization I know of that has a 97% success rate. It changes family trees forever.

I had several children of the homeowners take me by the hand as they show me their new room at their Home Dedication. Some of which have never had their own room before. That ministry changes lives forever. I will be on their board for another two and a half years (If they'll have me, haha).

**Ever have a difficult customer and, without naming them, tell us about it.**

Difficult customers? Just like any retail store we get customers from all walks of life and situations. Floor coverings are bought when a house needs to be fixed up or changed and those reasons can vary greatly.

Some are very happy and some are heart wrenching.

Happy times are when someone is just wanting to make their house more warm and comfortable or update their home with new colors and styles. Just make things better.

I have had people start to cry when picking out new floors because someone in the family has passed away and the house is being fixed up to sell. Someone is sick and they have mobility issues now. Their mother or father may have had to move out of the home that person grew up in because of some illness. We don't know what any of our customers have just experienced and if they are not happy that day, then we try

let them know that we are there to help them.

**What are your hobbies?**  
My hobbies include hiking, biking, boating and Shotgun Sports like Skeet, Trap, 5 Stand and Sporting Clays. Broadway Carpets and Flooring sponsors a sporting clays tournament that benefits Knoxville Habitat for Humanity. Lots of fun. My wife and I have made vacations out of her marathon races as we traveled to some of the big cities such as Boston, New York and San Francisco.

**Are you a member of associations, clubs, etc? If so, please tell us about it.**

As I mentioned, I am on the board of Knoxville Habitat for Humanity. I have been the co-chair of the

Broadway Corridor Task Force, I have been on the UpTown North Branding Committee and I have been on the board of the North Knoxville Business and Professional Association.

**What are your plans now that you have retired?**

Now that Becky and I are retired, we hope to get our COVID-19 vaccinations and travel some. I know Becky wants to run more marathons at different cities around the world. I want to shoot more clay targets and participate in tournaments as well. Obviously, I want to spend time with my grandson, Eli. We're going fishing on our dock now that he's a little bigger. I want to do more with Knoxville Habitat as well.

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## Inclement weather policy, bus passes discussed

**Cont. from page 1**  
of charge until the end of the calendar year.

"Last week the City of Knoxville and KAT announced that they would provide our students with the Freedom Pass," Thomas said. "I would like to thank KAT, the City of Knoxville and Mayor Indya Kincannon. This will give our students the opportunity to ride for free until the end of this calendar year. "It will give our older students the opportunity to pursue jobs and it will give all of our students the opportunities to visit libraries and museums."

The Freedom Passes will be mailed to parents of Knoxville County Students.

The board also discussed a coming program, the Elevate Program, which will seek to help children who have drug use and substance abuse issues.

That program will be voted on at Wednesday's regular session meeting

and is a joint effort between KCS, Knox County, the Boyd Foundation and the Helen Ross McNabb Center.

"We will work in conjunction with the Juvenile Courts and we're looking to begin the program with 10 students," said Jason Myers, Knox County Schools Executive Director of Student Supports.

Thomas noted that the Boyd Foundation has earmarked \$150,000 to grant to the program and that Knox County and Mayor Glenn Jacobs has pledged nearly \$90,000 to the program, which will aid students with substance use issues and keep them on track to graduate from their base school.

The Helen Ross McNabb Center has agreed to provide classrooms and meeting facilities for students in the program.

The board's regular session meeting will be held Wednesday at 5 p.m. at the Andrew Johnson Building.

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# Farragut's state tournament bid falls short against Alcoa 44-41

By Ken Lay

The Farragut Middle School boys basketball team saw its quest for a trip to the 2021 Class AAA State Tournament come up short Saturday night. Things started well for

the Admirals but a rough first quarter would prove to be their undoing in a 44-41 loss to Alcoa at Farragut High School's Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium.

The Admirals fought an uphill battle all night after starting the contest by

scoring the first six points out of the gate.

Farragut Middle, which closes the 2020-2021 season with a 12-2 record, couldn't have scripted a better beginning for the sectional championship tilt as they forced the

Tornadoes into turnovers on their first four possessions and scored three buckets off of those Alcoa miscues.

But things quickly went south for the Admirals in the second stanza.

The Tornadoes led 12-8

after the opening frame and extended their advantage to 23-15 by halftime.

"We just had a bad second quarter," Farragut first-year coach Lynn Allen said. "We just had too many turnovers and we weren't really able to get into any

sets and I didn't really do a good job getting our guys where they needed to be.

"But I was proud of them for fighting and battling their way back. We out-scored them in the second half and we had some

**Continue on page 3**

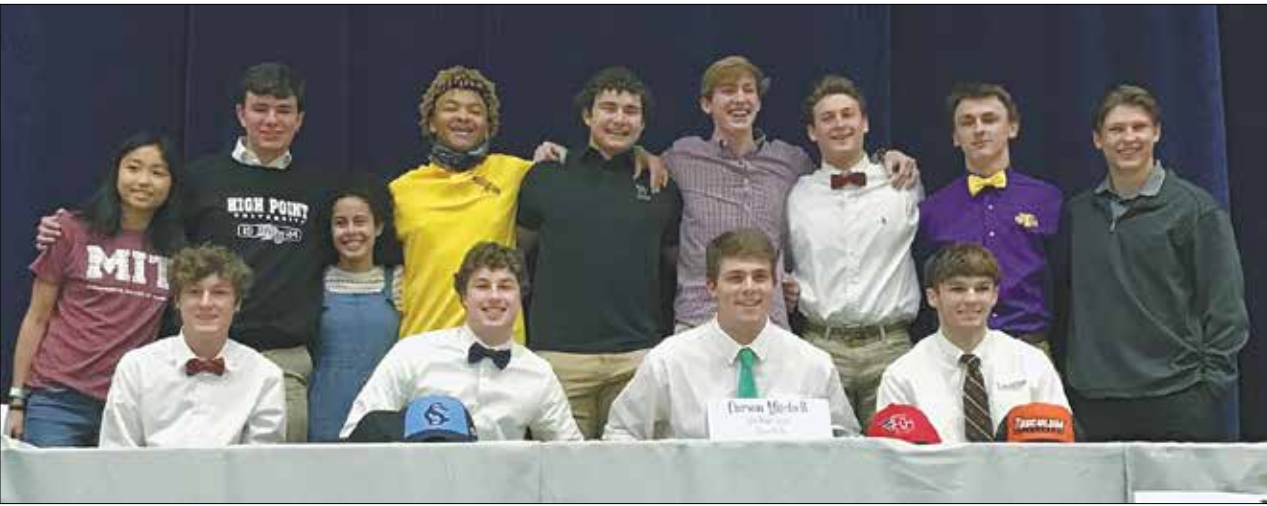


PHOTO BY JACK TATE

Farragut had the largest number -- 13 student-athletes -- among local high schools to ink college scholarships on National Signing Day.

# Halls QB will take his passing game and toughness to Cincy

By Steve Williams

Ty Humphrey has left behind a sparkling record for future Halls High quarterbacks to break.

It may be quite awhile though before that happens.

Humphrey threw for a school career record 4,279 yards. Forty-three touchdowns resulted from his passing.

His senior season was a grand finale as he totaled 1,634 yards through the air and 19 TDs with five interceptions in only nine games.

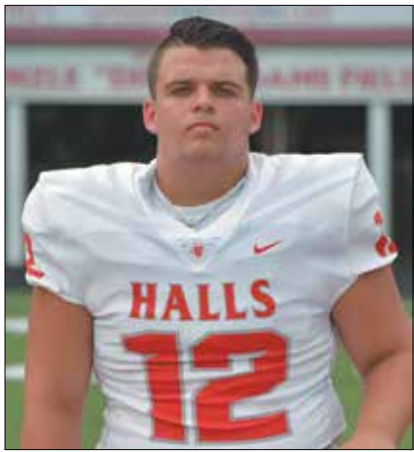
Ty would no doubt tell you it wasn't all him. He had several fleet receivers who could stretch the field and go get it.

Humphrey also had a hefty physique to go with that arm and may have been unstoppable on quarterback sneaks close to the goal line. That was just a bonus for Coach Scott Cummings.

"Ty showed a lot of toughness this year," said the second-year Halls coach when asked what impressed him the most about his signal-caller. "He took big hits and got the ball off standing tough in the pocket. His leadership by example was always there."

Humphrey signed with Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati.

"The offensive coordinator there, Caleb Corrill, saw Ty's tweets on Twitter that also had his hudl link on it, and he watched them, and then began



Mount Saint Joseph University liked what they saw in Ty Humphrey, Halls' record-setting quarterback.

recruiting Ty," according to proud parents Karen and Michael Humphrey. "We visited the school and coaches, and were impressed and happy Ty decided to commit there."

As a 6-year-old, Ty didn't want any part of flag football at the Halls Community Park. He wanted to play real football like his big brother Luke.

His parents found a way to make it happen.

Ty also didn't start out as a QB. He scored a lot of touchdowns as a running back and made a lot of tackles as a linebacker.

He got his first taste of being a quarterback at age 10 with the Fulton Falcons and helped lead them to the league championship.

When he arrived at Halls High, he

continued as a field general and kept the job despite injury.

One special moment for the Humphrey family came in Ty's freshman season when his brother -- who now plays for the University of Pikeville in Kentucky -- was a senior offensive tackle for the Red Devils.

Ty got to run a couple of series at QB in two games near the end of that season and scored on a sneak in both games with Luke blocking for him.

Humphrey became Halls' starter in his sophomore season and debuted with four scoring passes and one TD run in a 54-42 shootout win over Karns.

Even with Halls missing three games and three weeks of practice in his senior year due to COVID-19 quarantine, Ty led the team to an 8-2 record and the second round of the playoffs. A special night was winning at Central 20-16 and taking home the Black Oak Ridge Trophy.

Humphrey's honors include being named to the All-Region 2-5A team each of his last three seasons. He also was Halls' captain.

Ty finished with a 3.6 GPA and recently passed testing for CNA certification. He plans to pursue a career in nursing and has been accepted into the Nursing Program at Mount St. Joseph.

**Continued on page 4**

# A 'whirlwind' week puts Johnson on a path to Army

By Steve Williams

Ewan Johnson's life changed drastically last week.

South-Doyle High's outstanding place-kicker committed to Army and West Point on Monday (Feb. 1) and became a Black Knight when he signed with the United States Military Academy on National Signing Day Wednesday (Feb. 3).

His mom, Shelley Johnson, said the past week had been like a "whirlwind."

Ewan said Army reached out to his kicking coach, Brent Grablachoff with Kicking World, around two weeks ago, "and then (special teams) Coach (Sean) Saturnio with Army reached out to me and started communicating with me around a week and half ago.

"I sent him my film and he and the head coach,

Jeff Monken, reviewed it and then Wednesday (Jan. 27), Army offered me a scholarship!" recalled Johnson Friday.

"I had never had any interest in going to a military school until Coach Saturnio started talking to me and what Army offered me just couldn't be beat."

Lindsey Wilson College (KY) had offered him a scholarship and Gardner-Webb University (NC) gave him a PWO (preferred walk-on) opportunity.

Johnson had been named a Kicking World All-American twice after attending the kicking camp near Austin, Tex., each of the past two Decembers.

He is regarded as one of the best prep place-kickers to ever play in Knoxville. His dad, Steven, was a backup place-kicker at UT and lettered with the

**Continued on page 2**



South-Doyle High Coach Clark Duncan joins football standouts Ewan Johnson (left) and Noah Myers at their signing ceremony on Feb. 3.

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## TSSAA GIRLS' WRESTLING

## Tindall and Redmond eye state titles

By Steve Williams

Two Knox County girl wrestlers will be going after TSSAA state championships later this month.

If they perform like they did recently in the East Region tournament, they should have a good chance at finishing No. 1.

Jailynn Tindall, a Carter High junior who moved to Strawberry Plains from Georgia last summer, needed only 4 minutes and 44 seconds to pin all four of her opponents in the 140-pound weight class at Heritage High on Jan. 30.

The slap of the referee's hand on the mat could be heard at 0:35, 1:16, 1:05 and 1:48 in the opening round of each of Tindall's four matches.

Gibbs sophomore Haley Redmond had to work a little longer, but she swept her four foes too in the 132-pound weight class. She started with a pin in 4:52, outscored her next opponent 11-5, recorded a 13-0 major decision in the semifinals and finished with a pin in 4:54 in the finals.

Tindall now has a 20-1 record in sanctioned matches this season, said Carter Coach Tim Free.

Redmond raised her record to 18-1 and Gibbs Coach Tim Pittman was very impressed.

"The girl Haley beat in the finals (Jaelyn Patton of Stone Memorial) was fourth in the state last year and All-State," he said.

But Pittman said he was not surprised Redmond prevailed.

"Haley has won tournaments at William Blount and Science Hill after finishing third in the first tournament at Stone Memorial. Other than that, she has been on fire.

"I didn't know how the title match was going to go because that other girl is pretty tough," added Pittman. "But Haley is so mentally strong and won't take no for an answer. She just went out there and took that championship by her own will."

Redmond started wrestling last year as a freshman and placed sixth at the state in the 119-pound weight class.

"She is one tough girl and all my girls wrestle with the boys in practice," said Pittman.

Despite taking only four girls to the region tourney, which had a field of 38 teams, Gibbs came in third with 72 points.

Union County took first place in the team scoring with 91 points. Alcoa (84) was runner-up. Sevier County (69) and Science Hill (68) rounded out the Top 5.

"If I would have had my fifth girl (140-pound sophomore Skyler Vogt)



*Above: Gibbs Coach Tim Pittman says there are some tough girls coming out of the West Region, but the Lady Eagles' Haley Redmond "is just as tough as them" and thinks she has a good shot at the state title.*

*Left: Carter's Jailynn Tindall wastes no time pinning another opponent at the TSSAA East Region Girls' Wrestling tournament on Jan. 30 at Heritage High. In four matches, no opponent could last through the opening two-minute period against Tindall.*

– who ended up having COVID – we might have won the tournament," said Pittman. "She's another one of my beasts."

Two other Lady Eagles – juniors Katie Harr (150) and Angel Griffith (170) – took fourth place to also qualify for state. "They're making huge strides," said the Gibbs coach.

Pittman thinks Redmond has a good shot at the state title.

"There are some tough girls coming out of the West region, but Haley is just as tough as them.

"I'm super proud of her. She works really hard and all of the girls work really hard. They come in here and get punished and sweat just like the boys do. They get put through the wringer, but I've never heard them complain. They just keep going."

Several others from the Knoxville area also earned state berths.

Bearden sophomore Kiera Blevins took second place in the 150-pound weight class. She had three pins before being pinned and is now sporting a 14-2 record.

Farragut had four state qualifiers. Junior Elaina Thibrandt (150) and sophomore Hailey Webb (160) came in third, while senior Katie Vail (119) and junior Emily Manning (215) each finished fourth.

Seymour freshman Cierra Hassinger (103) also placed fourth.

**WHEN AND WHERE:** The TSSAA Wrestling State Championships will be returning to Chattanooga after a 12-year absence on February 18-20. The Chattanooga Convention Center will host this year's competition.

Division I Class A-AA will take place on Thursday, Feb. 18. Division II and Girls will compete on Friday, Feb. 19 and Division I Class AAA will compete on Saturday, Feb. 20.

## A 'whirlwind' week puts Johnson on a path to Army

*Cont. from page 1*

Vols in 1993.

"I am looking forward to traveling up to New York and living up there and being in a really cool place with great people," said Ewan.

He will report to West Point around the end of June or early July.

"With football my freshman year, I would like to go up there and get in their weight program and get used to athletics in college, and then later on in college, I would like to compete for a starting spot.

"As for the cadet side of things, I am excited to go up and graduate and then serve for my country!"

Johnson plans to major in Finance or Civil Engineering.

Ewan watched the traditional Army vs. Navy games growing up.

"I think that game is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, rivalry game that there is," he said.

And now he has a chance

to be a part of it.

Two other local standouts signed with Army during the early signing period – Central High twins Kalib and Liam Fortner.

South-Doyle and Central were in the same region and have had several good battles that the three have been a part of.

"I know the Fortners and I have not communicated with them yet, but I'm hoping to get too soon. I think that it will definitely be good having some other Knoxville kids up there with me; it will just make me feel more comfortable."

After he goes to fulfill his dreams of playing college football, Ewan said he won't forget his high school years and playing for the Cherokees.

"Some of my greatest memories will definitely be getting to play four years of football with some of my closest friends and getting to be coached by some fantastic coaches!" he said.

*For many, National Signing Day is the culmination of a long recruiting journey!*

## LOCAL COLLEGE SIGNEES

Local high school student-athletes who signed on National Signing Day Feb. 3 or in the current national signing period:

### BEARDEN

Ty Serrit, Emory & Henry College, football  
Jay Pemberton, Emory & Henry College, football  
Jalen Nevels, Emory & Henry College, football

### BEREAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Harper Pratt, Roane State, volleyball  
Cooper Hayes, Lipscomb, golf

### CARTER

Timothy Flack, Carson Newman, football  
Anthony Stocker, Carson Newman, football  
Maurice Sylvia, Norwich University, football

### CENTRAL

Kalib Fortner, Army, football  
Liam Fortner, Army, football  
FARRAGUT  
Eli Purcell, Wofford, football  
Bridges Coffey, Tennessee Tech, football  
Logan Foody, Dayton, football  
Camden Kuhn, Samford, football  
Trey Nesbitt, Missouri Western State, football  
Canaan Jackson, Missouri Western State, football  
A.J. Rinehart, Walters State, golf  
Cathy Hu, MIT, cross country and track  
Jessie Rennich, Bryan College, track and field  
Parker Evans, Tusculum, baseball  
Carson Mitchell, Shelton State, baseball  
Bryce Burkey, Cleveland State, baseball  
David Rhodes, High Point, track and field

### GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Trevor Lawrence, Johnson University, baseball  
Blake Courson, Johnson University, baseball  
Eli Crowder, Martin Methodist College, baseball  
Garrett Staley, University of the Cumberlands, football  
Johnny Eller, Wheaton College, football  
Caleb Curcio, Monroe College, football  
Bailey Fersner, King University, volleyball

### HALLS

Xander Allen, Tusculum, football  
Ty Humphrey, Mt. St. Joseph, football  
Aaron Coley, Maryville College, football  
Ellie Cornell, ETSU, soccer  
Matthew Wrinkle, LMU, baseball

### HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY

Ian Salyer, Carson Newman, track and field  
Kate Salisbury, Carson Newman, swimming  
Deshawn Carey-Parker, Tusculum, football  
Braxton Clarke, Midland University, football

### KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC

Emma Schaad, Tusculum, softball  
Kennedy Noe, University of North Georgia, golf  
Landon Cox, Carson Newman, football  
Luke Davenport, MTSU, football (PWO)  
Cassie Kuerschen, Penn State, volleyball

### SEYMOUR

Maci Pitner, Bryan College, basketball  
Elijah Galyon, ETSU, baseball  
Derek McCarley, ETSU, baseball  
Michael White, Judson University, football

### SOUTH-DOYLE

Ewan Johnson, Army, football  
Noah Myers, Gardner-Webb, football

### THE KING'S ACADEMY

Zac Acuff, Missouri Western State, football  
Alexa Austin, Emory & Henry, volleyball

### WEBB SCHOOL

Jordan Sandberg, Washington University, volleyball  
Jackson Musrock, Memphis, baseball  
Noelle Fuchs, Duke, rowing  
(Scheduled to sign on Feb. 8)  
Jackson Bradley, Cornell, football  
Corey Williams, University of Pikeville, football  
Elijah Bane, Rhodes College, football  
Tabb Layton, Centre College, football

### WEST

(Scheduled to sign on Feb. 8)  
Kolton Glick, Carson Newman, baseball  
Bo Millikan, Tusculum, baseball  
Royal Philo, King University, baseball  
Parker Serrano, Roane State, baseball  
Trent Thompson, Johnson University, baseball  
Gabe New, Maryville College, golf  
Aiden Phillips, Tennessee Wesleyan, soccer

Did not have signees at this time: Austin-East, Career Magnet Academy, CAK, Concord Christian, First Baptist Academy, Fulton, Gibbs, Karns, L&N STEM Academy, Powell, TSD.

Compiled by Steve Williams

## NOTABLES FROM KNOXVILLE

### DAVE THOMAS

Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's Restaurant, began in that industry as a 12-year-old worker at Regas Restaurant in downtown Knoxville. He and the owner had a falling out and Thomas was dismissed. Years later the restaurant posted a large autographed poster of Thomas and it remained there until the noted local restaurant closed in 2010.

One of the brothers, Frank Regas told Thomas, 'In this country, son, you can do anything you want to do if you're willing to work hard enough.'

Thomas moved with his adoptive father when Dave was 15 and worked at a restaurant in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and then dropped out of high school to work full time in the restaurant business. He was head cook in a restaurant when Col. Harlan Sanders and the restaurant owners converted the establishment to a Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Thomas went on to establish his own "Wendy's" and, although Thomas has passed away, there are more than 6,000 Wendy's in the United States.

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# There's a flag on the play



Linebacker Keith DeLong followed in the footsteps of his famous father, Steve DeLong, serving as 1988 team co-captain and earning All-American honors.

Never was John Majors happier to see a flag dropped. It was Nov. 5, 1988, and the Vols had a one-game winning streak, after a win two weeks earlier at Memphis State.

That doesn't sound like much, but the Vols had dropped six in a row to start the season, so a one-game win streak was big news. The tally in those six games was 211-102, in favor of the other guys.

Tennessee and Boston College were squaring off in the rain at Neyland Stadium. It rained nearly every home game during the 1988 season, so that was nothing new. It was Homecoming Day.

Preston Warren had a 31-yard interception return for a touchdown, and Chip McCallum added a 43-yard field goal to complete the Vol scoring. Warren's pick was one of four for the Vols, three by Warren. That was the first time a Vol defender had three picks since Chris White did so in that memorable game against Miami on Jan 1, 1986, in New Orleans.

Tennessee led 10-7 nearing the one-minute mark of the fourth quarter. All appeared well.

BC had the ball, third-and-19 at the 20, 80 yards away from the south end zone, which looked as if it might have been in another county. This year, however, anything was possible.

BC Quarterback Mike Power heaved the pigskin far, far, down the field. Wide receiver Marcus Cherry somehow wrestled the ball away from Vol defenders Warren and Kelly Days and completed an 80-yard scoring play. It was a shocker, to put it mildly.

Neyland Stadium was silent as a tomb. No one counted the number of fans who headed for the exits or those at home who turned off their radios. About that time, however, there was an intervention, perhaps from the heavens.

That came with the realization that there was a yellow flag at the line of scrimmage. The game wasn't on television, so the word "FLAG" didn't appear on the television graphics of that day.

The officials, members of a split crew (they don't have those anymore), conferred and rendered a decision. What happened was a

BC tight end was "covered" by the wide receiver on his side. Once he crossed the line of scrimmage, he was an ineligible receiver.

The line judge threw the flag, and a penalty was stepped off. The touchdown was thus disallowed, and there was an enormous sigh of relief from Vol partisans. The official who made the call was not an SEC type, but from the BC side. The Eagles ended up with 17 penalties for 165 yards on the day.

Along with a smallish contingent of folks from up north, Eagles coach Jack Bicknell was not impressed. "I don't know what the officials saw or didn't see," he said. "I just know they're not very nice people, and I'm sure they would say the same thing about me."

The Vols escaped the gallows at exactly the right time, in much the same way Ben Matlock always seems to pull a rabbit out of the hat in that show's next-to-last segment.

Split crews were always an adventure in those bygone days. There had been a similar situation in 1964 when Boston College came to town, when numerous penalties were assessed. The Vols won

that day, 16-14. The Eagles also made the Tennessee football history books by being on the other side of John Majors' first victory at Tennessee, 24-18 in 1977.

The Boston College game was part of a five-game winning streak to end the season, including victories over Mississippi, Kentucky, and Vanderbilt. Senior Vols, such as All American linebacker Keith DeLong, quarterback Jeff Francis, and tight end Nate Middlebrooks guided the comeback of the youthful team.

The finish of the 1988 season was the lead-in to an 11-1 season in 1989 that brought home an SEC title and a 31-27 win over Arkansas in the Cotton Bowl. In 1990, there was another SEC title and a win over Virginia, 23-22, in the Sugar Bowl.

It all happened because two BC receivers lined up in the wrong place at the wrong time. Majors saw it as manna from heaven, perhaps, or maybe a long-overdue break that fell in the Vols' collective laps.

"But who deserves some good luck more than Tennessee," said Majors. "We've had our share of the other kind."

# Living the Buyout Life

By Mark Nagi

When I was younger, I had dreams.

I wanted to be the play by play voice of the New York Rangers. No, that didn't pan out, but other dreams were realized. I have two smart and wonderful daughters, a roof over my head, a steady job... I know how blessed I am, and I am thankful every day for the gifts that I have been bestowed.

That all said, I have a new dream as I get closer to my trip to 50...

I want to be an unsuccessful yet high profile employee in the world of collegiate athletics.

Look no further than the UT campus. Recently, head coach Jeremy Pruitt was fired and athletics director Phillip Fulmer \*cough\* retired \*cough cough cough\*. Tennessee says that they fired Pruitt "for cause," meaning that they aren't paying any of the remaining \$12.6 million remaining on his contract.

But folks... that doesn't mean the unnecessary dollars aren't flying out of the Tennessee athletics department. Fulmer will reportedly receive half of his remaining salary, a cool \$1.35 million, to stop working at Tennessee. Fulmer was under contract until December 31, 2023.

With the hiring of Danny White as the new AD, Fulmer's last go around is now complete. If you factor in the buyout he received

after he was fired as Tennessee's football coach in 2008, Fulmer will have/is getting \$7.35 million from Tennessee... to not work.

White hired Josh Heupel to replace Pruitt. That meant a whole bunch of assistant coaches were going to be shown the door. Offensive coordinator Jim Chaney was set to make \$1.7 million in 2021. Guess what? He is still making it... even though he wasn't retained by UT.

Quarterbacks coach Chris Weinke was also booted but picks up a sweet \$450,000 as he walks out the door.

Tennessee had one of the worst offenses in college football in 2020, and the quarterback play was a huge reason why. So maybe \$2.15 million is a small price to pay for the opportunity to move on from Chaney and Weinke.

Tight ends coach Jim Osovet got \$250,000 to not work at UT anymore this year.

I could go on and on about how Tennessee paid \$5 million to rid themselves of Derek Dooley and over \$8 million to dispatch Butch Jones... or how they gave Bruce Pearl nearly \$1 million when they owed him zippo for putting Tennessee on probation.

You get the idea... Tennessee has made some awful financial decisions over the past thirteen years.

And it might get even worse. At

the time of the writing of this article, we didn't know the future of former interim head coach Kevin Steele, who could pick up \$900,000 from Tennessee if he isn't retained.

Tennessee is reportedly paying \$6 million in buyouts to get White and Heupel out of their contracts at Central Florida. They paid Parker Executive Search Firm \$120,000 for assisting with the AD search and another \$120,000 for assisting with the head coaching search.

Yes, they paid a search firm \$120,000 to help find a football coach... and White hired the guy he had just worked with at UCF.

Keep in mind that Tennessee is not alone in this... colleges across the country pay millions every single year to fire people that, for the most part, weren't doing their jobs well.

I've figured out that is my new dream, to be a big time football coach that was good enough to garner a six to seven figure contract, yet incompetent enough that they'd rather pay me not to work for them than pay me to work for them.

I know that coaches are wired differently, but let me tell you, I'd have no problem taking a year to sit on the beach, sipping a beverage and watch the tide roll in while also watching my bank account grow.

Dream on, dream on, dream until your dreams come true...

As always, the buyout life remains undefeated.

# Farragut's state tournament bid falls short against Alcoa 44-41

Cont. from page 1

Alcoa has a great team and they're well-coached," Allen said. "They could win it all."

This was Farragut's first-ever sectional tournament trip and Allen said he is proud to be the Admirals' coach.

"This is my first year at Farragut," said Allen, who is no stranger to Knoxville Area scholastic basketball fans, having served as head coach at Central High and Karns Middle before landing at Farragut. "I've just been blessed by the Lord to coach this team, these boys."

"I'm not just saying that because of how far we got. I came here to make these players better young men and to make a positive impact in this community and I feel like we did that."

Dominic VanAcker scored nine points for the Admirals while Landon Collins finished with five.

chances to win but we missed three late layups. We just couldn't get them to fall.

The Tornadoes went to the fourth quarter clinging to a 33-27 lead before Farragut roared back to pull to within 42-41 on a bucket by Parker Lane with 38.8 seconds remaining in the contest. Lane, who led the Admirals with 20 points, was fouled on the play but his ensuing free throw went awry leaving Alcoa ahead by a single point.

The Tornadoes sealed their trip to Murfreesboro when Eli Graf made a pair of foul shots with 5.6 seconds to play.

Graf finished the game with 12 points for Alcoa, which got a big boost from post player Eli Owens, who finished with a game-high 22 points, including 14 of Alcoa's 23 first-half points.

"Owens is a great player.

# Farragut routs Bruins to move on in MS hoops

By Ken Lay

A big win over a Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference rival has the Farragut Middle School boys basketball team one game away from its first-ever trip to the TMSAA Class AAA State Tournament.

The Admirals routed Bearden 60-33 to become Section 1 Champions Thursday night at Cleveland Middle School.

Farragut (12-1) was set to play Alcoa Saturday with a trip to the state tournament in Murfreesboro hanging in the balance but results were not available at press time.

But Thursday, Admirals' first-year head coach Lynn Allen said that his team put up its best effort of the season against the Bruins (11-2).

"Our kids played hard and it was our night," Allen said. "It was a great night for the Admirals."

"The Lord has just heaped blessings on this team. Bearden has a great team and (coach) Ben (Zorio) does a great job. But tonight, I'm just so proud of my kids and it was a great night for Farragut."

The Admirals, who are the only team to beat the Bruins this season, having also knocked off Bearden

in the Knox County Tournament semifinals, boasted a balanced scoring attack with Dominic VanAcker leading the way with 17 points. Parker Lane added 12 and Kent Carbaugh scored 11. Landon Collins and Brodie Roberts chipped in with nine points each and Carson MacTavish finished with two.

For the Bruins, it was a rough night.

"Give Farragut credit. They outplayed us and they really outphysicalled us," Zorio said. "The first quarter was close, but after that, they just outplayed us. I'm proud of our boys for their season."

"I'm really grateful and thankful to have gotten the chance to coach these boys."

Devyn Martin scored 12 points for the Bruins against Farragut. Jack Hankins added eight and Maurice Clark finished with seven.

The 2020-2021 campaign has definitely been unique as the Bruins and the Admirals didn't play a full slate of games as the season was interrupted multiple times do to COVID-19 concerns and contact tracing.

But for both Bearden and Farragut, the sectional tournament provided some

big moments.

The Admirals, the KCMSBC tournament runners-up had wins over Lake Forest and Cleveland at sectionals, while the Bruins, the consolation champions in Knoxville, beat Alcoa and stunned Knox County champion West Valley 49-39 in the sectional semifinals on Tuesday.

"West Valley was really dominant in the county tournament," Zorio said. "They beat teams by an average of 33 points"

The Wolves routed the Admirals by 30 points in the county championship but fell to Bearden to end

their season,

Clark had 15 points for the Bruins Tuesday while Martin scored 14. Jack Keith added 11 and Garrett Burch had nine.

**In girls action Thursday:** Knox County Tournament Champion West Valley was eliminated by Lake Forest 42-19.

The Wolves outlasted rival Farragut 40-37 on Wednesday and Farragut opened tournament play on Saturday, Jan. 31 with an upset of Cleveland. The Lady Admirals prevailed 52-45 in overtime for their first-ever sectional victory.

# Bearden downs Alcoa 67-34 on Senior Night to help coach reach milestone

By Ken Lay

Bearden High School's boys basketball team had plenty of reasons to celebrate Tuesday night.

For starters, the Bulldogs honored their seniors before routing William Blount 67-34 and the victory marked a milestone for head coach Jeremy Parrott.

"This just shows that I've been doing this a long time," said Parrott, who posted the 350th win of his career when Bearden toppled the Governors

67-34 at Bearden High School.

The Bulldogs (22-1 overall, 12-0 in District 4-AAA) darted out to a fast start and used a balanced and potent offensive attack to pound William Blount into submission early. Bearden jumped out to a 14-0 lead early in the game against the Governors (11-13, 5-7) and never looked back.

William Blount finally scored when Jake England knocked down a 3-pointer nearly five minutes into the contest. The Bulldogs led 25-8 at the end

of the first quarter and had the game in control from the outset.

"The first quarter couldn't have gone much better for us than it did for us tonight," said Parrott, who guided the Bulldogs to the 2019 Class AAA State Championships and three of the last four state tournaments "We just had a night when things went well for us.

"Things went our way tonight and it's nice to have those nights. We got a chance to see some guys at some different positions and we got the chance

to see some different combinations (in the lineup)."

Izaiha Bredwood led the Bulldogs' offensive attack as he scored 15 points. Hayden Treadwell and A.J. Pruitt each scored 13 points. Pruitt was 10-for-12 from the free throw line. Elijah Bredwood scored eight points and Jon Attaanasio finished with seven points for the Bulldogs, who held a 40-15 advantage at halftime.

England scored 14 to lead the Governors.

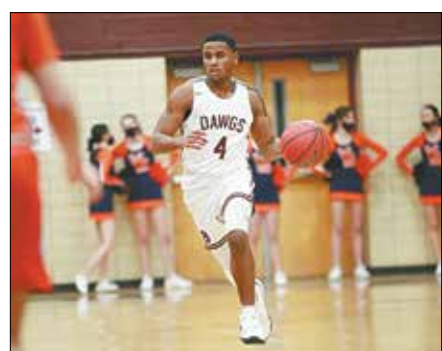


PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS.

*Bearden High's Demias Muncey brings the ball upcourt in the Bulldogs' 67-34 victory over William Blount Tuesday at Bearden. Muncey scored three points in the contest.*

## FBA's Hendershott produces a rare quadruple double



By Steve Williams

When is the last time you heard of a quadruple double in basketball?

One happened last week when Catherine Hendershott of First Baptist Academy scored 28 points and had 11 rebounds, 10 assists and 10 steals in a 72-33 win at Concord Christian School.

Hendershott, who formerly played at Webb, transferred to FBA from the Knoxville Ambassadors' home school team in December. She is a senior point guard / wing.

"Catherine will probably play on the NCAA Division II or III level," said Athletic Director Johnny Cox, who also is a long-time high school and college basketball referee. "She will be a good point guard for somebody."

The quadruple double was just the latest bright spot in what has been a special season for the FBA girls under new coach Freeman Pinkney.

The Lady Eagles, who were scheduled to host Berean Christian in their regular season finale Friday, have boosted their school-record win total to 18 games.

The First Baptist Academy girls (18-12 and 6-5 in region) will go into the TSSAA Division II Class A East Region tournament this

week after being in the middle of the regular season standings with The King's Academy and Webb. Lakeway Christian Academy and Christian Academy of Knoxville were on top.

For the first time ever, FBA defeated Webb, CAK and Grace Christian, according to Pinkney. Last season, he guided the Knoxville Catholic girls to their first ever appearance in the state tournament.

"We're kind of putting FBA on the map," said Pinkney. "I'm trying and these girls have bought in. We get great support from the administration."

**BASKETBALL:** With Division I district tournaments beginning in the next few weeks, arrangements are being finalized for the 2021 TSSAA BlueCross State Championships. The tournaments will have a new look this season as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to restrictions and public health concerns in Davidson County, the Division II tournament will be held at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville March 4-6.

The Division I BlueCross Championships, which were cut short a year ago, will return to MTSU's Murphy Center, which has been the host of many state tournaments since 1975.

Games will be played Wednesday through Friday each week of the Division I girls' and boys' tournaments, with the finals on Saturday.

The Girls' tourney will be March 10-13 and the boys' tourney March 17-20.

No tickets are expected to be available to the general public.

**STATE DUALS:** Pigeon Forge was the lone area representative in this year's TSSAA state wrestling tournament.

The Tigers (24-5) were slated to go against Signal Mountain in the Class A-AA semifinals Saturday at Nolensville.

Pigeon Forge eliminated Gibbs' boys 36-27 in this season's Region 2 finals.

The Tigers are ranked No. 9 in the latest Tennessee High School Wrestling Poll. Baylor and Cleveland are ranked No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, in the poll.

**CHEER AND DANCE:** Preparations are currently underway for the 2020-21 TSSAA Cheer / Dance Championships which will be conducted in an online "virtual" format this school year due to COVID-19.

**BOWDEN WATCH:** The Long Island Nets, the NBA G League affiliate of the Brooklyn Nets, announced their 2021 roster Jan. 27 and former Carter High and UT basketball standout Jordan Bowden is on the team.

**MONICA WATCH:** Former UT great Monica Abbott is a pitcher on the 15-player U.S. Olympic softball team which is preparing for the delayed Tokyo Olympics in July.

Other pitchers include Cat Osterman, Ally Carda and Rachel Garcia. Three alternates were also chosen, including pitcher Keilani Ricketts.

Softball will be an Olympic sport this year for the first time since 2008.

## Lady Bulldogs knock down 14 treys in 80-17 victory over William Blount

By Ken Lay

Bearden High School's girls basketball team celebrated Senior Night, 2021 with a lopsided victory over William Blount Tuesday night. All three seniors made significant contributions in the win.

The Lady Bulldogs routed the Lady Governors 80-17 and afterwards, the team honored its three seniors, Zneyah McLaughlin, Reagan Ruth and Natalie Rice.

Ruth had perhaps the best offensive game of her career as she scored 19 points and knocked down five 3-pointers. Rice scored seven points, all after halftime, and McLaughlin, a guard, had three points.

"These are three great seniors and they've always been leaders," Bearden coach Justin Underwood. "Reagan had a great game, Natalie knocked down some shots and hit a 3-pointer and Zneyah has done just about everything for us since she's been here. These girls are leaders and they're all great young ladies. They've led us all season.

"They have siblings who have played here and I think I've had a McLaughlin ever since I've been here."

This game was over early as the Lady Bulldogs (18-1 overall, 12-0 in District 4-AAA) came out blazing. Bearden opened a 21-6 lead by the end of the first quarter.

The Lady Bulldogs were particularly hot from the perimeter. Bearden made 14 shots from beyond the 3-point arc. In addition to Ruth's five long-range jumpers, Maddie Brillhart had three.



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS.

*Bearden's Natalie Rice attempts a shot over William Blount defender Karley Rule in a District 4-AAA game at Bearden Tuesday night. The Lady Bulldogs prevailed 80-17.*

Jennifer Sullivan and Hannah Claire Stephens had two each. Emily Gonzalez, Avery Treadwell and Rice each had one.

Treadwell, a sophomore post player, was also a force inside as she finished the contest with a game-high 20 points for the Lady Bulldogs, who led 44-9 at halftime.

Brillhart scored 11 points. Sullivan added nine and Stephens finished with eight. McLaughlin finished the game with nine assists.

Chloe Russell scored seven points to pace the Lady Governors (6-12, 4-7).

## Halls QB will take his passing game and toughness to Cincy

Cont. from page 1

**REBELS SIGN TODAY:**

West, being on "Red" protocol last week, will have its Signing Day Ceremony today (Feb. 8) in the school's Main Auditorium at 10 a.m, reported West Athletic Director Chris Caruthers.

No football signees at West?

"Not yet," replied Caruthers.

**MISSED SIGNING:** South-Doyle's Terrell Brown did not get to sign last week with Austin Peay due to being quarantined, said Coach Clark Duncan.

**GIBBS' PLANS:** "We are planning a signing ceremony at the stadium this spring for all of our signees in every sport," said Athletic Director Jeff Thomas.

**LONG WAY OFF:** Several local signees will continue their athletic careers and education in states far away, including Carter's Maurice Sylvia, who is going to Norwich University in Vermont to play football. It is the oldest U.S. private military college and the birthplace of ROTC.

**COACH'S SON:** West High first baseman Parker Serrano, who signed a baseball scholarship with Roane

State, is the son of former Tennessee skipper Dave Serrano, who is now the coach at Cal State Northridge.

**NEW CONFERENCE:** Emory & Henry College, where three Bearden football players are headed, is planning to move up from NCAA Division III to Division II and join the South Atlantic Conference.

The Wasps have been in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference since 1975. If approved in July, the school in Emory, Va., will become the 14th member of the South Atlantic Conference, which includes Carson-Newman, LMU and Tusculum.

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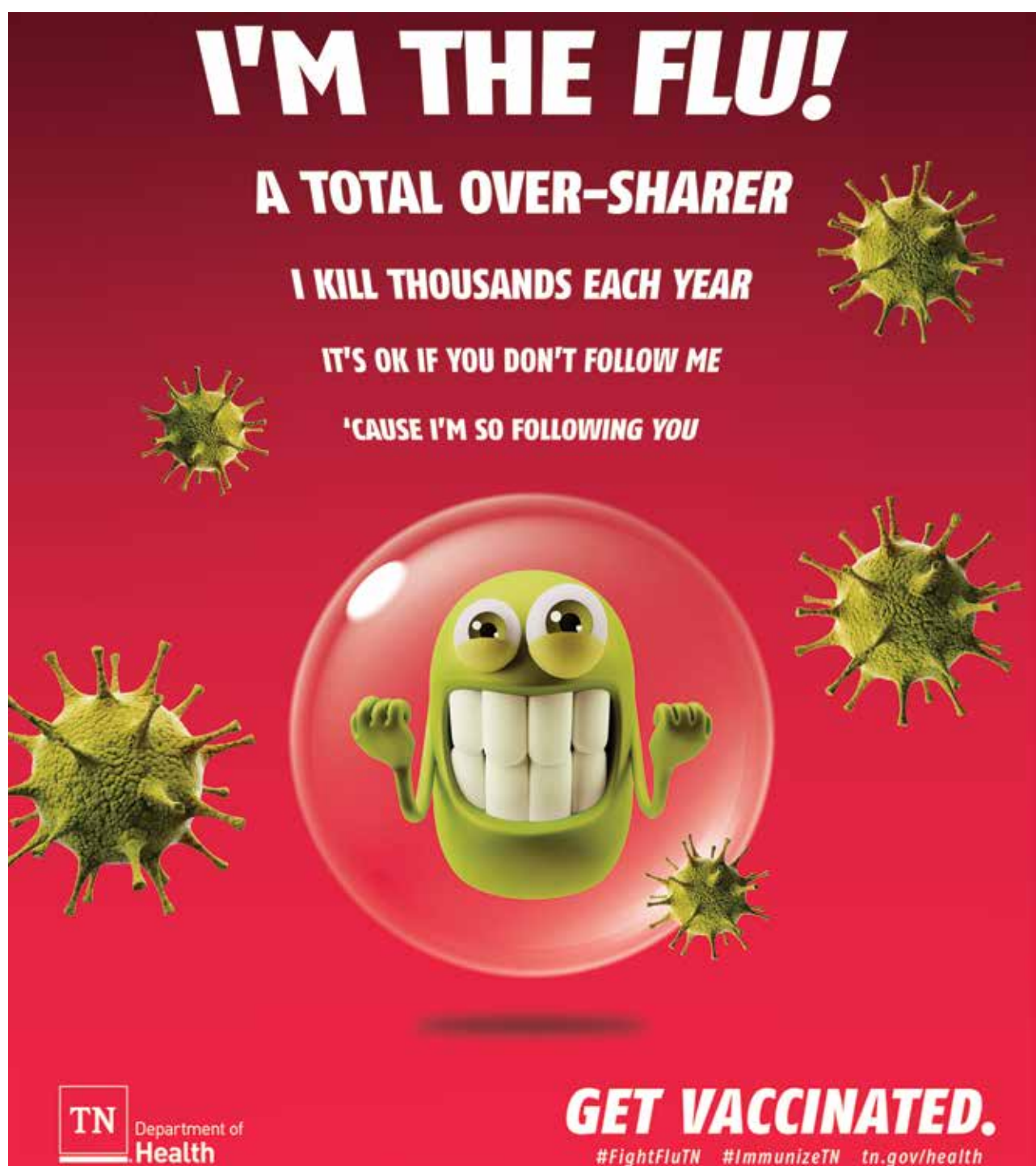
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## The Doctor is in

a weekly column by  
**Dr. Jim Ferguson**

### Questions

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

"Was FDR correct?" I guess I'm getting older because the number one question among my peers is, "Did you get it?" No, not the "stimulus check," the Covid vaccine!

Since I won't be 70 until May I don't meet the current guidelines for vaccination. However, I meet the qualifications because I still do charity medical care. But I still can't get a vaccine appointment. I have friends driving to other counties in Tennessee to get vaccinated. Others are driving to North Carolina where you can get the vaccine if you're sixty-five.

Last week the Bloomberg Vaccine Tracker showed that 26.5 million Americans had received at least the first shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech or the Moderna Covid vaccines

(now up to 35.2 million). Preventive vaccinations have now surpassed the 26.6 million cases of Covid infection in our country. Therefore, about 8% of Americans have received at least one shot of the vaccine series. Supposedly, 1.35 million doses of vaccine are being given every day across the fruited plains. Perhaps, but it's tough to score in Knoxville.

The next question is, "Would you take the vaccine if you could get it?" Last week a Kaiser Family Foundation poll revealed 51% would refuse the Covid vaccine or wait for further results. Citing concerns about safety, side effects and the vaccine's effectiveness, 13% will refuse altogether and another 7% would only be vaccinated if required to do so (25% said No! in a Monmouth poll).

Actually, a very small percentage of people have experienced reactions to the vaccines. However,

young people have a very low risk of death with Covid infection, so they are understandably concerned about the long-term risks of the novel mRNA Covid vaccines.

So, back to the FDR question, "What are you afraid of?" I remain careful, but I refuse to stop living. Several of my friends are so scared they remain in virtual isolation. "Fools are put in high places" (Ecclesiastes). Kids are not being educated. Each week on the front page of the Focus the statistics of Covid infection in Knox County are presented. I am more fearful of government enslavement than Covid infection.

Being a science fiction fan and a doctor, I'm thrilled when 23rd century Star Trek docs identify an infection, create a biological antidote and inject the cure into a patient's arm without a needle. So cool! Recently, I read an exciting report on mRNA technology (used for Covid vaccines) which one day may allow us to direct the immune system to target specific proteins on cancer cells. Like a magic bullet, mRNA generated proteins may be used to recognize and kill cancer cells without damaging non-cancerous organs.

I don't know a single person who believes things are fine in our country or

the world. "Do you honestly believe the Biden-group has things under control or impeaching President Trump will build bridges between us?"

One of the great tragedies of the last decade has been the utter loss of trust in all our institutions. "What can we believe these days?" I no longer trust our leaders, government officials on any level, the media, political parties or titular "experts" like Fauci, from whom I wouldn't buy a stick of gum. I've become a wary skeptic most days, and other days I border on being a cynic.

My wife Becky and I are native Knoxvilleans and when we decided to go to college there wasn't any controversy or hand wringing decisions, we went to UT. We both received a good undergraduate education. I went on to the University's medical school in Memphis which was highly rated for training practicing doctors rather than researchers or academicians. Becky went on to graduate school and earned a master's degree.

What a strange world in which we now live. Since we are UT alumni, we receive a lot of correspondence from the Knoxville campus and the medical school in Memphis. "If you're asking for donations, wouldn't you

be sensitive to your audience?"

In the last two months we've received glossy magazine booklets emphasizing BLM at the medical school and the diversity focus at all university campuses. Another booklet, from the UT College of Music, ballyhooed its "diversity, equity, and inclusion" focus.

"What's wrong with these statements and the optics of these brochures?" I guess I'm old school, but I see patients first, not color or political movements. And I choose capable musicians, not gender quotas. Equal opportunity for a good education is far more important than virtue signaling and the woke emphasis on diversity. But, perhaps it's not my world or my university any longer.

It was cold and clear when I began this essay on Groundhog Day. I wondered if Punxsutawney Phil would see his shadow. Perhaps Phil saw his shadow and we'll have six more weeks of winter. "Who cares?" It's a silly ritual anyway, and only an excuse to party in the midst of "our darkest days." It did spawn a funny Bill Murray movie of the same name. Then I heard that Covid canceled the annual celebrations in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Pathetic. So, "why

is it surprising that February and most of March are cold in these climes?" "Who expects spring before April Fool's Day?"

"Who do you trust?" Hopefully not the thought police of Silicon Valley who are now allied with the Washington elite, the media and the crony capitalists of Wall Street. "Do you doubt me after the GameStop affair?"

Supposedly, we live in the information age, but the Tech Lords now control information. The craven cowards of Congress now kowtow to the likes of the weird Zuckerberg, Rasputin-esque Jack Dorsey, bizarre Bezos and the uber ruthless Sundar Pichai. "What could possibly go wrong with such an unholy alliance of Tech-Lords and Democrat-socialists?" A friend of mine hopes that in their lust for power they will turn on and devour each other in a feeding frenzy like sharks in a chum filled ocean.

But intellectual honesty begs me to ask one last question, "Should you trust me or this newspaper?"

The answer and the doctor's final piece of advice for parsing the truth: read widely, consider carefully, use common sense and daily proclaim Psalm 118: 24. And keep looking up!

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

# Overcoming Doubt

I just finished reading through Job again. Something that Job wrestled with



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

was the question of "Why"? Job was a righteous man. He took care of the poor. He loved God, his family, and the people around him. He even offered prayers and sacrifices for his children just in case they sinned unintentionally. He used his wealth and influence to help others, not just hoarding it for himself. Yet his life fell apart. He lost just about everything except for his nagging wife who wanted

Job to curse God and die. She was hurting too and struggling with the question of why.

The reason we even ask the question why is because we are rational beings. We seek meaning in most things. We split the atom. We travelled to the moon and hope to go to Mars in the not-so-distant future. But understanding everything is impossible for we are limited. Consider these questions: What is the significance of life? Why do innocent children die? What would have happened if I chose a different person to marry or picked a different occupation? When will this pandemic end? Is the end of the world coming soon?

There are many things we don't have the answer to. And when this happens, we

experience doubt. The Greek words for doubt carry the idea of uncertainty. The enemy of faith is not doubt, but unbelief. Unbelief refuses to consider anything. I would say that doubts are actually necessary to build your faith, for to doubt is to be human. In the pages of the Bible, we find doubters all over the place. David, Solomon, Jeremiah, and even John the Baptist. John sent his disciples to Jesus with the question: "Are you the coming One, or do we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3). This is coming from the one whom Jesus declared: "among those born of women, no one is greater" (Matthew 11:11). John heard with his own ears God affirming Jesus as his beloved Son in whom he loved at Jesus'

baptism. But now things are different. John was arrested and sits in a dark cell and is about to lose his head. John wants to know for sure that he is giving his life for something real. If the greatest man who ever was born of woman had doubts, then nobody is exempt. Doubt asks questions, while unbelief refuses to hear answers.

Another famous "doubter" in Scripture is Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples.

Jesus appeared to the ten disciples but Thomas was not there (John 20:24). Thomas gets the word from the overjoyed disciples that Jesus is alive and what does Thomas say? "I'll believe it when I see it." I love the honesty of Thomas. He insists on seeing the evidence for himself.

Thomas saw all the miraculous signs Jesus performed, yet he still doubts. This tells us that we can have great faith yet still have questions. A week later the disciples and Thomas were together when Jesus appeared again. What a moment for Thomas. Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe" (John 20:27). Thomas responded, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). This shows the dramatic transforming power of the resurrection on someone's life. Thomas' reaction is going to be our reaction when we see the risen Savior face to face. Take your doubts to God. He will help your faith grow in the midst of doubt.

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