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Community Forum opposes city zoning officer creation

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When the city council meets on Tuesday, November 1, the debate on whether or not to pull out of the Knoxville-Knox County Planning zoning commission may continue. Last week Larry Silverstein, chair of Community Forum, wrote a letter in opposition to the formation of a new separate city zoning department.

Silverstein urges a portion be removed from the budget amendment. That portion would transfer the Zoning Chief position from

Plans, Review and Inspections to the Mayor's Office, creating a new position.

He said the move would create a "hollowed-out shell that no longer provides valuable independent professional planning advice." He said Knoxville-Knox County Planning would be left with "nothing more than political recommendations on rezoning requests coming directly from the administration."

Currently, Knoxville-Knox County Planning consists of 15 members, seven named by the

city and eight named by the county. A recent move by the county would move the "use on review" authority from the Board of Zoning Appeals and place it under that of the court.

The city council recently withdrew a proposed ordinance to require all variance applications to be heard at the BZA. That ordinance change was withdrawn and the idea was sent directly to the planning commission for review.

Silverstein stressed the city needs to continue to use the

"truly independent professional planning advice" of the planning commission, not an employee of the city.

"If for whatever reason that is not possible the city should pull out of the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission, which is a Regional Commission under State Law, and establish a Municipal Planning Commission also provided for under State Law," Silverstein wrote the council.

Community Forum is a multi-neighborhood organization and one of the members of Knox

County Planning Alliance. Kevin Murphy and Lisa Starbuck of the alliance are asking for meetings with both the city and county mayors on the issue.

"My concern is there hasn't been a lot of information available about the proposal and little or no public input so far. Zoning and planning decisions affect far more than individual property owners or developers and this should be vetted and discussed publicly before making these kinds of changes," Starbuck told The Focus.



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Connor Georgopoulos has a new house in the Lonsdale Community. It's the first tiny home constructed in Knoxville.

Knoxville resident owns tiny home in Lonsdale Community

By Ken Lay

Connor Georgopoulos has realized a lifelong dream. He shared that dream with the city on Tuesday.

He now owns his own home, a 250-square-foot house on Ohio Avenue in the Lonsdale Community.

He's always wanted to own a home. Now, thanks to some help from Home Depot and Project Foundations for Families (PF4F), he does.

He's wanted his own home since he was a teenager, but he now has a house. The process began out of necessity. His rent skyrocketed during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In the beginning of 2021, I was on the verge of being evicted from my apartment for inability to pay the newly increased rent," Georgopoulos said. "I started looking for a new place to move to.

"However, everywhere I looked, prices were increasing out of my pay range. Out of desperation, I started looking for land to put a tiny house on. This is a dream that I have dreamed about since I was about 15 years old."

With the help of PF4F, Georgopoulos found a plot of land. He paid the parcel off in approximately nine months after buying it at cost and he was on his way to realizing his dream.

But there were pitfalls. "By May of 2021, I found a plot of land through Project Foundations for Families," Georgopoulos said. "I bought it at cost with no interest." PF4F then connected Georgopoulos with contractor Justin Vaughn of Vallen Designs.

"I worked with Justin, discussing the layout and the design," Georgopoulos said. "I signed a contract with Justin and paid a sum of \$66,000 with interspersed payments and a completion date of four months."

After completing half the house, Vaughn ended the contracting side of his business, leaving Georgopoulos devastated.

"It seemed like everything that could go wrong did go wrong, but I was determined not to give up," he said.

Rodger Easterday, a contractor from RCE Home Improvement, stepped in. Despite being

overworked, Easterday agreed to look at the house.

"Rodger stated that he could not take on any more work, however, he agreed to come out and look at my half-finished house," Georgopoulos said.

Easterday found several code violations and said most contractors wouldn't have taken the job. But Easterday did.

"Rodger said everything in his rational thinking was telling him not to take the job," Georgopoulos said. "However, his heart was telling him to help me."

Easterday worked with Home Depot, which donated \$2,000 in materials.

In September, the City of Knoxville gave Georgopoulos a Certificate of Occupancy, making him an official home owner.

"I love my new house," Georgopoulos said. "I've been here for a few weeks now.

"I'm looking forward to being a good neighbor and working on projects in and outside of my house."

The blind, first responders, and former trustee honored in October

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Yvonne Neubert has been blind since she was 29 years old. Last Monday the lady addressed the Knox County Commission and asked that October be declared "Blind Equality Achievement Month."

Introduced by Commissioner Larsen Jay she told the meeting about the difficulties that blind people have and how the sighted population could treat and understand the blind population.

Neubert said that treatment of the blind should be included in first responder's diversity training and spoke of employment opportunities. She also noted that a braille sign on one of the county buildings is too high for many to touch and read, noting that such a sign should be posted no higher than 48 inches.

She spoke of a lack of awareness of the needs of blind people and brought information cards and pamphlets to share, urging everyone to hang them up where sighted people can read them.

The commission also

chose to finally honor past Trustee Ed Shouse in a resolution that was postponed for several months. Shouse was introduced by new Trustee Justin Biggs. Shouse spent more than 30 years with the city and county in various offices and joked with the commissioners and thanked them for the honor.

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs honored Codes Enforcement employees while noting that the county is "business friendly" and said the codes enforcers "don't play gotcha" when doing inspections.

Commissioner Carson Dailey honored all the responders in the county in a resolution declaring October 28th as "First Responder Day." Various chiefs and officers of the fire departments and rescue squads spoke briefly at the meeting.

Bailey Foster of Friends of the Library thanked the commission for its continued support noting that the group has given 250,000 books to libraries and little libraries and mentioned the effort to establish Storybook Trails in the county.

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Issues Are More Important Than The Candidates

From a distance



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

If I had been voting in either of the Republican Primaries for U.S. Senate in Georgia or Pennsylvania this year, I would not have voted for Herschel Walker or Dr. Oz.

In Pennsylvania, the second-place finisher was David McCormick, a West Point graduate, veteran and very successful businessman.

In Georgia, second place went to Gary Black who was in his third term as the state Secretary of Agriculture,

was named Georgian of the Year by Georgia Trend Magazine in 2017, and was a former president of the University of Georgia Alumni Association.

Because of the economy and Biden's unpopularity, both of these second-place finishers in all probability would have won sizable victories.

By nominating Walker and Dr. Oz, it gave the Democrats a fighting chance to win one or both of these seats.

But the issues are bigger and much more important than the candidates, and as weak as these Republican nominees are, the two Democratic candidates are far worse.

The Democratic Senate nominees are both far-left extremists who will be rubber stamps for the Biden tax and spend, inflationary policies.

Almost everyone who reads this column is almost certain to be very interested in politics and government.

I sometimes have heard people say one person can't make a difference, but that is so false. Each of you is more politically powerful than you perhaps realize.

I read several years ago in one of the Capitol Hill newspapers that only 2.2 percent of the American people have ever contributed financially to a political campaign. Probably it is not much more than that who have not contributed money but who have worked in a campaign.

There is more interest in campaigns today but less involvement. There really are only about five percent who are politically active. All the others are watching over a screen, on their TVs, iPads, or smartphones.

Thus, if you are one of the five percent, you should feel good about yourself and also realize that you have political influence. And even the biggest campaigns are run by a very small number of people.

While the elections for governor and Congress in Tennessee are not going to be close or even competitive at all, people can contribute to candidates in close races in other states.

Everyone has friends or relatives in Georgia, Pennsylvania, or other states where there are very close elections.

The elections this year and in 2024 may be the most important ever. Many other countries have been destroyed economically by letting inflation get out of control.

If we don't elect conservative candidates this year and especially in the

presidential year of 2024, this country could go under economically.

The only thing that has saved us thus far is that almost all other countries are worse off financially than we are so people still want to invest here.

You need to call, write, or email people you know in other states where very close elections are going on, or contribute financially.

The Democrat Party today is controlled by radical environmentalists, big government socialists, and soft-on-crime leftists.

The environmentalists want gas prices to go much higher so people will drive less. They hate that so many are driving trucks and SUVs, and they don't want people living in big houses with big yards.

The socialist Democrats in Congress will keep spending no matter how

high inflation goes.

The far-left wants no-bail programs, district attorneys who won't prosecute many criminals, and liberal judges who won't hand down tough sentences.

Many young people are being brainwashed by leftist professors. People need to stop contributing to universities that won't hire at least a few conservative professors.

People have been rapidly moving out of Democrat-run cities and states because of high taxes and high crime rates.

People everywhere, young and old, need to be told that unless they want inflation, gas prices, crime, and taxes to go much higher, they need to vote Republican now and especially in 2024.

We are at a watershed moment in this great country.

Biased Anyone?

The Wall Street Journal had an article about a nurse who was fired because she refused to take a test to reveal any implicit bias. Her reasons mainly involved her insisting she was not biased



By Dr. Harold A. Black blackh@knoxfocus.com haroldblackphd.com

in the administration of her duties. Moreover the most common administered test of implicit bias is notoriously uneven, indicating bias one time and no bias another time for the same individual. While I am sympathetic to her view, I would love to take such a test because I would be curious to find any implicit biasness.

I know what are my explicit biases. I do not like "progressives". I do not like those who hate the Constitution and the foundations of our republic.

I don't like those who prefer mob rule. I don't like socialists. I do not like communists. I do not like fascists. I do not like racists. I don't like white supremacists. I hate the rebel flag. I don't like

Black Lives Matter. I don't like those who hate the first amendment. I don't like those who want to annul the second amendment. I don't like those who hate the Founding Fathers. I don't like Critical Race Theory. I don't like the Green New Deal. I do not like the Squad. I don't like those who think minorities are victims. I don't like the cancel culture. I don't like the "woke" military. I don't like "spokesmen". I don't like those who would perform transgender surgeries on children. I

don't like discretionary monetary policy. I don't like the politicization of the FBI, the CIA, the IRS, the Department of "Justice." I don't like "settled science." I don't like the term "misinformation" or those who use it on conflicting evidence. I don't like those who would silence opinions on campuses, in schools, in the press, in the media or anywhere in the universe. I don't like open borders. I don't like inflation. I don't like teacher's unions. I don't like colleges of "education." I don't care for those who are not intellectually curious. I don't like the dumbing down of education at all levels. I hate it that our kids can't read or do math or write coherent sentences. I do not like the uptick in crime. I do not like low or no bail for repeat offenders. I do not like those who just are too nice to say no to those who

are saying that every white person is racist. I don't like those attempting to change our language (re: Latinx and womxn). I don't care for vaccine mandates or mask mandates or lockdowns or those government officials who abuse their authority. I don't like violent movie trailers. I don't like snobs. I don't like climate change zealots. I don't like ESG or woke corporations. I don't like whiners who always feel "threaten" or are "hurtful". I don't care for those who want to know my pronouns.

So I admit my explicit biases. But that does not mean that I treat people differently in my professional capacity. When I was in a leadership role in the federal government, I consciously made it a point to treat everyone fairly. As a professor I endeavored to do the same - although students may not have agreed. It was the work that mattered and not who they voted for in the past election. I have strong beliefs and those are built on my upbringing and my education in economics and finance. Anyone who loves the basics of those disciplines tends to be laissez-faire and pro-markets. Given that those principles are baked into the foundation of this country (read Alexander Hamilton), one also understands the power and freedom for all built into our founding documents. I occasionally get an email saying "How can you write what you do because you are black?" My answer is always "I write what I do because I am black." I have always said "prove me wrong." If you do, then I will adopt your opinion. Those are some of my explicit biases. What are my implicit biases and if I have any, then so what?

Valliant chosen for Merit Board

By Mike Steely Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Sheriff's Office Employee's Merit System Board has a new member, completing the membership of that newly reorganized body.

After much debate, interviews with applicants and disagreement between Knox County Commissioners, John Valliant was chosen as the two-year member. The son of attorney John Valliant, who represented former KCSO employee Martha Dooley in her case before the former merit council, was recently admitted to the Tennessee Bar and is beginning his law practice.

Commissioner Gina Oster, the former chair of the merit council, nominated Valliant. Commissioner Richie Beeler nominated Dennis Ford and Commissioner Dasha Lundy nominated Sarah Keith. Ford got three votes, Keith received two and Valliant got five votes. Several commissioners then joined to select Valliant. The final vote was 9-2 with Lundy and Chairwoman Courtney Durrett supporting Keith.

There had been five applicants but, surprisingly, Steve Weiner was not nominated. In the commission work session the week before he applied to be reconsidered for the slot but, again, did not agree to go along with the new merit rules if he felt they violated the state or U.S. Constitution.

IN OTHER APPOINTMENTS

All women on the commission voted to select Debra Stafford as the commission's member on the Knox County Ethics Committee. Most of the

male members voted for Andrew Fox with Commissioner Kyle Ward passing on the vote.

Although two citizens spoke in public forum against placing Garrett Holt on the Board of Zoning Appeals, the commission voted 10-1 to select him. Commissioner Ward made the motion and Commissioner Oster seconded the motion.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

Community activist Vivian Shipe spoke in favor of Commissioner Kyle Ward's promotion of a much-needed mental health hospital in Knox County. The commission passed a resolution that would begin the process and asks the state and the City of Knoxville to take part in the effort.

Two citizens also spoke in opposition to the closing of part of Karns Road. Commissioner Beeler, who represents the area, said the speakers made some good points and moved successfully to delay a decision until November.

Giving the Concord Yacht Club a \$1,000 lease with another 10-year option raised some questions from Commissioner Carson Dailey. He questioned having to pay a membership fee to enter a county-owned property leased to an organization.

Dailey asked the organization that leases the property to send him tax returns for the past three years and Mayor Glenn Jacobs said the county needs a policy that would address that and similar issues. Dailey moved successfully to put off a vote on an agreement for 90 days.



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Publisher Steve Hunley
Editor, Art Director Marianne Dedmon
editor@knoxfocus.com, design@knoxfocus.com

Managing Editor Lisa DeMarsico
managingeditor@knoxfocus.com
Mike Steely, Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com
Sales sales@knoxfocus.com
Pam Poe phpoe2000@yahoo.com
Chase Clemmer clemmerc@knoxfocus.com
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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

Mayor Indya Kincannon has already convinced the city council to raise property taxes and there are persistent rumblings about raising the sales tax in the very near future. Considering the City of Knoxville apparently needs more taxpayer money to spend, let me suggest a new, untapped source of revenue. The City of Knoxville ought to pass a tax on bicycles. Perhaps a tax of \$2,000 each would be about right.

Yep, bicyclists, praised for their meager contribution to avoiding climate change --- which is probably less than cows expelling gas --- pay no gas tax. Those are generally the taxes collected by federal, state and local governments for the maintenance of roads. If we are going to dedicate a quarter of the roads inside the City of Knoxville to bicyclists, why aren't they paying their fair share of taxes to support those roads?

The self-appointed green warriors retort motorists should bear the tax burden for pollution. Right. Yet another argument that the people working should pay the biggest share of the load for those who don't. Or simply put, tax the dickens out of those who work so

that government can hand something "free" to someone else.

The Democrats have certainly mastered at least one political art; that of naming legislation that does precisely the opposite of what it says it will do. The Inflation Reduction Act recently passed by the Democrat Congress would be Exhibit Number One. A huge spending bill, it adds to the rising inflation rather than reduces it by a penny.

So, too, is the Democrat orthodoxy about energy policy not only foolish but downright dangerous to the future of our country, something that will become even more readily apparent this winter with high heating bills. We've gone from being energy-independent to dependent upon folks who don't like us very much. Putin has proved just how he can turn off the tap whenever he wishes.

The pie-in-the-sky remedies that captivate so many youngsters, which is preached with religious fervor by Democrats, about green energy aren't even thought out very well, not even between blackouts. Aside from the infrastructure not being in place, there is the reality the

great majority of Americans cannot afford vehicles that cost in excess \$80,000 each. For a couple, that is a minimum of \$160,000 so both can get back and forth to work daily.

With electric cars, what happens to the gas tax, which is the tax that has been paid for road building and maintenance since the Good Lord was a boy? Does any person in his or her right mind think for a split second the Democrats aren't going to propose a new tax to take its place?

The City's history of bicycling is varied; Indya Kincannon was often seen biking from hither to yon before she had a driver and bodyguard. Stephanie Welch, the overly well-compensated and now-departed brain of Indya Kincannon, was known for pedaling all over. While a city councilwoman, Welch had openly suggested people get used to doing without their cars. Can you imagine your aged mother trying to carry her groceries back home on a bicycle? Can you imagine taking your children to baseball or dance practice on the back of your bike?

The notion is to follow the example of China, which is, ironically, the worst polluter

in the world and the Chinese have NO intention of becoming eco-friendly anytime soon. In China, very few people own a car and most get about on either public transportation or bicycles. None of the big countries on this planet intend to do a thing about climate change including China, Russia and India. The notion the United States can solve the problem on its own and pay the way for every country on earth is not only delusional but foolish.

I don't know how much money a \$2,000 per bicycle tax would bring in, but it would give Kincannon and the City Council more money to spend.

Are New Yorkers Waking Up?

The recent debate between New York gubernatorial candidates Kathy Hochul and Lee Zeldin pretty much summarizes the difference between Democrats and Republicans on the issue of how to deal with crime. Crime, violent and otherwise, is rising steadily in New York and a primary concern for New Yorkers, so much so that the deep Blue state is now a

dead heat between incumbent Hochul and GOP challenger Zeldin. During the debate, Zeldin was highly critical of the bail policies sponsored by Hochul and Democrats which put violent criminals right back on the streets. At one point, Hochul whined, "I don't know why that's so important to you."

Hochul tried to change the conversation and brought up control. What that has to do with innocent people being shoved to their deaths in front of moving trains only God knows.

Representative Barbara Cooper Passes Away

Tennessee's oldest incumbent state lawmaker, Representative Barbara Cooper, died last week at age 93. A retired city schoolteacher, Mrs. Cooper was a Democrat from Memphis and had served in the General Assembly for 26 years. Barbara Cooper was a tireless advocate for those things she believed in and was well-liked by her colleagues.

Retired doctor now writes science fiction novels that include spirituality

By Ken Lay

Now retired from medical practice, Dr. Jim Ferguson has found a passion for writing. It's something, however, that he never thought he would take up.

"I never wrote anything unless an English teacher had a gun pointed to my head," Ferguson said.

But that all changed when Knoxville Focus publisher Steve Hunley approached him about contributing to the weekly publication. The column, "The Doctor Is In," appears in the paper every week.

But Ferguson is also a novelist as he writes science-based fiction. He has released two books, "Epiphany" and "Mantis." The two novels are part of a trilogy and Ferguson said he's in the midst of a third book.

"Mantis" is the second book in my Stellar Trilogy, and is designed to be eye-catching," he said. "The novel is science-based fiction, but actually is a story of redemption and

revelation by unique means of communication.

"I'm working on the third book and hopefully, I will be able to finish it someday."

Despite being parts of a trilogy, Ferguson noted that the works are stand-alone novels.

Both works are available on Amazon and from publisher Book Baby.

While he enjoys writing, he's not doing it to become famous.

"I write because I want to write and I enjoy it," Ferguson said. "I'm not doing this to get noticed.

"I'm a better writer since I write my essays in The Knoxville Focus."

So why did Ferguson choose science fiction?

He loves it. "A lot of people are afraid of science fiction," said Ferguson. "I like science fiction and I read science fiction.

"There are multiple genres of science fiction."

In Ferguson's novels, the writer blends his love of science fiction with spirituality.

His first book featured a



Dr. Ferguson's book "Mantis" is available on Amazon and Book Baby.

Christ character and Ferguson is a Christian.

"The books are spiritual. I'm a Christian and I'm unabashed about that," he

said. "A person can be spiritual and not a Christian, and that's a part of their journey that they have to work out."

Letter to the Publisher

Fountain City Elementary PTO seeks help with Playground Improvement Project

Fountain City Elementary was founded in 1902, and its current building and location were established in 1931. We are proud of its rich legacy, and strive to create a bright tomorrow for its future. Today we serve a wonderfully diverse K-5 student body of 400 Pepecats in the beautiful Fountain City community.

We are seeking funds to replace the current aged play structure on our lower playground. This play area is frequently used during the school day and after school hours and is accessible to the neighborhood on weekends. But after almost two decades of active use, compatible spare parts for broken and worn-out components are very expensive, if they can be found at all.

To update our current structure with a new, improved play area for our children, we have set a goal to raise \$94,000. To date, we have secured \$33,000 toward this project. We know we are dreaming a BIG dream, but with the help and support of our local business community, we believe this dream can be a reality.

We invite you to join us by investing in the Fountain City Elementary School playground improvement project. It's good for healthy and active children and good for our families.

Go, Pepecats!
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'Shocking' voter turnout in Knox County so far

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

As of Thursday, 32,706 people have placed their ballots during early voting for the state and federal election in Knox County. If you add the 2,814 absentee ballots, the total votes for the first eight days of early voting number 35,520.

"Voting is up significantly over 2014, which is the last time we had an incumbent governor on the ballot," Chris Davis Administrator of the Knox County Election Commission told The Focus.

"Voting is down significantly from 2018, but keep in mind that in 2018 we had no incumbent governor, no incumbent US Senator, and no incumbent US House member. 2018 was probably the highest turnout ever for a mid-term in Knox County," he said.

"This year (2022), we have an incumbent governor, incumbent US House member, and the office of US Senate is not even on the ballot. Given those circumstances, I am a little shocked that turnout is as high as it is, although I always want higher turnout," he concluded.



PHOTOS BY JAMIE SCHNELL

Dr. Bill Bass entertained and educated a packed house at the O'Connor Senior Center last Thursday.

Author and forensic anthropologist Dr. Bill Bass speaks to area seniors

By Jamie Schnell
schnellj@knoxfocus.com

Forensic anthropologist and author Dr. William Bass spoke at the John O'Connor Senior Center Thursday, hosted by the Senior for Creative Learning committee.

Originally from Kansas, Dr. Bass came to Knoxville in 1971 because "the university wanted to add a masters and doctorate program." After achieving a B.A. in psychology in Virginia, Dr. Bass began exploring his interest in anthropology.

Dr. Bass told the group, "The more I furthered my education, the more interest I had in the human body, and began to explore the answer to what actually happens to the body and how long does it actually take to decompose." He went where "his desires

were" and achieved his master's in Kentucky and finished his Ph.D. in anthropology in Pennsylvania before ending up in Knoxville.

To help in his educational research (including medical and criminal purposes), Dr. Bass created the UT Anthropological Research Facility, also known to many in the community as the "Body Farm" located on three acres of property behind UT hospital.

Dr. Bass' presentation included a behind the scenes look at the making of the Body Farm and construction of the William M. Bass Forensic Anthropology building located at 1924 Alcoa Hwy. in Knoxville. He talked about how a good forensic investigation consists of at least four students: one responsible for photography,

one to take measurements, and two that handle the body. The O'Connor seniors learned about the blowfly life cycle and its contribution to the decomposition of the human body and the vegetation surrounding it.

With his extensive background and education, including archaeological work with the Smithsonian Museum, Dr. Bass has helped solve national crimes, working on over 670 police cases over the years. He has also cowritten fifteen books with Jon Jefferson under the pseudonym "Jefferson Bass" such as "Death's Acre," "Carved in Bone," "Bones of Betrayal," "Bone Thief" and "Cut to the Bone."

To learn more about Dr. Bass, visit www.bonezones.com.



Dr. Bill Bass.

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The Doctor is in
a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Points of View

As if the Sea should part
And show a further Sea -
And that - a further - and
the Three
But a presumption be -

Of Periods of Seas -
Unvisited of Shores -
Themselves the Verge of
Seas to be -
Eternity - is [These] -

Emily Dickinson

I used to be a New York
Yankee fan, but not any-
more. As a kid I was a pretty
good baseball player; I was
an average-sized fish in a
small pond. But that was
also long ago.
The world has changed
and so have I. Now I cheer
for the Atlanta Braves who
swept the New York Mets
this year. Similarly, The
Bronx Bombers (Yankees)
were swept by the Houston
Astros. Texas Senator Ted
Cruz was in Yankee Stadium
to watch the final game of

the series and waved to the
crowd. But the Yankee fans
gave him the Bronx cheer
and their middle finger. Just
like their baseball teams,
Gotham is gone: lost to
crime, lost to corruption
and without class. New
Yorkers even booed their
own Aaron Judge, who
broke Roger Maris' home
run record before slumping
during the playoff season.
Fickle would be a kind
word for such fans. Judge
is now a free agent and I'll
bet he will leave the Big
Apple just like thousands
of other New Yorkers flee-
ing Gotham.
Years ago, while quail
hunting in South Carolina,
my dad met Bobby
Richardson, the legend-
ary second baseman for
the New York Yankees.
Later a starry-eyed boy
shook Mr. Richardson's
hand and thanked him
for an autographed base-
ball signed by the 1963

world-champion Yankees.
The signers included Roger
Maris, Mickey Mantle, Yogi
Berra, and the rest of the
team. That coveted and
invaluable baseball went
missing when I went off
to medical school. Little
brothers have a way of mis-
placing things.
Among the many news
sources, I read is the
New York Post, the oldest
newspaper in the coun-
try. So, I hear of Gotham's
crime, drugs, and home-
lessness which is driving
New Yorkers to friendlier
climes like Tennessee and
Florida. Recall, it was The
Post that broke the news
story of Hunter Biden's
laptop, a story suppressed
by the NY Times, other
elite media and Big Tech's
"Fake-Book," Google, and
Twitter. Too bad, because
this helped elect Joe Biden,
an incompetent POTUS.
And we are all paying the
price.
Choices have conse-
quences. Biden's debility
provided a perfect facade
for his radical handlers and
Democrat apparatchiks.
Their destructive policies
have led to the highest in-
flation in 40 years - infla-
tion taxes everyone. Simi-
larly, our absent southern
border has promoted a tsu-
nami of four million illegals
since 2021, whose first act
is to violate our laws. Supply
chain issues now abound,

gas prices have doubled
and now our country has
less than a month of diesel
fuel under Biden and the
Democrats. Chinese fen-
tanyl and death stream
across the southern border
as Mexican drug cartels
are enriched. Democrats
defunding the police have
caused crime to flourish,
as leftist DAs release dan-
gerous criminals back into
our neighborhoods. Lastly,
China is on the move and
may invade Taiwan as we
fight a proxy war with Putin
in the corrupt country of
Ukraine. At least we're out
of the Middle East after
Biden rearmend the Taliban.
It's hard for me to be
optimistic, but ultimately, I
am. As a Christian I believe
good will triumph, but per-
haps not in my lifetime or
in America. However, there
are signs of a revolution;
Americans are sick of what
the Democrats have done
to our country in just two
years. Honestly, I don't
know how a rational person
can vote in this election
cycle for any Democrat. As
Dan Bongino once said,
"The Republicans may not
fix all our problems, but the
Democrats have certainly
caused them."
The Democrats cannot
run on their policy failures
so their mantra is hatred
of President Trump, promo-
tion of unlimited abortion,
child gender lunacy and

the Jan 6th political show
trial. None of these issues
are important enough for
national, state or local
races. Remember, James
Carville (aka Skeletor), Bill
Clinton's 1992 campaign
chairman? He said, "It's
the economy stupid." He
was right and it still is. The
Democrats have produced
inflation, recession, dam-
aged 401Ks and are waging
war on our energy sector. If
we lived in a just world not
a single Democrat would
win this November.
My life is different in
retirement. I no longer
have a medical on-call
schedule or office prac-
tice. In fact, if I didn't
have small group meet-
ings three days a week,
a Focus essay due every
Friday and worship service
on Sunday, I might forget
what day it is! Actually, I've
done this momentarily, just
like I once awakened in a
strange hotel and struggled
to remember where I was.
I am staying busy. I've
cut and stacked firewood
for the winter, the garden,
orchard and vineyard have
been laid to rest and I'm
working on the final novel
of my Stellar Trilogy.
I admire C. S. Lewis, a
classicist, Christian apolo-
gist and author of The
Narnia Chronicles. You
may be surprised to learn
he also wrote a science-fic-
tion trilogy which inspired

me. I have an idea where
my novel is going, but since
I don't write from an out-
line I don't know where it
will end up. I sometimes
surprise myself. That was
true of the first novel of
the trilogy, "Epiphany," and
was certainly true with the
recently published second
novel, "Mantis." Both are
available at Amazon and
"Mantis" is also avail-
able from my publisher at
store.bookbaby.com. The
cover of "Mantis" may be
Halloweenesque, but it is
not of the macabre. It is
a story of revelation and
redemption made possible
through unique means of
communication. If you like
my essays, try my novels.
Great stocking stuffers!
Emily Dickinson is my
favorite poetess. I consider
her a visionary. I especially
love her pithy perspectives
of the world, other realities
and eternity. Strangely,
Dickenson was quite
reclusive and never trav-
eled far from her home in
Amherst, Massachusetts.
But perhaps she nonethe-
less traveled in her mind
as evidenced by her poem
about distant shores, seas
within seas and transcen-
dent time. Perhaps she was
also an imaginative writer
of science fiction. Food for
thought.

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

Ground broken for Flatrock Motorsports Park



HEATHER MULLINIX/CROSSVILLE CHRONICLE

Rusty Bittle, center, founding partner and president of Flatrock, was joined by his business partners, construction and engineering teams and members of the community for a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 26 at the Cumberland County motorsports park currently under development.

Entertainment 'destination' to open in spring '23

By Bill Howard

By next spring, the
motorsports footprint in
Tennessee is scheduled to
expand exponentially.
If all goes according to
plan, phase one of Flatrock
Motorsports Park, which
will be located on some 773
acres in the Cumberland
County town of Westel,
just west of Rockwood, will
be completed. The vision
for the project has been
more than 20 years in the
making.
"Like a lot of men I
always had it in my heart
to be involved in motors-
ports," FMP founding part-
ner and president Rusty

Bittle told the crowd of 200
or so at a groundbreaking
event on Oct. 26. "I talked
(some friends) into buying a
couple of carts back then.
We raced those things
in parking lots all over
Knoxville for several years."
"That's where my pas-
sion started and over 20
years ago I started looking
for a piece of land just to
build a cart track," Bittle
said. "My vision came to
have almost 800 acres and
a motorsports park that
includes carting and a six-
mile road course with a lot
of amenities to be enjoyed
with it."
Continue on page 4



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A nonfamily reunion

A few weeks ago, Amy and I attended an event that was strange. We usually are good at finding such things. This one was a gathering at Admiral Farragut Park, and we had a fun time, even though it was



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

To begin this story, I must tell you that I have a nephew. Stevie is 66 years old. Yes, it is strange to have a nephew who is only four years younger than I am. A lifelong musician, he's won numerous awards for not only his performances but in production and songwriting. If you're old enough, you might remember his Smoky Mountain Market jingles. Well, Steve planned a "family reunion." He lives in Marietta, Georgia, but decided to hold the get-together in Knoxville,

where most of us live. Here's where things become a bit confusing. Steve's grandmother had two daughters, Peggy, my half-sister, and Linda. Peggy was grown and on her own when I was

born. Linda lived with an aunt and her family named Burns. Even though we aren't related, I knew Linda well as we grew up. Ruby and her three children and Mother and her three children spent a week in the summer at the same cabin in Greenbrier. I did not know for years that Linda and I shared the same half-sister.

All of this is to say that this gathering was more of a nonfamily reunion. Still, Steve managed to pull things together with plenty of help from his wife, Charolette, who is

from Ireland. People with all sorts of connections attended so the event turned out to be a reunion of several different clans. The fun was watching Steve mingle with all groups because he has connections with them.

I met for the first time Steve's children. Justin is a quiet person who manned the grill. He flipped hamburgers and hotdogs like a pro. According to Steve, Justin is an accomplished musician himself. His wife Miranda was friendly and invited us to set up our chairs with her. Deanna, Steve's daughter, is a pretty woman who is as outgoing as her dad. She talked to everyone as if she'd known them for years. To think that I've never even known their names all these years is embarrassing.

My greatest joy came when Dallas arrived. Steve looks so much like my father, and Dallas has the same penetrating green

eyes that Daddy had. Nephew and son hugged each other, and it was clear that the two have a special bond. Daddy must have looked down from heaven and smiled.

The day was perfect. Cool temperatures and crystal blue skies allowed folks to sit in folding chairs and enjoy the sunshine as they talked and ate. The Farragut Yacht Club and Fort Loudon Lake served as a background for pictures that families took. If Justin and Steve had played and sung, the reunion with folks who weren't family would have been perfect.

A big thank-you goes to my nephew, Charolette, Justin and Miranda, and Deanna for bringing us all together. I'm glad to meet family members and their grown children. This non-family reunion felt more like an introduction to new friends, as well as a visit with old ones.



Picture of Ralphine Major and Wayne Major standing on the steps of the John C. Hodges Undergraduate Library on the UT campus, photo by Juanita D. Major.

UT of Yesteryear

By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

It was my brother's idea, but I liked it: spend an afternoon on the University of Tennessee (UT) campus taking pictures of the place where we had spent so much time during our college days. While students at UT, my brother and I had spent time picking up class schedules and standing in line to pay fees in the Stokely Athletic Center, now an online process; commuting to and from classes; studying for mid-terms and final exams; working long hours and nights on group projects; and squeezing in work hours between classes and study time. There were some days when it seemed our time there would never come to an end. But it did.

Way back in the archives I found a photo of us standing on the steps of the John C. Hodges Undergraduate Library along Volunteer Boulevard. The spot where we stood provided a clear vision of Neyland Stadium, the site of UT's

long-awaited win over rival Alabama this year! Across the street from the library was the old Glocker Business Administration Building, now the updated James A. Haslam II Business Building. Many of our classes took place in Glocker---economics, accounting, statistics, marketing, and so many more. In the basement was a computer room with huge, noisy machinery that read computer cards when inserted. The computer system then was a far cry from the quiet, compact computer equipment of today. These days, I can barely recognize the UT campus. Older buildings have been demolished, and new structures have taken their place. It is an ever-changing environment---the college campus, a fun and exciting place!

Words of Faith: "The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook." Proverbs 18:4 (KJV).

A Monetary Judgment You Cannot Collect On

"That judgment is not worth the paper it's written on!" There are certain phrases that all lawyers know and have ready to spout out if the situation is right, and this is one of them.

What does this phrase mean? Let me give you an example. You are a landlord and you rent out an apartment to someone. After a few months, they stop paying rent and you file an eviction to have them removed from the property and for the back rent they owe you.

You go to court and the tenant does not even show up for court. The judge awards you



By Jedidiah McKeenan
jed@attorney-knoxville.com

the property and whatever amount you say the tenant owes. Hurray! You have won!

Now what though? You have no idea where that tenant lives, you call the place he was employed previously and now he does not work there, and you do not know at what bank he has a bank account (if he has one at all). So while you have a judgment against the tenant for X dollars, you have no way to actually collect the money you are owed. And thus the phrase was born that started this article.

I understand that it is completely galling to

walk away from collecting money that someone owes you, but it is generally not worth the time and effort to try to pursue something.

Can you do a bank levy? Sure. You have to pay money to levy the funds in a bank account. This assumes you know where they bank and they may have all of \$13.00 in their account. And it is a one-time thing. You have to pay for each bank levy you attempt.

Can you garnish their wages? Possible. But you have to know where they work first.

Can you seize a vehicle or asset they own? It is possible, after a hearing, having the ability to get that item, then have it sold, and then they may still owe you money.

Can you record the

judgment at the register of deeds? Sure, but most people who do not pay their bills do not own property.

Keep in mind, all of these collection endeavors cost money to pursue. Is it worth it? Only you can decide that, but many times the answer is a definitive "no."

Jedidiah McKeenan is an attorney practicing in Knox County and surrounding counties. He works in many areas, including family law, criminal, and personal injury. Visit attorney-knoxville.com for more information about this legal issue and other legal issues.

KCHD encourages vaccination in preparation for flu season

The Knox County Health Department is urging everyone to make plans to get vaccinated against the flu to keep themselves and their loved ones safe and healthy this flu season. KCHD is currently offering the flu shot, flu mist and high-dose flu vaccine at its Main and West locations. People may make an appointment by calling 865-215-5000.

KCHD will vaccinate insured and uninsured adults and children against the flu at no cost to the patient, although insurance information will be requested, if available. The health department will also be

offering the flu shot at several community clinics as a part of the Tennessee Department of Health's Fight Flu TN Day. Those clinics will take place on Wednesday, November 9 at the following locations:

- KAT Transit Station (301 E. Church Avenue) from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Haslam-Sansom Ministry Complex (1740 Texas Avenue) from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.

High-dose flu vaccine will not be available at the two community clinics but is available at the KCHD Main and West clinic locations.

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John L. Lewis

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Perhaps the most famous union leader in American history today is the late Jimmy Hoffa and that is most likely due to the circumstances surrounding his disappearance. For decades, the most prominent labor leader in the United States was John Llewellyn Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America (UMW) from 1920 until his retirement in 1960. Lewis was a cartoonist's dream with a memorable physical presence that lent itself to being spoofed. His massive head with an impressive mane of hair and equally remarkable eyebrows made him truly distinctive. John L. Lewis was also a brilliant speaker who sounded less like a miner than an old-time Shakespearean actor. Indeed, Lewis honed his verbal skills by reading Shakespeare and the Bible and was a master of the English language. Lewis was an omnipresent figure in the United States for decades and a colossus in the business and political lives of American society. Tangling with titans of industry or presidents of the United States made little difference to John L. Lewis.

With a forbidding appearance and a gruff manner, one president of a local union remembered John L. Lewis as "a gentle, interesting, ordinary man." "Don't get me wrong," James Kelly told a reporter, "although he was friendly, John L. Lewis could be stern and when it came to business he wouldn't stand for any foolishness, but every time I talked with him I found him to be very gentle." Yet Kelly noted there was another side to John L. Lewis. The district president recalled, "We found he wasn't rough --- unless he was pushed and then he could really get rough."

John L. Lewis once said, "The working man has as much right to gather together to improve his lot in life by talking with management as Judge Elbert Gary had in putting together Carnegie Steel and other firms to for U.S. Steel Corp."

Lewis was as successful as he was highly effective and the membership of the United Mine Workers appreciated his leadership. Lewis was aggressive on behalf of his members and never ran away from a fight; quite to the contrary, John L. Lewis was thoroughly capable of picking a fight if he thought it was beneficial to the United Mine Workers. Lewis swept past his opponents and won high wages for his members, who performed a vital, although backbreaking and highly dangerous job. It was John L. Lewis who was largely responsible for molding the CIO into a formidable political and economic engine. Indeed,

it was Lewis who formed the Congress for Industrial Organizations which rivaled the craft-oriented American Federation of Labor.

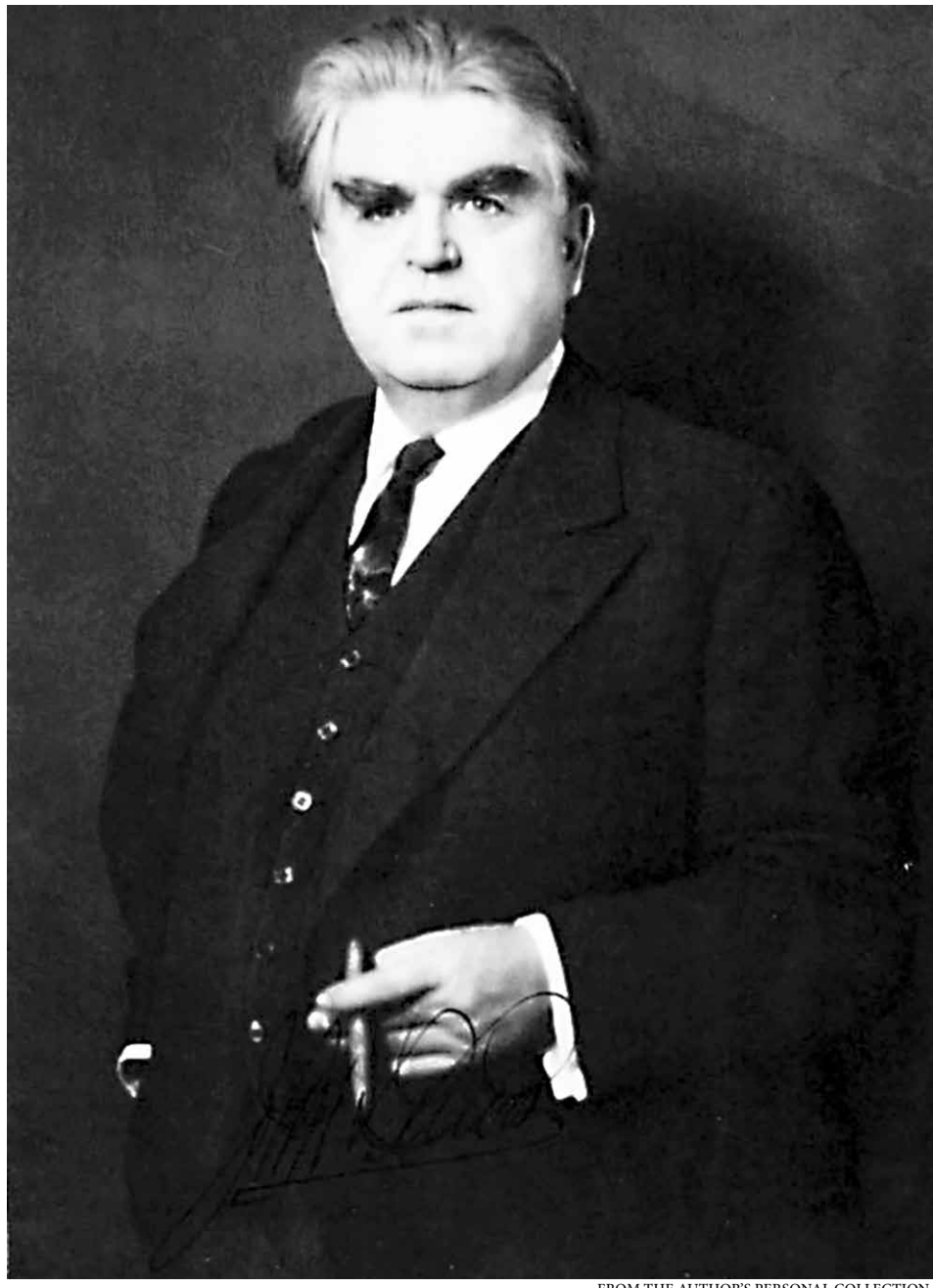
Nor was Lewis afraid of controversy, opening himself to severe criticism by calling for a strike during the Second World War. Opponents bitterly charged Lewis and his union with impeding the war effort and aiding the enemies of America. Lewis was the only major labor leader in the United States to call for a strike while the country was fighting World War II.

Much can be discerned about John L. Lewis's personality when considering an incident in his youth. Lewis had been kicked by a mule and promptly picked up a "sprang" (the wooden brake lever of a coal car) and brained the ornery creature.

John Llewellyn Lewis was unusual in most respects and that applied to his own personal politics, as he was a Republican, yet few worked harder or contributed more to Franklin D. Roosevelt's smashing 1936 reelection victory. Yet Lewis was something of an isolationist in his outlook on American foreign policy and he dramatically broke with Franklin Roosevelt in 1940 and endorsed GOP presidential nominee Wendell Willkie.

Another thing newsmen loved about the colorful union boss was the fact he was excellent copy for newspapers. John L. Lewis could be blunt to the point of insult, deliberately so and his quotes always made for good reading. The lash of Lewis' tongue spared no president of the United States. Of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who quoted Shakespeare by uttering "a plague on both your houses," Lewis once huffed, "It ill behooves anyone who has supped at labor's table and who has been sheltered in labor's house to curse with equal fervor and fine impartiality both labor and its adversaries when they become locked in a deadly embrace." Lewis famously once described FDR's vice president, John Nance Garner of Texas, as "a labor-baiting, poker-playing, whiskey-drinking evil old man." Lewis and the equally plainspoken Harry Truman traded memorable barbs. John L. Lewis said of President Truman, "He is a man totally unfit for the position. He is careless with the truth. He is a malignant scheming sort of individual who is dangerous not only to the United Mine Workers but dangerous to the United States of America." Harry Truman once snapped, "I wouldn't appoint John L. Lewis dogcatcher."

The observations of John L. Lewis about his fellow labor leaders were no less



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Signed photo of John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America.

generous. He dismissed Walter Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers, by describing him as, "A pseudo-intellectual nitwit." Lewis thought George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, was "An honest plumber trying to abolish sin in the labor movement, which is not a function of the labor movement."

"You need men and I have all the men and they are all in the palm of my hand," Lewis once roared during a labor dispute. "And, now I ask, what am I bid?"

John L. Lewis was born in a tiny town in Iowa and like many, failed at running for office and business before becoming heavily involved in the burgeoning organized labor movement. His parents were immigrants from Wales. The head of the AFL, Samuel Gompers, launched John L. Lewis by hiring him as a union organizer. Lewis knew the mines and he knew the miners; he also came to know every coal and steel-producing district in the country.

Lewis became the acting president of the UMW in 1919 and called a strike that caused 400,000 miners to walk off their jobs. It was the first major coal strike in American history. The administration of President Woodrow Wilson obtained an injunction from a federal court, which Lewis and his miners recognized and obeyed. Lewis' obedience to any court, federal or otherwise, was not a given. There were at least two notable occasions when John L. Lewis was found to be in contempt of a court order. Once Lewis and the UMW were fined \$2.1 million, which was real money at the time.

The following year, John L. Lewis was elected president of the United Mine Workers and remained in that post for the next forty years without interruption.

It was not long before Lewis was recognized, not only for his ability to

communicate but also for his intelligence and ability to navigate the political rapids, which is a considerable talent. Lewis constantly fought for better wages for the members of his union, as well as for improving mine safety. It might surprise some to note one person impressed by John L. Lewis' skills and capability was President Calvin Coolidge, who offered the union leader a spot in his Cabinet as Secretary of Labor. Lewis turned it down.

Lewis could be reasonable and was criticized by some when he accepted a measure of automation in the coal mines following the Second World War, which meant the loss of some union jobs. "It is better to have half a million men working at good wages and high standards of living than to have a million men working in poverty and degradation," Lewis explained.

John L. Lewis, during his forty years as president of the United Mine Workers, fused his organization into an effective entity, the result of which was not only better pay and higher wages, but also pensions, union hospitals, and underground travel pay. Lewis once explained his role as president of the UMW, saying, "I am their agent. They pay my salary. They keep me in good clothes. They buy me cigars. I work for them. I expect to continue." And he did.

Once, speaking before a Senate committee in 1949, Lewis discussed mine safety, telling senators that 1,259,081 men had been

killed working in the mines since 1930. Lewis then said in his booming voice, "If I had the powers of a Merlin, I would march that million and a quarter men past the Congress of the United States --- the quick and the dead."

"I would have the ambulatory injured drag the dead after them . . . trailing their bowels. I would have the concourse flanked by five weeping members of each man's family, six and a quarter million people, wailing and lamenting." Needless to say, John L. Lewis could conjure a vivid image with his words.

Lewis was also human. When the CIO rejected his plea to support Wendell Willkie over President Roosevelt, John L. Lewis petulantly resigned his post. Lewis was also bold and it was said his break with Roosevelt was largely due to his own personal ambition. Fellow labor leader Phillip Murray and John L. Lewis went calling at the White House and Murray later remembered Lewis clearing his throat dramatically. "Mr. President," Lewis announced, "I would like a place on the ticket." Lewis was referring to the vice presidential nomination of the Democratic Party to run with Roosevelt in the 1940 election.

Without missing a beat, the president retorted, "Oh, you want a place on the ticket, John? Just what place did you have in mind?"

Without another word, according to Phillip Murray, Lewis rose from his seat and stalked out of the Oval Office and returned to his

own Republican Party.

Following his retirement as president of the United Mine Workers, John L. Lewis was awarded the Medal of Freedom, the highest honor the American government can bestow upon a citizen who is a civilian. In an interview shortly after his eighty-fifth birthday, the former labor leader reflected upon being awarded the Medal of Freedom. The reporter wrote Lewis' head "sunk on his chest and he seemed to take a long, thoughtful look over his half-century as one of the nation's most controversial and powerful labor leaders, then he broke into a wry smile."

"So they gave me a medal for doing all those things they fought me for doing all those years," Lewis said.

For one who had basked in the limelight for decades, John L. Lewis was also highly cognizant that he had also been roasted and blistered in the newspapers during that time as well. A powerful presence and impossible to ignore, Lewis accommodated himself to the sidelines and the shadows. It was largely through the influence of John L. Lewis that W. A. "Tony" Boyle became president of the United Mine Workers following the death of Lewis' handpicked successor. One of Lewis' aides explained the boss's attitude, telling reporter Neil Gilbride, "He knows his heyday is past and he sees little value in getting into newspaper scraps with other labor leaders."

The former union president was not tempted by the sumptuous financial offers by publishing companies and magazines who begged for his memoirs. Even after his retirement, Lewis maintained an office at the United Mine Workers' headquarters. Lewis could hold court in a "club-like lounge on the 6th floor" of the UMW building.

Lewis continued living in his relatively modest home in northern Virginia and continued going to his office almost to the day he died. John L. Lewis was rushed to the hospital on June 11, 1969, suffering from internal bleeding. The old warrior went to sleep and drifted away. Admittedly a terror to some, John L. Lewis was a hero to others and a legend, especially inside the organized labor movement. By any measure or standard, John Llewellyn Lewis stands alone as an American original. While he became famous and was oftentimes vilified, it is indisputable as the "agent" of his miners he helped to lift them up and improve their lot and lives.

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Ijams Celebrates Re-Opening of River Trail Nov. 1

Ijams Nature Center will celebrate the re-opening of the north side of River Trail and a new section of the River Boardwalk on Tuesday, Nov. 1, at 11 a.m. The public is invited.

Attendees will gather at the intersection of North Cove Trail and River Trail on the bluffs behind the Ijams Visitor Center. Ijams Executive Director Amber Parker and City of Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon will make short remarks. Afterward, guests will explore the new trail, including the boardwalk, to its intersection with River Landing.

River Trail is only accessible by foot and the route includes significant inclines. The total length of the walk is about one mile.

A large section of River Trail washed away during flooding in February 2019, forcing its closure. The boardwalk remained open, but could be accessed only from the opposite side of the trail.

Ijams Nature Center staff called in partners to determine the best way to repair the trail and stop further erosion.

"We brought together government, commercial and nonprofit partners, as well as individual members of this community, to develop a plan to restore one of Ijams' most visited and beloved places," Parker said. "This was a major project with many nuances, and it would not have been possible without their contributions."

While planning was under way, Ijams staff and volunteers began removing invasive species from the area to open up the view to the river and allow native species to repopulate. Appalachian Mountain Bike Club created a new section of trail farther from the river's edge.

The next step was to install a support system on the side of the cliff, which had to be done from the water

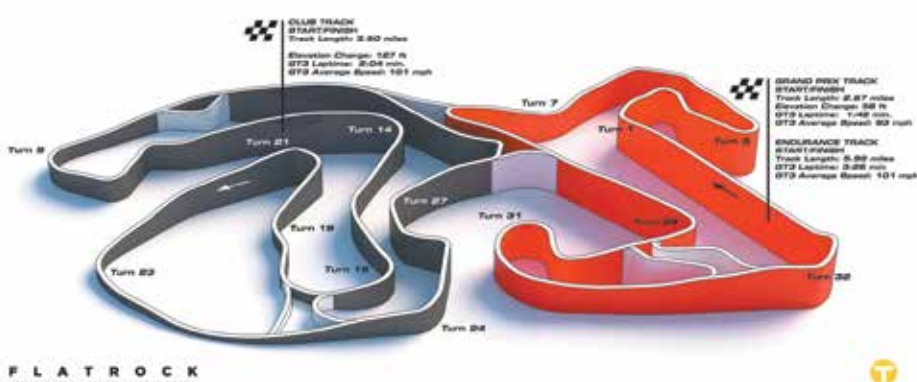
and required massive equipment. Ijams needed to find a barge company, and with all of the damage caused by the flood and other work that needed to be done, the waiting list was long.

In June 2022, Knoxville Barge, Inc., drove pilings into the side of the cliff to provide support for a new section of the River Boardwalk to connect the trail and existing boardwalk.

Earthadelic then tackled the rest of the project, which involved construction on a cliff face and seamlessly marrying new construction to the existing boardwalk. The original wooden structure was designed and built by Don Niday in the mid 1990s. Earthadelic completed its work in early October.

The City of Knoxville and an individual donor helped cover the cost of the project.

Ijams Nature Center is a nonprofit, 318-acre educational nature center for all ages, abilities and walks of life. Ijams' mission is to encourage stewardship of the natural world by providing an urban greenspace for people to learn about and enjoy the outdoors through engaging experiences. Located just three miles from downtown Knoxville, Ijams features 12+ miles of hiking and mixed-use trails, a public access river dock, swimming, boating, biking and more. The center offers hundreds of educational programs annually for all ages. The Ijams grounds and trails are open every day from 8 a.m. until dusk. Starting Nov. 1, 2022, the Visitor Center will switch to fall and winter hours and will be open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and Sunday, and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. For more information, visit ijams.org.



Flatrock Motorsports Park, designed by world renowned Tilke Engineers & Architects, will feature a 3.50-mile private Member's Club track and a 2.67-mile Grand Prix track. Combined, the full circuit is almost 6 miles of challenging and unique driving, setting it apart from other high performance race tracks in the United States.

Ground broken for Flatrock Motorsports Park

Cont. from page 1

Partners, investors, and business and county leaders were on hand for the event. According to Bittle, more than \$100 million will be spent to make his dream a reality. Some 100 jobs are expected to be created initially.

Phase one will complete the tracks and get cars rolling. The amenities that other phases of the project will include are a hotel, along with a restaurant, winery, brewery, campground, retail center, and amphitheater. The goal is to appeal to a wide spectrum of entertainment tastes that go way beyond motorsports.

The attempt at mass appeal is part of Bittle's passion. He wants to make the park a motorsports

"destination."

"It was a vision for a destination that would enrich a community," Bittle said. "I wanted a park that would provide individuals and families memories they would never forget."

According to a press release, the park will include a 3.5-mile circuit club track and a 2.4-mile Grand Prix track, for a combined six miles of endurance tracks. It might one day attract both Nascar and Formula 1 races.

The rolling-hills geographical backdrop of the park, which was originally planned for Oak Ridge, not only provides natural beauty, but a 34-turn challenge to drivers. The design and construction of the tracks will be done by Tilke Engineers and Architects,

which specializes in motor-sports racetracks.

"We really believe it's going to be the best race-track," said a spokesman for Tilke.

"If this is what Flatrock calls a groundbreaking, I absolutely can't wait to see the grand opening," said Allen Foster, mayor of Cumberland County. "What's exciting to us is the economic impact this will have on our area and the state."

According to the press release, an independent firm hired by Tilke estimated that in its first five years, FMP will generate approximately \$100 million in revenue.

"We don't wanna be just a motorsports park," said Bittle. "We do wanna be a destination."



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Alcoa, TN
37701

Alcoa
1pm - 2:30pm
Courtyard Marriott Alcoa
141 Furrow Way
Alcoa, TN
37701

November 15

Pigeon Forge
10am - 11:30am
Spring Hill Suites
120 Christmas Tree Lane
Pigeon Forge, TN
37863

Pigeon Forge
1pm - 2:30pm
Spring Hill Suites
120 Christmas Tree Lane
Pigeon Forge, TN
37863

November 10

Knoxville
10am - 11:30am
Country Inn & Suites by Raddison
9137 Cross Park Drive
Knoxville, TN
37923

Knoxville
1pm - 2:30pm
Country Inn & Suites by Raddison
9137 Cross Park Drive
Knoxville, TN
37923

November 21

Knoxville
1pm - 2:30pm
Karns Senior Center
8042 Oak Ridge Highway
Knoxville, TN
37931

November 14

Knoxville
10:30am - 12pm
South Knoxville Senior Center
6729 Martel Lane
Knoxville, TN
37920

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S-D's Polen earns A-AA title with fast finish

By Steve Williams

There's a red maple tree that sticks out on a hillside just before the home stretch of the 5,000-meter cross country course at Victor Ashe Park.

It was in the area near that tree where South-Doyle's Thomas Polen raced past the lead runner en route to winning the Region 2 Class A-AA championship Wednesday.

In the future, that maple may be called the 'South-Doyle red' maple tree by Cherokee harriers in remembrance of Polen's impressive finish.

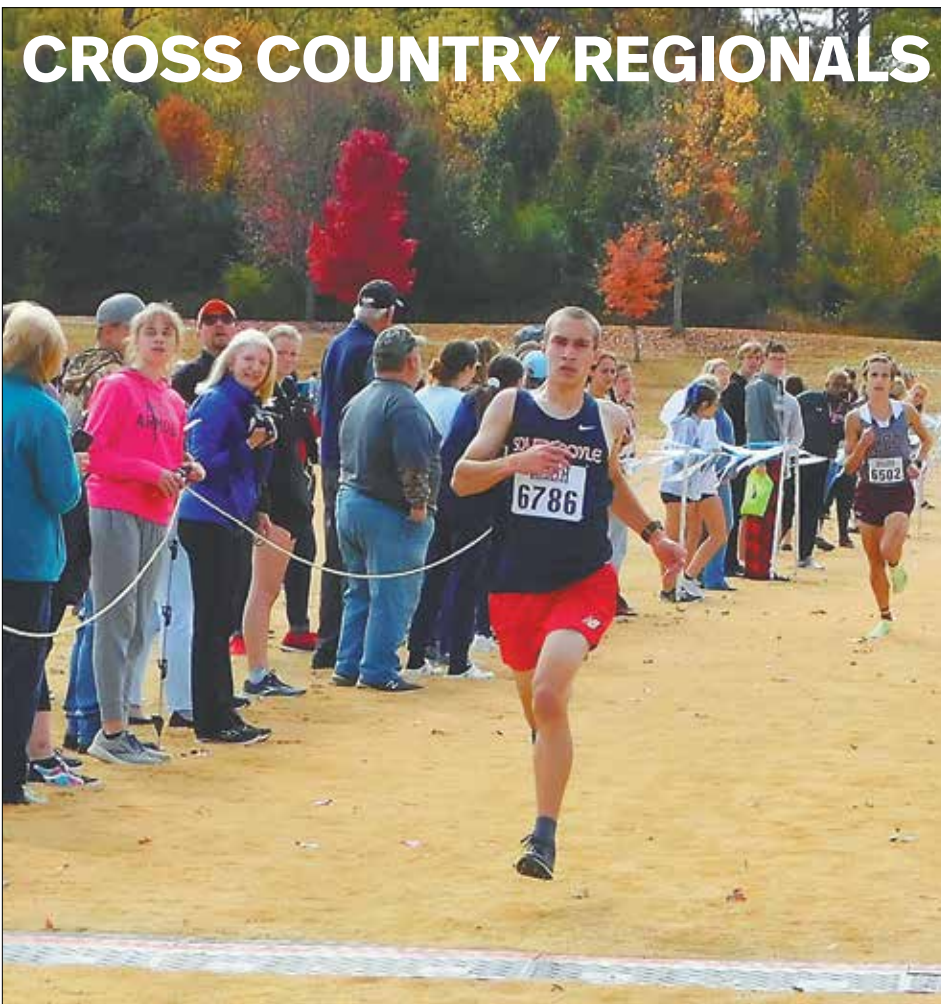
Polen, who transferred to South-Doyle from Illinois for his senior year, posted a time of 16 minutes, 55 seconds as he defeated Alcoa's Sam Bridges by three seconds.

"I overtook him very shortly after we went down the hill and then he just never caught up," said Polen. "He didn't have much in him left and I just threw everything I had at it."

Polen said he didn't do very well last year in cross country in Illinois. "I didn't improve a whole lot and I had a poor race at sectionals. I was the 11th individual qualifier, which means I didn't go to state, because only 10 go."

That won't be the case for Thomas this year as he and the South-Doyle team qualified for the state, which will be held this Thursday at the Sanders Ferry Park course in

CROSS COUNTRY REGIONALS



South-Doyle's Thomas Polen crosses the finish line ahead of Alcoa's Sam Bridges to win the Region 2 Class A-AA cross country race Wednesday at Victor Ashe Park. The 'South-Doyle red' maple tree can be seen in the background.

Hendersonville.

Polen pointed out that "running two practices a day - one in the morning and one after school" had been the key to his success at South-Doyle.

Thomas also said veteran S-D Coach Don Madgett had been a factor in his progress.

"He's an excellent coach and I think that he's the main reason I've gotten so much better this

season, because I haven't improved a whole lot the last two seasons and I think that was mostly coaching. This year with Madgett, I have improved a lot."

The top four teams and the next five best individuals advance to state.

Senior Jayden Brabson helped South-Doyle place fourth with his third place showing in 17:26. Hunter McDougall was

the Cherokees' third best runner, coming in 16th.

Aron Gornowich of L&N STEM Academy placed seventh and the Gryphons won a tie-breaker over South-Doyle to finish third in the team scoring. Josh Martinez was 15th and Connor Arnold 19th for L&N.

Gibbs junior Will Spierdowis placed eighth among individuals to qualify for

Continue on page 2



UNsung HEROES

South-Doyle tight end Jacob Ogle is one of thirteen Unsung Heroes recognized inside on C2.

Notes from the scorecard

Preliminary action from Chattanooga

By Ken Lay

When the week began, three area high school girls soccer teams were competing on the Volunteer State's grand stage, the 2022 state tournament, in Chattanooga. At press time, one still had hopes of winning a title.

Bearden High, which has been a top team in Tennessee and the country throughout the season, advanced to Saturday's Class 3A Championship match with a 7-0 victory over Station Camp in Thursday night's semifinal.

Brinley Murphy, the reigning Gatorade Player of the Year scored four goals to help the Lady Bulldogs (23-0-0) remain undefeated and advance to Saturday's final, which was a rematch between Bearden and the Houston Lady Mustangs.

Bre Mendoza, Becca Roth and Sofia Eshleman also had markers for Bearden in the semifinals. Olivia Stott had four

See next week's Knoxville Focus for Mark Nagi's wrap-up of Saturday's state title soccer action.

assists. Mendoza dished out two and Murphy, who will play next year at South Carolina, added one.

Bearden, which entered Saturday's match without a loss in two seasons, advanced to the semifinals with a 4-0 victory over Collierville Wednesday afternoon.

In that match, the Lady Bulldogs' defense was stingy as Bearden surrendered just two shots and goalkeeper Peyton Huber made one save on a shot that landed on frame.

Four different players had markers for the Lady Bulldogs. Mendoza, Morgan Hellman, Maci Ritzman and Katie Browning each tallied in the match. Bearden finished the match with 10 shots

Cont. on page 2

Excellent leadership a key to Admirals' strong season

By Steve Williams

Leadership within the team has played a big part in Farragut's boys cross country team having a highly successful season.

The Admirals are ranked No. 2 in the Southeast in the latest DyeStat Regional Rankings and will be a state title contender in this Friday's TSSAA meet at Sanders Ferry Park in Hendersonville.

Farragut captured the Region 2 Class AAA championship last Wednesday on the Victor Ashe Park 5,000-meter course.

"About six or so years ago, the group of seniors we had on the boys team really started to focus on 'what do we need to

build Farragut into what it used to be' and current seniors Ocean Edwards and Trevor Coggin really took to that when they came in as freshmen," said Chelsea Osborne, who has been the head coach of Farragut's boys and girls teams since 2006.

"Even as underclassmen and as juniors last year, they have really focused on leading these boys and getting these boys to buy-in and I think this is that year we're really starting to see all that success come through for them."

Coggin won the Region 2 individual title with a personal best time of 15:50 on the course. Braden Ebbert, a junior, placed

second at 16:07 and junior Matteo Tonnis, a transfer from Ontario, Canada, came in third with a time of 16:18.

Seven Admirals in all finished in the Top 10. That included Harrison Cunningham, Riley Hanson, Quinn DeGuira and Evan Beeler.

After the race, Edwards took time to compliment Coggin, his fellow co-captain.

"Trevor leads the team by example every day at practice," said Ocean. "He comes to practice with a great attitude and all the guys look up to him. He's such a great leader and Godly man and it's so important to have that on the team. We're just lucky to have

him." Edwards was the junior captain last year, second to team captain Nathan Stewart, who is now the UT team manager for the Vols' cross country team.

"We've had years of great captains who have led the way for us," added Edwards. "We're just really proud of all that we've done and through Coach Osborne and people like Trevor Coggin and Braden Ebbert, who have been really great leaders on the team."

In addition to Farragut, runner-up Oak Ridge and third place Hardin Valley will advance to state plus the next five best individuals. That includes Bearden

sophomore Cade Crum, who was fourth in a time of 16:40, and West freshman Nicholas Burke, who placed ninth.

Farragut totaled 17 points in the team scoring and was far ahead of runner-up Oak Ridge (77) and third place finisher Hardin Valley (79).

Archdale wins Region 2 girls title

Hardin Valley junior Maddie Archdale posted a time of 19:08 in taking top honors in the girls' meet.

Karns sophomore Hannah Kramer placed second in 19:20

Continued on page 3



UNSUNG HEROES

Unsung Heroes are (clockwise from top left:) Chance Vann of Farragut, Austin Meadows of Powell (27), Tyler Scott (40) of Austin-East, Elijah Echols of Tennessee School for the Deaf, Ryan Comfort of Grace Christian Academy, Shepard Gaston of Christian Academy of Knoxville, James Dendrinof of Central, Robert Love IV of Hardin Valley, Jacob Kirkland of Karns, Ryan Kearney of Halls, Regis Okungu of Fulton and Cayden Douglas of Bearden.

Unsung Heroes recognized by local prep football coaches

By Steve Williams

We call them "Unsung Heroes" and like to recognize them every high school football season.

An Unsung Hero is a player who may or may not be a starter, but gives his all in every practice and every game.

He's a player who is willing to sacrifice and play any position to make his team better.

He's a player all teammates and coaches respect and admire because he's a team guy first and foremost.

Most likely, his name has not been in a headline this season or announced on radio or TV. But he has stood out repeatedly in the background.

Thirteen local coaches sent in their Unsung Hero for this season. Please read below what the coaches had to say about them.

RYAN COMFORT Grace Christian | OL/DL Senior

"Every Friday night he's going against guys that are much bigger than him," said Head Coach Justin Long. "He does everything that's asked of him to the best of his ability. He's always on the line and ready to go before any of the other players get to practice. If warm-ups start at 3:30, Ryan is never late. He leads by example and does things the right way."

JAMES DENDRINOS Central | OL Senior

"James has started on the offensive line for us this year," said Head Coach Nick Craney. "He has worked extremely hard, and had to endure a few injuries this season that have kept him on the sidelines more than he would have hoped. Rather than

withdrawing from the team, or getting discouraged, James has continued to work and is getting healthy again just in time for the playoffs. James exemplifies what we want all Bobcats to be about, and is a great young man!"

CAYDEN DOUGLAS Bearden | DB Senior

"Cayden shows up every day and says very few words," said Head Coach Josh Jones. "He works hard and goes about his business like a professional. He's had a solid year for us starting at free safety. He is a 100 percent team first guy. Will do anything asked to help the team."

ELIJAH ECHOLS TSD | OL/DL Junior

"Elijah is the most unselfish player I have ever coached," said Head Coach Bill Osborne. "He puts the team first in everything he does. He does not get the recognition he deserves, but that never stops him from trying to make the next play for his team. He is also an outstanding representative of our program in the classroom."

SHEPARD GASTON CAK | PK/Defense Junior

"Shepard is a player who came to CAK as a kicker," said Head Coach Travis Mozingo. "However, his athleticism has proven to be too valuable to leave him at only that limited position.

"In addition to being our place-kicker, over the course of the season he's had four different roles on our defense, depending on our opponent. Every week we've moved Shepard, and he

has a willingness to contribute in any way he can, including moving and learning a new spot in a few days.

"Shepard is the 'team player' that every coach wants in his program."

RYAN KEARNEY Halls | OL Senior

"Ryan has been a young man that has done everything we have ever asked him to do," said Head Coach Brent Hughes. "He has been the heartbeat of our offensive line and been the standard we want in our program. He cares about his community and gives back to our youth programs by volunteering his time helping youth football teams.

"One young man wanted to wear Ryan's gloves in his little league game, and it made his day when Ryan let him.

"Ryan is going to be a great husband and father one day and give back and make a difference in his community. Proud to be his Coach."

JACOB KIRKLAND Karns | Center Senior

"Jacob is a quiet leader for us," said Assistant Coach Lee Warren. "He's been a three-year starter at center. He never gets a lot of glory, and he's okay with that. He's here every single day in the off-season, summer, and in-season working his butt off. He's a great student, teammate, and a member of our leadership council. He never says much. He just goes about his business and does the best he can every day."

ROBERT LOVE IV Hardin Valley | OL/DL Senior

"Robert sustained an injury before the season started that prevented him from actually practicing and playing," said Head Coach Jeff Miner. "Robert still shows up for every practice unless he has a medical appointment related to his injury. He helps coaches and gets whatever we need, whether it is equipment, water, or anything else. He encourages players and has done everything in his power to remain a contributing member of our team in spite of being prohibited to participate in actual practice and games."

AUSTIN MEADOWS Powell | RB/DE Senior

When asked what makes Austin Meadows Powell's Unsung Hero, Head Coach Matt Lowe said: "It simply is he's a senior on our team and shows up every day and works his tail off.

"Austin is on every one of our special teams. He's also our scout team tailback and a scout team linebacker. That means he's one of the guys in practice that's going against our No. 1 defense and No. 1 offense."

Meadows has been on the football team for two seasons, beginning with his junior year. He also has always played baseball for the Panthers, pointed out Lowe.

JACOB OGLE South-Doyle | Tight End Senior

"Jacob is consistent in every phase of what a South-Doyle football player should be," said Head Coach Paul Shelton. "Great grades, never misses a day of work, and has worked himself

into a starting tight end who is productive. Great teammate as well."

REGIS OKUNGU Fulton | Punter/Kicker Senior

"Regis will do anything we ask of him," said Head Coach Jeff McMillan. "He has really improved and turned into a steady kicker/punter. He is very dependable, a great student, and member of the Student Government Association. He flipped the field after a safety, downing the ball inside the 10-yard line against Anderson County."

TYLER SCOTT Austin-East | TE/DE Freshman

"Tyler comes to every practice and every ACT prep/tutoring session we do on Tuesdays and Thursdays," said Head Coach Antonio Mays. "He has a lot of potential and I'm looking forward to coaching him for the next three years."

CHANCE VANN Farragut | WR Senior

The 5-8, 150-pounder "fits everything" The Focus mentioned an Unsung Hero is, according to Head Coach Eddie Courtney.

"Chance comes to practice every day with a smile on his face," added Courtney. "He is positive, energized, unselfish, and committed to do whatever it takes to make the team its best. He is a part-time starter that has overcome injuries and other setbacks to be a very respected player and young man on our team. His example is what our team culture is about."

S-D's Polen earns A-AA title with fast finish

Cont. from page 1

Alcoa captured the team title with the lowest score of 58 points. Anderson County (67) was runner-up. L&N and South-Doyle totaled 68 each.

South-Doyle girls qualify for state

Janelle Rodriguez led

South-Doyle's girls team to third place in the Region 2 Class A-AA cross country meet and a berth in the state.

Alcoa freshman Kacey Holliday took top individual honors with a 19:44 time in the 5,000-meter race, leading the Lady Tornadoes to the region title.

Anderson County, led by

freshman Ava Moody (20:21), was the runner-up.

Gibbs senior McKenzie Morton placed 14th to qualify for state.

Alcoa took the region title with a lowest score of 23 points and will be joined by AC (66), S-D (117) and Stone Memorial at Thursday's state meet in Hendersonville.

Preliminary action from Chattanooga

Continued from page 1

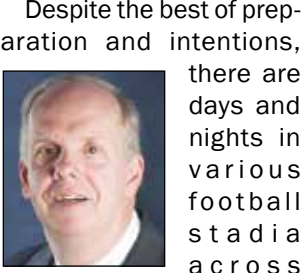
on goal. Also in Class 3A: West High made its first-ever appearance in the state tournament. Unfortunately the Lady Rebels (16-4-1) didn't stay in Chattanooga long as they lost to Houston, 4-0, in the quarterfinals. The Lady Mustangs would go on to advance to the title match with a 4-0 win over Murfreesboro Siegel in the semifinals. In Class 2A: Seymour made

the state tournament. The Lady Eagles, however, fell to Murfreesboro Central Magnet 4-1 in Wednesday's opening round.

Ray Ray Ellis scored Seymour's lone goal of the match late in the first half. She picked up the equalizer just before halftime, tallying in the 40th minute.

Murfreesboro Central advanced as it scored three unanswered goals in the second half.

'Dang!'



By Tom Mattingly

Despite the best of preparation and intentions, there are days and nights in various football stadiums across the country that seem longer than most, when everything that can go wrong actually does. The 1986 Auburn game, played Sept. 26 at Jordan-Hare Stadium, came a year after the Tigers, then rated No. 1 in the county, had time to chew on a 38-20 loss in Knoxville. Tony Robinson had thrown the ball all over the field, and Vol defenders put the clamps on eventual Heisman Trophy winner Bo Jackson. Robinson ended up on the cover of the next week's Sports Illustrated. In the rematch, Auburn exacted a toll on the Vols, winning 34-8. It was a mismatch from start to finish. Then there was the season finale against Vanderbilt at Dudley Field on Nov. 27, 1954. That was a tough one for Vol fans to swallow, with Vanderbilt winning 26-0. Vandy had only beaten the Vols once since 1937, so emotions ran high that day. Vanderbilt fans were yelling, "Block that kick! Block that kick!" as Tennessee

lined up for the second-half kickoff. That game's outcome and a four-game losing streak to finish the 1954 campaign resulted in Athletic Director Bob Neyland firing head coach Harvey Robinson and the entire staff. That brought Vol All-America and 1938 captain Bowden Wyatt home from Fayetteville, Ark., to Knoxville. Neyland called firing Robbie and the staff, "The hardest thing I've ever had to do."

On Oct. 11, 1980, Tennessee was in the final stages of defeating Georgia Tech at Grant Field in Atlanta. The final score was 23-10, but the outcome was in doubt until the final minutes.

The Alabama game, played a week later, was not far from fans' attention, to the point that, in the final stages of the game, once victory was ensured, here came the cry from the Vol faithful.

"We want Bama! We want Bama!"

That wasn't a smart move.

A week later, Alabama did show up. In a game played in a heavy rainstorm, the final score was 27-0, Crimson Tide, in a game that wasn't that close. Sometimes you get what you want, and it ain't pretty.

In 1970, Tennessee fans couldn't wait for Florida to



Vol defenders worked over Auburn's Bo Jackson in the 1985 game at Neyland Stadium. Auburn did likewise to the Vols a year later at Jordan-Hare Stadium in Auburn.

hit Shields-Watkins Field after Doug Dickey had changed his mailing address from Knoxville to Gainesville. (There had been considerable thought in the community that the Vols might overlook Alabama the previous week ahead of the Florida game a week later. That didn't happen.)

There was enough hoopla around the contest to satisfy the most hardened fan, as Tennessee won 38-7. There were songs written about both head coaches. From the Tennessee side,

there was a composition entitled "Tricky Dickey," while Florida fans came up with one called, "Bad Billy Battle, You Mean and Nasty Boy."

In 1995, when the Vols lost to the Gators 62-37, a hard rain hit Florida Field in the latter stages of the game with the Gators comfortably ahead. The Florida folks enjoyed the deluge as much as Vol fans had enjoyed a similar deluge three years earlier.

A streak-breaking win can cause great exuberance among the opposing

fan base. Take, for example, Alabama 6, Tennessee 3, 2005, at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa. Alabama insiders said the ensuing crowd reaction was among the top periods of pure, unrestrained joy at the Capstone in their memory. The legendary stadium overflowed with emotion.

A great many of us old folks remember the Nov. 15, 1969, Ole Miss game and the "mules" comment by linebacker Steve Kiner. That was a pretty long day, especially when

you consider the Vols did eventually win the SEC title. The Rebels' Cloyce Hinton kicked a field goal just before halftime that bounced over the crossbar, extending the lead from 21-0 to 24-0.

That caused Tennessee SID Haywood Harris to utter one of the shortest quotes ever in Sports Illustrated: "Dang!" Not "gosh-dang," as he could have said had he thought about it, but merely "dang."

Finally, no one is around who might have seen or heard about the 1893 four-game swing, starting in Knoxville against Kentucky A&M (56-0) and carrying on through games in North Carolina's Winston-Salem (Wake Forest 64, Tennessee 0), Durham (Duke 70, Tennessee 0), and Chapel Hill (North Carolina 60, Tennessee 0). The games started on Oct. 21 and ended on Nov. 7. The losses were by a combined total of 250-0.

Now, that was a series of really long days. So long, in fact, that some players refused to admit they had been a part of the team that season.

Wonder how getting beat 250-0 over the course of four games would play out today?

Admirals blank Bearden to earn spot in MAC JV championship game

By Ken Lay

A dominant performance in Wednesday night's Middle School Aged Conference semifinals netted the Farragut Middle School junior varsity football team into this week's championship game.

The top-seeded and undefeated Admirals defeated rival Bearden 30-0 on a chilly night at Bearden High School's Bill Young Field.

Farragut (8-0) will play in the championship game Thursday at Bearden.

Kickoff for the title tilt is slated for 6:20 p.m.

The Admirals darted out to a fast start as they scored on their first play from scrimmage when Matthew Rogers scored on a long touchdown scamper. Farragut added a two-point conversion on a kick to extend its advantage to 8-0 with 5 minutes, 41 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

And the Admirals, who defeated Central in the playoff quarterfinals on Saturday, Oct. 22, prevailing 30-0 at home, were far from finished against the Bulldogs.

On its second possession of the contest, Farragut had a fourth-down conversion on a 22-yard scamper by

Rogers. That would set up the game's second TD, a 60-yard scamper by Nathan Jacobs with 42 seconds left in the opening frame.

In the second quarter, the Admirals were advantageous as they took advantage of a turnover by the Bulldogs. An interception by JP Kitchiner led to another touchdown. Rogers scampered 50 yards for a score with 1:52 left before halftime to make it 22-0.

Rogers would close the scoring with a 33-yard run early in the fourth quarter. "He's a freight train," Farragut coach Ty Haley said of Rogers. "Our defense played well."

"We haven't given up a point in the playoffs."

It was Farragut's second victory over the Bulldogs this season. The Admirals nabbed a 40-6 win over Bearden during the regular season and Haley spent the week warning his team not to take its rivals lightly in the playoffs.

"It's hard to beat a good team twice," Haley said. "The first time we played them, we scored 32 points to start the game and we won 40-6."

"I warned them that (Bearden) would be better. They were but we came out and we took care of our business."

Excellent leadership

Continued from page 1

and Oak Ridge freshman Dylan Job (19:42) was third.

Senior Kennedy Reynolds led Farragut to the team crown with a fourth place finish in 19:57. Hardin Valley was team runner-up and Oak Ridge won a tie-breaker over Bearden for third place.

The top three teams plus next best five individuals advance to the state.

Archdale said she had some competition at the start, but later had to deal with running alone.

Her goals for state: "I definitely want to get my time down," said Maddie. "I'm hoping for Top 5 this year. We'll see, at least Top 10."

Coach Osborne said for Farragut it was first region title for boys since 2009 and first sweep of boys' and girls' region championships since early 2000s. "I'm very, very happy."



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Hardin Valley junior Maddie Archdale flashes a smile after winning the Region 2 Class AAA cross country individual title Wednesday.

Q&A with author Jeff Pearlman

By Mark Nagi

From time to time we like to catch up with a newsmaker in the world of sports. Recently The Knoxville Focus spoke with New York Times best-selling author Jeff Pearlman about his new book, "The Last Folk Hero: The Life and Myth of Bo Jackson."

The Knoxville Focus: Why did you want your latest book to be about Bo Jackson?

Jeff Pearlman: I'm very nostalgic and when I was thinking of the next book to write, I was thinking about being a kid and having Bo Jackson posters on my wall. Loving Bo Jackson and the mystique and intrigue of playing two sports at the same time and then him vanishing. He was Michael Jordan, and then he was gone and there is something interesting and mystifying about a guy that owns the world and then vanishes. I thought it was a cool subject.

KF: Bo Jackson grew up in a small house in Bessemer, Alabama with a single mother and 10 siblings. How did that upbringing set the stage for his life?

JP: It was hugely important. Brett Favre, Walter Payton and Bo Jackson each had athletic training that was beating up their friends and throwing rocks and jumping over ditches. Bo was a physical phenomenon and trained like a self-guiding Marine. There was no IMG Academy to nurture him.

His Dad lived across town and had nothing to do with him. That motivated him. "Screw the world. I'm gonna do it on my own." And he had a disciplining Mom. That all added up to who we ended up seeing.

KF: Bo Jackson played against Tennessee twice. In 1985, the Vols upset Auburn in one of the few games he didn't dominate. Why was that the case?

JP: Tennessee coach Johnny Majors said he knew the secret to stopping Bo Jackson, which was to beat the #\$\$\$^ out of him and then Bo will cry uncle. That defense swarmed Bo Jackson. Coaches on the Auburn staff were frustrated but he was standing on the sidelines. The Tennessee defense knew they won when they saw him on the sidelines. And that game gave us the emergence of (Tennessee quarterback) Tony Robinson. He lit Auburn up. ABC play by play announcer Keith Jackson said, "You don't think that is a natural quarterback, huh?" Remember at this time Robinson was one of only a few African American quarterbacks. So, Bo's time against Tennessee coincided with the brief emergence of Tony Robinson, and started a sort of game plan that SEC teams used that if you hit Bo hard, he takes himself out, whether that was true or not.

KF: That game was a shocker because Jackson and Auburn handled Tennessee fairly easily the previous season...

JP: Johnny Majors guaranteed to Ed Hinton

of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that Tennessee would win. He truly knew. It's funny because in hindsight, Tennessee was loaded. That was a really good team. Was it really that big an upset? Those guys were stacked, and these were evenly matched teams. (Writer's note: Tennessee would go on to win the SEC in 1985 and upset Miami in the Sugar Bowl).

Herschel Walker took hits and kept coming. But I think Bo was savvy than that. He was aware of self-preservation.

KF: When Bo Jackson started talking about playing baseball, did most people think it was simply a ploy to get a better situation out of the NFL?

JP: No one took Bo seriously. Baseball was not going to be a factor at all. But the Tampa Bay Buccaneers screwed up his baseball eligibility by flying him in for a physical. Then Bo said he'd never forgive the Bucs and that he was open to playing baseball. Bo had been drafted by the New York Yankees in high school and the California Angels in college, and he never considered it. He was gonna be the number one in the NFL Draft, but the Bucs set him on a different path.

KF: So many moments are the stuff of legend with Bo Jackson. Is it better now we can see everything we want, or a shame that narrative is forever gone?

JP: It's better because we can watch anything, but we don't leave anything to the imagination anymore. If LeBron eats a hoagie the size of five heads, someone will be shooting that and it'll be on Instagram. I think a lot of sports is mythology. Did Babe Ruth call his shot? I don't know. That's kind of fun.

I write in the book about Bo's first night game at Georgia in baseball when Bo was a junior. This was the first game lights in Athens and in the second at bats, Bo hits a home run that hits the lights. But there's no video of it. There's no twitter. There's something cool about that.

KF: Bo Jackson had a memorable ad campaign with Nike. For a few years he was like Michael Jordan...

JP: He was at that same level, but Bo was not charismatic. MJ flew, but Bo captured the imagination of fans doing two sports. The iconic "Bo Knows" commercial? He says nothing in the ad. Probably took a half an hour of his time.

KF: Bo got hurt in the 1990 NFL playoffs and was never the same after that. Is Bo's story the story of what might have been? Or more the seven-year period when he was the modern day Jim Thorpe?

JP: I think it is up to interpretation of the reader. To me, he was lighting in a bottle, and it is the celebration of lighting in a bottle, and this magical run of physical dominance we've never seen before or since.

Admirals hold off Bulldogs in 2-6A rivalry showdown

By Bill Howard

It was a game worthy of its storied rivalry, and of the playoff implications it carried.

Thursday night at Bill Young Field, Farragut High School's football team started slow and fell behind 7-0, roared back to lead 28-7, then held off a furious rally by the Bulldogs.

The 28-21 Region 2-6A win - the Admirals' seventh straight - to end the regular season put Farragut at 8-2 overall, 4-1 in the region. Bearden fell to 6-4, 3-2.

Farragut's second-place regional finish earns them a home field for the first round of state playoffs, against Jefferson Co.

Bearden will go on the road to play Dobyns-Bennett in Kingsport.

"I think we started off like we have been, played well the first half," said FHS coach Eddie Courtney. We lost a little bit of intensity in the second half."

"We were very inconsistent," said Bulldogs' coach Josh Jones. "We did some good things and did some things we didn't need to do. Having pre-snap penalties, which is totally unacceptable ... that's on me. Gotta do a better job of fixing that."

It wasn't a clean game either way. Bearden had 13 penalties for 91 yards, and Farragut had four turnovers. In the previous nine games they'd had six.

The Bulldogs led 7-0 with 4:21 left in the first when quarterback Drew Parrott hit Ethan Ford for a 13-yard score. The Admirals' offense in the first quarter was virtually nil.

But then came the

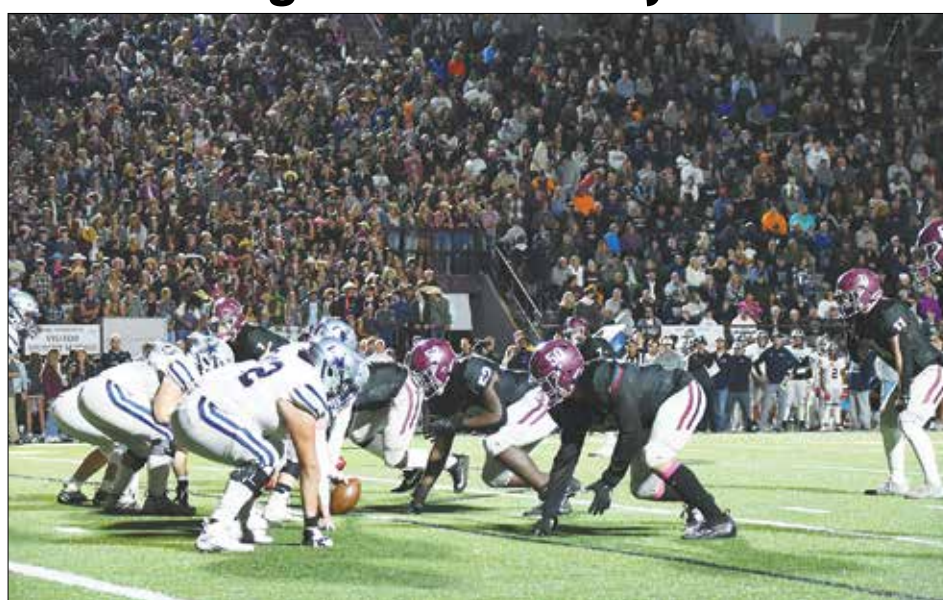


PHOTO BY TAMMY DAVIS KREGEL

The stands at Bearden High are jam packed as Farragut goes against the host Bulldogs in the West Knoxville rivalry at Bill Young Field Friday night. The Admirals held on for a 28-21 win, which gave them second place in Region 2-6A.

second.

The Admirals tied it at 7 with 8:55 left in the half when quarterback Luke Johnson scored on a one-yard keeper.

After Ashton Auker returned a Bearden punt to the Bulldog 25, Farragut needed but five plays to make it 14-7 when running back Elijah Gibbs took it in from the two.

Late in the half, Jordan Sheppard intercepted Parrott and returned the ball to the two. On second down Gibbs scored his second touchdown from the three, and FHS led 21-7, which held to halftime.

"They weren't long runs but they were hard runs," said Gibbs. "I felt like during this game we really needed a couple of those."

When Johnson (12 of 24, 164 yards, touchdown, pick) hit Auker for an 86-yard bomb with 7:29 left in the third to make it 28-7, it looked like yet another Admiral runaway.

Bearden had other ideas.

A fumbled punt by Farragut gave the Bulldogs the ball on the Admirals' 42 with 6:46 left in the third. Nine plays later Kai Ironside's one-yard run made it 28-14 with 3:09 left.

"Made a mistake on a punt and they got the ball back and that gave them a score and some momentum," said Courtney.

Another fumble by Farragut put Bearden back in business late in the third. With 9:58 left in the fourth, Parrott went in from the one, and it was 28-21 Farragut. It was anybody's game.

"We kept competing, we were resilient," said Jones. "Down 21, then down 7."

"That's a good Bearden team," said Courtney. "They took advantage of a couple things. Made it a good ballgame."

Bearden had a last chance, taking over with 3:43 left in the game on their own 17. A

three-and-out gave the ball back to Farragut, which then ran out the clock. An 18-yard run by Gibbs, who was held to 48 yards on 22 carries, sustained the drive.

Auker had five catches for 129 yards and a score. "Luke was throwing me great balls and the O-line was doing a great job blocking for him and giving him enough time to get me the ball so I can do what I do in space," Auker said.

The Bulldogs had only 202 yards in total offense. The Admirals' Jack Alley had 13 solo tackles.

"We just made too many mistakes to beat a quality team like Farragut," Jones said.

"We're excited about having the home field," Courtney said of the first-round matchup with the Patriots.

If Bearden defeats the Indians, it could meet regional foe Maryville in the second round.

It's playoff football time in TSSAA

By Steve Williams

Sixteen local high school football teams will be in the 2022 TSSAA playoffs, which get underway Friday night.

Five of them will be the home team in first round games, having earned the home field advantage by finishing first or second in their region.

(Gibbs, the Region 2-4A runner-up, will be the designated home team against Grainger, but the game won't be in Corryton, due to construction on its stadium. The Eagles have played all of their games on the road this season because of it. On Saturday afternoon at 2:30, Gibbs Coach Brad Turner said he "didn't know yet" where the game would be played.)

Farragut, the Region 2-6A runner-up, will be at home against Jefferson County.

In Class 5A, Region 2 champion West will host David Crockett, while Region 2 runner-up Central entertains Tennessee High. Region 3 champion Powell, which also is the Class 5A defending state champion, will take on visiting Ooltewah.

Webb, which rallied past Chattanooga Christian School for a 29-28 win Friday to capture the Division II Class AA East Region championship and remain undefeated, has a first-round bye and will host its second round game on Nov. 11 against the winner of Davidson County at Northpoint Christian.

(See High School Football Scores and Schedule to the right for other

A GLANCE BACK AND A LOOK AHEAD

first-round playoff games involving local teams.)

AWESOME NUMBERS: In its five region games during the regular season, West scored 233 points and allowed only three points - which came on a field goal by Central Friday night.

Powell scored the most points in its five region games (187), while Oak Ridge gave up the fewest points (91).

In Region 2-4A, Gibbs was the scoring leader with 234 points, while Anderson County was tops in points allowed (73).

Region 2-6A champion Maryville led in both categories in its region, scoring 183 points in five games, while giving up only 82.

In the Division II Class AA East Region, in which six regular season games are played, Chattanooga Christian School led the way with 261 points, while Webb allowed only 58 points.

In most cases, these numbers reflect the best offense and defense in each region.

NEW SEASON: Central senior center Drew Brown said Coach Nick Craney told the Bobcats after their loss to West Friday: "It's a one-week season now, and we've just got to get ready for whoever we play."

"We would like to get them (West) again in the playoffs and try to (make a) run at it again," said



PHOTO BY JOHN VALENTINE

Robin Koho has been a valuable member of the Central football press box crew for many years and still loves sports and helping at the high school level.

Koho is longtime stat man for Central

Robin Koho started keeping football stats for Central High when his good friend Joel Helton became the Bobcats' head coach in 1984.

Many years later, when Helton left CHS, Koho retired as statistician. But Robin answered Bryson Rosser's request to come back after he became the Bobcats' head coach in 2014.

Robin is still at it. In fact, when press box personnel changed this season, Koho started keeping both offensive and defensive stats again instead of the defense only.

At Central's game against South-Doyle on Oct. 7, Robin's wife, Martha, brought a chocolate cake to the press box to mark her husband's 80th birthday on Oct. 4. Martha, by the way, also kept stats in the early 2000s before retiring.

"I try to give as many assists (to defensive players) as I can because they are trying," said Koho, a 1961 West High graduate who was a quarterback and linebacker for the Rebels plus played basketball and ran track.

"I still love sports and if I can help anyway at all I want to do it," he said.

Brown. "Coach Craney just wants us to get ready, prepare and get better mentally. He said he loves us and we're going to be better off if we work harder."

THE TRUTH: Central Coach Nick Craney was asked

what impressed him most about the West Rebels after Friday's 44-3 loss.

"They execute what they are supposed to do so well and they've got such talent. They've got big guys, physical guys, and athletic guys across the board."

Rebels polish off a perfect regular season

By Steve Williams

A special team completed a special regular season as West defeated Central 44-3 Friday night on the road at Dan Y. Boring Stadium and Joel Helton Field.

And the Rebels may be just getting started.

"I'm very proud of our kids and especially playing our schedule (which included Alcoa and Maryville) to go 10-0 the first time in school history," said Head Coach Lamar Brown. "And it's all because of our kids. Our kids have worked very hard and prepared to play 10 straight weeks now, and they are getting their rewards for that."

West, which is ranked No. 1 in the state in Class 5A, wrapped up the Region 2-5A title with the victory. Central slipped to 6-4.

Post-season play begins Friday and West will host David Crockett High (5-5) at Bill Wilson Field. Central (6-4) also will play its first-round game at home against Tennessee High (5-5).

Bobcats Coach Nick Craney started the game with an onside kickoff.

"We thought we could steal a possession from them and get things started off with some momentum," he said.

However, the Rebels recovered the kick and quarterback Carson Jessie threw a 53-yard touchdown pass to Syxx Hoard on first down. Tyson Siebe's first PAT of the night made it 7-0 with 11:56 on the clock.

Central responded with its best offensive drive of the game, reaching the West 22-yard line. Frank Johnson IV, taking the snap in the Wildcat formation, had runs of 7, 9 and 7 in the march. On fourth-and-seven, Kole Hughes kicked a 39-yard field goal from the left hash.

That would be Central's only points of the game.

"I thought we played well particularly after the first series on defense,"

said Coach Brown. "We had to make some adjustments there and got that fixed."

"Offensively, I don't believe we punted tonight. I thought special teams played well and made a lot of big plays. I thought once again our kids prepared themselves to play and were ready to go from the start."

Brayden Latham scored on a 63-yard run on the third play of West's second series, breaking a tackle as he sprinted around the right side.

The big plays kept coming.

Jaquarius Wrenn scored on a 65-yard punt return to make it 21-3 in the second quarter and Siebe added a 33-yard field goal.

Wrenn struck again, intercepting a pass by Johnson and returning it for a TD, but the score was nullified by a blindside block. Soon thereafter, the Rebels did reach paydirt again as Jessie connected with Hoard on a 32-yard pass with 1:34 left in the half.

Trailing 30-3, Central chose to go for a first down on fourth-and-1 at its 36-yard line after interception and the measurement showed Johnson to be inches short.

Two plays later, Jessie hit Latham with a 37-yard TD pass, which started the mercy rule's running clock.

Devin Jamison scored on a 4-yard run for the game's final touchdown in the fourth quarter.

"On the defensive side of the ball, some of the things that we practiced and wanted to try and do, we did with some success," said Coach Craney. "But we talked all week about having to be in the right spots and make the right play all the time against these guys. They're just too good if you get out of position and they're going to make you pay for it. And we got out of position too many times."



PHOTO BY JOHN VALENTINE

West High's Brayden Latham is off and running for a touchdown against Central Friday night in Fountain City. The Rebels won 44-3 to wrap up a 10-0 regular season and the Region 2-5A championship.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES AND SCHEDULE

Week 11 Scores	Class 5A
Alcoa 37, Austin-East 0	Halls (2-8) at Daniel Boone (10-0)
Boyd Buchanan 28, GCA 20	Tenn. High (5-5) at Central (6-4)
Cleveland 35, HVA 7	David Crockett (5-5) at West (10-0)
Elizabethton 62, Seymour 0	Ooltewah (1-9) at Powell (8-2)
Farragut 28, Bearden 21	Karns (7-3) at Walker Valley (4-6)
Gibbs 71, South-Doyle 42	
Karns 50, Clinton 28	Class 4A
Carter 72, Fulton 54	Fulton (4-6) at Greeneville (10-0)
Halls 42, Heritage 20	Grainger (6-4) vs. Gibbs (6-4)
Webb 29, CCS 28	Carter (6-4) at Elizabethton (5-4)
West 44, Central 3	Seymour (3-7) at Anderson Co. (10-0)
Notre Dame 17, TKA 12	
Powell 28, Lenoir City 21	Class 3A
Silverdale 33, CAK 20	A-E (3-7) at Chuckey-Doak (9-1)

Playoff Games (Local teams)	Division II
First Round Friday (All games start at 7)	Class AAA
	Catholic (3-6) at CBHS (6-4)
Division I	Class AA
Class 6A	GCA (4-6) at FRA (9-1)
Jefferson Co. (7-3) at Farragut (8-2)	Class A
Bearden (6-4) at Dobyns Bennett (8-2)	TKA (4-6) at Trinity Christian (4-6)

CAC OFFICE ON AGING
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CAC's Senior Angel Tree to help needy seniors

By Mike Steely
 Senior Writer
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Some senior citizens in Knox County are home-bound, isolated, frail and on very limited incomes. Many are living alone.

The Community Action Committee's Office on Aging is connecting with those older resident clients with a Senior Angel Tree this upcoming holiday season. Anyone wanting to donate a gift or cash can visit the Knoxville-Knox County senior centers starting on November 7 to read biographies of local seniors and choose one of the seniors. Presents and donations can be dropped off through November 29, according to Deisha Finley, the associate director of Volunteer Management and Special Projects for the CAC Office on Aging.

Last year 186 seniors were provided with essential gifts.

You can visit "knoxseniors.org" for more information.

Senior Center Angel Tree Locations

- Carter Senior Center, 9040 Asheville Highway, 37924.
- Corryton Senior Center, 9331 Davis Drive, Corryton, 37721.
- Halls Senior Center, 4405 Crippen Road, 37918.
- John T. O'Connor Senior Center, 611 Winona St, 37917.
- Karns Senior Center, 8042 Oak Ridge Hwy, 37931.
- Larry Cox Senior Center, 3109 Ocoee Trail, 37917.
- South Knoxville Senior Center, 6729 Martel Lane, 37920.
- West Knox County Senior Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd., Suite 101, 37934.

A Day Away

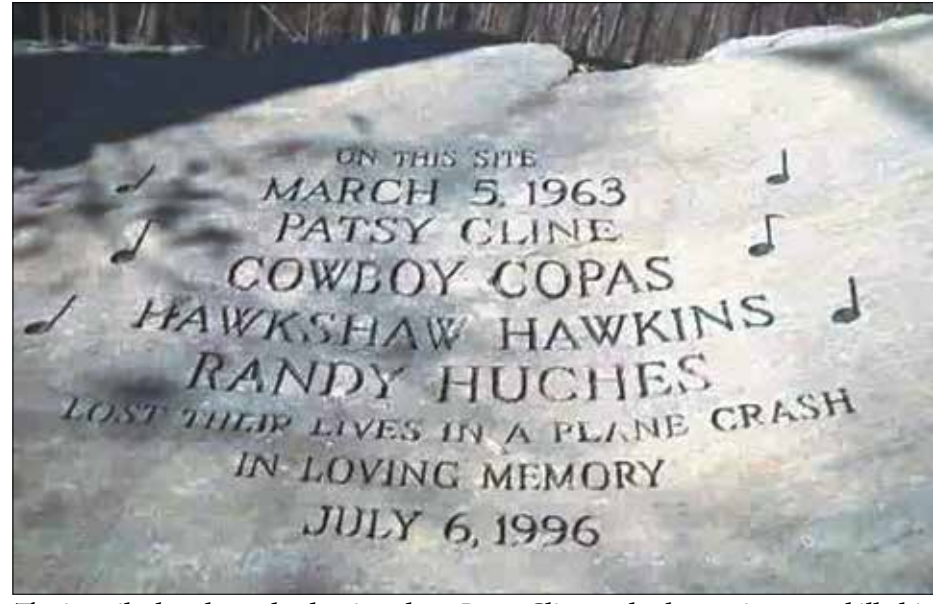


By Mike Steely

Camden, Tenn., is west of Nashville on Highway 70 and 641. The small town is in Benton County and has about 4,000 residents. Unfortunately, its claim to fame is the engraved rock where famed country music artist Patsy Cline was killed, along with other artists, in a tragic plane crash.

We lost Loretta Lynn recently and many people don't know what great friends she was with Patsy Cline. Cline was almost back home in Nashville when the little plane crashed, just 2.5 miles north of Camden in 1963. Loretta was new to Nashville and became very close to Cline, who was her mentor and best pal.

Patsy Cline was only 30 years old and, with the song "Crazy" written by



The inscribed rock marks the site where Patsy Cline and other artists were killed in a tragic plane crash near Camden, Tenn. Cline and the late Loretta Lynn were close friends.

Willie Nelson, had crossed over from country to pop music and was at the height of her career. There's a museum in Nashville dedicated to her and her career at 119 3rd Avenue South on the second level above the Johnny Cash Museum.

My wife and I visited the plane crash site many years ago. Back then it was well off the road and consisted only of a large boulder inscribed with the names of Cline and other victims. Today there's a

paved road to the site, a parking lot, and a paved walkway to the monument.

When Loretta Lynn learned of Patsy's death, she rushed over to her friend's home to comfort Patsy's husband Charlie. While there she felt inspired to write a song in memory of her friend. She took a few minutes, grabbed a guitar and played the tune for Charlie.

Two days later she recorded the song, "The Haunted House," which was released on Lynn's

1964 album "Before I'm Over You."

There's a museum at the Loretta Lynn Ranch near Nashville at 8000 Highway 13 South in Hurricane Mills, Tenn., 37078. There's also a museum at her childhood home in Butcher Hollow at 1917 Millers Creek in Van Lear, Ky., 41265.

If you're visiting the Nashville area or Camden you might want to also visit the Museum of Country Music or the Ryman Auditorium.

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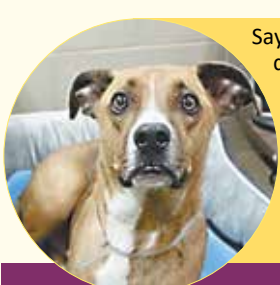
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Young-Williams Animal Center



Say hi to **HARLEY**, a 6-year-old mixed-breed dog. This sweet boy is hoping for a stable home to help him overcome his anxiety. With patience, treats and toys, he's sure to open up. He prefers to live without small children and cats, and he would like to meet any dogs in the home before being adopted. Meet Harley and other adoptable pets at Young-Williams Animal Center.



BEEFCAKE is looking bewitching in her Halloween costume! Stop by 3201 Division St. for a spell to see if this 7-year-old, black-and-orange cat is the boo for you. Shelter staff say she's a quiet and friendly. Conjure up some soft blankets, regular head scratches and wet food, and she'll be a fiend for life. Adopt Beefcake or another pet at Young-Williams Animal Center this season!

From lost boy to best companion, **KYLE** is searching for an adopter who is up for adventures and never growing up! He's 11 years old, but he isn't letting age end his quest for a forever home. Shelter staff say he enjoys head scratches and keeping people company. Visit Kyle and other adoptable pets at Young-Williams Animal Center, 3201 Division St.



SKY is made of rainbows, perfect overcast clouds and the sweet breeze of fall. She's a 6-year-old pit bull mix. Volunteers say she's friendly, calm and trainable. She loves looking out windows on car rides and cuddling. She prefers to be the only pet in the home but is open to meeting larger dogs. If you are searching for a couch companion, Sky is the one! Apply to meet Sky and other adoptable pets in foster care at young-williams.org/adopt.



Young-Williams Animal Center
3201 Division Street, Knoxville, TN 37919
www.young-williams.org

865.215.6599
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily
Closed 1-2 p.m. for animal quiet time

Halloween pet safety with Young-Williams Animal Center

Amid the costumes and candy, often most of us forget to prepare our pets for Halloween. Young-Williams Animal Center has several tips to protect your pet during the holiday.

- **Carefully choose costumes:** Do not put clothing on your pet that restricts movement, sight or hearing. If your pet prefers to go without a costume, don't force any pet to wear one.
- **Keep sweets out of reach:** Who doesn't love a Halloween treat? Even to our pets, candy can be tempting. Put away any food that is high in sugar, inside a wrapper or includes deadly ingredients.
- **Be cautious around people in costume:** Pets might react differently when interacting with people in costume. Be aware around trick-or-treaters and others who are dressed for the holiday.
- **Be able to locate a lost pet:** Microchipping and identification tags are important to reunite animals with their owners in case of an emergency.
- **Don't let dangerous decorations ruin the night:** Remove dangling cords, choking hazards and lit candles that can harm your pet.

FROM THE MOUNTAINS BY JADON GIBSON

Pearl Bryan didn't deserve it!

The Conclusion

By Jadon Gibson

The bartender at Legner's Tavern testified that Jackson left the valise at the tavern on the night of the murder and picked it up the following night. He recalled it felt heavy enough to be holding a bowling ball. After picking up the grip at Legner's Tavern, Jackson walked to the middle of the Covington Suspension Bridge and dumped Pearl's head and his dissecting knife into the Ohio River.

He didn't want to return the leather grip back to Legner's Tavern as he was too well known there. He stopped instead at another tavern where he wasn't known. Mr. Kugel, the owner, told Scott he could leave it with him. He did but never returned to get it. He probably never planned to retrieve it.

After reading about the case in the newspapers Kugel suspected the valise could be important and took it to authorities. The leather luggage item was brought in as evidence in the trial and the prosecutors inferred that it was Pearl Bryan's blood that was found therein and the jury likely assumed it was. This was before different blood types could be determined which has proven to be a valuable asset in medicine and in law enforcement.

The defense insisted the murder was committed in Ohio, not in Kentucky. This was a serious contention as a dismissal of charges in Kentucky and moving the case to Ohio would delay the trial further if the argument was accepted.

A man giving his name as William Trusty took the stand for the defense claiming he had driven the carriage on the night of Pearl's death and that she was dead when she boarded the horse-drawn vehicle. Trusty was told an abortion had been tried but it had failed to result in her death. He left the area following his testimony and was never seen again. Neither the jury nor others at the trial believed his testimony as it didn't correlate with other evidence and testimony. Pearl was seen getting into the conveyance while she was alive.

began its case. He claimed it was Alonzo Walling that murdered Pearl. After delving into various aspects of the case from Greencastle, Indiana, to Cincinnati, Ohio, and finally Fort Thomas, Kentucky, the jury was asked for their verdict and it was answered with a resounding "guilty."

Jackson and Walling were best friends before their capture but afterward, the two bad boys became worst enemies. Alonzo Walling went on trial for the murder of Pearl Bryan on May 20, 1896.

"One night a bunch of us dental students were drinking at Wallingford's Tavern and Scott asked the group what poison would be the quickest in killing someone," Walling explained to detectives. "The students mentioned hydrocyanic acid, prussic acid or a large dose of cocaine. He chose cocaine because he could buy it legally without a prescription and it could be purchased just around the corner at Koebel's."

The laws have changed over the years regarding various drugs. Walling said that he knew Scott murdered Pearl and that he wasn't a party to the murder. They wanted further proof.

"Scott had Pearl's head wrapped in his coat on the night of the murder," Walling told them. "His coat became bloody and he had me ditch it for him. I can tell you where you can find it. It's in the sewer at the corner of John and Richmond Street, wrapped in newspapers."

Detective Witte was sent to the location and he soon found a bluish-black men's jacket wrapped in newspapers. It matched the slacks Jackson was wearing when he was arrested. The jacket and items found with it proved to be a wealth of information for the police. It had blood stains that were primarily on the sleeves. There were also blood stains that could be consistent with being wrapped around a human head. They pulled something from the pocket and found it to be three ladies' handkerchiefs wadded together.

They also found part of an herb called tansy flower which has been used in producing miscarriages. The handkerchiefs were shown to Pearl's family

members after they were cleaned. Her mother and sister were certain they belonged to Pearl. Another group of ladies' clothing items, tied together with a piece of railroad iron, was also found nearby. They were Pearl's as well.

Walling also led them to other items they had secretly discarded and told detectives they could find more in lockers at the dental school. Scott Jackson was livid. He had trusted Walling fully and Alonzo Walling proceeded to tell all he knew. Turnabout is fair play as they say and Scott Jackson would do whatever he could to see that Walling would also hang.

Walling had gone along for the ride and the guilty ruling against Jackson was a foregone conclusion. Both were active in the murder and the actions afterward and were sentenced to hang.

Their lawyers argued that Pearl died from the cocaine administered to her in Ohio. "They aren't guilty of the murder in Kentucky since Pearl died in Ohio." Yet they couldn't be tried in Ohio as that would be tantamount to double jeopardy. The justices noted that the coroner's inquest stated that Pearl was alive when she was brought to the orchard in Kentucky.

The dual hanging was set for May 20, 1897. With court proceedings behind them, talk returned to lynching.

There was a massive jailbreak from the Campbell County Jail during their wait for the hangman's noose. Many escaped and Jackson and Walling might have taken the opportunity to slip away but they decided they were better protected while in jail.

Could this jailbreak be a guise for some clandestine group to get an opportunity to lynch them? Jackson and Walling felt it was a legitimate concern and when order was restored the two most famous inmates at the time were still safely in their cells like Sunday choir boys.

On the morning set for their hangings, Scott Jackson asked to speak to a minister. After their meeting, he spoke with Sheriff Plummer.

"Sheriff, I've said all along that it was Alonzo that murdered Pearl. It's been bothering me and I

must tell you that Alonzo Walling didn't do it. I have to take that back," Jackson said.

The sheriff announced the hanging would be delayed momentarily while he notified Kentucky Governor William O. Bradley of the development. He sent a telegraph to Governor Bradley in Frankfort to apprise him of the situation.

"Sheriff Plummer, I'll agree to commute Walling's sentence if Mr. Jackson confesses to the crime and tells us where to find Pearl Bryan's head," the governor responded.

The sheriff relayed this to Jackson and said he would have to have his answer soon. After a few minutes, Jackson said he had nothing more to say.

Sheriff Plummer asked that the gallows be rechecked and soon thereafter Jackson and Walling were brought to the scaffold which was inside the Campbell County Jail. When the nooses were placed around their necks both seemed to have lost their bravado.

Jackson was asked if he had any final words to say. He seemed to be in thought and finally, Walling looked toward him hoping he would say the words that could save his life.

"I have only one thing to say," Jackson finally said. "I am not guilty of this crime and I am about to pay the penalty for it with my life."

"I can only say you are taking the life of an innocent person," Walling answered when he was questioned. "I call on God to be my witness to what I say is the truth."

Sheriff Plummer sprung the trapdoors simultaneously sending both Scott Jackson and Alonzo Walling to meet their Maker and their destination in eternity. They paid the price for Pearl Bryan's death but it wasn't enough. It wasn't enough... because Pearl Bryan didn't deserve it!

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Editor's note: Jadon Gibson is a freelance writer from Harrogate, TN. His stories are both historical and nostalgic in nature. Thanks to the Museum of Appalachia, Lincoln Memorial University and Alice Lloyd College for their assistance.

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MISC. NOTICES

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2009 Saturn Vue 3GSC153729553947 (Destini Fair)
2004 Nissan Murano JN8AZ08W24W341071 (Lacie Wilson)
1999 Chevy Venture 1GNDX03E9XD245961 (Samantha Farmer)
2011 Ford Fusion 3FAHP0JA2BR281510 (Jacques Johnson/ Chrysler Capital)
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KMHWF35H13A886090 (Clay Browder/ Springleaf Financial)
2012 Ford F150 1FTFW1E1F4CFC80955 (Eric Insurance)
2004 GMC Envoy 1GKDS13S542305491 (Joseph Toro/Thorpe Auto)

LEGAL NOTICE 94

Knox County will receive bids for the following items & services:

RFP 3338, Printing Services for Senior Service Directory, due 11/29/22;
Bid 3339, School Furniture, due 12/6/22;
Bid 3311, Housing and Energy Services for CAC, due 12/6/22

For additional information call 865-215-5777, stop by the Procurement Division, 1000 North Central St., Suite 100, Knoxville, TN 37917, or visit our website: www.knoxcounty.org/procurement. To bid on Knox County surplus items, go to www.govdeals.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Knox County Ethics Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.
Main Assembly Room
City/County Building

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In compliance with TCA 66-14-102 thru 66-14-106 the following cars will be sold on November 18, 2022 @ 2:00 PM @ Chestnut Street Transport & Recovery, Inc. 2430 Thorngrove Pike Knoxville, TN if total bill is not paid by date of sale.

2001 Ford F150 1FTRW07L01KB08940 (Raul Ramirez)
2008 Chevy Malibu 1G1ZF57598F209711 (Christopher Novitzke/ Ole Ben Franklin Motors)- (Karen Lundy)
2011 Nissan Sentra 3N1AB6P8BL677013 (Tanya or John McCarrell/ Stat Financial)
2005 Ford Focus 1FAFP34N25W283654 (Skylar Norris/ Mariner Finance)
2016 Dodge G. Caravan 2C4RDGC69GR344598 (Jessica Camps/Tyler Lange/Capital One)
1999 Buick LeSabre 1G4HP52K3XH00588 (Catherine Williams/TMX Finance)
2014 Chevy Cruze 1G1PCS5B85E7320035 (Christina Williams)
2002 Chevy Trailblazer 1GNDS13S322257215 (Beverly Delaney)
1997 BMW R1100 WB10418A1VZC62572 (Jerry Murrell)
2003 Chevy Silverado 1GCEC14X932335820 (Maurice Dean/TMX Finance)
2013 Kawasaki Ninja JKAEX8A18DDA05482 (Joe Reese)
2007 Cadillac DTS 1G6KD57Y87U236603 (Jess Fain)
2007 Hyundai Elantra KMHDU46D87U098975 (Tabathia Henson)
1997 Ford Explorer 1FMDU32X3ZC36044 (Eric Bonds)
2001 Chevy Silverado 1GCEC14W012214517 (Jackie Bean/Onemain Financial)
2018 Ford Taurus 1FAHP2E89JG142256 (Michael Milligan/ UT FCU)
2016 Freightliner Cascadia 3AKJGLD54GSGS4500 (RPSJ Trucking)
2014 Nissan Rogue 5N1AT2M18EC808335 (Michael or Mary Bee)
1998 Nissan Pathfinder JN8AR059WV253414 (Sara Reynolds)
2009 Saab 9-3 YSFB49Y391005150 (Janice Purkey)
2011 Mini Cooper WMWU3C52BT092572 (Melissa Davis/TMX Finance)
1997 Chevy S10 1G6CS19X7V8205434 (Lou Palmer)
2004 Toyota Camry 4T1BE32K04U887507

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that PODS Enterprises, LLC will sell the contents of certain containers at auction to the highest bidder to satisfy owner's lien. Auction will be held online at www.StorageTreasures.com starting on November 15, 2022 and ending on November 22, 2022. Contents to be sold may include general household goods, electronics, office & business equipment, furniture, clothing and other miscellaneous property. Contents to be sold are stored by the following persons: Robin Lauerdale (115B110); Wesley Lynn (918B27); Melissa Langley (8097B107).