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Governor Lee lauds the efforts of state's tourism industry

By Ken Lay

Tennessee Governor Bill Lee had some kind words for workers in the tourism and hospitality business in the Volunteer State Thursday.

Lee spoke at the annual Conference on Tourism and Hospitality at its annual luncheon at the Knoxville Convention Center.

In his remarks, Lee said that the work of those in the industry positively impacts all the residents in the state. The industry is Tennessee's second-largest revenue generator. It made \$29.5 billion for the state last year, including nearly \$190 million in state and local tax for Knox County. Tourism is second behind agriculture in making money for the state.

"That was because of you," Lee said. "You are giving your neighbors the economic opportunities that they've never had before."

"So, I start off by saying



Tennessee Governor Bill Lee and Commissioner of Tourism Mark Ezell discuss the impact of tourism and hospitality at the Governor's annual Tourism Luncheon at the Knoxville Convention Center.

we're really fortunate to be Tennesseans, we live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. We have the most remarkable people in the world and we're really attractive as a state to people outside of Tennessee and you know

that. You people are life changers.

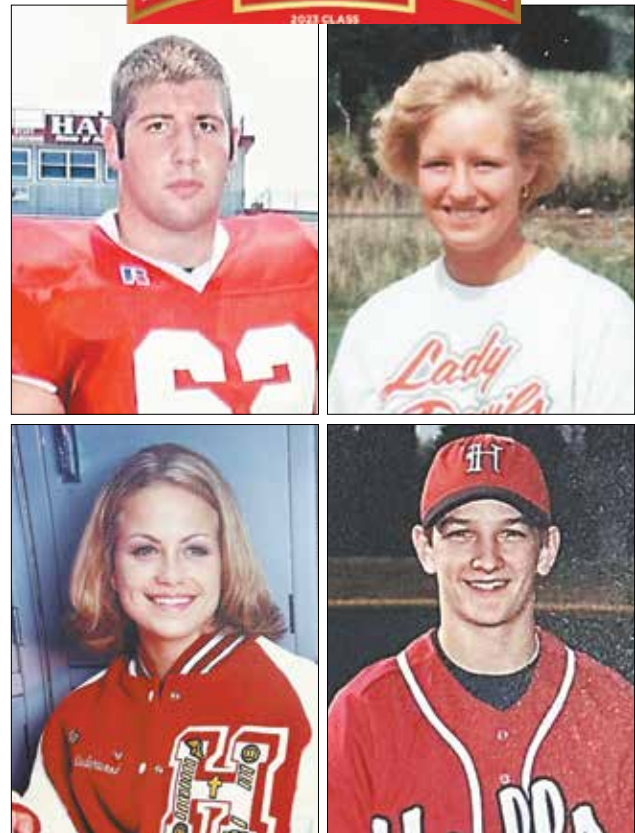
The governor also noted that tourism must remain vibrant if the state's economy is to continue to grow.

"Tourism is important to our economy and we can't let it falter," Lee said. "In

2022, we had 141 million visitors.

"America is still a wonderful place and that's evident in Tennessee.

Knoxville hosted the three-day event for the first time in nearly a decade and had a record turnout.



Clockwise from top left: Caleb Leonard, Amy McMahan Dorset, Brandon Munsey and Brooke Underwood Raiden.

Halls' Road to Fame celebrates fifth class

By Steve Williams

A five-sport letterman is part of Halls High's Road to Fame Class of 2023.

Amy McMahan Dorset lettered in softball, basketball, soccer, volleyball and track during her high school career (1986-1990).

In her senior season, Amy was named the Knoxville Interscholastic League's Softball Player of the Year and also was All-KIL in basketball and soccer.

Dorset helped lead the Lady Red Devils' softball team to three District Tournament Championships, a Regional Championship,

two Sub-State wins and two State Tournament appearances in her prep career. She also set school records with Most Innings Pitched, Most No-Hitters and Most Strikeouts Pitched.

Amy went on to receive many collegiate awards while playing softball and soccer at Carson-Newman. She continued her education at University of Tennessee-Memphis, graduating with Honors in Physical Therapy.

"It's an honor to be included in the Road to Fame, but what I find most valuable

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State Speaker Cameron Sexton addresses Halls Republican Club

By Ken Lay

Education took center stage Tuesday night when Tennessee House Speaker Cameron Sexton appeared in North Knox County.

Sexton, a representative from Crossville, spoke to the Halls Republican Club at the Halls Boys and Girls Club.

He opened the meeting with a few brief remarks, noting that the appearance was a homecoming for him. A resident of Crossville for more than two decades, Sexton is a graduate of Oak Ridge High School, where he played football.

"I haven't been out here in a long time and it's really grown," Sexton said. "I went to Oak Ridge and we played Halls."

"They were in our district and we used to come in here from the back way. We came in through Norris."

He also talked about how he became involved in state politics. In 1994, he worked for Randy McNally, now Tennessee's Lieutenant Governor.

"I graduated from college with a political science degree, and you know how everybody was looking to hire people with political science degrees."

"I met Randy McNally and that was in 1994. I needed something and he needed something, so I went to work for him. He was running for re-election."

Sexton has been in the Tennessee House of Representatives since 2011 and he's honored to serve as speaker.



Tennessee Speaker of the House Cameron Sexton takes questions at the Halls Republican Club Tuesday night. Sexton discussed education, economic growth at the Halls Boys and Girls Club.

"The members of the house are my bosses," he said. "They elected me to be speaker and I work for them, and the minute that I think they work for me, it's time for me to go."

After his opening remarks, he entertained questions from the audience, and the meeting's attendees quickly shifted the focus to education. School board Vice Chairman Steve Triplett was in attendance.

The hot topic of the night was the recently implemented third-grade retention policy, which has been criticized by parents

and teachers. Many at this gathering, however, were in favor of the law as many of the state's students are not proficient readers as they exit third grade.

"We've found that if (students) are proficient in reading in third grade, that doesn't change," Sexton said. "But this is not a teacher problem."

"I come from a long line of teachers and you can't tell me that we've had five decades of bad teachers. My mom was a teacher, my dad was a teacher and my grandmother was a teacher."

"It's the way we're

teaching in the classrooms. We're teaching so that kids know the answers for the tests. A big problem is grades. A lot of the students who are not proficient in reading are making A's and B's. So it's not adding up. And then, the parents blame the test."

He met with administrators in Belmont University's law department and the school, after research, has changed its teaching methods.

"At Belmont, I met with the president of the law school. The school is the only school in Tennessee to have 100 percent of their students pass the bar," Sexton said. He told me that they found a medical school."

The school has one of the best reputations in the world and it limits lectures to 20-25 minutes and spends the rest of the classroom hour on practical education.

"I know that if I come up here and speak for more than 20 minutes, you are going to zone out," Sexton said. "And we expect kids to listen to a lecture for 55 minutes. I have a kid in the third grade, and I know that she can't sit and listen for 20 minutes."

"We need to have more practical education."

Education wasn't the only issue discussed Tuesday.

Sexton praised the state for its continued economic growth. He also discussed the growing mental health crisis in Tennessee and across the country.

Should merit board regulations be changed?

By Mike Steely

Senior Writer
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The new Knox County Sheriff's Office Employees' Merit System Board of Directors has been operating under rules placed by the Knox County Commission in an effort to reform how the board regulates itself and KCSO employees.

When the commission meets in Work Session today, the merit board is back on the agenda in an effort to repeal some of those regulations. Three items are on the draft of the agenda including allowing KCSO employees to run for elected office without

taking leave.

Another resolution requires patrol officers and eligible corrections officers to have a valid driver's license.

The third agenda item uses the Hatch Act to only restrict political activity by KCSO employees while on duty.

The merit board was scheduled to meet last Tuesday to consider restrictions on board members' political activities to apply exclusively to elections for Knox County Sheriff. That meeting was canceled as board member John Valiant Jr. could not attend.

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A Courageous Judge And Brave Lawyer

From a distance



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

From 1969 to 1988 I was devoted to the law – first as a law student at George Washington University, and then as a lawyer and judge in Knoxville. Through all the years since, I have maintained my law license and still have great interest in legal cases and court opinions. Thus, I was greatly impressed and even fascinated by the recent developments in two of the highest profile cases now going on in this country.

I have read many thousands of opinions by the Supreme Court and lower courts, and articles by and about lawyers. I know that I have never read a stronger, more detailed and more intelligent attack on the abuse of federal power from the White House on down,

than the opinion written by a Chief Federal District Judge in Louisiana.

Judge Terry Doughty wrote a stirring, patriotic opinion, appropriately issued on July 4th in the case of Missouri vs. Biden, a case brought by two states and several prominent individuals alleging violation of their rights to free speech by the Biden Administration and several federal agencies, including the Justice Department, the FBI, the CDC and others.

The case involved a very successful collusion by the government, social media companies, and partisan groups like the Election Integrity Partnership to silence opposition to Covid 19 vaccines, lockdowns, and masking, opposition to the 2020 election, opposition to the policies of government officials in power, and statements that the Hunter Biden laptop story was true.

The judge wrote that the "Plaintiffs have presented substantial evidence of their claims that they were the victims of a far-reaching and widespread censorship campaign."

He also said: "The United

States government seems to have assumed a role similar to an Orwellian 'Ministry of Truth'."

The key point of his decision said: "It is quite telling that each example or category of suppressed speech was conservative in nature. This targeted suppression of conservative ideas is a perfect example of view-point discrimination of political speech. Americans citizens have the right to engage in free debate about the significant issues affecting the country."

Judge Doughty's opinion was 165 pages long, and you could almost get a law school education from reading it. However, most law professors are so far to the left politically now that they will either ignore it or attack it in very sarcastic, elitist ways.

They should read the quote from President Harry Truman cited in the opinion: "Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition, it has only one place to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures until it becomes a source of

terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear."

I also know that I have never read a stronger attack on any judge than has been going on over the last several weeks by former Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz against the judge in the Donald Trump case in Washington.

Dershowitz has been all over YouTube and various news and opinion shows saying he "cannot imagine a worse judge" to try the D.C. case against Trump than Judge Tanya Chutkan. He pointed out that she was a member of a highly partisan Democratic law firm that once included Hunter Biden and that the judge has an obvious major conflict of interest.

Dershowitz also said, "This judge sounds like she is doing the work of the anti-Trump, get Trump faction." He also said the judge should recuse herself from the case and that it should be transferred to some other court since 96% of the people in Washington voted against Trump making it the most anti-Trump district in the country.

Dershowitz pointed out that the prosecution has turned over 12.8 million pieces of paper to the defense and that if everything was read, Trump's lawyers would have to read approximately 70,000 pages a day. He said any lawyer who agreed to try this case on the March date the judge had set would be committing malpractice. He added that it is unethical to go to trial so unprepared and that he would tell the judge he was refusing to go to trial - even if it meant that he (the lawyer) would be held in contempt of court.

Dershowitz also said the judge's statement that the government had a right to a speedy trial shows ignorance of the Constitution because only the defendant can exercise the right to a speedy trial. He said Chutkan needs to go back to law school.

He said because this may be the most important criminal case in the history of this country, it needs to at least have the appearance of fairness. His opinion: "Justice cannot be done on this case by this judge."

This is especially

significant not only because Dershowitz has one of the most impressive legal resumes in this nation, but also because he says he is a liberal Democrat who has twice voted against Trump and will do so again if Trump is on the ballot.

Dershowitz lives part of the year on Martha's Vineyard. He said he has been banned from the book fair and library there and even his own synagogue because of his public defense of Trump.

Even though he has represented some of the worst, most heinous criminals in the past, he has never received such hatred as he has because of his statements about this case.

Even though one of the first things a beginning law student is told is that everyone is entitled to be represented by a lawyer, Dershowitz has even been targeted by the 65 Project, a group of elitist lawyers trying to go after and even disbar any lawyer brave enough to represent Trump.

There has never been anything even close to the hatred liberal elitists have for Donald Trump.

Resumes sought for upcoming ethics committee vacancies

By Mike Steely Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Commission and sheriff are seeking applicants to serve on the ethics committee. Resumes should be submitted to the Commission Office, Suite 603, City-County Building, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, TN. 37902 or email commission@knoxcounty.org.

All applications must be submitted no later than Friday, September 29. Two seats will be appointed by the county commission and one by the sheriff.

Interviews will take place at 5 p.m. Monday during the commission's October

16 work session. The two commission appointments will be filled during the commission's regular meeting on Monday, October 23.

Sheriff Tom Spangler will select his one member in October as well. All positions are for four years and begin on November 1st.

The Knox County Law Department told The Focus those three ethics committee members whose terms are up October 31 are Virginia Anagnost and Perry Beal, both appointed by the commission, and Rusty Goddard, who was appointed by the sheriff. Goddard is serving a partial term and is eligible for reappointment.

Wither the Braves?

I love baseball. Thus far my two favorite teams, the Atlanta Braves and the Baltimore Orioles, have the best record in their respective leagues. The Braves represent my hometown – even though their ballpark is not in Atlanta. The Cobb County Braves? But then the "New York" Giants/Jets play in New Jersey. The Orioles are a favorite from when I lived in DC which had no baseball – the Washington Senators, having morphed into the Texas Rangers. So I went to Baltimore for baseball.



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

The Braves are a holdout, thus far resisting all pressure to change their name. However, their Triple-A team in Gwinnett is now the "Stripers" and their Class-A club in Rome has announced that it

will no longer be the Braves leaving the Double-A club in Mississippi as the only one with the Braves name. Hopefully, the Braves will remain the Braves.

The Washington Redskins after saying it would never change its name, folded under relentless pressure and became the Washington Football Club and then the Commanders. I guess they could now be called the Washington Commies. The Cleveland Indians became the Guardians. What is interesting about the name Guardians is that the last four letters are the same as the ones in Indians. Thus, Cleveland kept part of the name after all. What is even more interesting is that a Native American group is threatening to boycott the Commanders if they don't change their name back to Redskins. And the name of the group is the Native American Guardians Association! I kid you not. In a letter to the Commanders, the group said "At this moment in history, we are formally requesting that the team revitalize its relationship with the American Indian community by (i) changing the name back to 'The Redskins' which recognizes America's original

inhabitants and (ii) using the team's historic name and legacy to encourage Americans to learn about, not cancel, the history of America's tribes and our role in the founding of this Great Nation." The group has over 100,000 signatures on a petition to change the name.

The irony is overwhelming. The Cleveland Indians changed their name to the Guardians because the cancel culture deemed "Indians" as being offensive. But Native Americans also call themselves Guardians. Is that not offensive as well? Then the Native Americans who were supposed to be offended by "Redskins" are demanding that the Commanders change their name back to Redskins or else be boycotted. You can't make this stuff up.

Note that all the supposedly derogatory nicknames connote bravery and stature rather than scorn and derision. Yes, the Atlanta Braves once had a teepee in the outfield and a mascot named Chief Nok-a-homa who did a war dance every time a Brave hit a home run. But all that is gone. The baseball team that preceded the Braves was a minor league team called the Atlanta Crackers. So why weren't white folks offended? What is hilarious is that the Atlanta Negro League team was known as the Black Crackers.

What about the name Rebels? Here in East Tennessee we have the West High Rebels and the Maryville High Red

Rebels. I am truly shocked that those names still exist because much of East Tennessee was pro-Union and these high schools disrespect their ancestors who wore blue. Of course, we still have the Ole Miss Rebels. When I went to the University of Georgia, the band was called the Dixie Redcoat Marching Band and played Dixie after the National Anthem. I auditioned for the band having been offered five band scholarships out of high school. The band director acknowledged my talent but said that I could not be in his band. The football games looked like a Ku Klux Klan rally with all the Confederate flags. All the tailgaters flew rebel flags. I went to all the home football games and was the only black face in the stadium not carrying a mop or a broom. At the games I had rebel flags waved in my face while the wavers yelled obscenities and showered me with debris. Is it any wonder that I hate the rebel flag? Twenty years ago I turned down an interview for a deanship at Ole Miss because of all their rebel nonsense. However, all that stuff is gone. Ole Miss football and basketball teams are now mostly black. Once watching a basketball game with Ole Miss versus Mississippi State, all ten players were black. At one point when Ole Miss got a rebound, the announcer said "Here come the Rebels!" My feeling is that if they aren't bothered by being called "Rebels" then why should I be offended for them?



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,
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same warrant. The Sentinel likes to reiterate Mayor Indya Kincannon had asked the police to stay away from an event that was about the city's search for a new police chief.

The very notion the mayor of a city could ask law enforcement officers to stay away from a public event and not arrest someone with an outstanding warrant is ridiculous. City official Erin Gill called it a "safe space" at the time, before her own part in the tale was publicly revealed. Without law enforcement, no "safe space" is truly safe.

During the recent trial, testimony revealed a KPD lieutenant had told deputies Nzinga would be at the meeting and there was an outstanding warrant for his arrest. That same testimony also revealed a city official from the mayor's office had asked the sheriff's deputies to wait until the meeting was over to arrest Amani. According to the testimony, that official was Erin Gill.

The Sentinel breathlessly reported that Amani's arrest "sent shockwaves

through the community." No, it did not. The timing of the arrest is going to be questioned, but the more interesting question is why was there no attempt by the KPD to arrest Amani with the outstanding warrant? The warrant, having been taken out by the KPD as I understand it, why was it not executed by the KPD? Why was the arrest not made at Amani's home by the KPD? Why was someone who was a candidate for public office flitting from here to there without any attempt to serve the warrant? Naturally, a candidate for office is going to be at any number of public events, but there was no effort on the part of KPD to make an arrest. Why? Why was it necessary for a KPD lieutenant to tip off the sheriff's department to make the arrest? Why wait months to serve it?

In this country no one should be above the law. "Civil disobedience" should not and does not give someone license for breaking the law, nor does it entitle one to be free from arrest for having broken the law. One's rights end where

other folks' rights begin.

Not only was the City of Knoxville's process for hiring a new police chief anything but transparent, it appears the process of the mayor hiring the police chief has infected the KPD with politics. How else can anyone possibly explain why the KPD filed an arrest warrant and waited for months before tipping off the Sheriff's Department to serve it? Evidently the KPD were afraid to do it themselves.

Sanctuary City Hypocrites

What goes around, comes around. Like most clichés, it is a cliché for a reason. Eric Adams, mayor of New York City, is squalling about the effect of illegal aliens being shipped to NYC. Governor Greg Abbott of Texas has been routinely shipping busloads of the illegal aliens to NYC, which has caused the Big Apple a multitude of problems, the very same kinds of problems faced by the states sitting on the border with Mexico, all of which are a result of the Biden administration's open borders

policy. When the illegal aliens are transported outside of Florida, Texas and other places by their governors to those states and cities that have proudly labeled themselves "sanctuary cities" or states, the reality has proven to be not so much. Apparently many "blue" cities and states who have so proudly pinned the designation of a "sanctuary" city or state meant it more in theory than reality.

Adams is complaining about the costs associated with the housing, feeding and care of the hundreds of thousands of people flooding across the border who are now in his own city. Eric Adams has cried it will bankrupt New York City. Those are the same arguments made by the mayors of cities all along the border, as well as the governors of the border states. Nobody seemed to care when the complaints came from Republican officials, but Adams is a Democrat. At the same time, the governor of Massachusetts, a Democrat, recently declared a state of emergency for the same reasons.

Mayor Adams wasn't too

concerned about it when the problem was more or less confined to the states sitting on the Mexican border. It only became a bigger issue when the illegal aliens hit New York City. Adams called Governor Abbott a "madman," but hasn't quite pointed his accusing finger where it truly belongs: to the old man sitting in the White House and the open border.

Congratulations Justice Tarwater

Dwight Tarwater has long been one of the most esteemed members of the Knoxville Bar Association. Tarwater has been recognized as a truly outstanding attorney, which is why Governor Bill Lee appointed him to serve on Tennessee's State Supreme Court. Tarwater has been sworn in as a Justice of the state Supreme Court. Dwight Tarwater served previously as counsel to Governor Bill Haslam. Congratulations to Justice Tarwater, who should be a great addition to the court.

Letter to the Publisher

On June 22nd, the Farragut Board of Mayor and Alderman approved the Letter of Intent to purchase land in southwest Farragut. There are some concerns about how this item was represented in the agenda and during the meeting.

The Agenda Item stated, "Approval of a Letter of Intent to purchase property off McFee Road and adjacent to the railroad track in Farragut, TN, being a portion of Knox County Tax Map 24.02 and 24.03." The second half of the motion is not found on the agenda but in the supplemental documents, some sixty-seven pages later. The additional languages states, "and to authorize the Town Administrator and Town Attorney to negotiate the terms of the final contract that would be consistent with the Letter of Intent and authorize Mayor Williams to execute the final contract."

During the meeting, this second part of the motion was never mentioned, never read into the record, or discussed. The motion was approved by the Mayor and Vice Mayor with Alderman White voting against and the other two Alderman absent. After that vote the mayor stated, "Let the record show that the Letter of Intent to purchase the property on McFee Road has been approved as presented."

As well, the Meeting Minutes show there were seven documented business items. For six of these items, the Minutes show the approval by quoting the Subject Line from the Report to Board of Mayor and Alderman. For four of these items, the Proposed Motion has different language than the Subject Line. Yet, the Proposed Motion language is not used in the Meeting Minutes. The other two items did not have a Proposed Motion. For the Letter of Intent item, the minutes included the Proposed Motion, not the Subject Line. This Proposed Motion includes the second half of the motion that was not in the agenda nor discussed during the meeting.

To a reasonable person, it is clear, the power being granted to the two Town Officials and Mayor was NOT described in the agenda for the meeting - it was buried 69 pages into the supplemental documents. Two, residents attending or watching would have no awareness that this power was being granted as it was never discussed during the public hearing. Three, the documentation of this item was treated differently than the other six business items only mentioning the execution powers in the Meeting Minutes.

The Tennessee Open Meetings Act (TCA 8-44-110(a)(1)) states, "The agenda must reasonably describe the matters to be deliberated or acted upon during the public meeting. TCA 8-44-110(a)(2) states, "A local government legislative body shall not circumvent the spirit or requirements of this section by withholding items from an agenda for the purpose of avoiding public disclosure of business to be considered by the legislative body." [Emphasis Added]

To a reasonable person the facts presented give the appearance of improper notice and avoiding public disclosure of the business being conducted during this public hearing. Based on these facts, a reasonable person, would believe the Town knowingly or unknowingly circumvented the spirit of the Tennessee Open Meetings Act discussed in TCA 8-44-110. As a result, the Real Estate Purchase and Donation Agreement signed by the mayor and provided to the Escrow Agent on September 1st, 2023 is not valid.

Based on these facts, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen should immediately move to rescind the current agreement until such time as the entire motion is properly noticed and is openly discussed in a public hearing.

Michael Wilson
Farragut, TN

Ethics complaint to be revisited in November

By Mike Steely
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A complaint against District Four Commissioner Kyle Ward was discussed Wednesday morning during a special called meeting of the Knox County Ethics Committee. Although Knox County Law Director David Buuck said he found no violations of county law, Ethics Chair Michael Covington said there may be enough in the complaint to justify a committee hearing.

The complaint, filed by Michael R. Casstevens, revolves around Ward's purchase of two lots in the Harrison Springs subdivision from developer Scott Davis of Mesana Investments LLC. A quit claim deed issued on July 17 shows Ward paid \$10 earnest money for the deed.

Buuck said that the neighborhood opposed building houses on the lots and Ward applied to the BZA for changes to the zoning. That appeal has been postponed for a later date.

Several ethics committee members questioned the property purchase agreement Davis sent just days before the Wednesday meeting. In that agreement, Davis shows the selling price at \$40,000

per lot and notes that a single-family house is to be built on each lot in the next 36 months or the quit claim agreement is void and the property goes back to the seller.

At one point Covington said the purchase of the lots "looked like a sweetheart deal."

Two ethics members questioned the timing of the purchase agreement reaching them and noted the initial transaction took place in July and was notarized in August. The total purchase price would not be paid until the homes sold.

Casstevens also charges that Ward donated to the campaign of Garrett Holt, a BZA member, who moved to grant Ward a variance on the lot setback for the property. The complaint notes that Ward donated \$1,600 to Holt's campaign for county commission. v

Throughout the meeting, Covington and Buuck disagreed, with the chairman wanting to look more deeply into the complaint and Buuck disputing Casstevens' charges one by one.

Some of the ethics members cited the appearance or perception of an elected official violating the Knox County Code. Buuck said that

although Ward is an elected county commissioner, he is also a private citizen with all the rights of anyone else.

Two ethics members who are realtors defended the quit claim deed and the sale of the property. They said the way the property is changing hands is the normal way it is done. Buuck told the group that he disagrees with hearing the matter but added that the ethics committee has the right to move on and investigate.

"Nothing in this complaint violates the code of ethics," Buuck said, adding that the complainant, Casstevens, has the right to submit the complaint and added, "This body should honor his right."

Regarding the complaint, Buuck said, "Legally I can't support it."

It was suggested that realtors should be invited to speak on the selling and buying process at the November ethics meeting.

"There's a little more to discover here," one of the Ethics Committee members said and another member said, "I don't want anyone to override the law."

Mental Health Coordinating Committee meets

By Mike Steely
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Last week the growing Community Coordinating Committee of the Knox County Mental Health Court Advisory Board met with more than two dozen attending the Zoom meeting. It was the second meeting but the first to be held only on the internet.

Kasey Stone, coordinator for the Mental Health Court, chaired the event and Mary O'Neill of the Mental Health Court joined the conversation briefly. Marisa Moazen, vice president of policy and strategic partnerships for the Knoxville Community

Development Corporation, presented a talk and slideshow of her agency's duties and programs.

Moazen noted that KCDC administers 3,600 housing units, 4,150 rental voucher units, and also assists in finding affordable housing and home ownership. She said the largest problem for everyone, including the homeless and mentally ill, is housing availability. She also mentioned the upcoming First Creek at Austin housing development that will open soon and provide affordable rentals.

O'Neill talked about mental health support, group homes and halfway

housing and Erin Read, the head of the new Knoxville-Knox County Office of Housing Stability, suggested a study of the barriers that clients of the mental health court might be experiencing. Stone replied that that data would be available at the end of the calendar year.

Marti Baker, founder

of CareCuts of Knoxville, spoke on the effort to provide homeless campers with services each Tuesday and Wednesday including clothing, referrals, and detox programs.

The Community Coordinating Committee will meet again on October 10th via Zoom.

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City council may seek \$25 million in federal solar funds

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The city of Knoxville may seek \$25 million from the federal government's Solar for All Program, with no local match, to help local efforts to reduce greenhouse gasses. The request is before the city council on Tuesday and comes from the Office of Sustainability. The city council is also being

asked to amend the city code to ensure the continued operation of the Police Advisory and Review Committee in light of the recent state law revisions. That ordinance request comes from the Law Department.

The contract price to Signal 88 Security may be increased by \$1066.17 each month for security protection for Parks and Recreation facilities in an

additional one-year agreement.

Two zoning issues are also on the agenda including a Sanders Lane change from RN-2 residential to RN-4 residential neighborhood in a request from Don Horton. John Holmes is appealing a decision by the Board of Zoning Appeals on his request to reduce a corner side setback and reduce the lot size for a four-townhouse development.

United Way may get \$425,000 for a community schools initiative for 14 schools inside the city. The mayor may be authorized to file a grant with the state for \$ 150,000 to reimburse the Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Management Agency for salaries and operating expenses.

Mayor Indya Kincannon may also be given approval to apply

for \$632,355 from the U.S. Department of Justice for use in the local Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Appointments will be made to the Board of Zoning Appeals, Better Building Board, Transportation Authority Board and the City Pension Board.

Local community television continues to grow despite funding cutbacks

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville Community Media Board met virtually via Zoom on Thursday morning. Chairman Jim Idol called in by phone and shared leadership of the meeting with Executive and Creative Director Amos Oaks. Five of the nine board members were present online as Oaks went over the \$729,700 annual budget. The current expenditures are about \$178,186.

KCM is currently paying about \$55,000 in rent at 800 S. Gay St., Suite P-336 in the First Horizon Plaza. Oaks has been looking for another site to relocate to. He reported that one building he found could not be acquired due to the bank seeing the organizations diminishing revenue due to cable cutting. It was noted that they recently switched from a bank to a credit union and their interest rate is much higher. The search for a new location is ongoing.

Oaks also reported on two bills before Congress that would drastically cut back or eliminate federal funding for public access television. He urged the board and viewers to contact their national representatives in support of the funding of



public access television.

"I personally believe in free speech no matter how offensive it may be," he told the board. He added that letters would be sent to seek support from local non-profit organizations, churches, businesses, community members and local government officials.

The numerous outreach programs were mentioned including a shift from the former local political forum to a more casual and informative program hosted by local producer and personality Hubert Smith. This format allowed more time for candidates to share their vision for our community with viewers. Oaks also introduced new t-shirts now available printed with the words, "Let the People Speak."

While franchise funding from local cable and internet companies is getting less and less each year, Oaks said, "I feel good about the steps we are taking. I am passionate about public access and I'm passionate about free-thought, free-expression, and free-speech."

Halls' Road to Fame celebrates fifth class

Cont. from page 1
about my years of athletics is the experience I gained in life lessons," she said. "I hope that I have in some way passed my most valuable lessons learned to the girls I have coached over the years (in youth sports)."

Dorset and the three other honorees – Brooke Underwood Raiden, Brandon Munsey and Caleb Leonard – in the school's fifth induction class will be recognized prior to Halls' home football game against Powell Friday night.

Raiden (2000-2003) also was a versatile athlete in her high school career and was named the S.E.T.S Female Athlete of the Year in 2002. She was a stand-out in basketball, volleyball, track and cross country.

In basketball, Brooke was a leader in steals and assists throughout her playing days at Halls. As a senior in 2003, she made the All-KIL First Team and All-District Tournament leading scorer in addition

to being a leader in steals and assists.

If there was a net on the court, Raiden excelled. In 2002, she received the Setter Award in volleyball with 546 assists. That season she earned All-Region and All-KIL honors. In 2003, she topped her volleyball career by making the All-KIL First Team and being named the All-District MVP.

Brooke, who also was a KIL 800-meter champion in track, received a full basketball scholarship to Tusculum College.

Baseball and wrestling was Brandon Munsey's Road to Fame. A Red Devil from 2002 through 2005, Munsey was a two-time All-Stater (2004-05) in baseball plus the KIL Co-Player of the Year in 2005.

Brandon received a baseball scholarship from Austin Peay, transferred to Cleveland State and also received a baseball scholarship from Tennessee Wesleyan College. He was nominated for All-Conference

honors at Cleveland State and Tennessee Wesleyan.

Munsey also was All-Region in wrestling at Halls in 2003 and 2004.

Road to Famer Caleb Leonard (2006-2009) excelled in football and wrestling and also was on the track team.

In football, Leonard was a two-time All-Stater, a three-time All-Region honoree and a two-time Region Line-man of the Year. He also was named to the 2008 Tennessee High School Football Dream Team.

Caleb's honors also included being the 2009 TSSAA Heavyweight State Champion in wrestling, the 2009 KIL Wrestler of the Year and a three-time Region Finalist. He was undefeated (50-0) his senior year.

To cap his list of accomplishments, Leonard was named the 2009 Male High School Athlete of the Year at the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame ceremony.

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

What Do You Trust?

Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first, the most basic expression of Americanism. Without God, there could be no American form of government, nor American way of life.

-President Dwight Eisenhower

Twenty-two years ago, after September 11, 2001, Americans came together after the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and in the skies over Pennsylvania. Briefly, politics were put aside and we behaved as Americans. It did not last, and one wonders why.

Every year on this solemn day, Becky and I fly our 9/11 Flag of Honor from the porch, wear red, white and blue colors, and remember those who were killed by Muslim terrorists. It now seems like there are fewer organized events of 9/11 remembrance, and this year Biden didn't

show up at Ground Zero or the Pentagon, let alone Pennsylvania. But that's just as well because he might've fallen asleep like he did in Hawaii after the Maui fires and at the recent G20 conference.

We once thought we were safe in our homeland, protected by oceans. But modern weaponry, the war on terror, and now the rampant crime in our streets have dispelled that notion. The primary function of government is to protect its citizens. Open borders, drugs and mental illness associated homelessness, and the dismantling of President Trump's America First policies have put the nation and John Q. Public at grave risk.

Biden is the poster child of what's wrong with our country. He represents dysfunctional big government, dishonesty and so-called leaders who are past their prime and are dangerous. Lest I be accused of ageism, I will again state

that age is not the problem because people like President Trump remain vigorous and competent despite their age, whereas Biden, Feinstein and others have not.

Americans have lost trust in the government, its institutions and the leadership of our country. But not to worry, octogenarian Nancy Pelosi is again running for Congress to represent her district, the cesspool of San Fran-sicko. And Federman, Schumer and McConnell have the Senate under control.

A recent op-ed by Gerard Baker in The New York Post resonated with my own observations. Mr. Baker was a former editor at The Wall Street Journal, and has just published "American Breakdown," a book about America's loss of confidence in our leaders and institutions.

Baker cites many sources, including Gallop, which has been measuring public confidence in institutions for 50 years. In the 1970s about 50% of Americans had confidence in institutions like the presidency, Congress, the justice system, the media, public schools, etc. Confidence in these institutions has fallen to 26%, and steep declines in public trust have occurred over the last two years. Not surprisingly, the media had the greatest decline at 16%, with TV media polling at 11%.

Similar declines in trust have been measured by the Pew Research Center, the General Social Survey and the American National Election Studies.

And perhaps even more troubling, these national surveys reveal that Americans have stopped trusting each other. Only a third now say they trust others. However, national surveys don't always reflect my observations. Perhaps this is in part because I don't depend on national sources like CNN or the NYT for the "unvarnished truth," as Cas Walker once said. Instead, I read a dozen news sources and opinion pieces daily, before making up my own mind. And I have little or no interaction with the dysfunctional government or the corrupt justice system. Consequently, I trust my own conscience, my neighbors, the police, local businesses, my friends, my church and the neighborhood school where my grandkids go. I think part of our national trust problem is the depersonalization of institutions as they become ever larger and lose accountability to, We the People.

If there are positives in these surveys, it is that America hasn't failed; our institutionalized leaders and agencies have failed us. But we are not without sin. We have voted these so-called leaders into office and keep them

there when they have lost touch with us, and only represent themselves and their party. We buy the products of woke corporations, we allow a largely corrupt media to think for us, and we allow social media to monetize us by using their platforms. Remember, you are the "product" when using "free" social media platforms.

The coin of our realm is inscribed with the motto, "In God We Trust." But do we any longer? Do we have a code of conduct, a morality or code of ethics which all our citizens accept or embrace?

In the 1200s Thomas Aquinas and fellow Scholastics formulated a hierarchy of laws. They envisioned a series of concentric spheres, the largest being the Universal Law of God (the Creation). Within that sphere Aquinas described Divine laws, for example, The Ten Commandments. Nature's Law (Natural Law) existed in a smaller sphere. And the smallest sphere represented man's laws, like the Constitution and speed limits. Actually, the Scholastics merely redefined Acts 17:28 where the Apostle Paul said, "In Him we live and move and have our being."

In 1798 President John Adams said, "Our Constitution was made only for moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government

of any other." In other words, without the appreciation and acceptance of Universal, Divine and natural laws, man's laws will fail, as will his institutions and his civilization. The immediate proof of our impending downfall is our loss of trust in our leaders, our contrived institutions and even each other.

In our Fellowship Group, we are reading Andy Stanley's wonderful book, "Irresistible." The premise is that Christianity is irresistible in many parts of the world, but no longer in America. Stanley answers the question why western civilization, founded by Christianity, has largely become a secular culture in decline. As someone who studies the lessons of history, I observe that the ancient Hebrews made the same mistakes over and over as chronicled in the Old Testament.

The solution to our distrust and decline is not to be found in government. The ancients thought they could create a utopian society with the cardinal virtues of common sense, courage, justice, and moderation. Yet these societies repeatedly failed because they ignored the more foundational virtues of 1 Corinthians 13:13. We must not elevate man's laws above God's. We must NOT replace God with government.

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

Bearden Village has much to be proud of

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Bearden neighborhood began as farmland in the 19th century and is named for the former Knoxville Mayor and state legislator Marcus De Lafayette Bearden. In 1962 it was annexed into Knoxville. Today Bearden is a mixed community of nice homes and many businesses.

Bearden Village Council President Tim Hill was asked to describe the community.

"The Bearden Village Council is made up of neighborhood representatives, business owners, and commercial property owners in the defined Bearden District. In general, we have defined the boundaries of the Bearden Village Council as the residential neighborhoods bounded by (but with some exceptions) the Interstate (North) to the Tennessee River (South) and Concord Road (East) to Northshore Drive (West)," he told The Focus.

All council meetings are open to anyone who lives, works, or owns property in the defined areas.

"The council's purpose is to foster connections to promote a forward-thinking Bearden Village community. We concentrate heavily on the overall beautification and walkability of our community. We also promote the wonderful businesses in the Bearden area," Hill continued.

Hill said the council has been a strong advocate for many projects in Bearden, including its successful effort of obtaining funds for the construction of three-plus miles of completed greenways and sidewalks.

Hill said the council's "main street" effort on Sutherland Avenue included new sidewalk construction, pedestrian crossings, decorative fencing, and two additional greenway links from



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

The Everly family members visited Bearden's Everly Brothers Park to help dedicate a historic sign there. The little park is one of the prides of the west Knoxville neighborhood.

Sutherland Avenue to the Third Creek Greenway.

The council was instrumental in adding trees to beautify, provide shade and help clean the air. It also assisted with sheltered KAT transit stops and surrounding landscaping and installing granite historic markers documenting local history on greenways and sidewalks with grants from the city council and the Knox Greenway Coalition.

"One of our most recent, and notable, projects was the Everly Brother's Park completed in 2019 in Bearden. This pocket park connects the Bearden

Village Greenway at the corner of Kingston Pike and Forest Park Boulevard and honors the Everly Brothers who were Knoxville residents and attended West High School. The park serves as a convenient, shady, and educational respite for pedestrians and public transit patrons," Hill said.

"Our city council representative is Andrew Roberto. Yes, we interact often with elected officials, and have many attend our meetings. Our relationship with city leaders is key to the success of our organization and its overall mission," he said.

"The Bearden community is

very fortunate to have many established shopping and retail businesses, as well as beautiful parks and attractions for not only our neighborhood to enjoy but for the overall community's enjoyment (Lakeshore Park, Sequoyah Parks, Everly Brothers Park, the Greenway- just to name a few)," Hill added.

As of now, the Bearden Village Council holds bi-monthly meetings. Anyone interested in attending may reach out to the board's secretary, Mary Katherine Wormsley, marykatherine@hatch-erhill.com for more information.

Knoxville Songwriters to present 40th Anniversary Concert

September 19

Members of the Knoxville Songwriters Association will celebrate the group's 40th anniversary with a free public concert from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 19, at the Fountain City Library, 5300 Stanton Road.

KSA President Randy Ott said the concert will feature original songs and highlights from the group's four decades of helping local songwriters to develop their musical talents.

"We'll look back at the success of KSA members like Kim Williams, who was selected to the Songwriters Hall of Fame in Nashville, and showcase the songs of promising writers of today," Ott said.

Ott said KSA began in 1983 when founder Sara Williams placed a newspaper ad inviting area songwriters to come together and learn more about their craft and the music business.

Over the years, Ott said, KSA guest speakers have included country superstar Garth Brooks, bluegrass artists Tim Stafford of the group "Blue Highway" and Jerry Salley, and many #1 hit writers in country, bluegrass and gospel music.

"We meet every Tuesday



KSA members Randy Ott, Bobby Starnes, Savannah Swatland and Mark Ott perform a tribute earlier this year to the late Kim Williams, a lifetime KSA member who was a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame in Nashville.

Knoxville Songwriters to present 40th Anniversary Concert September 19

Cont. from page 1

in the Fountain City Library," Ott said, "so our concert is in appreciation of the library staff and the community that hosts our group."

KSA holds a jam session

at 5 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Library's community room, followed by a meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. that includes song critiques, music news updates and continuing education activities.

The group's annual

membership dues are \$30 (\$15 for writers under 21 years of age). Prospective members are welcome to attend up to two meetings at no cost to jam, have a song critiqued, and get to know KSA members.

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Continue on page 6

A License to Chill

I dipped my toes into the warm water of the Atlantic, bowed my head to offer a prayer for Jimmy Buffett, and listened to his music as I walked and splashed in the breaking waves. I admit that my

eyes were close to filling with tears. However, that's not how Jimmy would have liked anyone to spend time at such a wonderful place like the beach. My mind also chooses to believe that the leader of the Parrotheads was more than tired of the squabbling that has infected this country.

Many Americans are simply tired of the battles between political parties. I'm not saying either side is right or wrong. Like others, my tolerance for partisan politics is at its end. On one end of the spectrum, we have congressmen and congresswomen who are carping about all sorts of social ills. They demand that the money spent for defense be moved to pay for such things as student debt, freely allowing immigrants to cross the border and settle in the U.S., and civil rights for all peoples and genders. On the other end, politicians are busy developing a national abortion ban, cutting spending for Ukraine, and tax cuts. Yes, many more things can be added to the agendas of both groups, but these are enough to develop the point.

What happened to



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

us? I've been around since the 1950s, and the only time in our history that comes close is during the Watergate Hearings and Nixon's resignation.

The United States was never more united than when the Twin Towers were destroyed. President Bush threw out the first pitch before a Yankee-Red Sox game. Every fan in the Boston stadium stood to cheer for him and the country.

The assassination of John Kennedy brought us together as well. Children and adults all mourned the murder of the country's leader, and people of all groups and races stood shoulder to shoulder to say goodbye as Kennedy's casket passed.

Americans have put differences aside during disasters. Nobody asked an individual's political affiliation before pitching in to clean up or rebuild a house. No firefighter refused to battle wildfires in California with another of a different color.

For the most part, this country has always felt sure that when push came to shove citizens would set aside squabbles and differences and join forces to work on making America safer and stronger. This country was more important than any personal ambitions or adversarial group. These days, members of the same political

party fight each other. Nothing much is accomplished because parties are determined not to allow the "other side" to succeed in helping the American people.

Books are filled with stories of how bitter political opponents waged war all day in the halls of the Capital and then shared dinner, conversation, and laughter in the evening. Today, an elected person's talking to a member of an opposing party is enough reason to be ostracized by his party. The plans for both sides seem to be to deny any success on bills passed or plans developed.

The majority of Americans are "sick and tired" of the situation. Most folks live in the middle; that means they aren't extremists on either side. The folks who are on the outer fringes don't decide many elections. Their failure to use common sense and "give and take" only hurts the entire country. Only in political organizations can one man hold up the promotions and leadership of our armed services. No one should ever have the ability to freeze such important things; the narrow-minded act shows his love of self over country. The time has come for our leaders to work together for the good of the country. If they continue to play "gotcha" with the other side, the voters must vote them out. Jimmy Buffett would have advised these chronic troublemakers to "get a license to chill."

The Lion of White Hall, Conclusion

From the Mountains

By Jadon Gibson

Cassius Marcellus Clay said he was within an "ace of death" a half dozen times after his dealings with Sam Brown. He told

about when he was nearly killed within a mile of his White Hall estate near Lexington, Kentucky.

"It was during the political campaign of 1849," he said during an interview

in 1891. "There was a political discussion with a man named Turner. I was opposed to slavery and he was in favor. The men who had slaves were with Turner. I knew I was in a dangerous situation and I didn't have my pistols although I did have my Bowie knife."

The slavery matter was a very volatile issue and as it became more heated, Turner's son rushed Clay, telling him he was lying and struck him.

"It seemed like there was a conspiracy against me as several men grabbed me and pulled me backwards," Clay related. "At first I thought they were trying to prevent a fight. I didn't think much of it but one of them jerked my knife away

from me. Several of them began hitting me with clubs before someone reached around from behind and stabbed me real bad.

"I bled like a stuck pig. I thought I was a dead man so I determined to kill the man who incited the riot against me. I grabbed my Bowie knife, nearly severing two of my fingers in the process. I flourished it high over my head and told the crowd to get out of my way. I rushed Turner and cut him in the stomach but then I started to pass out due to loss of blood.

"My son arrived with my revolvers at this time but I was unconscious due to the serious wounds. It saved me that my enemies thought I was dead. I was carried to my home which was nearby. With the severity of my condition having been stabbed in the chest and lung it was uncertain for several days if I would live.

"After several weeks my body began to mend. My wounds healed and I got well again. I didn't know how Turner fared in the fight because of my condition but I soon learned that he had died."

Clay said the fight and Turner's resultant death caused much discussion among the abolitionists in the north but some of

them criticized him for his participation.

"Dr. Bailey, the editor of a Washington newspaper said I would have aided the cause even if I had died, but I wasn't going to voluntarily oblige them with that."

Cassius Clay thought the commentary was improper. He had long since turned against slavery and freed the slaves of White Hall before his father's passing. He had also fought for the abolition of slavery when other men would not speak or act.

Clay returned to White Hall after the war and lived there with his adoptive son, Launey Clay, whom he had brought from Russia.

Perry White and the other servants stole his silver and furniture while plundering the plantation. They poisoned his son and attempted to kill the elder Clay as well. He fired them and warned them not to set foot on his property. Perry White threatened to kill him.

Clay saw White in his nearby woods while out riding one morning. Clay drew his pistol on White. When White jerked out his pistol, Clay shot him in the neck. His next shot was through the heart. Clay was acquitted for self-defense in the trial that followed.

Clay explained that there were many occasions when he was able to step around possible trouble. The novelist Julian Hawthorne reviewed a copy of Clay's memoirs and criticized him severely and discussed the chastity of his wife.

"I was quite angry," Clay remarked. "I didn't think I could make anything financially so I determined to make him apologize or fight. Upon receipt of my information, Hawthorne wrote a retraction and published it, ending the matter. If he had not done so, I was prepared to challenge and if he didn't reply, I would have shot him on the streets. I did not care what he had said about me, but I made him retract his remarks about my wife."

The interview Cassius Clay had with correspondent Frank George Carpenter occurred in 1891 when Clay was 81 years of age. He would have covered several more of his life episodes but the fire burned low and the clock struck 12. Clay rose handed his guest a traveling lantern and said it was time for him to retire.

"As for the code duello," he told Carpenter after a final question, "it is a savage way of settling a difficulty but there are some cases where it seems to be the only remedy."

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

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Oklahoma's Crazy Congressman Manuel Herrick

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill

rayhill865@gmail.com

If I had a dollar for every time I've heard someone suggest a member of Congress was crazy, Elon Musk would be a pauper by comparison. Yet in the case of Manuel Herrick of Oklahoma, it was not simply the opinion of one voter, but rather that of a judge. When he was seventeen years old, Manuel Herrick was arrested for attempting to rob a train in Oklahoma. A court of law adjudged him to be insane and promptly sent him to an asylum. As the Washington Post's writer John Kelly wrote, Manuel Herrick "was one of the oddest ducks ever to paddle in the capital's political pond."

What brought Manuel Herrick to the U.S. House of Representatives was a death and a Republican tidal wave inside a traditionally GOP district. Incumbent Dick T. Morgan was so popular no person had bothered to file to run against him save for Herrick, who had become a perennial candidate for public office, high and low. On the very last day to file one's candidacy, Dick T. Morgan died, leaving Manuel Herrick as the lone Republican candidate on the ballot in the GOP primary. The candidate was shrewd enough to attach himself to the rest of the GOP ticket in a Republican district, urging support for "Harding, Harreld, and Herrick." Warren G. Harding was the GOP nominee for president, while John W. Harreld was the Republican candidate for the United States Senate. Both Harding and Harreld carried Oklahoma in the general election. The people of Oklahoma's Eighth Congressional District also decided they preferred a crazy Republican to a relatively sane Democrat and voted accordingly. Manuel Herrick was on his way to Congress.

For a congressman who served but a single term in the U.S. House of Representatives, Manuel Herrick certainly got quite a lot of attention. The Washington Post recently revisited Herrick's time in Congress and he was the subject of a biography, "The Okie Jesus Congressman; The Life of Manuel Herrick" by Gene Aldrich. John Kelly, who writes a highly entertaining regular column about Washington in the Washington Post, authored a couple of excellent columns about Manuel Herrick.

John Kelly's article in the Post noted Herrick's last day serving as a congressman was March 3, 1923, with the following day being the beginning of "Anti-Flirt Week." The former congressman gave vocal support to the movement by speaking at a meeting at the home of one of the sixteen women who had

founded the organization. According to Kelly, Herrick complimented the ladies for their toil in "putting down 'mashers,'" saying "I could not resist coming out here to talk to you and advise you to put a little pepper in your organization and to expect to fight a powerful foe."

John Kelly later discovered the founder of the "Anti-flirt" movement was Alice Reighly, who was employed by a movie company and suspected her motivation was to promote a motion picture entitled "The Flirt."

Herrick had been born into a family which made its living through farming in Ohio. Herrick's upbringing very likely had much to do with his mental state. Some referred to his mother Belinda as "simple-minded." Belinda Herrick thought her son was Jesus Christ come back to Earth in the flesh and named him "Immanuel." Manuel agreed with his mother's assessment and thought himself to be Christ. It is hardly surprising he became a preacher, although no church would have him. When Oklahoma achieved statehood in 1907, Manuel Herrick began his career of constantly seeking to be elected to some public office, usually in Noble County. Two years before the 1920 election, Herrick had run for Congress against Dick Morgan as an Independent and polled an embarrassing fifty-six votes.

The Republicans in Congress likely knew Herrick's reputation before he arrived in Washington, D.C. If any congressman had more assignments to solely minor and largely meaningless committees it has escaped the notice of history. Most probably the Republicans in the House didn't want Manuel Herrick to be much noticed by the public and voters. Their worry was not unfounded. Herrick did at least have the good sense to hire Harry Gilstrap as his personal secretary or chief of staff. By profession, Gilstrap had been a newspaperman and he was very loyal to his employer and worked hard to staunch the constant flow of ridicule thrown at Manuel Herrick.

Herrick was a devotee of all things involving aviation and flew his airplane from one stop to another during his 1920 congressional campaign. John Kelly quoted one of the eccentric congressman's better quotes following a crash: "I may be a nut, but I'm going to be a hard one to crack."

Herrick's involvement with the "Anti-flirt" movement was especially ironic as the worry of the Republican congressional leadership about the newly elected congressman was quickly proven to be



Oklahoma Congressman Manuel Herrick.

fully warranted. Evidently, Congressman Herrick had obtained the names and addresses of forty-nine women who had participated in a beauty pageant in Washington, D.C. Herrick sent each of the women a letter, offering what he likely thought was an offer no intelligent woman could possibly refuse: "the hand in marriage of one of the 15 men who is now living on the earth who can look God in the eye and say 'Against my body and against my soul there rests no moral stain, for I have kept my soul and body free from all moral stain in order that I may look my virgin bride in the eye without guilt and shame in my heart.'" Today, the episode would still be deemed both bizarre and disturbing, but it was probably that time's version of not only unwanted attention but also stalking. Clearly, Manuel Herrick had big things in mind for himself as Kelly wrote the Oklahoma congressman hinted to the ladies he "was destined to become president." One very irate husband threatened Congressman Herrick with bodily violence while another woman turned over the letter to the District of Columbia Police Department.

When the unwanted publicity hit Manuel Herrick like a lightning bolt, the congressman was ready with an answer. John Kelly quoted a story in the Washington Times, saying, "His claim was that the medium was resorted to for the benefit of decrepit millionaires, unwholesome and immoral characters, and moral lepers to get the names of pretty young girls. His idea, he said, was to save the girls from the stage and movie lore."

Herrick was at least smart enough to acknowledge his methodology might "be a little bit underhanded" according

"to some people," but the congressman stoutly maintained "it is for the protection of these girls, it is for their own good, and for a worthy cause."

The press of the day lambasted the Oklahoma congressman with a flood of denunciation, as well as a lashing of ridicule. The people of Oklahoma were asked repeatedly how they could possibly have elected such a man as Manuel Herrick to Congress.

The Sooner State congressman pointed to his bill to outlaw beauty pageants, which went precisely nowhere in the House. Even worse publicity was in the offing when Anna Niebel, a showgirl performing in the Ziegfield Follies, sued the congressman for breach of promise. Ms. Niebel wanted \$50,000 (about \$870,000 today) in recompense for her embarrassment, pain, suffering, and having been jilted. According to Ms. Niebel, the lovestruck congressman had promised to marry her. "Mr. Herrick called on me and told me he was very rich, and proposed marriage to me."

The exploits of Congressman Manuel Herrick did him little good at home. During the 1922 election, local Republicans made certain they fielded a qualified and quality candidate for the GOP nomination for the House of Representatives. Herrick faced Charles Swindall, who had briefly served in Congress after winning a special primary and general election immediately following the death of Congressman Dick T. Morgan. In that same special primary, Manuel Herrick had garnered a mere 1,062 votes running fifth out of seven candidates. That term only ran from November of 1920 through March 3, 1921, when Herrick was sworn into office. While five

candidates filed to run. the contest essentially became a three-way race when Milton C. Garber entered the GOP primary. Garber was a well-known figure inside Oklahoma's Eighth Congressional District, having been elected or appointed to a variety of judicial offices, including a stint on the Territory of Oklahoma's Supreme Court.

Manuel Herrick ran third, winning less than 20% of the ballots cast in the Republican primary. Garber was elected to Congress in the fall election and remained in the House of Representatives for a decade before losing in the 1932 Democratic landslide.

Perhaps Herrick thought if he could regain his office he could then fulfill his destiny of becoming President of the United States. Herrick ran for Congress again in the GOP primary in 1924, 1926, 1928 and 1930, losing badly. In 1930, Manuel Herrick won less than 3% of the vote against Congressman Garber and another opponent.

Herrick haunted the halls of the House, virtually penniless. Manuel Herrick sued the Tulsa Daily Oklahoman who he claimed had damaged him by publishing a photo of what was purported to be his home on his farm. Herrick claimed the newspaper had taken a picture of his chicken houses and represented it as his home. The former congressman claimed he was about to marry an attractive young stenographer in Washington, D.C. who took one look at the picture and icily informed him she would not marry him. Herrick then sued her for having jilted him, saying his "value on the matrimonial market" had been knocked in the head.

Apparently, it finally dawned upon Manuel Herrick he could not

win back his old seat in Congress, and in 1933 he moved to California where he lived in a rustic cabin. There the former congressman subsisted by working at odd jobs. Yet Herrick evidently never lost his hope as one of those jobs was mining for gold.

Manuel Herrick ended both his political career and life in California. Herrick waged one more losing bid to return to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1948. In California, candidates could "cross-file" in both the Republican and Democratic primaries and potentially win the nominations of both major parties. Herrick filed in both the Republican and Democratic primaries, faring about the same. Herrick won less than 3% of the vote in the Republican primary while winning 3.27% in the Democratic primary. The 72-year-old former congressman's political career had realistically long been over. The 1948 election merely confirmed the fact Manuel Herrick was done as a candidate for public office.

George L. Welch lived in Colfax, California, and became a partner and companion of Herrick as they were both growing old and worked the mining claim the former congressman had in the Golden State's High Sierra mountains. That claim was 9 1/2 miles northeast of Quincy. Rodney Alden, a newspaper publisher in Quincy, drove the 78-year-old former congressman and the 73-year-old Welch within 3 1/2 miles of the claim. It was later that evening that the High Sierras were being covered by snow from a blizzard. Herrick had been warned not to go into the mountains where the snow was already knee deep.

As weeks passed and the former congressman had not come to the post office to pick up his mail, the local postmaster notified Sheriff Mel H. Schooler. Sheriff Schooler formed a search posse which found George Welch's body, along with a knapsack belonging to Manuel Herrick, which contained food and blankets. Schooler theorized the two had grown tired and tried to turn back when Welch collapsed. Schooler said he believed Herrick had propped Welch up against a tree and then went to seek help. Quite nearly blind, Manuel Herrick had lost his way in the heavy snow.

By early February, Oklahoma newspapers were reporting Manuel Herrick was missing and believed to be dead. The frozen body of Manuel Herrick was found on February 29, 1952.

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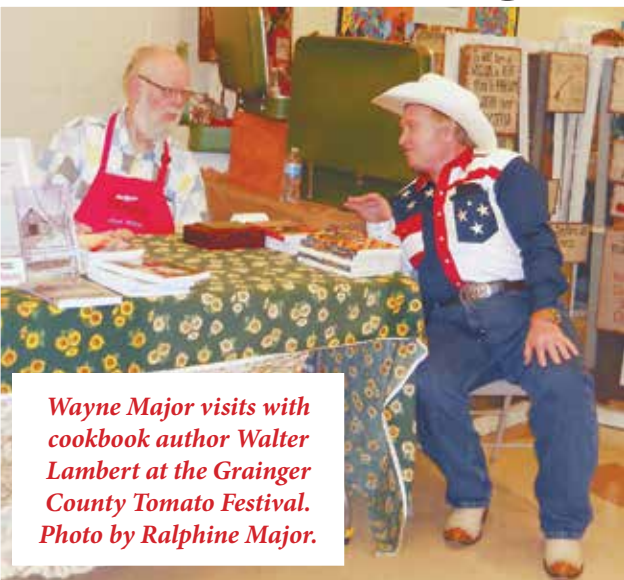
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Remembering Walter Lambert, Man of Many Talents



Wayne Major visits with cookbook author Walter Lambert at the Grainger County Tomato Festival. Photo by Ralphine Major.

We would look for his table each year. He often left his signature red apron on the table alongside his cookbooks. It was at the Grainger County Tomato Festival where we first met the popular TV personality and chef several years ago. Walter Lambert was one of the most sought-after authors at the festival. From a distance, a



By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

line of festivalgoers could most always be seen at his table. His fans were there to purchase one or more of his many cookbooks, have them autographed, and spend a few minutes talking to him.

Like so many others, we had watched "Chef Walter" for many years on WVLT in Knoxville, Tennessee. During the rare slack times

at the tomato festival, we often ventured from our table over to his and visited for a few minutes. I did not know much about his background, however, and was intrigued to learn that he attended Gibbs Elementary School as a youngster. It was great fun hearing his stories about growing up in Corryton and listening to him share about his relatives and mutual friends in the Gibbs Community where he once lived. We looked forward to seeing the cookbook author each

year thereafter. It was sad to learn the news that this local celebrity passed away recently. His passing certainly leaves a void in the Knoxville community. I am so thankful we had the opportunity to meet him.

Words of Faith: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2 (KJV).



Rule Class of 1960. First row, left to right: Fred Sellers, Charlotte Long Riley, Barbara Davis Woods, Judy Sampson Cox, Jerry Earl, Patsy Garren Bohanan, Larry Bohanan, Jon Miller. Second row, left to right: Wayne Toppins, Peggy McDaniel Kerley, Charles Derreberry, Tom Everett, Eddie Chandler, Connie Crippen Mitchell, Jack Williams



Rule Class of 1961. First row, left to right: Gail Coleman Roach, Sandra Gardner Hopson, Marie Wright Rader, David Latham, JoAnn Cruze Hawkins, Paulette Hicks Shanklin, Judy Rogers Keener, Betty Rash Dunaway. Second row, left to right: Harold "Sleepy" Daniel, Wanda Anderson Daniel, Ronald Russell, Ernie Rader, Bob Monday, Charlotte West Beets, Sharon Harvey Kirby, Herman Love, Larry Scruggs.



Rule Class of 1962. First row, left to right: Glenda Woods Jones, Mary Cox Sellers, Barbara Wells Hubbs, Linda Ruckart Demarcus, Clara Crudgington Barker, Nancy Payne Pate, Jeanette Flynn Russell, Sharon Cross Roth. Second row, left to right: Bill Beavers, Jacquelyn Farris Beavers, Bobby Gorman, Carol Marshall Doty, Juan Manning, Nancy Frye Sikes, Howard Weaver, Wayne Keener, Lonnie Harris, Jim Cochran, Don Garren.

Rule classes come together for multi-year reunion

The Rule High School classes of 1960, 1961, and 1962, had a reunion dinner on Saturday, August 12, 2023, at Buddy's Banquet Hall. The classes honored the memory of D. M. Miller who passed away on April 15, 2020. He served as teacher, coach, and principal at Rule High School. He also served on the Knox County School Board.

The Rule High group was privileged to have D. M.'s son, Jon Miller, be the guest speaker for the evening. He related stories about growing up in the Miller

home and about how D. M. loved Rule and all the students. He has memories of attending many events at Rule although he graduated from Central High School.

Jack Williams, class of 1960, narrated a slide presentation of D. M. at the various class reunions and many other activities that D. M. had participated in with Rule alumni over the years. The presentation ended by showing various stages of the demolition of the school which has been closed since 1991.

Sponsored Content

Live on your terms

Cont. from page 2

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O'Neil treasures relationships and championships

By Steve Williams

The total number of athletes who have been members of the teams Sean O'Neil has coached over the past 16 years at Knoxville Catholic High School is not readily known.

But you can be sure each one has been important to Coach O'Neil, whether they were a champion or not. In the long run, relationships have meant as much as championships, if not more, to O'Neil, the Fighting Irish's successful cross country and track coach.

"The thing I have enjoyed most about coaching at Catholic is the relationships," said O'Neil in an online interview. "I run into former runners and their parents all the time,

and they all share fond memories and tell me how much their time running at Catholic meant to them. Being able to share those experiences that create lasting memories is really special."

O'Neil has developed some of the nation's top athletes by cultivating and nurturing the skills, abilities and overall performance of his runners, noted Pam Rhoads, Catholic's Director of Marketing and Communications.

Sean has coached hundreds of others who have worked just as hard but didn't make it to the top of the awards' podium. But O'Neil knows they will be awarded in other ways.

"Winning is a lot of fun and it never gets old, but

it's definitely not everything," said O'Neil. "I've been fortunate to coach some incredibly talented kids who have won a lot of big races, and I like to remind them that there are a lot of other runners out there who could train just like they do but would never be able to race like they do. A lot of the kids I coach will never run competitively after high school.

"The sport must provide something of value outside of winning or a lot of people are out there just wasting their time," pointed out the Catholic coach. "Lessons like the value of hard work, persistence in the face of adversity, and the discipline to work towards lofty goals are just a few of the life skills that can be learned

through sports, and those will be much more valuable to these athletes when they are adults than the medals they won."

Each season begins with building trust

"If I want kids to listen to me, they need to trust me, and building trust takes time," said Coach O'Neil. "So, we start small and get to know one another in our first few weeks of practice.

"We spend a lot of time teaching the runners all the supplemental routines that we do. We're basically laying the foundation that we will build the rest of the season on. Every season is a long journey."

Continue on page 2



Knoxville Catholic High Coach Sean O'Neil with Keegan Smith at the TSSAA Cross Country Championships in 2021. Smith, a freshman then, became the sixth Catholic runner to win a state title.

- HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WEEK 5 -

High School Football Scores and Schedule

Week 5 Scores

- Alcoa 42, Austin-East 0
- Anderson Co. 51, Seymour 7
- Bearden 41, HVA 9
- CAK 65, Lakeway Christ. 51
- Chatt. Grace 28, TKA 21
- G-P 35, Fulton 26
- Gibbs 55, South-Doyle 13
- Heritage 56, Karns 21
- Catholic 49, Briarcrest 24
- GCA 28, Notre Dame 17
- Halls 42, Carter 7
- Webb 33, Chatt. Christian 0
- West 53, Central 0
- Powell 45, Clinton 27

Week 6 Schedule

(Kickoff at 7 unless noted)

Thursday

Farragut at Bearden

Friday

Pigeon Forge at A-E

Webb at CAK

Maryville at HVA

West at Heritage

Providence at TKA

Anderson Co. at Carter

Karns at Fulton

Lakeway Christ. at GCA

Powell at Halls

Cherokee at Seymour

Central at S-D



PHOTO BY STEVE FORREST

Halls' Amari Lethgo looks to pass Friday night at Carter. The sophomore QB and his big-play receivers hooked up for five touchdown passes and 271 yards in a 42-7 win over the Hornets.

Quick-striking Red Devils make error-prone Carter pay

By Steve Williams

Both teams came in riding a wave of momentum. Halls was unbeaten and Carter had won three straight. Many fans felt it would be a close battle in Strawberry Plains Friday night.

But the Carter cheerleaders' message on their run-through banner didn't happen. It read: "The Devils

Went Down in the Plains."

Instead, the Red Devils headed back to Halls with a one-sided 42-7 win. It wasn't the mistake-riddled Hornets' night at all.

Halls sophomore quarterback Amari Lethgo threw five touchdown passes, including two to Landon Vest (36 and 58 yards) and one each to Tres Scates (64 yards), Brody

Rogers (two yards) and Marcus Moore (20 yards). Senior running back Kameron Bates chipped in a 2-yard TD run and Owen Taylor kicked six PATs.

Three of Lethgo's TD passes - the two to Vest and the one to Scates - came in the opening quarter as the Red Devils raced to a 21-7 lead.

Continue on page 4

Powell runs past Clinton, 45-27

By Mark Nagi

The Powell Panthers lost a lot of quality talent from the 2021 state title and 2022 semifinal squads. This season seemed destined to be a rebuilding one.

But maybe the learning curve isn't as steep as we thought.

On Thursday, September 14, Powell used their potent rushing attack to knock off Clinton 45-27.

"I'm just excited for the kids. They knew Clinton had a lot of talented players with three or four kids that are going to go on and play college football," said Powell head coach Matt Lowe. "I think that our kids were excited for the challenge. They felt like they had to come out and play well and they did that."

The Panthers struck first on their second drive of the game, a 69-yard march to the Clinton end zone. On

Continue on page 4

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A GLANCE BACK AND A LOOK AHEAD

Powell next!

'We can't wait,' says Halls coach

By Steve Williams

The Battle of Emory Road will be rockin' at 7 o'clock Friday night. And with Powell now in Region 2-5A with Halls, keep a close eye on the seismogram at that time.

More will be at stake when the Red Devils host the Panthers this season.

"I love our football team," said Halls Coach Brent Hughes, standing on the field at Carter after the Red Devils' 42-7 win over the Hornets in Week 5. "And it's only going to get harder from here. Powell is our first region game. But as far as what our kids have displayed the first half of the season, I couldn't be more

proud of the effort they play with and the attitude they're having."

Halls is now 5-0, after going 2-9 last season.

"Absolutely," concurred Hughes that Powell (1-0 in region, 3-2 overall) is going to be a tough game.

"Matt Lowe is one of the best coaches in the state of Tennessee," he added. "It's a very good and talented football team. It's our first region game and those region games are the ones that matter, so it's going to be a huge challenge for us. But me and my staff and our kids, we look forward to it. We can't wait."

Jackson Alvey, a senior lineman for Halls, talked about the Red Devils' mindset after the win over Carter and with rival Powell

next on the schedule.

"Obviously, we are proud of being 5-0," said the 6-2, 270-pound offensive guard, who was hustling 40 yards down field to block for Kameron Bates on a 46-yard pass play midway through the third quarter with Halls leading Carter 28-7. "It's a huge turnaround from last year.

"But our mind is set on being 1-0 for this next week coming up against Powell. That's what we are really focusing on."

Alvey believes the Powell game is Halls' biggest test yet.

"I think we are going to have to focus on the little things for sure, kind of clean up some of the stuff that we've got; definitely clean up those penalties,"

he said. "I feel like that's going to make a huge difference if we can clean all of that stuff up.

"I mean other than that, we've just got to keep letting it roll."

HALFWAY MARK: Most local teams have played half of their schedule at this point in the schedule. Teams with 5-0 records include Halls, Webb and West, while teams with 0-5 records include Austin-East, Fulton, Karns and Seymour.

And something will have to give in this Friday's games when Fulton hosts Karns and Cherokee plays at Seymour. Each of these four teams will be looking for their first victory.

WEEK 5 NOTES: CAK beat Lakeway Christian 65-51 – a score which reminded some fans that basketball season can't be far away.

Knoxville Catholic turned back Memphis Briarcrest 49-24 to improve to 4-1 overall. The Fighting Irish have an open date this week.

WEEK 6 ATTRACTIONS: Farragut will play at Bearden in the Rivalry Thursday TV game. According to the Farragut Football website, the Admirals are 42-21 All-Time versus Bearden in the original West Knoxville high school football rivalry.

Headliners on Friday, in addition to Powell at Halls, include Webb at CAK and Anderson County at Carter. Gibbs has an open date

this week, after defeating South-Doyle 55-13.

SPIRIT WEEK: Knoxville Catholic High's Spirit Week concluded Friday with a pep rally, massive donation to the Ladies of Charity Food Drive and the Boys' Dances. A huge #Golrish Tailgate for the entire community was scheduled before Friday's game against Briarcrest.

Pam Rhoades, Director of Marketing and Communications at KCHS, said the week had been "a ton of fun" for the students and brought class unity.

"Through Covid we were still able to have Spirit Weeks, however this one hits differently – the kids were fully back in form with unmatched enthusiasm!"

Rebels Romp: West routs Central 53-0 in each team's 2-5A opener

By Bill Howard

It's safe enough to assume that the goal for any coach going into this or her next contest is for the team to play a "complete game."

Friday night at Dan Y. Boring Field, Lamar Brown's team did that. Big-time.

Brown's West High School Rebels were efficient - if not dominant - in every phase of the game as they defeated Central High School 53-0 in each team's Region 2-5A opener. The Rebels' 20th straight win kept them undefeated at 5-0 overall, 1-0 in the Region.

The Bobcats fell to 3-2, 0-1.

"Our kids really responded tonight," said Brown. "A lot of focus. They were locked in and ready to go."

Were they ever.

The game was long over by the middle of the second quarter as West scored on all five of its first-half possessions. On defense, the Rebels not only shut down the Bobcat offense - CHS had 46 yards of offense on seven first-half possessions - they also returned an interception for a score.

"They're really good ... hats off to them," said Bobcats' coach Nick Craney. "We talked about all week it would take a game



JASON CANTRELL, CADENCE CAPTURES

West quarterback Hunter Dance is knocked out of bounds by Central's Donovan Washington in the first quarter of the Region 2-5A football game Friday. The Bobcats' Frank Johnson IV (0) also appears to have been on the sideline play. Unbeaten West won, 53-0.

of perfect execution and perfect effort and we didn't do either of those tonight."

After stopping Central on the opening possession with a pick by Antwaine Burdine, West took over its own 36. Seven plays later Marshaun Bowers plowed in from the two to make it 7-0.

After a Central punt, West

started on its own 21 with 5:41 left in the first. A 13-play, 79-yard drive made it 13-0 when Tavion Ray ran it in from the 10 on first and goal.

The drive wasn't without its cost, however, as Bowers limped off the field with an injury four plays earlier. Brown said after the game he would be evaluated on

Monday.

The loss of Bowers hardly limited West's offense. After forcing another punt, the Rebels had a first down on their own 30 with 10:53 left in the half.

On the seventh play, quarterback Hunter Dance hit Syxx Hoard on a quick-out to the left. Hoard ran up the left sideline into the end zone and, with 8:01 left in the half, West led 20-0.

For the game, Dance completed 12 of 16 passes for 170 yards and three scores. He didn't play in the continuous-clock second half.

"Our offensive line got things going from the start," Dance said. "They were having their way up front. I was just trying to get the ball to the playmakers and let them do their thing."

It would be an eye-popping 41-0 before half. First, Dance connected with Thad Sterling for a 34-yard score with 3:57 left in the half to make it 27-0. Yet another Bobcat punt led to a three-play scoring drive when Ray scored from the two with 1:16 left in the half.

On the first play of Central's ensuing drive, linebacker Ryan Scott picked off quarterback Cameron Bingham's pass on the 22 and ran it back for a touchdown. West added two more

scores in the second half.

"We got quality backs that came in," said Brown. "I thought (the D) did a really good job. I think we're improving every week. Still had too many turnovers tonight. I'm proud of our effort; it seems like we're getting better every game. We got a little bit more consistent offensively and defensively this week."

The Rebels' backup trio of running backs - Ray, Kelin Rucker, and Mesijah Wrenn - carried for more than 100 yards in Bowers's absence.

"I was proud of those guys coming and playing well," Brown said. "Hunter had one of his better games tonight ... great reads and he's getting better every week."

"We gotta stay together and get back to work," said Craney. "It's the work in the week that matters. We gotta stay together and fight to the finish. We gotta go back to work Monday."

"I was really proud of how we started from the very beginning," said Dance. "Our defense, they've been spectacular all year. I was proud of the O-line and the receivers."

Friday night the Rebels travel to Heritage to take on the Mountaineers. The Bobcats play at South-Doyle.

Coach O'Neil 'was and still is an incredible influence in my life'

By Steve Williams

Former Knoxville Catholic cross country standout Jake Renfree, who is now a graduate student/senior at Notre Dame, was asked to comment on his high school coach last week and was more than happy to fulfill the request.

"Coach Sean O'Neil was and still is an incredible influence in my life," said Renfree right at the top.

"Coach O'Neil is able to walk the very fine line of getting the most out of his athletes during training and competition, while also making sure that they enjoy the process and the sport of Cross Country and Track and Field.

"We engage in a sport where, in some cases, you put more stress on yourself mentally than physically at times to perform at your very best. For myself, as well as many of my teammates, he helped us to reach our various goals regardless of whether they were big or small, but also fostered a team culture where practices were fun and teammates grew closer working toward common objectives like State Championships or National Qualifications.

"When I look back at my time with Coach O'Neil, I realize just how much his presence in my life, besides the training plans and race day pep-talks, has helped me both in my athletic pursuits in college, but also in my ability to cherish hard work and the bonds formed through various achievements as well."

Renfree ended his email by stating if (The Focus) needed anything more, he would be happy to add or to answer any more questions.

"Coach O'Neil has had a tremendous impact on my life and I can talk about it all day long.

"Thank you very much. Jake Renfree."



Jake Renfree

O'Neil treasures relationships and championships

Cont. from page 1
Is cross country an individual sport?

"I guess I would say that ideally cross country is a group of individuals working collectively towards a common goal, so it's a little of both," answered O'Neil. "I think individuals are more likely to have amazing performances when they are running for something bigger than themselves.

"It can be lonely when you are isolated from your teammates during a race, but when you remember that they are out there suffering with you; it can give you the strength to do things that you didn't think were possible. Those magical moments rarely happen without buying into the team concept."

O'Neil admits he's not a jack of all trades.

"I specialize in the distance events," said the

Catholic head coach. "I've had great runners in distances from 800 to 5K. We've got an amazing group of coaches who cover the other events, so I just try to stay out of their way."

O'Neil loves what he does and says he has no plans to do anything different. "The challenge of trying to design just the right workout to get our athletes ready for a big race or figuring out what makes someone tick so I can help them unlock their potential never gets old. As long as that feels fresh and exciting, I'll keep doing it."

Sean said he wouldn't consider an offer to coach on the college level. "Definitely not. I put a lot of time and effort into coaching, but I can still set boundaries and have time to spend with my family and be really involved in my kids' lives. I don't think I could do that as a college coach, and that's something I'm not willing to give up."

O'Neil currently teaches

Environmental Science and Oceanography at Catholic. He has a BS in biology from UT-Chattanooga and a MS in Environmental Science from Antioch New England.

He grew up swimming,

playing soccer, running cross country and track, and rowing. He was a lightweight rower in college and then spent years competing in triathlons and marathons.

Accolades at Catholic under Coach O'Neil

CROSS COUNTRY

- 6 Individual State Champions
- 41 All-State runners
- 2 Team Championships
- 5 Team Runner-up finishes
- 5 National Championship Qualifiers (Megan Ferowich, Joanna Thompson, Jake Renfree 2x and Keegan Smith)
- 4 All-Americans (Ferowich, Thompson and Renfree 2x)
- National Championship Runner-up (Renfree)
- 5 Gatorade Cross Country Player of the Year honorees (Ferowich, Thompson, Renfree, Smith 2x)
- 1 National High School Coaches Association National Senior Boys Cross Country Athlete of the Year (Renfree)
- 1 Team USA Athlete (Renfree)
- 1 Metro Knoxville Cross Country Hall of Fame inductee (Thompson)

INDOOR TRACK

- 5 State Champions
- 24 All-State athletes
- 2 All-Americans (Thompson, Renfree)
- 1 Brooks PR Invitational Invitee (Thompson)
- 1 Millrose Games Qualifier (Renfree)
- 1 National Champion (Renfree)

OUTDOOR TRACK

- 31 individual and relay state champions
- 106 All-State athletes
- 2 Team Championships
- 1 Team Runner-up finish
- 3 All-Americans (Ferowich, Thompson, Johnathan Chavez)
- 3 Brooks PR Invitees (Renfree 2x, Smith)
- 1 National Champion (Ferowich)

Going from 'them' to 'us'

Here's an interesting question for all the arm-chair historians out there. Name an opposing quarterback who helped upset Tennessee in a bowl game and later became a Vol assistant coach.

The quarterback in question is Bob Jones, the 1950s Baylor signal-caller, who led the Bears to a 13-7 win over the Vols in the 1957 Sugar Bowl, the only game ever between the two schools. Tennessee was ranked No. 2 (AP), while Baylor was No. 13.

He was captain of the 1956 team and a native of Hearne, Texas.

He became an assistant coach under Doug Dickey in 1965.

On New Year's Day 1957 in New Orleans, Jones threw a 12-yard TD pass to Jerry Marcontell for the Bears' first score, one of only two completions he had on the day. You'd have to say he made the most of this opportunities.

With Baylor rushing 64 times for 275 yards, an unheard-of figure against the Vol defense in those

days, he really didn't have to throw much at all.

Tennessee didn't help by losing a fumble and having four passes intercepted.

The Chicago Tribune Press Service wrote, "A bruising band of Baylor Bears came out of Texas today to tear to shreds the reputation of All-American Johnny Majors and his hapless gang of Tennessee Volunteers."

Looking back, a staff writer for Baylor's official athletic department website called the win "perhaps the greatest victory in Baylor football history."

After graduation in 1957, Bob earned a Baylor law degree and served on the Baylor staff as defensive backs coach in 1963.

In Jones' early days on staff, the Vols defeated Army and South Carolina and tied Auburn and Alabama. Better days were ahead. There was a renewed spirit around the football program and among Vol fans. Vol fans began to believe that, "Tennessee was back."

Dickey was selling a dream to Vol players and prospects, and the tie with the Crimson Tide was a significant step forward. Tennessee earned a two-page color picture in

the post-Alabama week's Sports Illustrated.

Just as the football gods had ordained it, there were the Vols, dressed in orange jerseys, slugging it out on Legion Field with the Crimson Tide, dressed in their crimson shirts. By any measure, such a photo spread provided instant credibility for the Vol program.

"But in this season that ran the gamut of emotions, real-life despair was just around the corner."

John Shearer wrote that in an article in the Chattanooga on Dec. 5, 2005.

"On the following Monday morning, offensive line and kicking coach Charlie Rash, 28, left his Forest Oak Drive home in Knoxville in his Volkswagen Beetle, stopped to pick up end coach Bob Jones, 30, at his Deane Hill Apartment on Gleason Drive (which today borders West Town Mall), and then headed to pick up Coach [Bill] Majors at his Cessna Drive home a mile or so to the southwest."

They were undoubtedly looking forward to continuing the task of bringing the Vols "back" to national prominence. They were also overjoyed with the progress of the Vol squad, with the

7-7 tie with Alabama two days earlier being the most recent example.

Crossing the Southern Railway mainline at Cessna and Westland Drive in the early morning fog, their car was broadsided by an eastbound passenger train headed to Knoxville. Majors and Jones were killed instantly while Rash survived until early the next Thursday.

Three young wives became widows, and seven sons, all under the age of 10, were left fatherless. It was a stunning moment, one unmatched in Tennessee football history.

There were those who knew, perhaps instinctively, that the coaches killed in that accident were each destined to become head coaches.

"All three were great young men and talented coaches," Haywood Harris wrote in the next week's game program. "I imagine all of them would have become great head coaches. They worked hard. They had worked harder than usual in preparation for our game against Alabama."

Police found Jones' Baylor Sugar Bowl watch, stopped at 6:53 a.m., in the weeds near the scene of the accident, helping



Bob Jones led the Baylor Bears to a victory over Tennessee in the 1957 Sugar Bowl and became a Vol assistant coach eight years later.

investigators pinpoint the time of the crash. Dickey recalled that he went to Jones' home after the accident, given that Jones and his family had been in Knoxville for the shortest amount of time.

When you think about it, Bob Jones made two impacts on the Tennessee football program, the first when he helped disappoint Vol fans in the 1957 Sugar

Bowl. He got a chance for a make-up call, as part of the Vols' resurgence on the gridiron, coaching Vol receivers.

He went from being a part of "them" in 1957 to being a part of "us" in 1965.

He wasn't here long, but still remains a part of the Tennessee family.

- GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL -

Bearden takes down Oak Ridge in straight sets

By Ken Lay

Bearden High School had a short stay on the volleyball court Wednesday night. It took just over an hour for the Lady Bulldogs to earn a three-set victory over Oak Ridge.

Bearden opened big leads in all three sets and cruised to a 25-15, 25-17, 25-14 victory over the Lady Wildcats.

Oak Ridge (7-11) holds second place in the District 3-3A standings and they proved to be pesky early in each game before Bearden (9-5) would eventually take control and pull away three times to earn the sweep.

"They're a very scrappy team and they play

every point until the whistle blows," Bearden coach Katy Davidson said of the Lady Wildcats. "We came in and took care of business."

"They're a good team and we could see them in the regional. We took care of business and I thought that was good."

The Lady Bulldogs withstood every run that Oak Ridge made on this night. Bearden picked up contributions from all over the floor as they featured a balanced hitting attack. AC Myers, a senior, led the way as she came up with eight kills and four blocks. Makiyah Greenlee and Elena Arana added seven kills each. Greenlee also

chipped in with two blocks.

Sophie Reichert was the leading passer for the Lady Bulldogs as she dished out 15 assists. She also served up three aces and two blocks.

Oak Ridge coach Audrey Sherles said that her team's inability to sustain runs proved costly against the Lady Bulldogs on this night.

"We don't protect the ball well enough," Sherles said. "We don't score fast enough and we give up too many side-outs."

"But I feel like we're getting better at playing a higher IQ game as opposed to playing just an athletic game."



Bearden High School libero Brooke Dawson goes to the floor in the Lady Bulldogs' three-set victory over Oak Ridge Wednesday night. Photo by Kevin Lemere.

- GIRLS' SOCCER -

Central, Bearden remain undefeated with rivalry wins

By Ken Lay

Three area high school girls rivalries were re-kindled this week and two of those matches were decided in a lopsided fashion. Bearden and Central remained undefeated this season, while Gibbs dropped a 3-2 decision at Anderson County.

The Lady Bobcats had another big week on the pitch as they shut out Black Oak Ridge rival Halls, 7-0, at Dan Y. Boring Stadium in Fountain City. With the win over the Lady Devils, the Lady Bobcats improved to 11-0 overall and 4-0 in District 3-3A.

Central's Edie Wilds scored four goals and completed a hat trick in the first half. Paige Branum also had two markers before halftime. Savannah Johnson closed out the scoring in the game.

That victory put the exclamation point on a week that saw the Lady Bobcats also notch a 3-0 win at home against Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett Tuesday. Branum scored two goals and Teighley Fowler added another tally against the Lady Hilltoppers, who are always state tournament contenders.

Lady Bulldogs keep rolling: Bearden (7-0 overall, 1-0 in District 4-3A) hasn't lost a

game since 2020 and it went to Farragut to face the Lady Admirals in the battle for Kingston Pike bragging rights. Bearden won, 5-0.

Jayla Blue had an early goal for the Lady Bulldogs and her sister, Nyla, closed the scoring. Alivia Stott had a hat trick and dished out an assist for Bearden.

Lady Mavericks outlast Gibbs in Corryton: Gracie Underwood scored twice but it wasn't enough as Anderson County emerged victorious from Ernest Whited Stadium. The Lady Mavericks' 3-2 win snapped a six-game winning streak for Gibbs.

In the battle of District 4-2A heavyweights, Emma Leander scored twice and Zoey Rose added another goal for Anderson County.

Gibbs opened the week with a 1-0 win at Grace Christian on Tuesday. Karleigh Dean scored in the match and Neomy Casillas was credited with an assist.

Lady Rebels down William Blount in weather-shortened match: West earned a 3-0 victory over the Lady Governors in a match suspended due to inclement weather. Abby Huddy scored twice in the match, while Arianna Barfield added a marker in the game.

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Powell runs past Clinton, 45-27

Cont. from page 1

their 10th play of that drive, Powell QB Deuce Rodgers kept it himself and walked in from a yard out, making it 7-0 Panthers.

On their next drive, Powell's Connor Wheeler picked up 40 rushing yards down the middle of the field before finally being brought down at the Clinton 32. A few plays later, Wheeler sprinted to the corner for a 5-yard TD run, making it 14-0 Powell midway through the second quarter. It was another monster game for Wheeler, who rushed for 184 yards.

"He's just so talented," said Lowe. "Last year he had nearly 1700 yards and he just keeps getting better year after year and game after game."

The Powell (3-2) defense stood up as safety Kailas Clearman picked off Clinton QB Josh Keith at the Clinton 25. He returned the gift to the Dragons 12. Two plays later, Wheeler weaved his way through the Clinton defense for a 9-yard score, and it was 21-0 with 4:10 left in the first half.

The Powell special teams then forced a fumble on the ensuing kickoff, giving the Panthers the football at the Clinton 17. On the very next play, Rodgers raced into the end zone for his second TD of the night, and it was 28-0.

With 9 seconds to go in the half, Clinton (2-3) finally got on the scoreboard on a 14-yard TD pass from Keith to Jawan Goins. On that play, Goins broke a tackle and made two sweet moves to the end zone. It

was 28-7 at intermission.

Powell surprised the Dragons with a successful onside kick to start the second half. They capitalized with a short TD run by Wheeler, his third of the night, making it 35-7. Markus Jackson finished Powell's scoring with a 49-yard TD run in the final minute.

The Panthers rushed for 371 yards against the Dragons, a testimony to the strength of this team, their offensive line.

"We have four multi-year starters up front," said Lowe. "We've been leaning on them the first half of this season and they continue to answer the bell. They open holes and make plays and continue to do the things you love for high school offensive linemen to do."

On Friday Powell will make the short trip to rival Halls.

"I can't wait," said Lowe. "As somebody that married a Halls girl and somebody who's Momma is a Halls girl, I know exactly what this rivalry is. I know what these two communities mean for each other. So many of these kids go to Brickey Elementary School. They get to know each other when they are younger and play travel sports together. It's always a fun game and always a packed house. And with the success that Halls has had so far this season I expect this to be a great game."



Carter running back Jody Scruggs is bottled up by Halls Red Devils Hunter Brefini (32), Noah Burgin (30), Drew Ross (7) and Tres Scates (3) Friday night in Strawberry Plains. Halls stopped Carter 42-7 for its fifth win without a loss. Photo by Steve Forrest.

Quick-striking Red Devils make error-prone Carter pay

Cont. from page 1

Vest ran a slight slant from his wideout position and beat his defender for his first six points. After Scates made his catch, the defender fell down as he tried to make the tackle and Tres was off to the races. The third TD was a quick strike in Halls' next possession as Lethgo hit Vest on a go route down the left hash mark.

Halls increased its lead to 28-7 at halftime and 35-7 after three quarters. The running clock was mercifully started when the Red Devils scored their sixth touchdown with 11:15 remaining.

"I don't want the score to take away from that team (Carter)," said Halls Coach Brent Hughes. "That's a very good football team.

We just did a really good job of making them continue to execute and when they didn't, we took advantage of it.

"Our kids made plays early on in the first half. Our defense continued to show up and played with relentless effort and great pursuit. We just made plays and that's what you want from your football team."

When Carter Coach Justin Pressley was asked what the difference in the game was, he answered: "Us. We just didn't play very well.

"We had a really good week of practice and we had a good game plan going in. It was a big moment and it was just mistake, after mistake, after mistake (on our part). We made a lot of

errors - some uncharacteristic and some of them were characteristic of what we've been doing this season, and we're working hard to correct as we go forward."

Carter's Spencer Russell and Jody Scruggs, who had been a strong 1-2 offensive punch for the Hornets in their three previous games, were contained pretty well by the Halls defense much of the game.

Down 7-0 in first quarter, Carter went up-tempo and Scruggs had runs of 16 and 20 yards and Russell added a 13-yard in what turned out to be the Hornets' only scoring drive.

Gabriel Dennis caught a 30-yard pass from Isaiah Monday to tie the score at 7-7, but Halls quickly

regained the lead.

Much of the time thereafter saw Carter flagged for 14 penalties, which included three encroachments and three false starts.

On one possession in the third quarter, a blind-side block coupled with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty left Carter facing second-and-41. And late in the final quarter, a Carter penalty nullified backup QB Brody Sparks' 48-yard TD pass to AJ Thomas.

With six pass plays gaining 20 yards or more, Lethgo finished with 271 yards on 9 of 17 completions.

Bates rushed for 65 yards on 19 carries and also caught two passes for 77 yards.

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