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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Andy Holt, Assistant Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, spoke Friday before a large crowd to help kick off the 103rd Tennessee Valley Fair. He spoke of his childhood in Knoxville and how 4-H events at the fair inspired him to pursue a career in agriculture.

Tennessee Valley Fair kicks off 103rd year

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Tennessee Valley Fair kicked off its 103-year Friday at Chilhowee Park with a large crowd of elected officials, fair supporters and interested citizens. Andy Holt, a native Knoxville resident, former elected official and now Assistant Commissioner of Business Development for the Tennessee Agriculture Department, emceed the event.

The luncheon was lively and joyful and Holt recalled his time as a youth at the fair when he competed in livestock shows. He said those experiences with 4-H helped greatly as

he reached adulthood and stayed involved in agriculture. The public official and farmer recognized his former 4-H leader who was present in the crowd.

Many speakers, like Holt, recalled their past visits with their families to the fair, especially the agricultural exhibits, baby animals and farm equipment.

The luncheon and kick off were sponsored by Harper Auto Square, Lamar Advertising and First Bank. Attendance was by invitation and almost every table was taken. Other speakers included fair officials, sponsors, former Trustee Ed Shouse, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, and

Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon.

The fair will run through Sunday, September 17 with more than 100 rides, attractions and activities. Tickets are \$9 to \$12 and parking is about \$15 at various places inside and outside the fairground at Chilhowee. Each day will see special live music, different farm and animal events, the fair midway and rides, and exhibits in the Jacobs Building.

Tickets for the concerts are sold separately. The artists include Travis Tritt on Tuesday, T-Pain on Thursday, and Corey Kent and Cory Carmichael on Sunday. Live Pro Wrestling on Friday is free with gate admission to the fair.

School board debates using outside agency to staff open positions

By Bill Howard

Schools everywhere struggle with staffing requirements, and Knox County is no different. At the moment there are some 71 open positions for support staff, primarily in Special Education.

At its monthly meeting last Thursday, the Knox Co. Board of Education had a lengthy and varied discussion about a proposal on the agenda to address the matter.

The exact words of the proposal: Approve support staff placement agreement with ESS South Central LLC for provision of special education support staff for the term of Sept. 7, 2023 through June 30, 2024 using funds available due to vacant

employee positions.

ESS (Education Support System) is an education staffing business that specializes in placing teachers and support staff in K-12 school systems.

Board member Jennifer Owen was out front with her hesitancy to adopt the measure. Part of it was about money. According to Owen, the ESS placements will earn \$3,000 per year more than Knox Co. teachers.

"It would be very difficult to say to our employees we did not feel that you were valuable enough to give you a \$3,000 increase, but we are willing to give that to someone else," said Owen.

According to Owen, ESS

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Health department seeking \$1.2 million for recruitment, training

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knox County is preparing to use \$1.2 million from the state to help recruit, retain and train public health workers. The Knox County Health Department asks the funds be used in a four-year effort to increase the number of health workers. No local funds are involved in the program.

The health department is also asking the Knox County Commission for permission to use \$206,100 from the state for an HIV prevention program, \$319,241 from the state for STI prevention, and \$520,200, also from the state, for five years of health promotion services.

Two other KCHD requests on the agenda

for next Monday's commission work session include accepting \$1.3 million from the Center for Disease Control for overdose data and an action program and \$7.8 million from the state for electronic devices to help carry out the health department's scope of services.

In other action before the commission is the approval of three memorandums of understanding with the Karns Fire Department, Knox County Rescue and the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department for fire and rescue services. Community Development is asking the commission to use coronavirus state and local fiscal recovery funds to give the Boys & Girls Club \$650,000, Centro Hispano \$200,000,

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\$20M in state funding approved for South Waterfront bridge

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Although the full cost has not been provided for yet, the Knoxville City Council voted Tuesday evening to go ahead with accepting part of the funds, \$20 million, from the state to begin the design of a South Waterfront Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge. The initial funds for the span,

to link the South Knoxville shoreline on the Tennessee River to the University of Tennessee campus, were approved in a 7-2 vote.

The council then voted 7-2 to spend part of the \$20 million to hire CDM Smith Inc. to do preliminary engineering design services with the hopes that the new design might bring the estimated total cost of \$70 million down to about

\$55 million. Councilwomen Amelia Parker and Seema Singh voted against both resolutions.

Several citizens spoke against the funding and the need for the bridge which they charged will only benefit UT. South Knoxville Councilman Tommy Smith disagreed, saying that all of South Knoxville would benefit from the span. Smith said the proposed bridge

would reduce the number of cars on the road, give more access to the river and help the area, especially the Vestal neighborhood.

The exact location of the bridge's footage on the south side has not been determined and neither has whether or not UT will chip in on the cost. The city plans to apply once more for federal funding. Vice

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Marlow's proposals returned to planners



By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Four appeals of zoning recommendations were referred back to Knoxville-Knox County Planning Tuesday by the Knoxville City Council. The changes would reset front and rear setback distances and change the size of dwellings and accessory buildings on residential lots.

The requests for zoning code amendments came from R. Bentley Marlow, a lawyer and owner of Marlow Properties LLC in Mechanicsville. He told the city council that his proposals were not reviewed or considered by the planning commission. Several people spoke for and

against Marlow's proposals, one referred to Marlow's questionable comments about the homeless and called him a "profiteer" who would benefit financially if his proposals were to be adopted.

After much discussion, Marlow said he agrees with sending the proposals back to the planners for a staff review along with the administration's proposal for increasing housing for middle-income people. Mayor Indya Kincannon commented there is still time to review all the alternatives.

Vice Mayor Andrew Roberto suggested the ideas go back for a planning review in October but noted that the city council cannot set

the planning commission's agenda. He amended the motion to "suggest" the planning staff review Marlow's suggestions.

Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie questioned if Marlow's ideas "were not given due process" and said all the Missing Middle Housing proposals need a public review. Councilman Tommy Smith agreed with McKenzie but also complimented the mayor and the city staff for their work on the housing shortage.

One of Marlow's proposals, to change the required size and location of additional accessory dwellings on a property, was referred to the planning commission with a

suggestion that the property must be owner-occupied.

In other business the council voted to increase the number of people serving on the Audit Committee. Walker Consultants was hired for \$87,225 to look at downtown parking.

The council also voted to apply for a state grant for stream restoration at Edgewood Park and gave \$50,000 to Volunteer Ministry for its street outreach program. East Tennessee Foundation was approved for an agreement to manage the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the tennis courts in Inskip Park and Tyson Park will get maintenance in an agreement with Sport Surface Pros LLC.

R. Bentley Marlow has four proposals to change lot size, setbacks, and accessory housing terms that were referred to the planning commission by City Council Tuesday.



In my August 28 column, I listed a few of the many reasons why I am still supporting Donald Trump in next year's race for the White House.

There has never been a perfect candidate for any office and there never will be, and Trump has said and done things that even his strongest supporters wish he had not said or done. But he was right on the big things and did a very good job as president and could

do so again.

However, because I was a lawyer and judge for 16 years before going to Congress, I will be very surprised if Trump is not convicted on one or more, or even all of the criminal cases against him. Here is why.

First, prosecutors win almost all criminal cases that go to trial in the federal courts.

Second, it will be easy to get convictions in front of New York City, Atlanta, and Washington, D.C. juries, and probably in Florida, too.

Third, no man has ever received anywhere near as much bad publicity in the history of the world as Trump has.

I got my undergraduate degree in journalism, worked full-time as a newspaper reporter my senior year, and then taught

journalism for a year. In those long ago days, there was a difference between the news pages and the opinion and editorial pages.

Since the 2020 election, a reporter would be ostracized or kicked out of the journalistic fraternity if he or she did not write about Trump's "big lie" or "obviously false" claims about the election in what were supposed to be news stories. It is almost as if some reporters know deep down that the election was stolen, so they have to endlessly repeat that it was not.

I hope Trump can win, but the odds are so stacked against him - so, what then? Most of the other candidates for the Republican nomination are banking at least in part on at least one of the criminal cases bringing Trump down.

There are several other

good candidates who are running and whom I can enthusiastically support - several of whom I served with in Congress.

Ron DeSantis, Mike Pence, Tim Scott and Asa Hutchinson all served with me in the House, and I like all of them.

I have been very impressed by DeSantis' work as governor of Florida and the courage and toughness he has shown in battles over Covid lockdowns and the woke agenda. I have contributed to him twice and will do so again if he is the Republican nominee.

Mike Pence is a really fine man and has always been extremely nice to me. Two different times he stopped to talk to some families I was showing around the Capitol. When Pence came to Knoxville to campaign for

Tim Burchett during his first election, Pence said even more kind things about me.

Tim Scott served briefly in the House before moving to the Senate. I saw him eating one night several years ago at the Capitol Hill Club with Rep. Trey Gowdy. Trey apparently told Tim that I had been diagnosed with prostate cancer. The next day I received a very nice handwritten note from Tim wishing me the best and telling me he would pray for me.

I served on one of my committees with Rep. Tim Hutchinson and after Tim was elected to the Senate, his brother Asa replaced him on the same committee. At the Republican National Committee Spring Meeting in Nashville, I introduced my wife, Vickie, to Asa and he kindly told her I had been his mentor when

he first came to Congress.

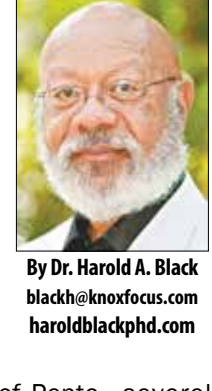
I have also been very impressed by Vivek Ramaswamy. I hope he becomes president someday or is at least given an important cabinet position. I believe he has a great future ahead of him.

I have not met Ramaswamy, nor have I met Governor Nikki Haley. I do know that my sister, Becky, really likes Gov. Haley, and I did have the opportunity to hear her speak at a Statesmen's Dinner in Nashville a few years ago.

I will endorse and campaign as hard as I can for whoever receives the Republican nomination because I believe in freedom, and the socialists now in control will absolutely destroy this country if they stay in power much longer.

Random thoughts on EVs

Why are most EVs so ugly? Have you seen the new KIA EV SUV? It dethrones the Mustang and Tesla as the ugliest SUV. As much as I love Porsches, their EV is really ugly. Its awful paint



all-in EV strategies are increasingly stupid. Outlawing the sale of gas/diesel engines before charging networks are online before the energy grid can handle the increased demands while

They solve range anxiety with ranges in excess of 600 miles. They solve the rare earth problem by being readily accessible and cheap.

I have a close friend who has bought into the "climate change is our greatest existential threat" dogma. But he drives a gas-powered Mercedes convertible that he loves and will never buy a Tesla because he dislikes Elon Musk intensely.

I have nothing against EVs. I welcome diversity to the marketplace and the expansion of choice to consumers. I just want change to be market-driven rather than being forced down the throat of consumers by the zealots who occupy power in governments, banks, and investment firms.

I admire Elon Musk for his determination to make a successful product. I have a friend who has an Audi EV. He crows about its performance. It is as fast as a Porsche turbo. I just

hope he doesn't go 0-60 in 3.5 seconds down Kingston Pike.

I wonder why Tesla drivers don't flick their lights since they all belong to the same cult.

EVs lose about 30% of their range in cold winter climates and in extreme heat. So don't buy one if you live in Minnesota or Arizona.

There was an incongruous headline saying that Ford was cutting the price of its "popular" EV truck by \$10,000. If the truck were popular then Ford would be raising the price not lowering it.

EV trucks are a vanity item. They cannot tow or haul without losing significant range.

The first cybertruck from Tesla has just been produced. It is plagued with the same manufacturing problems that characterize Tesla, namely ill-fitting panels. Teslas are rightly lauded for their innovative technology so why can't they fix their manufacturing issues?

What if we refuse to buy EVs even if the governments ban diesel and gas engines? I predict a huge growth in the used car market as consumers rebel against the dictates of the misguided left.

I am wondering how much of these harmful regulations can be reversed by another administration? Much like Biden repealed almost anything associated with Trump during the first days of his tenure, a less zealous administration can be expected to stop the green mandates once it is in office.

I still can't figure out why the UAW funds Democrats who are intent on destroying so many jobs in the automobile industry. Can they possibly be that stupid?

Merit Board to discuss political restrictions

By Mike Steely
 Senior Writer
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Two years ago the county commission began revising the rules governing the now-Knox County Sheriff's Office Employee's Merit System Board of Directors, restricting what members of that board can do involving local politics. The changes came after an ongoing disagreement between the former merit system council, the sheriff and the commission.

Apparently, those rules don't sit well with some of the current merit board members and amendments have been put forth by the body for discussion.

The merit members will meet on Tuesday, September 12 in the merit system office in the Old Courthouse. The only agenda item is listed as: Discussion of Rule and Regulation 3.2(f) and County Ordinance Sec 42-53(c) (Consideration to narrow restrictions on Board member's political activities to apply exclusively to elections for Knox County Sheriff).

The proposed amendment seeks to change the

board's Rule and Regulation 3.2f to read:

"... No person holding a position on the board shall take an active part in any political campaign for election of the Knox County Sheriff while a member of the board..."

For the Knox County Charter, changes would apply to the board members' "actual or apparent political influence involving an election of the Knox County Sheriff." The amendment provides specific examples of political influence during sheriff elections including public endorsements and political advertising.

Another part of the charter amendment provides that a board member must resign from the board should they seek election to any elective office.

Any decision to change the rules must go before the Knox County Commission for final approval.

Current board members are Christopher Manning, John Valliant, Kenny Boatman, John Marshall, Clarence Vaughn, Lindsey Willis and Brock Goetz.

Congratulations to The Focus' own Dr. Harold Black for being selected to be the commencement speaker at this year's University of Georgia undergraduate commencement ceremony in December. Black is emeritus professor of finance at the University of Tennessee and previously served for 24 years as the James F. Smith Jr. Professor of Finance. A native of Atlanta, he earned his undergraduate degree from the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia. He also earned master's and doctoral degrees from the Ohio State University. The Terry College has established the Dr. Harold A. Black Professorship in his honor. In 2022, UGA named its new freshman dormitory, Black-Diallo-Miller Hall, for Black and two other students who were the first African American students to enroll as freshmen and complete their undergraduate degrees at UGA. Black was the University's first African American graduate of the Terry College of Business.

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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

Jamie Schnell schnellj@knoxfocus.com

Legal, Public Notice ads legals@knoxfocus.com

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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

Gloria Johnson Off and Running

Gloria Johnson made it official, she's running for the U.S. Senate against Senator Marsha Blackburn. Johnson is heavily relying on the Covenant shootings, the expulsions from the Tennessee House of Representatives of the Justins, Pearson and Jones, and abortion. Johnson's announcement surprised nobody and she galloped from Knoxville to Nashville and finally to Memphis.

The two co-chairs of her campaign are state Senator Charlane Oliver of Nashville and state Representative Justin Pearson

of Memphis. It is no coincidence both Pearson and Oliver are Black. There is already one announced candidate inside the Democrat primary; Marquita Bradshaw surprised everybody when she upset front-runner James Mackie, who spent more than a million dollars to lose the primary. Bradshaw is Black and most of the votes inside Tennessee's Democratic primary are concentrated in the two largest counties in the state: Shelby and Davidson. Oliver is from Davidson County and Pearson is from Shelby County. Johnson is hoping to cut heavily into Bradshaw's support inside the Black community rather than suffer the same fate as James Mackler.

Affordable For Whom?

The City of Knoxville and others have spent \$18 million to build 66 units for what Mayor Indya Kincannon calls affordable housing. That means each unit costs something like \$272,000. The median income for an individual in Knoxville is \$23,898; the

median household income in Knoxville is \$57,187. Those are the people paying the taxes and building what Kincannon and her crew call affordable housing. I wonder how many of those folks live in homes worth more than \$272,000?

9th District Commission

Democrat Matthew Park, who ran for the Tennessee House of Representatives in 2020, is off and running once again. This time Park is running for the Knox County Commission seat being vacated by Carson Dailey in South Knoxville. Park ran in a three-way race against then-state Representative Rick Staples and Sam McKenzie. McKenzie barely won the Democratic primary.

Dailey has served two terms on the county commission and is prohibited from running again due to term limits. Two Republicans, Barry Neal and Andrew Fox, are already off and running for the commission in the Ninth District.

Henderson and Triplett Elected Chair and Vice Chair

The Knox County Board of Education has elected a new chair and vice chair. Betsy Henderson will chair the Knox County Board of Education, replacing Kristi Kristy. Steve Triplett will serve as vice chair. Congratulations to both Betsy Henderson and Steve Triplett!

The school system is moving to address concerns with its own special education programs. Currently, Knox County is facing a shortage of more than 60 special ed teaching positions. The Knox County School system has decided to contract out services in an attempt to quickly fill those jobs and meet its needs. The board also approved a proposal to hire a student access accountability officer, who will have the responsibility of making sure the system complies with all laws and board policies for students with disabilities. That follows a decision by the board of education to adopt a plan to improve its special education programs.

It was Betsy Henderson who presented a resolution to the board of education proposing to make the Knox County School system a model for excellence in special education. That resolution came after recommendations made by a special task force appointed by Superintendent Jon Ryswyck. Henderson's resolution was unanimously adopted by the board of education.

Cameron Brooks Passes Away

Our community has seen an outpouring of tributes to Cameron Brooks, who passed away unexpectedly on September 1. Brooks was running a strong campaign for the Knoxville City Council when he died. Former Chief Justice of the Tennessee State Supreme Court Sharon Lee posted her own tribute to Cameron on Twitter: "Cameron was exceptionally kind and compassionate and genuinely cared about his community. A good friend. I will miss him."

Cameron was married to Wes Knott and the two had a home in East Knoxville

where they liked to entertain friends and family. Cameron and Wes shared a love for dogs. County Commissioner Courtney Durrett asked for prayers for Cameron's loved ones at the recent reorganization meeting of the Knox County Commission. Having visited Wes and Cameron's home, I join with the rest of The Focus family in sending Wes and Cameron's family our prayers and condolences.

Holly Kirby Appointed to Court Of Appeals

Holly Kirby was the first woman in Tennessee to be appointed to the Court of Appeals. In 2014, Governor Bill Haslam appointed Kirby to sit on the Tennessee State Supreme Court, the fourth woman to sit on that high court. Justice Kirby has been chosen by her colleagues to serve as chief justice of the Tennessee State Supreme Court for the new term. The newest justice of the state supreme court is Dwight Tarwater of Knoxville.

Brief commission session hears pollution complaint

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

In what may have been its shortest meeting on August 28, the Knox County Commission took the final steps in defining swimming pools. Aside from a public forum and before breezing through a 7 p.m. zoning session, the members took the time to honor two county organizations.

The Knox County Criminal Court was honored for receiving a national award for its Driver's License Reinstatement Program and the Knox County Schools System was honored for getting the highest award from the U.S. Defense Department for employers for its support of National Guard and Reserve employees.

A second and final vote on changing the definition of "Swimming Pools" in the county passed, making any swimming or bathing pool with water more than 2 feet deep fit into the category. Commissioner Carson Dailey said the matter came to the commission

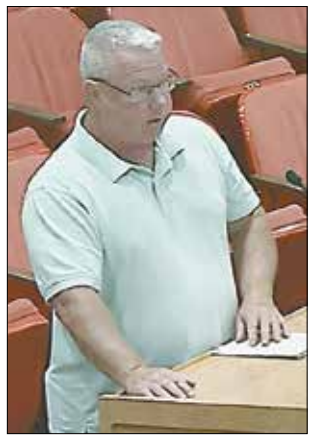
and planning commission's attention due to complaints from a concerned resident.

All of the other 50-plus resolutions and ordinances were passed in one vote as part of the consent list.

Darling Ingredients is a Texas-based company with a plant at 9300 Johnson Road in Strawberry Plains. The corporation is an agri-food industry that aims to reduce food waste by collecting and repurposing animal-based co-products and other natural materials. James Jernigan lives in the area and is no fan of the company or the trucks that bring waste through the community.

Jernigan lives on Gabrielle Road and used the public forum of the commission meeting to complain about traffic being blocked by two wrecks on Johnson Road involving trucks serving the rendering plant. He also said the trucks routinely spill carcasses, blood and goo along the route, polluting the roadside and air.

The Strawberry Plains resident asked the county



Strawberry Plains resident James Jernigan told the Knox County Commission that a local rendering plant is polluting the roadside there with animal waste.

to "get on top" of the problem with a look by the health department, codes enforcement and the law director's office.

Knoxville's Rick Roach complained about the commission's consent calendar and the commission's effort to push consent items through "without any details" and no discussion of the new city-county housing stability effort.

Health department seeking \$1.2 million for recruitment, training

Continued from page 1

and the Renew Clinic \$200,000.

The Procurement Department is asking commission to permit delinquent property to be sold for less than the taxes due and the Telecom Committee may also seek to renew the agreements between county government and Comcast for ten years. Commissioner Kim Frazier wanted a discussion to ask the planning

commission to look at standards for wireless communication facilities.

Commissioner Rhonda Lee wants a resolution to express the commissioners' "commitment to protecting the innocence of children."

Mayor Glenn Jacobs has several appointments before the commission including reappointing Dr. Darinka Mileusnic as county medical examiner.

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Mental Health Court Advisory Board organizing

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs named members to the new Mental Health Court Advisory Board in June, he said the past treatment of the mentally ill hasn't worked and innovation is needed. The board met recently to organize a way to reduce jail time, reduce correction costs, improve public health and safety, and increase treatment and

success.

The idea is to find a humane way to treat the mentally ill who have minor criminal charges instead of sending them to jail. Sheriff Tom Spangler has said that a sizable portion of inmates suffer from mental illness or substance abuse and the cost of treatment for his department is out of control.

Members of the new advisory board include Criminal Court Clerk Mike Hammond, Criminal

Session Judge Chuck Cerny, Judge Stephen Sword, Criminal Attorney Jonathan Cooper, Attorney General Charne Allen, and Public Defender Eric Lutton.

When the group met for its first full session in August, Hammond was not present and Judge Cerny chaired the meeting. Judge Cerny appeared via the internet and by the end of the meeting Cerny said everything should be in place to get the new court underway by the end of the month or in September.

The "soft opening" of the mental health court pends upon referral forms being completed and forwarded to local attorneys. At that time the court staff would be ready and dockets for hearing set.

Also discussed were the terms for each member and the procedure for amending bylaws. Whether or not the Knox County Law Department needs to approve bylaw changes was also discussed.

The Mental Health Court Advisory Board will meet again in October. In the meantime, a "Community Coordinating Committee" is being organized to assist the board and will have 20 individuals who have active roles in mental health and recovery.

That health court advisory board will apparently meet online at least once a month, ideally on the 2nd Tuesday. The first meeting of the coordinating committee is planned for October 24.

School board debates using outside agency

Cont. from page 1

presented to the board a long list of positions for potential staffing that aren't necessarily needed. "It's concerning to me that we are potentially considering this contract with this huge list of positions that we've not talked about at all," Owen said.

In worrying about how the new hiring might affect the morale of current employees, Owen asked: "What studies, what data have you looked at to consider the potential attrition rate when our current loyal employees see this?"

Jennifer Hemmelgarn, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Talent, replied that no such studies exist. "We hope and intend that all of our current employees would stay with us, and (we) intend to continue looking for more current employees," Hemmelgarn said.

Owen then asked if any current employees had been approached about

how they'd feel working next to new staff making more money.

According to Jason Myers, Assistant Superintendent of Student Success, they hadn't, but input and feedback from the Task Force portal made it clear that adequate staffing and student support was a top priority.

"It seems to me unreasonable to expect our current employees to stay when we're paying someone from outside to come in for three thousand more dollars," replied Owen. "That's a significant difference in their salary."

Owen then said that if she were a current employee and was told that an outside company was going to be hired rather than raise her pay, she would find that "incredibly degrading."

Another concern Owen expressed was new staffing employees working unsupervised with kids.

"These positions are working directly with students alone with unknown

supervision from the company," she said.

Board chair Kristi Kristy then confirmed that the same background checks required of regular employees would be required of any new staff. She also reported a conversation she had with a KCS administrator "in a school that struggled to staff some of these positions." The administrator, said Kristy, supported the ESS proposal.

The letter of recommendation from Hamilton Co. Schools revealed that ESS attempted to transition the system's substitute teachers into ESS's platform. Owen worried that ESS would try to do the same to KCS employees.

"I can't imagine how the situation wouldn't have animosity," said Owen. "I think it's an extremely poor plan, but I'm willing to look at it for 30 days."

Board member Katherine Bike then inquired about the training the new staff would need. Myers replied that it would be incumbent

upon Knox Co. to make sure any new hire would have the proper certification or credential.

Bike then asked if the program's success could be determined, especially in evaluating the progress of students' IEPs (individual education plans). Myers replied that determining such success could be attempted but would be difficult, and that filling the empty staff positions was the first priority.

Kristy then told the board that some parents had complained about IEPs not being adequately implemented because of a shortage of staff.

Owen finished the discussion by saying that the input that's been received hasn't come nearly enough from the right sources, which is Special Ed teachers and their support staff.

A motion to delay the measure for 30 days failed 6-3. It was then approved 5-3, with one pass. The next meeting is Oct. 5.



Chief of Staff David Brace said approving a study of the design of the South Waterfront Bridge might bring the cost down to about \$55 million.

South Waterfront bridge

Cont. from page 1

Mayor Andrew Roberto told the meeting that the city by itself cannot afford the cost of the bridge.

"Maybe the university will help bring it over the top," said Councilwoman Lynne Fugate.

Parker said there are more urgent needs within the city and called the bridge project "a waste of

more state taxpayer dollars"

David Brace, recently elevated to be Mayor Indya Kincannon's chief of staff, said the engineering design study could reduce the cost of the bridge.

Smith said the bridge would also help in the redevelopment of Chapman Highway.

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

Civil Disobedience

Toughen Up, Buttercup
Pat Head Summitt

The hurricane season has begun, and so has the climate hoopla. In no way am I discounting the danger and damage of hurricanes or other natural disasters. However, climate hustlers and alarmists make their living stoking the fear of others.

Hurricanes are natural phenomena in our part of the world because the axial tilt of the Earth causes the Sun to warm the Caribbean every summer. Warming accelerates evaporation leading to rain and storms. One could say that the earth is thirsty by late summer and needs the cooling and replenishing rain. However, it is especially problematic when people choose to reside next to the beach or below sea level in New Orleans.

Science fiction writers have imagined futuristic

technology that can control climate and even terraform exo-planets circling distant stars. With the possible exception of nuclear war, we 21st century humans have no capacity to change the weather. However, the pseudo-Jedi knights of climate change (Al Gore, John Kerry, Greta Thunberg, etc.) do have the capacity to coerce "weak minds."

Daily we are subjected to a barrage of things we should be afraid of. We're in the hurricane fear season, and right around the corner is a renewal of Covid fear and the need for more vaccinations, resumption of masks, lockdowns, distancing, and the necessity of mail-in ballots.

Why do we listen to these fear mongers who are repeatedly wrong? I've been double vaccinated, boosted and nonetheless I've had Covid twice. It's the one thing I have in common

with the odious Whoopi Goldberg. Six-foot distancing was mandated on the basis of poor data from the 19th century. Masks don't work with aerosolized respiratory viruses. And the only distancing that works is quarantine.

Becky and I love The Atlanta Braves. Recently, we watched them play the Dodgers and in the stands behind home plate we saw a bearded LA fan wearing a mask. Granted, he might have some immune system problem, but if so, he shouldn't be applying "take me out to the ballgame." Surgical masks offer some protection to the patient on the operating table. Therefore, masks may offer some protection to others, but are useless if not worn properly. And beards make any mask even more useless. Perhaps the LA fan received social credit for virtue signaling.

In Ernest Hemingway's book, "The Sun Also Rises," the protagonist states his bankruptcy was like falling asleep and occurred "Gradually and then suddenly." The same has happened with trust in our government. The government has become the champion of fraud, waste and abuse. The credibility of our institutions and leaders is now bankrupt. Too bad we can't just declare chapter eleven, fire the

incompetents and restructure. But wait; it's called voting. We must be courageous and vote the bums out.

Despite our difficulties, we are still blessed. We live in the "best of times and the worst of times" (Dickens, "A Tale of Two Cities"). In other places and times, people subjected to tyranny rose up in revolution. Our ancestors did so in 1776. Apparently, it was bad enough that an armed revolt became necessary. Americans fighting Americans is NOT the path we should embrace. However, civil disobedience as practiced by Gandhi (in India against British tyranny) and Martin Luther King (in America against segregation) may be a far better option and necessary.

Some whine that voting changes nothing. That's not true. We had prosperity, secure borders, energy independence and a robust economy. Electing Biden and Democrats destroyed all of that. Consequently, I will vote at every opportunity, even in an imperfect election system. And I will not wear a mask (unless I'm sick). Actually, I shouldn't even be out in public if I'm sick! I will boycott any business that institutes mask mandates and I will refuse additional Covid vaccinations.

Most are familiar with the

Progressive Insurance commercials on TV. The cutesy Flo is a fictional character who portrays a perspective unlike that of the uber liberal, Progressive, billionaire Peter Lewis, the company's founder. Lewis' gifts to Progressive causes have caused untold harm.

You may be more familiar with Progressive commercials that parody young adults for becoming like their parents. My sister-in-law, Barbara, loves these commercials, but recently caught herself inviting more people into a crowded elevator with, "Come on in; the more the merrier." A man standing beside her smiled knowingly, seeing themselves in the commercial.

"But what's wrong with that?" she later asked herself and me. "What's wrong with being friendly and socially interacting with others?"

Being focused on our devices and avoiding eye contact is uncivil and certainly not southern. Our parents didn't have the temptation of excessive screen time because they did not have personal devices. I love my iPhone because I'm naturally curious and answers to my questions are a fingertip away. But moderation in everything is the best policy. And I'm happy to be a bit more like The Greatest

Generation!

We are in danger of losing America. This pains me and is driving me towards passive resistance and civil disobedience. It worked for Gandhi and MLK. "Just say No" is a proven strategy. I am adding this to my list of things we can do to correct the disaster of the Biden presidency. To reiterate: we must vote, we can boycott, you should obey the law, but hold accountable those who unjustly apply it. And we must be courageous and challenge the misinformed by refusing to accept their false narratives, even if this threatens friendships.

I have vowed to use this bully pulpit to call out leftists, Progressives, Democrat socialists and those who are anti-American. The American experiment may fail, but we must not let it die on our watch.

I admit that I am so passionate about Making America Great Again that I left the most important intervention last. We must pray for our country and the lost, and realize that "the goodness of God is not in the outcome... it's in the awareness of His presence, and what that does in our lives." Well said, Sister Wally.

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

Visiting with Dolly, Lucy and Sly

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

Ever wonder how tall Dolly Parton is or want to stand beside Clint Eastwood? Those celebrities aren't available for such visits but they are represented at the Hollywood Wax Museum in Pigeon Forge where hundreds of likenesses of famous people from television, movies, sports, politics and history can be found.

My wife and I visited the unique attraction recently and took our time wandering through the many parts of the attraction. We paused beside the figure of former President Barack Obama and I began to wonder just how many of those people we had seen in real life. I recall seeing Barack Obama speak at Pellissippi State College many years ago.

The figure of Tom Hanks' nominal character from the movie "Forrest Gump" is sitting on a bench and we recalled visiting that exact spot in Chippewa Square in Savannah, Georgia. My wife's favorite figure at the museum was Lucille Ball, staged to depict her famous "Vitameatavegamin" pitch. We recalled visiting Lucy's

hometown in Jamestown, New York, and touring the museum dedicated to her there.

Sylvester Stallone is decked out in his "Rocky" boxing robe and we've been to the steps in Philadelphia that his character ran up in that movie. We recalled visiting in Bath, British Columbia, where "Rambo" was filmed.

We've seen Dolly Parton perform at Dollywood but I'm always surprised about how short she is. Obviously, she started on local television in Knoxville and I'm old enough to remember those days. I was amazed to find that another starlet, Judy Garland, was only 4 feet, 11 inches tall.

We strolled through room after room, each themed

to a category including one that featured characters from famous horror films. My wife had to get a photo of me with the most famous Dracula of all time, Bela Lugosi. When we were dating, almost sixty years ago, I was into vampire books and movies and, if I recall, didn't sleep too well during those late teen years.

Captain Jean-Luc Picard's wax figure, in full Starfleet regalia, stands atop a transporter pad in one section of the museum. I was more a fan of the original Star Trek series but couldn't help but step atop one of the other two transporters for a photo.

Melissa McCarthy, the "Mike and Molly" television

Continued on page 2



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Lucy makes a pitch for the vitamin supplement and is confronted by my wife, Lettie, in a television section of the Hollywood Wax Museum in Pigeon Forge.

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Parrothead Pain

Labor Day 2023 wasn't much of a cause for celebration. On September 1, the man I always equate with the holiday, Jimmy Buffett, died at the age of 76. The cause of his demise was a rare form of skin cancer. I can't imagine how he managed to be so old. Now he's gone, and millions of mourners are trying to figure out how their lives will be the same again.

I didn't know about Jimmy Buffett until the 1980s. During a trip to Nashville to visit my older brother Dallas, I listened to a CD. It featured some of



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

the artist's best-known songs. "Margaritaville," "Pencil Thin Mustache," "C o m e Monday," and "Cheeseburger in Paradise" were just a few of the tunes on the recording. Instantly, Jimmy

Buffett became a favorite of mine.

Jimmy Buffett's music wasn't overly deep. It was open, sincere, and happy. Fans easily learned the words to songs and sang along with them on the radio or at a concert. Amy and I make a yearly pilgrimage to Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Sitting

on the beach under an umbrella with a cold drink in hand, I open up my list of iTunes and call up Jimmy. Listening to his music is my way to relax. Not much else in the world matters when those things make up a day or even a whole lifetime.

Plenty of folks have been fans of Jimmy Buffett. They are known as Parrotheads. I wasn't sure where the name came from, so I googled it. Parrothead originated in Cincinnati when fans attended a concert carrying inflatable parrots and wearing Hawaiian shirts. The affectionate name also refers to people who enjoy a laid-back, beachy lifestyle. I tend to think that some Parrotheads also enjoy the

use of medicinal weed. A thick fog of smoke hangs just above fans' heads at Buffett concerts as they groove to the music.

Jimmy Buffett's voice is different. In some songs, it has the qualities of an old man like me. It's not particularly strong and is prone to hitting offkey tones. The music of the songs isn't necessarily difficult to play. However, the inclusion of a Buleador (Caribbean drum) changes what might be just another song into one that takes listeners to the beach and the seaside places.

What makes Jimmy Buffett's music so good are the lyrics. "He Went to Paris" tells the story of a man whose life has been

filled with tragedies; however, he shrugs off those sad times with the realization that they are parts of life. "The Captain and the Kid" is a loving tribute to his grandfather. The old man had spent his life on the sea. Perhaps that song is true because Buffett, too, seems to have longed for a constant existence that included sand on his feet, salt from the ocean on his skin, and sunlight on his face.

Now, we're left with a life void of new music from a man who has entertained us for years. We are better for Jimmy Buffett's life and music. Many of us have managed to calm our nerves and worries by listening to his catalog of

songs. Beach trips forever more will be touched with the sting caused by his absence.

Heaven has changed since September 1. I imagine Hawaiian shirts are now the standard attire. All God's children are gathered on the shore of Heaven's ocean to eat a wonderful meal of seafood and listen to the soothing, happy melodies that newcomer Jimmy Buffett performs. If we're lucky, someday we might just have the opportunity to hear him again.

Thank you, Jimmy, for making this sometimes-crazy life a bit more bearable and enjoyable. Find your grandfather and board that boat of his.

Wallace Memorial Celebrates 70 Years! (Part 2)

As Wallace Memorial Baptist Church celebrated their 70th Anniversary on July 28, 2023, it was awesome to be reminded of the church's early days. A highlight of the service was at the beginning



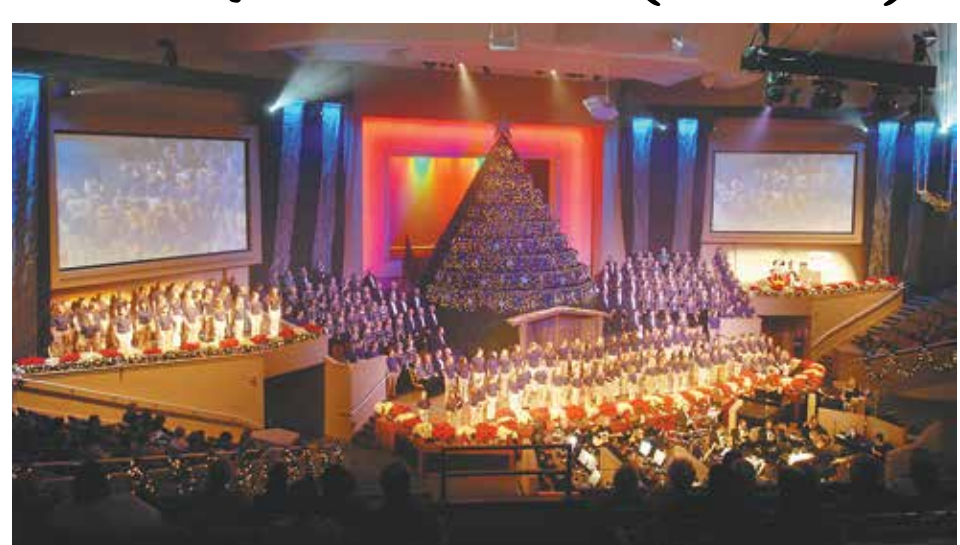
By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

as a still photo of the late Bruce Forlines filled the screen while a recording of his beautiful voice rang out a Gaither classic, "The King is Coming." Forlines

served as Music Minister for 27 years. Terry McNatt followed him and served in that capacity for 19 years at Wallace Memorial.

Each Tennesseeans who attended the Tennessee Valley Fair may remember the stand where, for ten years, Wallace volunteers served "a cup of cold water" to fairgoers. I recall the stand was often

stationed alongside the lake. Perhaps one of the greatest legacies for which Wallace is known is The Living Christmas Tree, a simple presentation of the gospel done in a magnificent way. Busloads would come from several states to see "the tree." Forlines helped over 500 churches nationwide to have their own Living Christmas Tree. So inspired was this writer that I wrote a series of columns about "the tree" several years ago with knowledge gleaned from conversations with pastor emeritus Jim McCluskey and the late Bruce Forlines. Over the years, the production of "the tree" expanded with orchestra and more elaborate lighting. The message of salvation, however, was the same as in the first Living Christmas Tree. The part of "the tree" I remember most--the voices of Jim McCluskey and Yvonne Piercy in the narration of "This Tree,



Picture of The Living Christmas Tree at Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, from the Wallace Memorial Baptist Church Archives.

That Tree" as the strings of Christmas tree lights reminder of our Saviour's death and resurrection!

Today, Wallace Memorial is often referred to as Wallace Knox. For the last 30 years, a 180-foot tall cross atop the building has been a Knoxville landmark. The cross can be seen for miles! Like the lighted cross in the

Living Christmas Tree, it serves as a reminder to all who see it--a reminder of our risen Lord and the gift of eternal life! As the church moves forward under the leadership of Dr. John Green IV, may Wallace Memorial always serve as a beacon of hope for Knoxville and beyond. Happy 70th Anniversary, Wallace Memorial!

Words of Faith: The last portion of scripture current pastor Dr. John Green chose for the anniversary service from Deuteronomy 6:12-13 (KJV): "Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name."

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Visiting with Dolly, Lucy and Sly

Cont. from page 1
series lead actress, stands beside a much taller Sandra Bullock. That show is over now but McCarthy pops up in television commercials.

Johnny Cash is depicted sitting near Dolly and I recalled seeing him back in the mid-1960s in a multi-star show in Clearwater, Florida. I remember he seemed to be a bit drunk in that performance but the "Boy Named Sue" performer had a wonderful and odd career.

Elvis is in the wax

museum too, bringing back memories of our visits to Graceland, his mansion where he is buried, and to his birthplace in Tupelo, a simple "shotgun" house.

Like many folks who live in Knoxville, I often dread visiting the three Smoky Mountain towns in Sevier County. It now seems that the tourist attractions begin in Kodak at the I-40 turnoff and continue all the way through Gatlinburg. But going early is the trick, especially in the middle of the week.

Tickets to the Hollywood Wax Museum are \$29.99 - \$32.99 for ages 12 and up and children are admitted for \$17.99. Children under age three are admitted at no cost. The museum is at 108 Showplace Blvd, just off the Parkway on the east side. An All Access Pass is available for a slight upcharge that also includes the Castle of Chaos, Hannah's Maze of Mirrors and Outbreak-Dread the Undead attractions.

You can find the Hollywood Wax Museum on

the internet or call them at (865) 428-5228.

If you're looking for another way to return to Knoxville you might try Wears Valley Road and take the Foothills Parkway over to near Townsend, then return by way of Alcoa Highway. You can also drive back to Sevierville and take a left at the main light onto US 441 which becomes Chapman Highway and passes through Seymour taking you to downtown Knoxville.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

MISC. NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Knox County Commission and the Knox County Sheriff shall receive resumes from candidates seeking appointment to three (3) upcoming vacancies on the Knox County Ethics Committee. Two (2) seats will be appointed by Knox County Commission and one (1) seat will be appointed by Knox County Sheriff Tom Spangler. All terms are for a full four (4) years, beginning November 1, 2023 and ending October 31, 2027. Resumes should be submitted by mail, fax, e-mail, or hand delivered no later than Friday, September 29, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. to:

Office of the Knox County Commission
Suite 603, City County Building
400 Main Street
Knoxville, TN 37902
Phone: 215-2534
FAX: 215-2038
E-mail: commission@knoxcounty.org

The Knox County Commission shall interview candidates on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. during the Commission's Work Session in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 West Main Street.

The Commission's two (2) appointments shall be considered during the regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 West Main Street.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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LEGAL SECTION 94

Knox County will receive bids for the following items & services:
RFP 3460, Community Schools and/or PreK After School Care Program Services, due 10/4/23;
Bid 3463, Asphalt Rejuvenator Services, due 10/11/23;
Bid 3464, Full Depth Reclamation, due 10/10/23
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.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

THE KNOX COUNTY BEER BOARD SHALL MEET IN REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023, AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE MAIN ASSEMBLY ROOM OF THE CITY-COUNTY BUILDING, MAIN AVENUE.

1. ROLL CALL:
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
4. SWEARING IN OF INDIVIDUALS WHO PLAN TO TESTIFY:
5. APPLICATIONS:
5a. MULTI-CULTURAL EVENTS, LLC
..... MULTI-CULTURAL EVENTS, LLC,
2306 Maryville Pike
Knoxville, TN 37920
On Premises
(District 9)

5b. ARYA SAI, INC. ARYA SAI, INC.,
8929 Oak Ridge Hwy.
Knoxville, TN 37931
Off Premises
(District 6)

6. CONSIDERATION OF SUSPENSION/ REVOCATION OF THE BEER PERMIT FOR THE FOLLOWING ESTABLISHMENTS:
6a. Pilot #219, 7210 Strawberry Plains Pike, District 8, Pilot Corporation, FJM Investments, LLC and National Indemnity Company, owners
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E. W. Marland of Oklahoma

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

The life story of Ernest Whitworth Marland is a tale of the rise and fall of an American businessman and politician like a Hollywood movie. It is the story of rising to amazing heights and falling just as far. Marland made an enormous fortune and lost it and made another, even bigger fortune and lost it as well. In this time, Ernest Whitworth Marland went from near-billionaire to bankrupt. E. W. Marland was the New Deal governor of Oklahoma who promised Oklahomans he would bring a "Little New Deal" to the Sooner State. Much of Marland's great successes in business were jolted by the waves of events in difficult times. Ironically, those same hard times elevated him to high public office.

"I would like to be governor of Oklahoma," Marland said in 1934. "I will not be coy or indefinite about it." That statement was not like a typical politician. One reporter who had covered Marland for years wrote while his methods were oftentimes "unorthodox," he believed the former oilman was a "natural" in politics.

This unorthodox man was born in Pittsburgh as one of eight children and the only son of Alfred and Sara Marland. Alfred Marland immigrated from England and made a fortune by inventing metal bands for bailing American cotton. Mr. Marland saw to it his son was educated in both public and private schools in Pittsburgh and Tennessee. The younger Marland was something of a prodigy, finishing the University of Michigan Law School at nineteen. So, too, did Alfred influence his son profoundly. As a mill owner, Alfred Marland liked to brag he had never once suffered a strike and had always been recognized as being fair to his employees. That same attitude would apply to the son, who bought a bank to loan money to his employees at lower rates. E. W. Marland also did the then unheard of thing by providing health and dental care for his workers.

E. W. Marland began his career as a lawyer in Pittsburgh, but he became highly interested in geology, which led to his remarkable ability to find oil. Marland's first fortune was made in coal and the promotion of oil.

Marland began working for John Guffey (father of Pennsylvania U.S. Senator and Democratic boss Joseph F. Guffey) in the oil business. Marland was successful enough to marry Virginia Collins and was a millionaire in his own right by the time he was 33. The Marlands never had children of their own, but when Virginia's sister and her husband George encountered difficulties, they adopted the couple's children, George and Lydie. Adopting

Lydie and George was also a way for the Marlands to share their wealth.

Unfortunately, during an economic downturn, E. W. Marland lost his first fortune during the "panic" of 1907, which left the businessman jobless and without any money. Marland's loss was immense. Millions of dollars were gone. Virginia and E. W. decided to move to Oklahoma for a fresh start and because of the booming oil business. Marland formed a new company, the 101 Ranch Oil Company, which gave him the fresh start in life he had sought. Indeed, by 1920, Marland's personal fortune was estimated at \$85 million, which is the equivalent of more than \$900 million today. Living in Ponca City, Oklahoma, E. W. Marland started the Marland Oil Company, which was incorporated in Delaware and headquartered in Ponca City. Even the shrewdest of businessmen are not infallible and Marland made a mistake in partnering with the infamous financier J. P. Morgan because he needed a steady stream of financing for his business. Marland's company was taken from him in a hostile takeover by the Morgan interests and Marland Oil was combined with Continental Oil & Transportation Company, which became known as CONCO. For the second time in his life, E.W. Marland lost his fortune. Never one to give up, Marland quickly formed yet another oil business in partnership with William G. Skelly, a highly successful oilman and staunch Republican.

Considering his success as a businessman, many would likely have thought E. W. Marland to be a steadfast Republican himself, but he was a Democrat, having changed his party affiliation after blaming the bankers in general and the House of Morgan in particular for the loss of his fortune and resulting bankruptcy. His treatment at the hands of the ruthless J. P. Morgan ingrained in Marland a profound distrust of Eastern financiers and Wall Street. Marland was a fervent supporter of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932. That same year, E. W. Marland was a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives against Republican incumbent Milton C. Garber in Oklahoma's Eighth Congressional District. Garber was well-known and possessed a solid background, having served as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Oklahoma Territory. Garber had been in Congress for a decade when he was challenged by E. W. Marland.

Milton Garber was a successful businessman, having his fingers in a number of pies, including oil, half ownership of the Oxford Hotel, and the Enid Radiophone Company. Garber also owned the Enid



Portrait of Oklahoma Governor E. W. Marland.

Morning News, which was eventually merged with the Enid Eagle. Congressman Garber had won better than 60% of the vote in 1930, but Oklahomans were so desperate and hard pressed by drought and the Great Depression, they only gave Garber 38% of the vote in 1932.

It was an impressive start for a beginner in politics. Marland was the first Democrat to win the district, which had been Republican since Oklahoma first became a state. E. W. Marland went to Congress where he kept his word and ardently supported President Roosevelt and the New Deal. Two years later, Marland opted to run for governor and faced a host of strong opponents, including former Governor and incumbent Commissioner of Corporations (an elected office) Jack Walton, who had been impeached as chief executive. Gomer Smith, one of the greatest orators in the Sooner State and equally successful in courtrooms as a practicing attorney, was also on the ballot. Lieutenant Governor Robert Burns ran, as well as state Attorney General J. Berry King. In all, there were thirteen candidates who filed to run for governor of the Sooner State.

Governor William H. Murray, "Alfalfa Bill," was the incumbent governor and was popular with Oklahomans. Governor Murray backed state Senator Tom Anglin in the Democratic primary. Speaking on behalf of Anglin in Enid, the governor was overheard snapping, "Anybody but Marland."

Marland adopted a campaign slogan that resonated with Oklahomans: "Bring the New Deal to Oklahoma." Voters were reminded Marland had paid his employees good wages and about his many philanthropies. Marland won the Democratic primary with just over 30% of the vote. The former oilman beat Anglin by 55,000 votes and the state senator decided not to contest the runoff election. The Republicans nominated their strongest candidate in former U.S. Senator William B. Pine. Marland won with 58% of

the vote.

The Marland Administration was summed up by Speaker of the House Leon C. Phillips' exclamation: "Good heavens, he's added another \$2,500,000 to the list since I saw him yesterday!"

Marland had difficulty enacting his "Little New Deal" and in the middle of his gubernatorial term, decided he wanted to return to Washington, D.C. Governor Marland had hoped to topple Leon C. Phillips, the redheaded and rotund cigar-smoking speaker of the house, who was at best, lukewarm, if not outright against the New Deal, whether it be local or national. The governor had pushed his supporters in the legislature to beat Speaker Phillips and failed. Governor Marland's program in the Oklahoma state legislature was bogged down. Marland was pushing old age pensions for Oklahomans. "There can be no State help for the widow's son or daughter -- unless these bills pass," Marland warned. Pointing to another bill backed by his administration, Marland issued another warning in an attempt to rally support for providing for the unemployed. "The State cannot offer work to our unemployed -- until these bills pass." Marland had also lost popularity in enacting new taxes.

That likely helped Marland to make a decision he likely came to regret. Marland announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate. The incumbent was Thomas P. Gore, grandfather of the writer Gore

Vidal, a brilliant speaker who was blind. Gore had been one of the first of the two original U.S. senators elected by Oklahomans after the territory became a state. Senator Gore had been rejected by Oklahoma Democrats in the 1920 primary due to his opposition to President Woodrow Wilson. Gore attempted a comeback in the 1924 Democratic primary for the United States Senate and had only drawn 19% of the ballots cast. Gore made one of the greatest political comebacks in history by winning the 1930 Democratic primary and runoff election.

Governor Marland faced two congressmen inside the Democratic primary as well as Senator Gore. Gomer Smith had won a special election to Congress in 1937 and wanted a promotion to the Senate. So, too did Congressman Joshua Bryan Lee. Once a professor of oratory and named for perhaps the best known golden-tongued speaker of the age, William Jennings Bryan, Lee proved to be a remarkable orator himself. Lee's campaign was energized by an astonishing number of his students who worked hard to elect him to the United States Senate, who were labeled Lee's "Rover Boys."

E. K. Gaylord, a media titan and editor and publisher of the Daily Oklahoman editorialized, "It is unfortunate for Oklahoma that neither Governor Marland nor some of his predecessors paid any attention to oft repeated warnings of disaster when taxes were being made mountain high." As Gaylord reminded

his readers, the Marland Administration had tried to "increase taxes vastly." Much of the governor's popularity evaporated. Still, Marland ran once again upon undeviating support of Roosevelt and the New Deal.

The 1936 Democratic primary became a four-way race between Congressman Josh Lee, Congressman Gomer Smith, Governor E. W. Marland, and Senator Thomas P. Gore. Sooner State Democrats went to the polls and dealt E. W. Marland a stinging defeat. Josh Lee won the nomination with 33% of the vote. Marland ran a distant second with 23%.

Marland still had two years left on his term as governor. At the close of his gubernatorial term in 1938, E. W. Marland once again announced for the United States Senate. The incumbent, Elmer Thomas, was not unpopular with Oklahomans; quite the contrary, and the greatest campaigner of the age, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, traveled to the Sooner State to endorse Senator Thomas. Two irrepressible campaigners, E. W. Marland and Gomer Smith, tried hard to unseat Senator Thomas to no avail. Thomas won 45% of the votes cast, while Marland ran third with just over 20%.

Marland made his last campaign for public office in 1940 when he ran to regain the seat he had won in the U.S. House of Representatives eight years earlier. Marland challenged Phil Ferguson, who had succeeded him in the House. E. W. Marland won a paltry 12% of the vote.

One of the more controversial decisions made by E. W. Marland came after his first wife Virginia's death in 1926; in 1928 Marland had his adoption of Virginia's niece Lydie annulled and the two married. They were together until his death.

Following his unsuccessful congressional campaign, E. W. Marland was suffering from a heart condition. The 67-year-old former governor's heart gave out on October 3, 1941.

The grand E. W. Marland mansion, a 55-room Italianate behemoth, still stands in Ponca City and to understand the depth of Marland's fall, the Marlands lived in what were originally the chauffeur's quarters on the great estate, a 5-room bungalow which stood 75 feet from the imposing mansion. After having disappeared for many years, Lydie came back home and resided in the chauffeur's quarters in her last years. All E. W. Marland could leave to his widow in his estate were three pieces of real estate and a "few personal possessions."

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- HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WEEK 4 -

Carter takes down South-Doyle, 51-31

By Turner Williams

The Carter Hornets defeated the South-Doyle Cherokees 51-31 Friday night in each team's first Region 2-4A matchup. The game, scheduled to start at 7, began just before 8:30 due to an extended weather delay. While a slow start might have been expected

due to a shortened warm-up time, just like the lighting in the weather delay, the offenses were electric as the first quarter ended with Carter leading 21-14. The duo of Carter's RB/WR Spencer Russell and Jody Scruggs were nearly unstoppable throughout the game, racking up all seven

of Carter's touchdowns, three for Russell and four for Scruggs. Carter Coach Justin Pressley made note of this in the postgame. "Spencer Russell, if (he's) not up for Mr. Football, then I don't know what the award's even for, the kid just walks out onto the field and gets 200 yards ... And

what Jody's done for us his sophomore year, we knew Jody was gonna be special at some point ... (and) he has stepped up and been really impressive for us." With 9:35 left in the first quarter, Russell ran the ball in from 1 yard to open the scoring 7-0 to Carter. On the ensuing kickoff, Carter

kicker Gavin Thomas sent a pooch kick towards the South-Doyle kickoff team, who muffed the bouncing ball that Scruggs recovered near the South-Doyle 25. Just a couple plays later, Scruggs broke multiple tackles to score a 20-yard rushing TD to **Continue on page 2**

High School Football Scores and Schedule

Week 4 Scores

Anderson Co.	50	Fulton	14
CAK	50	GCA	29
Cleveland	43	Farragut	21
G-P	53	Austin-East	14
Gibbs	48	Seymour	0
Carter	51	South-Doyle	31
Central	24	Ooltewah	17
Halls	31	HVA	0
Webb	41	Notre Dame	7
West	21	Maryville	14
Lenoir City	35	TKA	0
Oak Ridge	41	Karns	0
Powell	47	Heritage	17
Ensworth	38	Catholic	14

Week 5 Games
(Kickoff at 7 unless noted)

Thursday

Clinton at Powell

Friday

Seymour at Anderson Co.
Alcoa at Austin-East
TKA at Chatt. Grace
Fulton at G-P
South-Doyle at Gibbs
Bearden at HVA
Heritage at Karns
Halls at Carter
Briarcrest at Catholic
West at Central
Chatt. Christian at Webb
CAK at Lakeway Christ.
GCA at Notre Dame

Hot Halls hammers Hardin Valley, 31-0

By Steve Williams

In the Battle of the "H" Friday night, Halls halted Hardin Valley 31-0. In fact, the showdown of two 3-0 teams turned into a lower case.

Sophomore quarterback Amari Lethgo threw three touchdown passes and the Red Devils' defense contributed several big plays to keep the hosts happy at Dink Adams Field.

"We played really good defense and caused turnovers," said Halls Coach Brent Hughes. "Then offensively, we made plays when we needed to make plays."

"There's a lot of things we can clean up especially on offense, but our defense man - We were the more physical team and our kids played hard and I couldn't be more proud of them."

Lethgo and his receivers sparkled in the pass game. Lethgo completed 20 of 26 passes for 270 yards and no picks. On the receiving end, Landon Vest caught seven passes for 100 yards, Tres Scates six for 81 and Drew Ross four for 71 to lead the way.

Hardin Valley hung close for a half and trailed by only 10-0 at intermission, but Lethgo, a 5-11, 165-pounder who doesn't

play like a sophomore, connected with Kameron Bates on fourth-and-goal at the 3 late in the third quarter.

Linebacker Dom Culp, another Halls sophomore, took over after that as he recovered a fumble on the Hawks' next possession. And then he stripped the ball away from running back Brady Hogrefe early in the fourth quarter and raced 23 yards to score and make it 24-0.

Hardin Valley went three-and-out and Halls tacked on seven more points when Lethgo and Ross, a junior tight end, connected for a 41-yard gain followed by a 12-yard TD pass with 6:48 to go.

Down 31-0, HVA running back McKayle Hayes had a 13-yard gain - the first time the Hawks had moved the chains since the first quarter. But two plays later, Halls' Hunter Brefini recovered a Hardin Valley fumble.

"Physically, Halls beat us tonight," said second-year HVA head coach Jeff Miner, who had gotten the Hawks off to a "historic start" this year. "Things went well at the start and then we had some adversity. It was really the first adversity we've had this season. We didn't respond the way that we needed to. And besides that, if

Continue on page 3



PHOTO BY RANSOM WAYMAN

Halls cornerback Gabe Holmes puts a stop to Hardin Valley receiver Isaac Shelby just like the Red Devils put a stop to the Hawks' 3-game winning streak Friday night at Dink Adams Field.

Big O, Crucial D: CAK pulls away from GCA, 50-29

Four straight picks proves Rams' demise

By Bill Howard

It was a game full of big plays, and almost as many momentum swings. It had pound-the-rock rushing, bombs-for-touchdowns passing, and opportunistic defense.

When it was over, Christian Academy of Knoxville held off never-say-die Grace Christian Academy, 50-29 at home in a Division II, Class 2A, East Region rivalry. The Warriors improved to 2-2 overall, 1-1 in the Region. The Rams are now 1-3, 0-2.

"Our guys were resilient," said CAK first-year coach Chad Speck.

"We responded; respond to the next play. We were able to make some turnovers. It's great for the players ... super excited for players."

"We didn't do a good job of tackling tonight," said Rams' coach Justin Long. "That's what happens. We just gotta go back to work, on making blocks, getting off tackles."

For most of the first half, the game appeared to be headed for a whoever-scores-last-wins affair. CAK went up 8-0 on a two-yard run by Lincoln Rich with 3:38 left in the first period.

The Rams came right back to cut it to 8-7 on a 30-yard scoring pass from quarterback Weston Edmondson to Steven Riffey with 11:45 left in the half.

CAK made it 15-7 on its next drive when Rich plowed in from the one, finishing off a 10-play, 80-yard drive with his second touchdown. There was 7:56 left in the half.

Again Grace answered when Edmondson, appearing to get sacked because of a fumbled snap on third down, picked up the ball and heaved it downfield. Receiver Pierce Stiltner hauled it in and galloped to the end zone for an 89-yard score. With 6:42 left in the half, CAK led 15-14.

The Warriors made it 22-14 on their next possession when, on

second and 15 from the Rams' 18, quarterback Aiden Trout found Will Kelley in the back of the end zone for the touchdown. With 3:50 left, CAK led 22-14.

The rest of the half could only be described as surreal. Three more times Grace would get the ball. And all three possessions resulted in interceptions.

The second of the three was by Jay Duncan on the Rams' five. He waltzed into the end zone and it was suddenly 30-14 with 1:15 left. Grace was able to drive on its ensuing possession, but Sloan Helton picked off the fourth-down pass.

"You gotta take care of the football at all times," said Long. "We put ourselves in the situation where we were behind."

But GCA wouldn't go away, even after its first possession of the third resulted in its fourth straight interception, this one also by Helton. Late in the third, running back Terrion Thomas ran it in from the three to cap off a 69-yard drive, and the score was 30-22. It was anybody's game.

But not for long. On the second play of its next possession, Rich took the pitch and went around left end for a 50-yard touchdown. With 1:57 left in the third, it was 36-22, and Grace wouldn't recover.

Rich ran for 118 yards on 22 carries and scored three times. Duncan got 116 yards on only seven attempts.

"They're (Rich and Duncan) **Continue on page 4**

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A GLANCE BACK AND A LOOK AHEAD

Bulldogs are rested, licking at the chops

By Steve Williams

With Bearden being the only Knox County team to have an open date in Week 4, the Bulldogs should be well rested when they travel to "The Nest" to play the Hardin Valley Academy Hawks this Friday.

After tough losses at West and Alcoa in Weeks 1 and 2, Coach Josh Jones' BHS team bounced back with a much-needed 45-27 win over Anderson County in Week 3. It was Bearden's third straight game against a 2022 state championship team.

"We've played three really good teams," said Jones. "Our kids have played so hard. We did some good things in each one and some things we'd like to have back. But overall we're just happy with our guys and how hard they compete. And I've got to do a better job of coaching them up and putting them in better positions to be successful."

"Upcoming we've got a four game stretch of region play that we are excited about. We play four good teams and we will take it one game at a time. Our league is so tough, but we're battle tested with our front end of schedule being so tough."

Bearden was considered the best 0-2 team in the state after Week 2, but also the unluckiest.

"We definitely had some breaks go against us but that's life and football," said Coach Jones. "The players rebounded well from those and are excited about the season ahead."

Jones said he never did get a "clarification" for why the lights went out late in Bearden's game at Alcoa.

"Hearsay was they were set on a timer," he added.

Jones said his team's victory over Anderson County "was a good win for us and I was happy for our kids. AC is a good team which

is really well coached. I thought they played their best game of the season."

MOTHER NATURE: Several Week 4 games in the Knoxville area were affected by long weather delays and lightning, including the Rivalry Thursday TV showdown matching Alcoa at Greeneville. That game was tied 7-7 and eventually called a "no contest." It was Greeneville's second "no contest" this season.

The Carter at South-Doyle game Friday night did not start until 8:20 p.m.

WEEK 4 HIGHLIGHTS: West extended its win streak to 19 games with a 21-14 win at Maryville. It was the second loss in a row for Blount County's Red Rebels.

Another surprising score to many was Cleveland knocking off host Farragut 43-21.

COMING UP: Clinton at Powell should be an interesting Rivalry Thursday TV game this week. The Dragons got off to a slow start, but have perked up with lopsided wins over Scott and Campbell County.

Local teams will be involved in eight region contests this week. One of the biggest matchups though will be a non-region battle at Carter, where the Hornets will host unbeaten Halls.

POWER RATINGS: Through Week 3 games, 10 teams from Knox and bordering counties were rated in the state's Top 50 in Sonny Moore's Computer Power Ratings. Those were No. 4 Alcoa, No. 6 Maryville, No. 8 West, No. 10 Bearden, No. 12 Farragut, No. 25 Powell, No. 29 Oak Ridge, No. 31 Webb and No. 49 Halls. The Central Bobcats are knocking on the door at No. 51.



PHOTO BY RANSOM WAYMON

Halls junior tight end Drew Ross, wearing the Red Devils' Smokey Grey uniform with red and white trim, takes a break on the bench in Friday night's game against Hardin Valley. Ross had a big game that included a touchdown catch in Halls' 31-0 win over the Hawks.

Carter takes down South-Doyle, 51-31

Cont. from page 1

bringing the score to 14-0 with 9:17 left in the first quarter. After a 27-yard TD rush from South-Doyle RB Demorris Mckenzie and an interception from South-Doyle freshman Jerry Smith, the tide seemed to turn in South-Doyle's favor, but Scruggs spoiled S-D's fun with another TD run to bring the score to 21-7 with a minute left in the first. South-Doyle and QB Maddox Cupp quickly drove down the field and with a 19-yard passing touchdown to T.J. Tipton, South-Doyle cut the deficit to seven right

before the quarter's end. In the second quarter, the scoring slowed down a bit, but the game was just as entertaining. On 4th-and-12, Cupp remained on the field, seemingly to go for it. But, Cupp unexpectedly punted the ball. The ball was downed by Jerry Smith at the Carter 2-yard line. After deliberation between the referees, it was determined that a Carter player had touched the ball, meaning South-Doyle maintained possession.

But, the Carter defense held firm, forcing a 26-yard field goal from



EuGenie Latham ... She is such a loving and caring mom. It's no wonder her three sons have done well in athletics and academics. Center: Cayden "Slim" Latham in the "Walk" prior to UVA-Wise's season opener Sept. 2. Right: Brayden "Butterball" Latham carries the ball for Eastern Kentucky in its Sept. 2 game at Cincinnati.

If there's ever recognition for Best Moms who support their sons in football, EuGenie Latham should be the captain.

It's tough for a football mom who now has three sons playing college football on three different teams.

But EuGenie put together a schedule that will allow her to see one of her sons play each Saturday for 12 straight weeks.

EuGenie sent me a copy of it, which she titled "Latham Boys' Mom Fall Schedule."

Her youngest sons are twins - Brayden and Cayden, who were standouts at West High School and key members of the Rebels' Class 5A state champions last fall. She also has an older son, Ferendez Latham III, who is in his senior season of college.

From this point on, I will refer to Brayden, Cayden and Ferendez by their nicknames - as their mom does - and those are Butterball, Slim and Trae.

Butterball, a running back, is now at Eastern Kentucky University; Slim, a defensive back, is at University of Virginia at Wise; and Trae, an offensive lineman, is at University of North Greenville in South Carolina.

EuGenie and her boys moved to Knoxville from Alabama five years ago. She not only brought West High two talented players who would go on to play college ball, but she herself became a fixture at West games as the Rebels' loudest fan.

"God has blessed me with lungs and so I use them," she said. "I want them to know Momma is right here cheering for you."

"Ms. Latham's love for West High School was so ecstatic," recalled WHS Executive Principal Dr. Ashley Speas recently. "She loves her boys, our coaches, our team and

Isaiah Mitchell. Later in the quarter, Carter kicker Gavin Thomas kicked in a 30-yarder to bring the scoring to 24-17 Carter at halftime.

In the second half, Carter continued their success. In the third quarter, Russell took a touch pass 51 yards to the end zone to make it 31-17. In the 4th, two Scruggs receptions from touch passes were taken to the end zone, 5 and 54 yards respectively, as well as a breakout quarter from South-Doyle WR Marquell Patterson. Patterson did all he could, as he took

a 59-yard pass to the house. Later in the quarter, Patterson pulled off a dazzling play as he zig-zagged across the field three times to score a 72-yard TD as one of the last scores of the night.

While the game ended nowhere near how South-Doyle Coach Paul Shelton wanted it to, he saw some positives and some things to improve on as they face the Gibbs Eagles this week. "There were some bright spots," he said. "I thought we really responded in the second quarter defensively, but again, missed too



Latham Boys' Mom Fall Schedule

(12-Week Regular Season)

- Sept. 2 - Union College KY at UVA-Wise (Slim)
- Sept. 9 - EKU (Butterball) at Kentucky
- Sept. 16 - West Alabama at North Greenville SC (Trae)
- Sept. 23 - Limestone at UVA-Wise (Slim)
- Sept. 30 - West Florida at North Greenville SC (Trae) "Family Weekend"
- Oct. 7 - Emory & Henry College At UVA-Wise (Slim) Homecoming
- Oct. 14 - Tarleton State at EKU (Butterball)
- Oct. 21 - Erskine College at UVA-Wise (Slim)
- Oct. 28 - Mississippi College at North Greenville SC (Trae)
- Nov. 4 - Austin Peay State at EKU (Butterball)
- Nov. 11 - Wingate University at UVA-Wise (Slim)
- Nov. 18 - Stephen F. Austin at EKU (Butterball)

Football mom to be on the road for 12 games

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
7 Trae - Union Univ	1PM - A	SLIM - HOME
14 Trae - Delta State	A 6PM	SLIM - TUSCULUM - A - 2PM Bball - Tarleton - H - 3PM
21 Trae - West GA	-6PM - A	SLIM - Erskine - 2PM - H Bball - Gardner Webb - 6PM - A
28 Trae - HOME	COMING - MISS.	SLIM - Mars Hill - A - 1PM Bball - Utah Tech - 8PM - AWAY

One of the pages in EuGenie's notebook, which contains her week to week destinations to go and cheer her boys. One of the choices at the bottom shows Butterball and EKU will play a night game at Utah Tech on Oct. 28. She wisely picked Trae's afternoon homecoming game at North Greenville University against Mississippi College that day.

our school. Brayden and Cayden are pretty special boys and the love they show is definitely what OneWest is all about."

And it's that kind of support she plans to bring to her sons' college games, too.

EuGenie, however, already knows her loud cheering will face a challenge at some of the bigger college crowds. In fact, she said Butterball and EKU played in front of 60,000 fans at the University of Cincinnati on Sept. 2.

While Butterball had a good game, particularly for a freshman against the Bearcats, EuGenie's first road

trip of the season took her to UVA-Wise, where the Cavaliers walloped Union College KY 48-0. Slim dressed out for the game but didn't play due to a finger injury.

Still, the two-hour drive from Knoxville was well worth it before the game even started.

"I got there early so I could experience their (pre-game) 'Walk,' said EuGenie. "Slim got out of line in the Walk to give me a hug and a kiss."

Momma Latham also was mindful of the importance of the season-opening Saturday and said she sent her sons a voice message "because I wanted it to be more personable. It was their first college game and their first time touching the field, and I wanted (to remind) them to experience it and take it all in."

This past weekend (Sept. 9) had EuGenie scheduled to go to Lexington to see Butterball and EKU play the Kentucky Wildcats.

All three of her sons have given her college football gear to wear to the games. "Butterball sent me an EKU shirt, Slim sent a UVA-Wise hat and a T-shirt and Trae had a shirt made for me with his name Latham put on the back for his game," said EuGenie.

On Sept. 16, it will be Trae's turn to have his mom on the scene as North Greenville will host West Alabama in a 7 o'clock night game.

While things are much better now, it was an emotionally tough time for EuGenie to go through when her sons left home for college. Butterball left on May 27, two days after graduation, and Slim left on Aug. 4.

"I missed them terribly," she recalled. "I missed the noise. I missed the laughter. I missed the doors opening and closing."

Her new job as a Vocational Rehab Counselor for the State of Tennessee has helped consume her weekdays.

And now with her football schedule, she certainly looks forward to her weekends.



GRANT BUSH @GRANTBUSH_PHOTO

Billy K. Nicely Memorial Stadium at South-Doyle High School was one of the venues Mother Nature visited Friday night. The Cherokees (right) were hosting the Carter Hornets. The 7 o'clock game finally started at 8:20 and ended around three hours later.

many tackles, made too many errors up front ... So we've got to do a better job as coaches to get our guys ready."

The Cherokees will look

to correct those mistakes when they go to Gibbs Friday. For Carter, they look to build on their impressive run of results when they host Halls Friday at 7.

The way things appeared 19 years ago this month

AUTHOR'S PREFACE: Last Monday morning (Sept. 4) and into most of Tuesday (Sept. 5), the announcement of the new Smokey Grey uniforms honoring former Vol quarterback Condredge Holloway dominated our attention at the Mattingly household. Channel 10 had called that morning asking about Condredge and his impact on the Vol football program, and I did an interview that afternoon. The next day on utsports.com, there was a story from July 2004 announcing that the Vols would wear their "throw-back white jerseys." Those jerseys featured an orange collar made famous in road games in 1971, 1972, and 1973. In those latter two years, Holloway was under center for the Vols. It was a fun story to read, until I realized halfway through, I had written it in a long-ago life working in the athletic department. Nineteen years later, here's a look at



another time the color of team jerseys was headline news.



Condredge Holloway on the move against Alabama in the 1973 game at Legion Field

Tennessee unveiled the retro jerseys it will wear in the season opener today at the Wolf-Kaplan Center at Neyland Stadium. Don't mess with your

binoculars or rub your eyes when you get to Neyland Stadium for the UNLV game Sept. 5. That really is the Tennessee team out there on Shields-Watkins Field in the white jerseys.

That hasn't happened since the Vols first unveiled orange jerseys on Sept. 23, 1922.

As part of honoring Tennessee's storied football tradition, the Vols will open the 2004 campaign in a retro-look uniform originating from the 1970s. UT athletics director Mike Hamilton said Tennessee's road uniform from that era had a unique look.

"The one uniform that stood out in uniqueness was the road uniform we wore in the early 1970s," Hamilton said. "We've decided for one game only, we will wear our road whites and we've asked UNLV to wear red. I want to thank Adidas for working with us on this project."

The season opener in September against UNLV offers a one-game break in that tradition, as the Vols will come out in retro jerseys, the white shirts with the orange shoulder/

collars, made famous in the 1971, 1972 and 1973 seasons. It began in 1971 in Gainesville, Fla., a 20-13 Vol win and continued until the 1974 Auburn game on the Plains, when the Vols came out in more vanilla white shirts, ones with no orange shoulder and collar.

Hamilton said the season opener begins the process of having "family reunions" for different sports, beginning with football in 2004. All former UT football lettermen have been invited to the UNLV game for a reunion and will be recognized at halftime.

We're happy to report that between 375 to 400 former football lettermen will be a part of this weekend," Hamilton said. "The lettermen will be invited to the team's final walk-through Saturday afternoon, then have individual team dinners on Saturday night, then participate in the Vol Walk to the stadium on Sunday with this year's team. It will be a great opportunity for the fans to say thank you for what their contribution has been to Tennessee football history."

Hamilton added other sports reunions will follow each year.

The whole issue of white jerseys is an intriguing part of Tennessee football history and lore.

Up until 1971, Tennessee wore white shirts on the road only out of necessity. You went to a road game, and the Vols were there decked out in orange. There were a few exceptions, however, that caused Vols fans to have the willies when white shirts were mentioned.

- Texas 16, Tennessee 0, in the 1953 Cotton Bowl
- Alabama 35, Tennessee 0, in 1963 at Birmingham
- Texas 36, Tennessee 13, in the 1969 Cotton Bowl

Former Vol tailback Mallon Faircloth was present that day in 1963 when the Vols trotted onto Legion Field in their new white shirts, part of the "Halloween" look that year under head coach Jim McDonald.

Faircloth, who received his UT law degree in 1968, was the last of the single-wing tailbacks. He is now a magistrate in the United

States District Court, Middle District of Georgia, Columbus Division. He remembered that day nearly 41 years ago.

"We had new orange jerseys that season and new white ones had just come in," he recalled. "They were the jerseys with stripes across the shoulder. I guess Coach McDonald wanted to change our luck."

"He didn't discuss it with any of us. I think he told us that week we were wearing them. We were undermanned in the offensive line."

The Vols recovered from their first three games in white to end up playing pretty well in the white shirts, assembling an 81-50-2 (.617) record over that time, all games obviously on the road. That's 61.7 percent as opposed to an overall winning percentage in the school's history of 69.8 (736-303-53).

So, Vol fans, you needn't be afraid of the white shirts any longer.

That was the way things appeared 19 years ago this month.

- GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL -

Lady Spartans power past Central in straight sets

By Ken Lay

Webb School of Knoxville used a balanced hitting attack to sweep Central Wednesday night in Fountain City. The Lady Spartans made short work of the Lady Bobcats as they nabbed a 25-9, 25-13 victory in a match that was concluded in less than an hour.

Lennox Langham had nine kills for the Lady Spartans, who also swept a two-set match against Farragut Tuesday night but came up on the short end in a four-setter against Chattanooga Baylor Thursday night.

Against the Lady Bobcats, Tallulah Carney added six kills, while Landyn Langham had five and Eva Muresan finished with four for Webb, which opened a 10-3 lead in the opening set on a service point by Muresan and go on to close out the first set with relative ease.

The young and pesky Lady Bobcats, who entered the match on a three-match District 3-3A winning streak, showed a little more spunk in the second half as they took a 6-5 lead on a service point by Lauren Cox before the Lady Spartans reeled off six consecutive points and never relinquished the upper hand as they would open a 21-9 lead before the Lady Bobcats rallied to pull to within 21-12.

Webb coach Ellen McGill was pleased with her squad's effort early last week.

"Our (hitting) attack was pretty much balanced and the girls are playing really well right now," McGill said after the Lady Spartans handled both Farragut and the Lady Bobcats with little trouble on back-to-back nights Tuesday and Wednesday. "These girls have been pretty much playing

together for the last two or three years.

Even in defeat, Central coach Susan Davidson was upbeat and pleased with her team's showing against the Lady Spartans.

"We did some good things. They haven't seen a team that's that fast this year," Davidson said of the Lady Bobcats. "(Erin) McGill does a great job and we're really young and a little banged up right now."

Central, which has only three seniors on its 2023 roster, didn't quit.

"We made some great hustle plays," Davidson said. "We had a great effort and I'm really pleased."

Allie Gregory led the Central attack with six kills and sophomore Grace Roberts finished with three blocks for the Lady Bobcats.

- GIRLS' SOCCER -

Central, Bearden remain unbeaten

By Ken Lay

The 2023 girls high school soccer season kicked into high gear last week with Gibbs, West, Central and Bearden each continuing their winning ways. Farragut also bounced back and halted a two-game losing streak with a win over Catholic.

The Lady Eagles have now won five consecutive matches after getting off to a 0-2-1 start. Gibbs is also in first place in District 4-2A after shutting out rival Union County Thursday night.

Against the Lady Patriots, Raylea Powell scored twice for the Lady Eagles (5-2-1, 2-0 in the district). Natalie Teague, Neomy Casillas, Kacie Cruze and Kristin Oliver also tallied in the match for Gibbs.

The Lady Eagles opened the week with a 2-0 victory over Christian Academy of Knoxville. Casillas and Karleigh Dean scored for Gibbs against the Lady Warriors.

Lady Rebels win a pair: West High picked up a 2-1 District 4-3A victory over Hardin Valley Thursday night.

That victory came after the Lady Rebels routed Catholic, 7-0, Tuesday

night at Bill Wilson Field. Phoebe Scott had a hat trick against the Lady Irish. LillyAnn Freeman found the back of the Catholic net twice and Kathryn Lentz and Abby Huddy also tallied for the Lady Rebels.

Lady Bobcats remain unbeaten: Central kept its perfect record intact and improved to 9-0 overall and 3-0 in District 3-3A as it captured a pair of road victories last week.

The Lady Bobcats nabbed a 5-1 league victory over the host Lady Beavers Thursday night. Teighley Fowler and Edie Wilds each found the back of the Karns net twice and Cadence Horner converted a penalty kick as Central continues to exhibit its offensive firepower.

The Lady Bobcats also notched a 7-1 victory over Anderson County in Clinton Tuesday night.

Page Branum had a hat trick for Central, which also got two markers each from Fowler and Wilds.

Lady Bulldogs keep rolling: Bearden just keeps winning and has now won 49 consecutive games dating back to

2021. The Lady Bulldogs are 52-0-1 in their last 53 matches with the lone blemish on their record being a tie in a game against Catholic that was cut short by inclement weather two years ago.

Bearden (6-0), the two-time defending Class 3A state champion, blanked Greeneville 8-0 on the road Wednesday. Jayla Blue posted a hat trick for Bearden against the Lady Devils. Alivia Stott tallied twice.

Maci Ritzman, Tyler Roth and Sohayla Larson also scored for the Lady Bulldogs, who open District 4-3A play against Kingston Pike rival Farragut at Admiral Soccer Stadium. The Lady Admirals (5-2-1) will be the toughest test to date for Bearden.

Lady Admirals bounce back: After losing its two games at the Bearden Invitational to Collierville and Hendersonville, Farragut bounced back with a convincing 5-1 victory over Catholic Thursday night as five different Farragut players scored.

Brady Livingston, Courtney George, Malena Maier, Ava Barczak and Christie George all tallied for the Lady Admirals.

Hot Halls hammers Hardin Valley, 31-0

Continued from page 1

it could go wrong tonight, it did. Once it got bad, it snowballed and got worse. We've got to learn from it, put it behind us and move on to next week."

Hardin Valley threatened in the first quarter, but on fourth-and-four at the 12, Caleb Standifer completed

a pass but sophomore DB Gabe Holmes quickly stopped the receiver short of the line to gain.

HVA had good field position again in the second quarter, but Bates recovered a Hawk fumble at the Halls 43. The Red Devils turned their possession into the game's first touchdown

when Scates caught Lethgo's 28-yard pass on a ricochet.

Owen Taylor kicked the first of four PATs. He added a 34-yard field on the last play of the first half.

Halls had possession of the ball for over 17 minutes in the first half. The Devils' Noah Burgin

sacked Standifer for a 7-yard loss to start the second half. Ross recovered a HVA fumble on second down in Hawks' next possession. Culp pounced on a fumble on third down of Hardin Valley's third possession.

The snowball just got bigger and bigger.

It's Florida Week

By Mark Nagi

On Saturday night the Tennessee Volunteers head to Gainesville to face one of their biggest rivals, the Florida Gators.

First, how good of an opening lede was that for this article? No way that AI takes this writer's position for at least 18 months.

Secondly, with all due respect to South Carolina, Alabama, and Georgia, this might end up as the biggest game of the season for Tennessee.

Think about last season. The Vols hung on for a 38-33 win over the Gators at Neyland Stadium. That was Tennessee's first victory over Florida since 2016 and only their second such win in 19 years. Tennessee improved to 4-0, and ended up 11-2, their best record in two decades.

Knocking off Florida was more proof that Tennessee was finally ready for prime time.

This season the Vols will play in The Swamp, which has been their house of horrors for decades. UT has lost there 9 straight times. Not since Casey Clausen led the Vols to wins in 2001 and 2003 has Tennessee left victorious.

They've been blown out multiple times and lost in devastating fashion as well. More specifically, the 2015 and 2017 losses defy all logic. If you've forgotten those, good for you. Your mental state is stronger than mine.

But like Mark McGwire at his Congressional hearing, I'm not here to talk about the past.

This article was written before Week 2 action, but barring something wild, Tennessee enters this game 2-0 and ranked in the top 10, with Florida at 1-1.

Tennessee looked solid in its 49-13 win over Virginia while Florida got soundly beaten at Utah 24-11, in a game that was not as close as that result. The Gators hadn't played an out of conference game out of the state of Florida in over 30 years, and it might be another three decades before they try to do that again.

The Vols offense was clicking against UVA, racking up 499 yards. Florida could only account for 346 yards against the Utes, including a paltry 13 rushing yards.

Tennessee is deeper, more talented and has better coaching than Florida. They are a better team and will be favored to snap their decades long drought in Gainesville.

That said... if you are a Tennessee fan, you don't have complete confidence that the final score will be different this time. There is just too much bad history there. Maybe it's a good thing that this hasn't always been an annual meeting. They only played 19 times between the start of this series in 1916 and 1990. Since then, Tennessee and Florida have played every year.

The Gators lead this all-time series 31-21. But that could change with Tennessee seemingly on the upward trajectory, and Florida's head coach is already on the hot seat. Billy Napier is under pressure even though he is only in his second season in charge. His 7-8 start has not pleased Florida fans, and if this season turns into a disaster the Gators might make a move.

A win on Saturday night could really turn up the heat in that regard.

If Tennessee beats Florida, they'll be 3-0 and have a terrific chance of being 5-0 heading into the bye week. Considering how mediocre Tennessee football has been over the last 20 years, something like that shouldn't be taken for granted.

It's Florida week. Pace yourself.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Smith and Archdale win CC titles in Fall Classic

By Steve Williams

Keegan Smith of Knoxville Catholic and Hardin Valley Academy's Maddie Archdale took first place in the boys' and girls' 5K cross-country races, respectively, in the Victor Ashe Park Fall Classic Saturday, Sept. 2.

In a field of 249 boys, Smith, a junior, turned in a time of 15:31.14, while Farragut senior Matteo Tonnos posted a 15:47.62 for runner-up honors.

Catholic sophomore Radek Molchan placed third, followed by Farragut seniors Braden Ebbert and Harrison Cunningham.

Farragut took first place in the team competition, scoring 36 points. Catholic (82) and HVA (104) rounded out the Top 3.

Archdale continued her strong senior season in the girls' race, covering the 5,000 meters in 18:30.03 and far ahead of runner-up Hannah Faudi of CSTHEA (19:12.01).

West's Kate Robinson placed third, Karns' Rylee Gifford fourth and Anderson County's Ava Moody fifth in the field of 200.

Hardin Valley captured the team title with 55 points, followed by Farragut (122) and the Knoxville Ambassadors (127).

The Norris Dam Invitational was scheduled to be held this past Saturday (Sept. 9).

FUTURE MEETS on the 2023 MetroKnoxville Cross Country Schedule include: Sept. 16-Johnson University Invitational, Sept. 23-Cherokee Classic

at Sequoyah Hills Park, Sept. 30-Victor Ashe Park Invitational, Sept. 30-KIL Championship at Sequoyah Hills Park, Oct. 5-Cove Lake Invitational, Oct. 17-Victor Ashe Park All Comers, Oct. 25-D1 Region 2 Championship at Victor Ashe Park.

Roderiques places third in USA gymnastics

At the xfinity U.S. Gymnastics Championships in late August, Farragut High junior Ty Roderiques placed third overall in the USA, reported Farragut SID Jack Tate.

Roderiques won the National Championship on the Vault event and also was named to be a member of the United States Junior National Team.

Four prep athletes honored at GKSHOF

Four area standouts were named High School Athletes of the Year at the recent Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame event.

Maeve Thornton of Catholic and Avery Treadwell of Bearden were announced as co-female winners, while Dylan Loy of Pigeon Forge and Lucas Nordin of Bearden were co-male winners.

Thornton led Catholic to three state girls tennis titles and won the individual crown for the third year in a row this past season and was undefeated during her high school career. Maeve is the No. 13 ranked junior

female in the country and has signed to play for Furman.

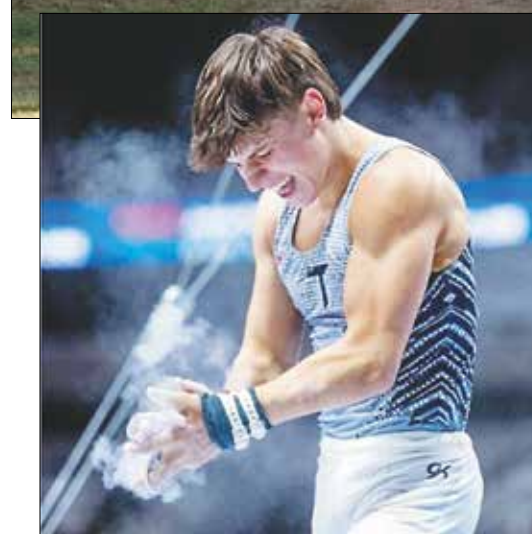
Treadwell, a 6-3 center/forward, scored over 1,500 points and had over 1,000 rebounds during her career. She helped Bearden win the state title in 2022 and was named the tournament MVP. She earned All-State honors each of the past two years and was named Class 4A Miss Basketball after leading Bearden to a 35-0 record before a quarterfinal loss this past season. In four years, Avery led Bearden to a record of 118-10. She had a 4.4 GPA and signed with Florida State.

Loy, as a senior, repeated as Mr. Baseball after going 11-1 with a .098 ERA and 169 strikeouts in 71.1 innings. In his career, he recorded 459 strikeouts, averaging almost two per inning. Dylan was also his class valedictorian, maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA. He has signed to play for the Tennessee Vols.

Nordin was selected to the United Soccer Coaches All-America team after making All-State three times. He was the Region 2-AAA Player of the Year twice and was named the Gatorade Boys Soccer Player of the Year in Tennessee. Nordin set the single-season goals record at Bearden with 38. He finished with 74 career goals - second most at BHS - and 24 assists. Lucas led the Bulldogs to an 18-1-3 record as a senior and has signed to play for ETSU.



Keegan Smith of Knoxville Catholic is the first to get up the hill at the Victor Ashe Park Fall Classic on Sept. 2. Smith went on to win the 5K race in a time of 15:31.14.



Farragut High gymnast Ty Roderiques applies chalk to dry his hands during the xfinity U.S. Gymnastics Championships. Roderiques placed third overall and won the National Championship on the Vault event.

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Big O, Crucial D

Cont. from page 1

some talented boys," said Speck. "With rushing, it all starts up front. Any time you have an opportunity to run for a lot of yards the offensive line is getting after it and doing their job."

"They keep running and don't stop," said Trout, who was 14 of 24 for 223 yards, three scores and a pick. "They make plays when we need them."

Helton caught eight of Trout's passes for 149 yards and two scores. Edmondson threw for 315 yards on 21 completions in 40 attempts and two scores. The four picks were the difference.

Stiltner caught eight passes for 204 yards and a score, a 25.5-yard average. "Justin's got a talented offense over there," said Speck. "He's got some good players....they got us on a few things."

Trout's 73-yard bomb to Helton made it 43-22 in the fourth. Thomas then scored from the four to cut it to 43-29. CAK got a late touchdown on an eight-yard Trout-to Helton hookup.

"Big win," said Trout. "It's our rival, all we talked about all week. We had a big game plan coming in and practiced hard all week."

Friday night the Warriors hit the road to play Lakeway Christian in Morristown. The Rams travel to play Notre Dame in Chattanooga.

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