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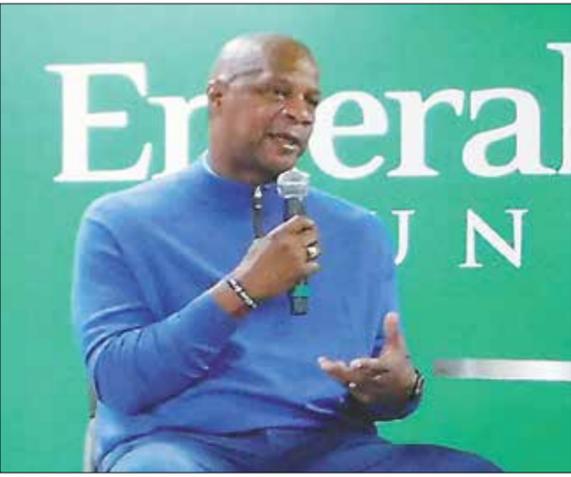
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One-time baseball superstar shares his story with inner-city youth



Former Major League baseball player Darryl Strawberry addresses inner-city youth last week at a question-and-answer session in North Knoxville.

By Ken Lay

Throughout his life, Darryl Strawberry has experienced the highest of highs and the lowest of lows.

But the former baseball star lived to tell about it. And early last week, Strawberry shared his story --- the good, the bad and the ugly --- with Knoxville's inner-city youth at the Emerald Youth Foundation in a question and answer session moderated by now-retired sports radio host Jimmy Hyams.

Strawberry unabashedly shared the ups and downs

of his life on and off the field.

His success on the baseball diamond can't be disputed. In a 17-year Major League Baseball career, Strawberry was an eight-time All-Star and a four-time World Series Champion.

He took the baseball world by storm when he broke into the majors in 1983 with the New York Mets in 1983 and was named National League Rookie of the Year. Three

years later, he, Gary Carter, Dwight Gooden, Mookie

Wilson, Keith Hernandez and a motley crew of characters brought the Mets a World Championship.

"We gave the organization and the Mets fans something they never had, and we gave them something they hadn't had since 1969," said Strawberry, who hit 331 home runs and recorded 1,000 RBIs in a 17-year career with the Mets, Los Angeles Dodgers, New York Yankees and San Francisco Giants.

In baseball, he made his mark with a team that stole the spotlight from the Bronx

Bombers and made New York the Mets' domain.

"My best memory in baseball was in 1986 when we won the National League East," he said. "We won it at home and we brought those people something that they never really had before."

"The fans stormed the field and I couldn't even get from right field to the pitcher's mound. The fans ran out on the field, and they were tearing the grass off the field, and we had to play a game the next day, and

Continue on page 4

Cummings' Catch the Play of the Game



PHOTO BY JASON CANTRELL

Connor Cummings, West senior wide receiver, gets behind Powell's Markus Jackson and makes a spectacular catch falling backwards in the rain just before halftime in the Class 5A quarterfinals Friday night at West High's Bill Wilson Field. Cummings landed at the 1-yard line on the 47-yard pass play and Marshaun Bowers took it in from there to extend the Rebels' lead to 17-3 with 1.8 seconds left in the half. West Coach Lamar Brown called Connor's catch a "huge play" in his team's eventual 31-5 victory. See the game story and other high school sports news in Sports and Recreation, Section C.

Housing shortage the hot topic at city council meeting

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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An almost five-hour meeting of the Knoxville City Council saw action on the housing problem and a defeat for extending short-term rentals to renters with owner approval.

The past several council meetings have seen citizens speaking about losing their apartments as the council continues to review housing policies. The council also continues to pass rezonings to open up the city a bit for additional housing as half of the city's population are renters.

The council voted to ask the planning commission to come back with recommendations on including

RN-1, the highest-ranking residential zone with larger homes and lots, in the "Missing Middle Housing" proposal. The request will ask how Traditional Neighborhoods Residential District could be considered for multi-family housing.

District 1 Councilman Tommy Smith suggested including all such neighborhoods across the city in the review. Vice Mayor Andrew Roberto said the proposal would include 51 vacant properties within the RN-1 zoning and said the city should also look at adding mixed-use housing along the corridors.

"Supply must meet the demand, we're upside down," Roberto said of

Continue on page 4

Commission continues to debate AMR contract renewal

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The Knox County Commission is in a bind as time is running out for their approval of a new contract with American Medical Response for contracted ambulance service. Questions and blunt comments came from the commission members during their work session last week and may continue in today's regular meeting.

AMR was chosen and announced as the bid winner by the county administration and a review group before any approval by the commission and that riled some commissioners. The company's



Commissioner Kim Frazier and other commissioners had hard questions and comments about awarding a new contract to AMR ambulance. A vote is needed before February 1.

poor performance, poor response time fines and lack of staff and rumors

that AMR may be for sale prompted Commissioner Kim Frazier to compare

the pressure to approve the contract before the February 1 deadline to "polishing a turd."

"I'm going to be watching, the model is not sustainable," she said.

Commissioner John Schoonmaker questioned the number of ambulances actually on duty and Commissioner Carson Dailey said the lack of adequate hospital staff wasn't the only problem in the wait times the ambulances have experienced.

"We will probably have to vote 'Yes,'" Dailey said and noted that AMR was announced as winning the bidding for service before the commission could review and vote on the

five-year contract. Also announced prior to approval was a five-year stipend by the county to AMR of \$ 2 million per year the company says will mostly go to hiring and training new employees. Four ambulance companies submitted bids including Premier Ambulance but AMR was suggested in an outside review by Fitch & Associates.

Knox County Health Department Director Kevin Parton, Chief Operating Officer Dwight van de Vate, AMR's John Spencer and Knox County Procurement Director Matt Myers responded to the many questions.

Commissioner Courtney

Durrett asked why the Knoxville Fire Department was not on the decision board and Spencer answered that the city fire department has been reached out to for the past three months by AMR and will be in future meetings.

Deputy Law Director Mike Moyers told the commission that if the contract is rejected the current contract might be extended until an agreement can be reached. Dailey said he'd like to see a commissioner serving on a review board. Schoonmaker asked if the commission has the power to select another ambulance service and Moyers responded that was

Continue on page 2

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I Am Amazed At How Fast Time Goes By

From a distance



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

I am always amazed at how fast time passes. At the end of next month, I will have been retired for five years.

When I announced in 2017 that I was going to retire at the end of the next year, almost every day someone would ask what I was going to do now.

I told Bob Griffiths, my chief of staff, that I didn't know anyone who would consider 71½ early retirement.

Now I am 76 and believe I am very fortunate to feel as good as I do and to still be able to do almost everything

that I really want to do.

I am 13 months younger than former President Trump and almost five years younger than President Biden. I believe both of them would be better off if they retired.

Just so no one will misunderstand me, I do plan to do everything I can to re-elect Donald Trump. Everything was better when he was president and would be much better now if he had been re-elected in 2020.

And I believe all the cases against him are based on very bitter, partisan political hatred. I also believe if any judge in the key states had let the election cases go before a jury, the 2020 presidential election would have been found to have been crooked.

Even a commission chaired by former President Carter and former Secretary of State Jim Baker in 2012 said we could never have a completely honest

election with widespread use of mail-in ballots.

I had another big win in the 2016 election, and I told Bob Griffiths I was going to announce on election night that I was not going to run again. But Bob asked me to hold off, so I decided to make the announcement about a year before the 2018 primary.

I decided to retire for three main reasons.

- 1) My late wife, Lynn, had suffered two strokes and then cancer spread through her body. She was in a wheelchair her last three years, and I needed to be home.
- 2) For many years I have looked at the obituaries almost every day. Several years ago I started noticing that about half the men were dying younger than me. I didn't want to die in an airport or alone in Washington away from my family.
- 3) I was blessed with four children, now grown,

and nine grandchildren. I wanted to spend a little time with them. The best decision I ever made was when I told Lynn after my very first election to Congress that I wanted our children to be raised in Knoxville.

Former Vice President Gore was born and raised in Washington as were his four children. Now, none of them live in Tennessee. All of mine are here.

Bob and I very early on talked over the possibility of my retirement with my Uncle Joe. He told us if he had not retired when he was 69, he would not have still been alive then. He was about 94 years old at that time, and he will be 100 on February 11.

Also, I liked the idea of having served an even 30 years in Congress. Only three other men have served longer than that in the U.S. House in the entire history of Tennessee.

Now, almost every day, someone asks me if I miss being in Congress, or they tell me they bet I am glad I am no longer in "that mess in Washington."

I usually respond by saying there was never one day during my 30 years that I did not feel very lucky to have my job, but I am very glad to be home now.

Many members of Congress have trouble giving it up, and they stay in Washington to lobby or work in some other government job.

I believe I had a much easier transition into retirement because not once did I ever regard my home as any place other than Tennessee. My family and best friends were always here.

As a Congressman, I tried very hard to never miss a vote, but as soon as the last vote of the week was taken, I got to the airport as fast as I could. Because of District work weeks and recesses,

I was able to spend slightly more time in Tennessee than in Washington.

When it was still just a rumor that I might retire, Bill Owen, the former Democrat state senator, told me in my Washington office that I better not retire because this job had been my whole life.

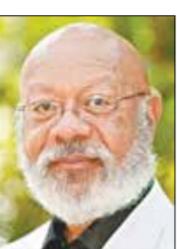
Actually, though, I had 16 years as a lawyer and judge before going to Congress and did several other jobs while a student at UT and then in law school.

But Bill was trying to be kind. He said Bear Bryant died a few months after he retired and that if I retired I would die, too.

Fortunately, I haven't died yet, and I have had a very active retirement. But I feel very lucky to have had the law practice, judgeship, and years in Congress that I had. The people of East Tennessee have been very kind to me and my family.

Follow the science? Well I don't believe the science

I read that if the US transitioned overnight to all-electric motor vehicles, the impact would be at most a 12 percent reduction of the earth's carbon emissions. It would actually be much less given the negative environmental impacts of electric vehicles which may be more damaging to the environment than internal combustion engines (ICE). If true, then the war that the Biden Administration has been conducting



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

on automobiles, fossil fuels, small engines, leaf blowers, weed eaters, gas furnaces, wood-fired ovens, light bulbs and all the rest will have a negligible effect on the environment. So to quote Stevie Wonder "What the Fuss?"

There is a large scientific literature – mostly suppressed – that finds that the world is not in imminent danger from changes in the climate. Many prominent scientific journals will

not publish these studies and many funding sources will not fund research contrary to the climate change narrative. Since researchers are driven to publish for success and to acquire funding, they are motivated to cheat and falsify their findings in order to achieve the "correct" results. It has been reported elsewhere that over 60 percent of published empirical results may be compromised.

Part of the review process for submission to a journal entails peer review. The paper is sent out to one or two experts in the field to opine on the worthiness of publishing. Reviewers are apt to reject even a well-reasoned paper if the results fall contrary to what the reviewer believes. I have encountered this with several papers and ended up submitting to other journals in hopes of finding

a sympathetic reviewer. Biases exist. I rejected a paper solely on the basis that although the author had cited several of my papers, my name appeared in the references as "African-American, Harold A." I kid you not.

These falsifications are not merely of young assistant professors struggling to publish in the top journals to achieve tenure and promotion. It is also the most eminent scientists in the country. The climate director at Berkeley altered results in order to get a paper published. The president of Stanford recently resigned accused of falsifying data. Plagiarism has always been rife within academics (as well as politics, see Joe Biden).

The false reporting by scientists and other researchers and the rejection of contrary narratives were magnified by COVID. Many of the most cited studies of COVID were found to be false. COVID deaths were inflated. Dubious models predicted the end of the world and led governments to shut down the economy, and force vaccinations and masks on the public. Papers that

questioned these models were refused publication and labeled "misinformation."

I have conducted empirical research over a 40-year period. During that time, I have been an expert witness in cases where statistics are used by both sides to "prove" their arguments. Often I was on the opposite side of the government. Invariably, the government's experts used incorrect models, or data, or statistical models to generate results favorable to the government. When I produced evidence demonstrating that my models, methods, data, et. al were more plausible, my side prevailed. We did not lose a single case to the government.

I have come to the point where I don't necessarily believe what scientists purport to find unless I – or some disinterested third party – can corroborate the findings. I do not believe the CDC's pronouncements or that from any agency in the current administration. Biden and his minions lie to us with a straight face, i.e., "the border is secure." They know they are lying. We know they are lying. They

know that we know that they are lying. But they do it anyway and their apologists simply make excuses.

I am not alone. Trust in the government is low perhaps because the public knows their officials are lying. It is becoming evident that the climate "crisis" may not be a real crisis and may be manufactured in order for governments to manipulate their constituents and exert control over them. Many businesses and individuals have become rich promoting their "inconvenient facts" about the climate and have their useful idiots who block highways, deface priceless art and spike trees. A recent study of glacial ice finds that from a historical standpoint, the planet is not warming. It is warming only from a particular point in recent history and still well below what has been the norm for the planet.

I've always said "Prove me wrong. If you do, I will adopt your view." So my challenge to the environmental doom-and-gloomers, show me your evidence. Show me your models. Show me your data.

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Commission continues to debate

Cont. from page 1

"problematic" and up to the county mayor and the procurement department.

Also questioned was upping the response time from 10 to 20 minutes.

Van de Vate told the commission that procedures and priority calls are being reviewed including treating patients "in the Mission District" with on-site triage or what he called "street medicine" thus cutting

back on the number of hospital runs.

Commission Chairwoman Terry Hill questioned rumors that AMR is "going broke" because of the financial trouble of their parent company. The reply was the company is solvent as an organization. AMR's parent company is Global Medical Response. The proposed contract would run for five years with an option for an additional five

years.

Today's regular meeting of the county commission will also see a report from Sheriff Tom Spangler on officer recruitment and retention efforts, recognition of Commissioner Dailey for his award from the TCCA as Commissioner of the Year, and Commissioner Kyle Ward's appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals.



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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Anemic City Elections

The City of Knoxville elections have come and gone and hardly anybody noticed it. The lack of interest on the part of city voters in the off-year is matched only by their conspicuous absence. The fact so few people bother to vote should be an embarrassment to the city government. When candidates for the Knox County Board of Education and County Commission get more votes than a mayoral candidate, it is hard to say that any candidate for a post in the city government has a mandate.

The results of the recent city election shocked very few people. The defeat of longtime Judge John Rosson was probably the biggest news to come from the election results. For 36 years Rosson presided as Knoxville's municipal judge and was a constant presence at the political events of both parties for decades. Tyler Caviness, a thirty-something attorney with a scanty resume,

won the general election. From the beginning, the leadership of Knox County's Democratic Party lined up behind Caviness's candidacy, ignoring the candidacies of Mary Ward and Andrew Beamer, both of whom are Democrats. The Caviness campaign was linked to that of city council candidate Debbie Helsey through Jack Vaughn, campaign manager for both campaigns.

Rosson ran first in the primary election, but only narrowly, which gave Caviness an advantage in the general. Judge Rosson campaigned on his long experience while Caviness mouthed vague platitudes about "reimagining" the court. The contrast between the two candidates was stark with the aging incumbent facing the fresh-faced newcomer.

Despite being labeled by the Democrats as a Republican, Rosson ran very well in the Black wards. Victor Ashe, whose claim to being a Republican is highly doubtful, constantly badmouthed Rosson and was omnipresent at the Caviness party on the night of the general election. The country club Republicans did little or nothing to support Rosson and as a result Caviness won big majorities in Sequoyah Hills and the like.

Those same precincts - - and Democrats usually run very well in precincts like Sequoyah due to the well-off University of Tennessee personnel who live in an area once dominated by Knoxville's old money

--- gave large majorities to city council candidate Tim Hill.

Hill had been running for more than a year, collecting the biggest campaign war chest of any candidate, yet the businessman proved to be an awkward campaigner. Hill seemed wary of offending Indya Kincannon, hoping for her support against Councilwoman Amelia Parker. Unfortunately, Hill wasn't equally wary about offending plain old voters and his perch on the planning commission provided him a means to upset entire neighborhoods. Tim Hill ran far behind Parker in the primary election, but ahead of Matthew Best who had the support of Mayor Kincannon and her minions. Parker is highly critical of Kincannon, not because of her socialist views, but rather for having been one of the very few council people to question or oppose the administration.

Just as the administration was unable to pull Matthew Best through the primary, it was barely able to move the needle for Hill. Amelia Parker, who had little money to spend, handily beat the candidate with the most funding.

Closing Gay Street Is A Bad Idea

Speaking of Mayor Kincannon, the city government is "experimenting" with the closure of part of Gay Street. Gay Street from Wall and Union avenues will be closed to traffic from 7 p.m. until 4 a.m.

on November 10 and 11; November 17 and 18; December 8 and 9; and December 15 and 16. According to the City of Knoxville, the "experiment" involves allowing pedestrians the opportunity to enjoy having the section of Gay Street all to themselves.

All parking on Gay Street would be banned, sending everyone to nearby garages and street meters. According to the City's press release, if city officials decide they like the idea, then the Gay Street closure will occur on a regular basis along with "other city streets" possibly.

You can count on it. Kincannon and company believe in the municipal utopia outlined by Democratic Socialists, which eliminates the need for people to own and drive cars. "Walkability" is part of their Holy Grail of living. The cultural Marxism of the Left constantly defies logic or simply doesn't care. Businesses downtown, which employ people who in turn pay taxes, also pay hefty taxes, both property and sales taxes, which flow into the City's coffers. Obviously, the more difficult it is for customers to park and get around downtown, the more likely it is businesses will see a smaller clientele. The homeless downtown were already a problem and many Knoxvillians complained of the smell of urine permeating the area, which does little to attract visitors. Many of those same people occupy their time by panhandling

and some get right aggressive about it, making many people uncomfortable.

David Moon, a businessman and perhaps the sole columnist for the Knoxville News-Sentinel, aside from Bob Booker, to have a lick of sense, cautions the city government not to be in such a hurry. Moon is exactly right, but Kincannon and her merry band of Wokesters will pay no heed. They will do their best to keep the herd growing on their unicorn ranch.

Ethics Committee Gets It Right, Finally

Knox County Commissioner Kyle Ward released a statement following the unanimous decision by the county's ethics committee saying the complaint against him was not valid.

"I am glad Mr. Covington was able to manipulate the rookie journalist at the News Sentinel into building some name ID for him at my, and the taxpayers' expense. Maybe he will fare better in his next run for public office."

It was a well-deserved dig at a perennial candidate for public office as well as the daily newspaper which has been politically biased against Ward for his conservatism on the Knox County Commission. Under the regime of the USA Today banner, the News-Sentinel tries to be as woke as Disney and the holy of hollies, at least in Knox County.

The News-Sentinel has

had it in for Kyle Ward and then-Commissioner Justin Biggs for addressing what were the excesses by some in the health department during COVID.

There are very few people who are politically aware who aren't cognizant of just exactly where the Knoxville News-Sentinel stands on the political spectrum. Anyone can charge wrongdoing and the ethics committee was unanimous in its decision to exonerate Ward.

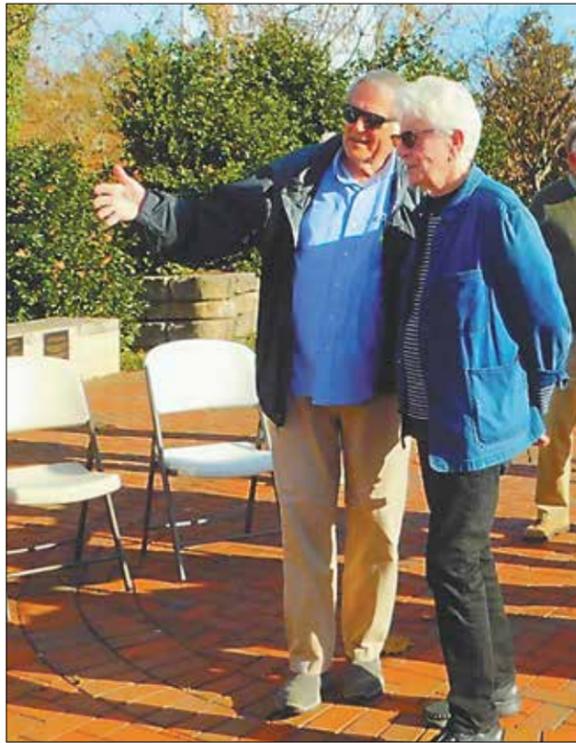
Leftist Hypocrisy

The convoluted reasoning of the Left that allows them to be antisemitic is by labeling Jews as the beneficiaries of "white privilege." Evidently, anything is permissible in persecuting any human being labeled as having enjoyed 'white privilege' by the Left, including the greatest slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust. The Left and Leftists have created several cottage industries creating "anti-racism" groups, which go on to excuse racism in the name of stopping racism.

Any travesty, no matter how vile, no matter how vicious, is apparently justified by the Left. Safe spaces on campuses? Gone for Jewish students and let's be honest, there hasn't been freedom of speech on college and university campuses in years. Anyone who takes a view different from their narrative must be destroyed. Just like in Adolf Hitler's Germany.

Graham Nash welcomed to Everly Park

Duane Grieve welcomed music icon Graham Nash to Everly Brother's Park last week. Nash was the first national music star to get involved with the development of the little park in Bearden. The legendary musician was joined by council members Andrew Roberto and Charles Thomas, former Mayor Madeline Rogero and Legacy Parks Director Carol Evans for an update on the park. Grieve noted the efforts of the Bearden Council and the city in establishing the park, only a few blocks from where the Everly Brothers attended West High School. Photo by Mike Steely.



Nominees sought for Neighbor of the Year

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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Each year the city of Knoxville honors a person selected as the Neighbor of the Year. Who is honored is up to you.

If you know of someone who should be honored for their efforts to support your community, someone who is often a volunteer or helps others in distress and is active in cleanups or at neighborhood meetings, why not nominate them for the recognition?

The Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year nominations are open to all city residents and previous

nominees can be nominated again. Nominations are being accepted through Friday, Dec. 1 at 4:30 p.m. More than one person may be nominated.

The Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Nomination Form can be found

online on the city's website, www.knoxvilletn.gov, and the form must be returned to Shannett Riley at sriley@knoxvilletn.gov or mailed to Shannett Riley, c/o ONE - Room 546, City of Knoxville, P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, Tn. 37901.

Thanksgiving comes once in a year, but may the feeling of gratitude live in our hearts all year round.

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Young-Williams asks for city-county animal authority

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Will Young-Williams Animal Center become the authorized animal control agency for Knoxville and Knox County? That's the question before the Knox County Commission today.

Janet Testerman, CEO of the animal center said, if approved, Young-Williams will consolidate all the animal care and control in what she described as a "win-win" solution. Currently, the city and county respond to loose animal calls. Testerman said an agreement with the commission would consolidate all animal care and control and relieve the police and sheriff's departments from such calls.

Commissioner Rhonda Lee asked Testerman who would respond to complaints and respond to calls and Testerman said



Janet Testerman, CEO of the Young-Williams Animal Center, told the Knox County Commission that allowing the center to take over county-wide animal control will relieve the police from that duty and consolidate all animal programs under one program.

she would prefer that complaints be made to Young-Williams.

Testerman said all calls to 911 about animals would be directed to the center. Beginning in April

new personnel would be hired and trained but would not be armed or be law enforcement officers. She said that 17 new field service personnel will be hired.

Housing shortage the hot topic at city council meeting

Cont. from page 1

available housing. The original motion, to pass it to planning, passed.

Smith also proposed renters be permitted to sub-rent their homes on a short-term basis but the idea wasn't well received. His idea was to require owner approval and would overturn the current policy of requiring a homeowner to be the principal resident. Smith said such a program works in other cities and told The Focus that even the current short-term rental policies are not being enforced well.

Councilwoman Lynne Fugate said of short-term rentals, neighbors "don't like them anyway, there are too many opportunities for abuse. We can't enforce what we've got."

"It would open up a Pandora's box, it's too gray,"

Councilwoman Janet Testerman said of the proposal.

The idea got only Smith's vote and failed.

The council voted to extend tax breaks to owners of houses 50 years or older if those owners are interested and agree to keep rental rates down. Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie noted that the tax breaks are voluntary. The idea is to have older apartments and homes renovated with the city's help and not to raise rents.

Also approved were standards for standalone parking along the South Waterfront.

Zoning changes to permit more houses included properties at 707 Delapp Drive from RN-1 to RN-2, Zero Westridge Drive from Civic and Institutional to Low-Density Residential, 4600 Ernestine Drive from RN-1

to RN-2, and 1500 Fort Promise Drive and 1203 and 1331 West Oldham Avenue from RN-5 Residential to Neighborhood Commercial District.

In other business, the council voted on the annual budget for the Downtown Alliance, postponed honors to the late Larry G. Cox until December, extended the management contract for two city golf courses, passed along state funds to Oak Ridge for cameras to document crime, and hired Waste Connections of Tennessee for \$1.5 million to collect waste and construction debris and install a compactor.

The council also heard from several citizens including Yassin Terou of Yassin's Falafel House about concerns for Palestinian citizens in the Israel-Hamas conflict.

One-time baseball superstar shares his story with inner-city youth

Continued from page 1

when I grew up, that was always something that I wanted to be a part of. But I ended up going and watching from the bullpen. I didn't want to get caught up in all that."

That was on the field. But off the field, Strawberry had to battle his share of demons, including addiction. He grew up in the ghetto of South Central Los Angeles with an abusive father.

"I was broken. I was broken before I ever put the (baseball) uniform on," he said. "I knew I could play baseball when I was 14 years old."

"But I grew up in an abusive

home with a raging alcoholic, and he was abusive to us and our mother, and one night, if my mother hadn't gotten us - me and my brothers - out of the house, we would've killed him. All he ever did was beat us and tell us that we would never amount to anything."

When the family returned, Darryl's father was gone, never to return.

"I came from a broken home and my mother raised all five of us by herself," he said.

Baseball was Darryl's ticket out of the mean LA streets, but with success came excess, including drugs, alcohol and parties as he

played for a team that embodied both the good and the bad from the 1980s.

"When I was in New York after we won the World Series, I was 24 years old, and I never had to pay for anything," he said.

There was also life in the fast lane, including the drugs, alcohol and sex. His mother cautioned him. But Darryl didn't listen.

"If I'd listened to my mama, I would've made better decisions," Strawberry said. "She told me to play ball and leave all the girls, drugs and alcohol alone. But I didn't listen because I wanted to do what I wanted to do."

Through the years, Strawberry's

success on the field continued. He would become the highest-paid MLB player, signing a lucrative deal with his hometown team, the Dodgers.

But that didn't alleviate the pain of an abusive childhood.

"I signed the biggest contract (at that time) and I was going to play for the Dodgers. I should've been happy," Strawberry said. "But I wasn't."

"I was still broken."

Strawberry's roller coaster ride of a life continued until he hit rock bottom.

"I was \$3 million in debt and I was living with my sister in her kids and her apartment," he said.

"Here's the great Darryl Strawberry living with his sister and in debt."

His struggles continued as he had two bouts with cancer and a period of incarceration. But he survived and now, at 61, he is sharing his story as an ordained minister.

"I would tell kids that they can do whatever they want and not let people get inside of their head with negativity," he said. "God has a plan for everybody. If you're obedient and follow His plan, He'll bless you in ways and you'll be the best you."

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

Memories

Back through the years, I go wonderin' once again, back to the seasons of my youth...

Dolly Parton from "Coat of Many Colors"

All I remember about Copenhagen is the iconic little mermaid statue in the city's harbor and the best caviar I've ever eaten.

In my earlier life, I had a wanderlust and traveled extensively. I may have one trip left in me, but I'm not sure. I've been thinking about Iceland, but the desire to get on a plane with crazies and travel again is not as strong as it once was.

These days, as in Dolly's song, I no longer need to wander because I now travel in my mind. I am blessed with a good memory and lament those with dementia who lose

their treasure trove of life.

It's funny what you remember. Recently, a friend and I were discussing memories and how quirky they sometimes seem to be. I'm no neurosurgeon, but I told my friend that some brain surgery has to be done with the patient awake and responsive. And sometimes the neurosurgeon's probe touches an area of the brain that triggers a vivid memory.

It might surprise you to learn that the brain itself cannot feel pain. All the brain's perceptions originate from the sensory organs throughout the body and are projected to the brain for interpretation. Consequently, after the neurosurgeon anesthetizes the scalp, bony cranium, and the coverings of the brain, he can then operate on diseased areas while

using the awake patient's awareness to avoid critical structures.

It's been 50 years since I was in Copenhagen, Denmark, so I can't recall other details. However, neuroscientists hold that a lifetime of memories may be stored in various areas of the brain. So, I suspect I have other stored memories of Copenhagen and all the other places I've been throughout my life. However, I don't plan to have a neurosurgeon search for those other stored reflections!

My thoughts of Copenhagen were stimulated by the TV drama, "Borgen," which is playing on Netflix. Becky and I are always searching for something worthwhile to watch on TV. Apparently, this show is the rage in Europe, and we find it intriguing because it deals with a parliamentary form of government and the machinations of politicians. The show's characters are compelling and demonstrate human complexities and frailties at work in politicians and the rest of us.

The holiday season is approaching. I've even begun to see Christmas decorations, and it's not even Thanksgiving yet! This year, Becky and I

will try to hold off on our annual pilgrimage through Christmas movies until after Thanksgiving. We think we can do this because we're also enjoying the Netflix series "Life on Our Planet" which is also very good. I am chagrined to give a shout-out to Netflix because I don't care for their politics. However, I give credit where credit is due.

So, since I've started with the shout-outs, I'll finish with the proviso that I am not paid to plug or bash anyone. I've previously complimented the impactful worship services at Sevier Heights Church and my local Kroger's grocery. And I'll add Knoxville's annual Nativity Pageant to my thumbs-up list.

It is obvious to my readers that I admire my editress, who is also my wife. Those who know us realize I married well and Becky has improved me and my grammar. I won't enumerate her manifold qualities, but we are still compatible after 48 years. I suspect this is in part because we both love Claxton Fruit Cake and Chick-fil-A!

One aspect of the Holiday Season that most don't have to consider is a deadline. To allow The Knoxville Focus staff time

to be with their families at Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's, columnists operate on a shortened week. Perhaps others are better organized, but every year I never seem to get it together, even though I've had to deal with shortened holiday schedules for the last 14 years. And by Myers & Briggs criteria, I'm not a procrastinator!

I'm not whining, I'm just explaining and looking for enough worthy material to fill two 1000-word columns in the space of eight days. Journalists seem to be able to do this regularly, but I am NOT a journalist!

I have a friend who shares my love of memes which combine pictures with pithy comments. In my second career, I've become an acceptable writer. However, I find that movies and memes can sometimes convey a perspective better than the written word. My friend and I also share emails and he recently sent me a story I'd like to share with you and as closure for this somewhat abbreviated essay; I need to get to work on the next essay!

I'm no western rancher, but I'm told that storms often come from the west and when cattle on the "lonesome range" see

a storm coming towards them they understandably turn and run away from the storm. On the other hand, buffalo, who are native to the western plains, turn into the approaching storm. The result is that cattle endure the storm's fury for a longer duration, whereas buffalo push through the storm and shorten the misery.

I love the movie "Dances with Wolves." Becky and I have been to the Black Hills of South Dakota and seen where the movie was filmed. And we have driven (slowly!) among the herds of iconic buffalo that wander everywhere and across roads.

The buffalo story has become one of Becky's favorites, and we both believe there is a profound lesson to be considered: Ignoring or running away from problems only emboldens your enemies and prolongs the storm. We must square our shoulders to the storms of life, and, like the buffalo, push through. And even though the Apostle Paul never knew of buffalo, I believe he would have agreed with their approach to the storms of life (Romans 5:3-5).

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

Pond Gap is proud of its history

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The neighborhood of Pond Gap is located along Sutherland Avenue, between Marble City and Bearden. The residents there boast of their independence and unique history.

Named for a historic pond on Hollywood Avenue where drovers paused to water their stock, the area also has Pond Gap Elementary, many restaurants and businesses, and a very active Neighborhood Association with David Williams as president.

The Knoxville Focus caught up with Williams and asked several questions.

Tell us in general about your neighborhood.

Our boundaries are Third Creek in the east and Forest Park Blvd in the west. From railroad tracks in the south to north to Lonas Road. This includes

Pond Gap Elementary and West High schools. The site of Knoxville's first airport and first municipal airport, Ringling Bros Circus, Knoxville Drive-In Theater, Armory, and Sutherland Field are included. There is also a golf driving range and UT Apartments (now sports field).

The first time 'Pond Gap' appeared in records was in 1927 in a city directory as the name of a road. 1954 saw the road's name changed to Hollywood Drive (I can find no council action for the name change). The first resident on Pond Gap Road was Tom Kelly. Many homes were built in the area before the interstate came through in the early 1960s.

With decades of traffic increasing and the community wanting a greater voice on development and related issues, a neighborhood association was formed and incorporated in 2001. The Pond Gap Area Neighborhood

Association Inc. is a nonprofit public benefit corporation.

Who are the members of your neighborhood association?

For 22 years I have served as president. I am a fourth-generation resident. Charles Newman Drive is named for my great-granddad who came to the area and built a house in 1929. Roberta Potter's family goes back to the 1960s and has a Marble City connection. Potter heads up the Marble City Historical Society. Many Marble City residents played baseball with Pond Gap players at Sutherland Field. Pat Kelly's family sold the land for Pond Gap School. Carl Cook was a classmate of mine at Pond Gap and West. His family has commercial properties in the neighborhood. He is a student of area history.

How often does the neighborhood group meet?

We meet monthly on the third



Pond Gap President David Williams stands beside one of the many signs and banners that promote the history of the Sutherland Avenue neighborhood.

Thursday at Dead End BBQ from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. but come early for food and fellowship. All are welcome. We publicize our meetings with yard signs posted throughout the community.

What are the neighborhood association's goals?

We want traffic calming on Hollywood and Papermill. Intersections need to be safer

Continue on page 4

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Celebrating Birthdays on the Farm



Picture of me on my fifth birthday dressed in a cowgirl outfit--my birthday gift that year--holding my birthday cake our mother made. Our green and white Chevrolet car and International Harvester Farmall tractor are in the background.

By **Ralphine Major**
ralphine3@yahoo.com

It seemed like the best time of year for a birthday. While many of my childhood friends' birthdays came during warm, summer months, mine was between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. That was perfect since the holidays meant extra days off from school. Recently, I was thinking of the many ways generations celebrated birthdays then and the new and different ways birthdays are celebrated now.

During my years growing up, there were no fast-food restaurants to serve as the setting for parties. Birthday celebrations on our dairy farm were simple--but they were made special. They always

called for a home-baked, two-layer birthday cake decorated with tasty icing and candles. A favorite home-cooked meal was prepared, and the grandparents were usually invited. Generally, presents followed. My seventh birthday was extra special since it also included a party for my friends in our home. I do not exactly recall many of the events during my early years, but our mother managed to capture those special occasions on black and white film with her Kodak camera. Seeing the picture included here took me back to one of those special times.

Words of Faith: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105 (KJV).

Monthly Artist Trading Card Meeting

The O'Connor Senior Center will host a regular monthly Artist Trading Card meeting on Monday, November 27 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. This meeting is free and open to anyone interested in making and trading ATCs. CDC Covid guidelines will be followed. Refreshments will be served.

The presentation will introduce the medium of alcohol inks. Presenter Nancy Doughty will help participants explore the capabilities of alcohol markers and inks, and apply these techniques to Artist Trading Cards and other applications.

No art experience is required. History and background of ATCs, instruction, materials, prompts and creative ideas will be provided by Tim Wiegenstein, Creative Aging Teaching Artist. No age requirements apply for this program; ATCs are for any age, and intergenerational events are encouraged.

The O'Connor Center is located at 611 Winona Street, Knoxville, TN 37917. For more information, call (865) 523-1135, or email info@oconnorcenter.org.

Realistic Earnings

Jim and I have worked since we were in the eighth grade. The first job was on a farm cutting weeds, moving rocks, and breaking ponies. Mr. Long paid us little for our work, and our



By **Joe Rector**
joerector@comcast.net

parents paid more than we learned to doctors as they tried to get rid of the poison ivy we caught. Not many teens work during their high school years, but if they do, the money goes for frivolous things. My brother and I always put a portion of our checks in the bank and kept a small amount for weekend activities.

The Copper Kettle hired us in 1967. Jim and I

worked the curb. We delivered orders to cars, hung the trays on windows, collected money, and prayed a tip might be in the cash. The place closed at 11:00 p.m. That's when we had to clean.

We swept both curbs and picked up trash. Leftover food, greasy food containers, and empty beer cans filled several large cans that had to be carried to the dumpster behind the business. We usually finished around midnight and arrived home shortly after. For every hour we worked, the owner paid us 52 ½ cents. Tips were to make up the biggest portion of

our earnings, a humorous fact considering that most of the customers were teens who had little money.

For two years, we worked for the City of Knoxville. Mr. Long helped us to gain jobs with crews of high school boys. The work included picking up trash and cutting weeds and brush along roads and in alleys. The crews had about eight boys who rode in old pick-up trucks. The work was dirty and physically demanding. At the end of the day, we would take loads of brush and trash to the dump that used to be located on Asheville Highway. The pay was much better at \$1.25.

I worked my senior year at Burger King. Harry hired me to be a utility-type employee. Sometimes I

worked on the line; sometimes I changed the plugs in his car; sometimes I plowed the lot behind the store and seeded and strawed the area. The worst job I completed occurred on my birthday. I sat on top of the building and mopped the red plastic shingles. By the end of the day, I was exhausted and sunburned. By then, I'd moved up to making \$1.35.

I held other jobs over the early years, but when I graduated college, the real money was supposed to come. I returned to Knoxville to teach English at Doyle High School. My first yearly salary was a whopping \$7,200. I was ecstatic and told my bride that we would be rich when future raises bumped the

yearly total to \$10,000.

All of these examples of jobs, part-time and full-time, point to something not many young folks realize these days: graduates don't start running companies. A new worker starts at the bottom of the pay scale. In the U.S., the average starting salary is about \$40,000. It takes plenty of work and time before raises come. Not a single newbie is entitled to an office with a window. Most entry-level people spend the day in a cubicle that they might have to share with another worker on a different shift.

To anyone who is planning to build a career, I have a couple of words of advice. One, make sure you write a good resume. It "screams" who you are.

Included in that information better be some work experience. Babysitting or completing chores at home won't help you. Business owners want folks who have real-life experiences inside a business. A 4.0+ GPA and a list of organizations won't be any predictor of the kind of employee you will be. However, a list of part-time jobs might just be the key to success. Last of all, don't think you'll begin making the "big bucks." Proving your worth in that first job is what will lead workers to promotions and raises. In the end, a person's success in any job is their own responsibility. Be excited and take every opportunity to show bosses how valuable you are.

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Senatorial Bloodhound

Charles W. Tobey of New Hampshire

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Almost certainly, hardly any reader will recall Charles William Tobey, but at one time he was a member of the first congressional committee to become a television sensation, which was headed by Tennessee's own Estes Kefauver. Charles W. Tobey became famous for his habit of sternly quoting from the Bible to underworld figures like crime boss Frank Costello. Some referred to the frequently indignant Tobey as "God's angry man." Yet Charles Tobey was also a witty man. When the senator married for the third time, he advised Vice President Alben Barkley, "Go thou and do likewise."

TIME magazine once described Tobey as a man with "a hound-keen nose for trouble" and if so, he was equally adept at getting himself in the newspapers. Unlike his colleague Styles Bridges, Charles W. Tobey was never an insider in the United States Senate. Tobey was also described as "rancorous" and "cantankerous" by a TIME correspondent, but the widely-read national news magazine was owned by publishing magnate Henry Luce who was also a thorough going internationalist while Senator Tobey was something of an isolationist.

Whatever one might say about Charles William Tobey, he was a man who worked very hard at his job and possessed a natural wit and common sense, all of which made him successful with his fellow New Hampshire citizens.

Tall, thin, bald and bespectacled, Charles W. Tobey looked more like an accountant than a successful politician, but being a Baptist, he could raise hell with the best of them. Although he may have looked meek, the moment he opened his mouth, it was quite clear he was an outspoken individual and highly opinionated. A frequently fiery speaker, Tobey was one of the few men ever to have served as governor, congressman and United States senator from his home state of New Hampshire.

Tobey possessed not only a flair for acquiring publicity for himself, but also a tart tongue. Charles W. Tobey once reported spotting three railroad lobbyists in the Senate Dining Room; the New Hampshire senator was opposed to a particular bill the lobbyists supported and they weren't happy about it. Tobey went over to the lobbyists and said, "My compliments to you gentlemen. I understand you called me a son of a bitch, and consigned me to hell... You are crooked, sirs, from top to bottom..."

A fire-eating Baptist who

could readily quote lengthy passages from the Bible, Tobey used to have hymn-fests where neighbors would come and spend the afternoon singing hymns. Eventually, it grew to where people from all over New Hampshire would come; even residents of neighboring Massachusetts would drive to the Tobey farm to join in. Tobey arranged to have a speaker and folks would sing hymns. As the sun sank slowly in the west, Tobey and his friends would sing, "Now the Day Is Over." A trumpet would sound Taps, followed by another on a distant hill, followed by yet another still further away.

Tobey was a colorful character and was popular in his home state precisely because he looked after the interests of the people he represented. Charles W. Tobey fired off a letter to President Harry Truman about a grain shortage, which was causing New England farmers to have to destroy their chickens, rather than allowing the chickens to starve to death. In his letter, Tobey noted, "This is a Macedonian cry" for help. Harry Truman was quite capable of handling his end of any argument and replied in kind. "It seems to me that you have been making Macedonian cries or yells ever since I have been in the White House... You have made it exceedingly difficult for me to get good men to fill necessary places in the Government. You are still continuing your Macedonian cries and I hope you will get a lot of pleasure out of them." Truman noted the grain shortage came down to feeding people or chickens and he intended to feed people. "Sometime when you have reached a cooling-off period, I'd be glad to talk with you about the whole situation," the president added.

Senator Tobey complained about the reply in private but later published the correspondence in the Congressional Record. Truman's reference to the New Hampshire senator making it difficult to get good men to work in the federal government was a complaint about Tobey having helped to blow up the nomination of wealthy oil man Edwin Pauley to serve as Secretary of the Navy.

Tobey worked for years as a clerk for insurance and banking businesses but was well enough off to purchase a farm in Temple, New Hampshire. Charles Tobey always considered himself a farmer and raised chickens and poultry. Tobey and his first wife, Francelia had four children together. Charles W. Tobey began his political career on the local level, getting himself elected to



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION

Autographed photo of Senator Charles W. Tobey of New Hampshire.

the Temple school board and Board of Selectmen (town council). In 1914, he ran as a Progressive for the New Hampshire State Legislature and was elected. Tobey was a protégé of former Governor Robert P. Bass, who remained a power inside New Hampshire's Republican Party. Tobey was elected to three terms in the New Hampshire House of Representatives, none of which were consecutive. Charles W. Tobey was also elected speaker of the House in 1919.

In 1924, Tobey was elected to the New Hampshire Senate and became the Senate's presiding officer. 1928 saw Charles Tobey make a bid for the governorship. Tobey was challenged by an old-guard candidate inside the GOP primary. The old guard wing of the Republican Party was exemplified and led by U.S. Senator George H. Moses. Moses was opposed to Tobey in the GOP primary, but Tobey won the primary and general elections.

Charles W. Tobey became governor the same year the Great Depression hit New Hampshire and the country. Tobey tried to deal with the effects of the Depression by tightening the state budget. Experiencing financial problems himself, Tobey did not seek reelection as governor in 1930. Tobey did become a candidate for Congress in 1932 when Congressman Edward H. Wason decided not to run for reelection. Even as former Governor Fred Brown, a Democrat, defeated Senator Moses to occupy a seat in the United States Senate, Charles Tobey won election to the House of Representatives from the Granite State's Second District.

Tobey was reelected by solid, if not spectacular, margins in 1934 and 1936. In 1938, Congressman Tobey announced his candidacy against Senator Fred Brown. Tobey beat

two opponents in the Republican primary, carrying every county in the state. Brown had beaten the veteran George Moses by just over 2,000 votes and Tobey was quite likely the strongest challenger he could have faced in the 1938 general election. Congressman Charles W. Tobey easily beat Senator Brown. For the remainder of his life, Charles W. Tobey was a member of the United States Senate.

New Hampshire's senior United States senator was Styles Bridges, a former governor who had ended George Moses' attempt at a comeback in the 1936 senatorial primary. Both Bridges and Tobey had been mentored politically by former Governor Robert Bass, but the senators from New Hampshire did not like one another personally. Bridges was staunchly conservative and one of the best at moving quietly through the corridors of power to accomplish his ends. Tobey was more of a maverick and during his time in the House had supported some New Deal measures. Many Republicans viewed Tobey as more liberal, and he certainly was more liberal than his senior colleague.

Almost immediately, Senator Tobey became identified with the powerful isolationist bloc in the Senate, as he was opposed to the Roosevelt administration's neutrality and lend-lease policies. Tobey was firmly convinced America's entry into the First World War had been because of munitions manufacturers and those who supplied the weapons of war. Tobey's opposition to the neutrality and lend-lease legislation caused a break between the senator and his mentor, former Governor Bass, who was an internationalist in political outlook. Tobey further infuriated many and was criticized by several of his senatorial colleagues, when he leaked

details of just how extensive the damage was to the American fleet at Pearl Harbor following the attack by the Japanese Empire. Senator Tobey said the American people had a right to know the truth. Tobey was less than enthused by Wendell Willkie and continued to reject the "one world" point of view of Willkie and those like him.

The dislike of his colleague, Styles Bridges, and the break with former Governor Bass brought Senator Tobey a serious challenger for the Republican senatorial nomination in the 1944 election. Foster Stearns had won the seat in Congress that Tobey had vacated to run for the Senate six years earlier. After six years in the House, Stearns was backed by Bass and Bridges in his bid to topple the senator in the GOP primary. It was a hard-fought campaign, but Tobey won easily, winning over 57% of the vote. Republicans did not come together during the general election and Senator Tobey only narrowly beat the Democratic nominee, Joseph J. Betley.

The fierce primary challenge sponsored by his former mentor and his senatorial colleague and the narrowness with which he won the general election did not deter Charles W. Tobey in any way. Tobey continued to chart his political course, which included bucking the leadership of Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio when the Republicans held the majority in the Senate in 1947.

That same maverick streak guaranteed Tobey another primary challenge

in 1950. His challenger was Wesley Powell, who would go on to be elected governor of New Hampshire and something of a perennial candidate. At the time of the 1950 election, Powell was a fresh-faced former top aide to Senator Styles Bridges. The senior senator moved heaven and earth in an attempt to displace his Senate colleague and replace Tobey with Wesley Powell. It quite nearly worked, as Powell lost by just over 1,000 votes.

Charles W. Tobey suffered a cerebral hemorrhage on July 15, 1951, but made a swift recovery. The senator was felled by a heart attack on Friday, July 24, 1953, while at the Capitol at 5:30 p.m. and was rushed to Bethesda Naval Hospital. A doctor at Bethesda said Senator Tobey was conscious when he arrived at the hospital and was treated, but later died in his sleep. Tobey had outlived two of his wives and his third, Lillian Crompton Tobey, the widow of a leather company executive, was with her husband when he died. Unfortunately, while the senator's four children had been notified of their father's serious illness, none had arrived by the time Tobey died.

After Charles Tobey had died, some of his friends and constituents paid the late senator tribute. One of the senator's oldest friends, Orlo Fiske, who was by vocation a poultry farmer, had served with Tobey on the Temple school board. "There never was a squarer man," Fiske said softly. "As long as he thought he was right, he'd go through hell-fire."

The Temple postmaster, Mervin Willard, recalled, "I never could remember to call him Senator Tobey. No one could. He was just 'Mr. Tobey' to all of us here in Temple. Walked in here to buy groceries or get his mail, same as anybody. Dressed like anyone else. Only thing was he knew everyone's name - - - even if he hadn't seen 'em for 15 years."

Honored by his people time after time and having been entrusted with every high office within Hampshire, Charles W. Tobey never lost an election. The people who knew him best gave him an unusual and the rarest of endorsements when he ran for the United States Senate in 1938; Tobey won every one of the 141 ballots cast in the town of Temple.

He still sleeps there in the Granite Hills of his beloved New Hampshire.

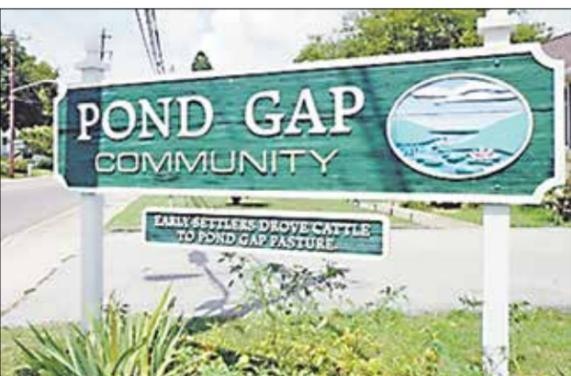
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Pond Gap is proud of its history

Cont. from page 1

for pedestrians. We want to involve students in the study of our neighborhood's history and how to celebrate it.

We have posted neighborhood entrance signs to outline our area's history. Banners hanging near neighborhood businesses celebrate diversity at Sutherland Field (1930s-50s). We've helped businesses locate in Pond Gap by going to planning commission meetings. We are looking to place banners on KUB poles and seek an area on the greenway for signage to honor Black and white baseball players at Sutherland Field and look into naming that link between Sutherland and the Bearden Village Greenway.

While failing to get the Forest Heights Bridge rebuilt, we were successful in getting out of the Bearden Village Plan so control of development went into the hands of Pond

Gap folks. We are looking to work with Marble City Historical Society to honor the memory of the many small neighborhood grocery stores on Sutherland from Hollywood to Concord Street.

We have worked with the art department at West High for a neighborhood history mural at Red Onion. We want to involve more businesses in projects like banners at Emma's and Red Onion and meetings at Dead End BBQ. The city unveiled our 'Home Run Alley' signage. We dedicated the Medal of Honor Monument at the Armory.

What are the attractions in the neighborhood?

Many fine restaurants populate Pond Gap-Mexican, BBQ, Middle Eastern, home style, and pizza. Neighborhood markets, auto repair, home improvement, transportation, discount, and light industrial shops dot the landscape. We do seek space for a small park.

When I talk to people about divorces involving children or custody cases, one of the primary discussions we have is, "How much parenting time will the worse/less involved parent get with our children?"

I give some version of the speech I am about to give you, 2-3 times a day. Here we go:

There are 365 days in a year and the courts will award every single day to



By Jedidiah McKeenan
jed@attorney-knoxville.com

a parent. And a parent only gets credit for a day when the child spends the night with them.

The worse parent will never do better than getting 50/50 parenting time. Half of 365 days is 182.5 days.

That is their best-case scenario.

Only in very rare circumstances does anyone ever get less than 80 days in a year. People coming out of prison get 80 days in a year. 80 days equate

to every other weekend, half the holidays, and expanded time during the summer. That is their worst-case scenario.

Again, their best-case scenario is 182.5 days. You will never just agree to give them this much time. Their worst-case scenario is 80 days. They will never just agree to get this little time.

This gives you a 100-day window within which to negotiate and try to come up with an agreement on parenting time. If you cannot get an agreement, you probably need to file for divorce or

custody and play out the legal process for a while and see where things fall but 95 out of 100 of the cases I do in this field fall with a parenting plan within this 182.5 - 80 day window.

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

KPD Establishes a Designated Safe Exchange Zone

As the holiday season fast approaches, the Knoxville Police Department (KPD) has established a designated safe exchange zone at the Public Safety Complex, located at 1650 Huron St.

The safe exchange zone includes two parking spaces located in prominent spots in the front lot of the Public Safety Complex.

The area is well-lit and under 24-hour video surveillance to protect Knoxville residents swapping, trading, buying or selling items, or during child custody exchanges.

Residents wanting to utilize the space will not need to notify the KPD.

Residents simply need to park in one of the designated spaces and complete their exchange.

Illegal transactions such as those involving narcotics, hazardous materials and stolen property are strictly prohibited at the KPD safe exchange zone, as are transactions involving firearms, ammunition or explosives.

Though the parking area is well-lit and under video surveillance, the KPD encourages residents to make exchanges during daylight hours if at all possible.

Those making exchanges should also bring a trusted friend or family

member along, tell someone where they are going and limit the amount of cash they carry.

Additionally, residents are

encouraged to be vigilant of possible scams.

If a deal seems too good to be true, it is more than likely a scam.

TSSAA FOOTBALL QUARTERFINAL PLAYOFFS



PHOTO BY JASON CANTRELL

West's Marshaun Bowers runs through big hole and over a fallen Powell linebacker in the Rebels' 31-5 win Friday night in Class 5A quarterfinal action. Bowers rushed for 119 yards on 18 carries and two touchdowns. He also had a TD return on defense.

A GLANCE BACK AND A LOOK AHEAD

Scott quiets Powell's second-half start

West LB: 'We can't get big-headed'

By Steve Williams

Trailing host West 17-3 at halftime Friday night, Powell came out and quickly made a first down with a 25-yard run by Connor Wheeler in the Class 5A quarterfinal playoff game.

West's Ryan Scott, an All-State linebacker last season, tackled the Panthers' Fabby Neiwoh for a 1-yard loss on the next play.

A pass interference call against the Rebels on the following play, however, gave Powell a first down at the West 32. On third-and-one at the 23, Scott shot in from his LB position and dropped Wheeler for a 3-yard loss.

The result: Powell attempted a 43-yard field that was partially blocked.

It was an important point in the contest and the Rebels went on to win 31-5.

Scott, also a senior captain, was asked after the game to comment on what

the Rebels had to do from this point forward. They had just notched a big win over Powell, but there were still big games to go.

"It's always about keeping our team level-headed and humbled," answered Scott. "We got to stay down and just play together and play the next play. That's the thing we got to keep doing this year. (This) week we can't get big headed. Oh, we beat Powell. We got to keep playing as a team. Be like, hey, this is a new week and we've got to put that behind us and keep going."

Thanksgiving Day and high school football

Some coaches in past seasons have talked about wanting to get to practice on Thanksgiving Day because that would mean their teams are still in the playoff hunt and closing in on the finals.

West Coach Lamar Brown said his team will come in at 7 a.m. and have a team meeting on Thanksgiving Day.

Continue on page 4

West beats Powell, 31-5, in rematch

By Steve Williams

While the regular season finale between Powell and West had been a classic, with the Rebels winning in overtime, the playoff quarterfinal rematch was a knockout.

West used big plays on offense and a bruising defense to eliminate the Panthers 31-5 Friday night at Bill Wilson Field and will host Walker Valley in this week's Class 5A semifinals. The Mustangs (11-2)

from northern Bradley County near Charleston advanced with a 24-20 win at Clinton.

The Rebels (12-1) are now just one victory away from having an opportunity to repeat as state champions.

West Head Coach Lamar Brown didn't expect to win by such a big margin.

"I did not," he said. "But it was a physical, hard-fought football game. Each team had to earn every inch

tonight and we knew that going in Powell is an unbelievable football program with a great team and they were going to fight and battle. I'm really proud of our kids just to focus and being locked in and executing the game plan. It was one of our better ball games this year."

Powell sophomore quarterback Deuce Rodgers, who was sidelined in the Sevier County game last week

Continue on page 2

- HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL -

HVA sweeps Halls in Hall of Fame basketball games

By Ken Lay

Hardin Valley Academy's basketball teams made the trip across the county to play Halls in Hall of Fame games late last week.

The Lady Hawks and Hawks each recorded lopsided victories Friday night at Halls High School.

Hardin Valley's girls ran past the Lady Devils, 47-32, while the Hawks toppled the Red Devils, 74-60.

In the girls game, the Lady Hawks opened a 12-4 lead in the first quarter and extended their advantage to 26-12 by halftime.

After the break, The Lady

Devils, who endured more than their share of offensive struggles over the first 16 minutes of the contest, returned to the floor and pulled to within 26-22 as it used a 10-0 run to claw its way back into the contest.

Megan Biliter pulled the Lady Devils to within 26-22 when she buried a 3-point shot with 4 minutes, 55 seconds remaining in the third stanza.

"I was a little frustrated (early in the third quarter," Lady Hawks' coach Jennifer Galloway said. "But we cleaned up what we needed to clean up. "We did a good

job in the first half and we're a quick team a we did a good job using our speed."

The Lady Hawks a balanced offensive attack as guard Karryn Butcher and center Kamiyah Love scored 11 points each. Butcher tallied nine of her points after halftime and Love, who was saddled with foul trouble after halftime, had nine of her 11 points in the first half. HVA's Kyndra West, one of the area's top offensive players, had nine points in the game, including seven after halftime, and was held without a field goal in the first half. Hardin

Valley opened the big lead, despite the fact that West had just two free throws as she picked up two fouls in the first half.

Biliter led the Lady Devils with 11 points and Raegan Corvette added eight and had all her points after halftime.

Halls coach Savannah Harrison said she was pleased with her team's effort in the third quarter.

"We can be a pretty good team, and we have a lot to build on. I was pleased with the way that our girls came out in the third quarter and got back into the game,"

Harrison said. "We struggled in the first half and we have a lot to work on.

"We have some injuries and we're not at full force right now, but Hardin Valley is a good team. They're quick and they have good shooters and they have a big girl that's good in the post."

Hawks run past Red Devils: Despite seeing his team post a 74-60 victory on the road against the Red Devils, HVA coach Andy Arendt was anything but happy.

"I thought we played hard but I don't think we played

very well and I don't think we played smart," said Arendt, Hardin Valley's second-year head coach. "At times, we shared the ball and then we would go and do something stupid with it."

"I think we have a chance to be good but we've got a lot of stuff to clean up."

Hardin Valley's Barron Sheetz led all scorers with 22 points and Ben Brophy had 15. Patrick Curry added 12 for the Hawks, who led 37-24 at the half.

Chandler Gamble led the Red Devils with 17 points and Gabe Holmes had 10.



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TVA EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION

'Coach Mac' steps down after 40 years

By Steve Williams

A 40-year coaching career doesn't end easily and without contemplation.

Jeff McMillan experienced such feelings last week when he stepped down as the head football coach at Fulton High.

"At the end of every season you always evaluate the program and where you are personally at the stage of life you are in," said Coach McMillan. "After prayerful and thoughtful consideration I felt it was the right decision personally to step down. I will continue to teach at Fulton. As far as coaching, you never close any doors. I'm exited to see what plans the Lord has for me in the future."

Many call him "Coach Mac."

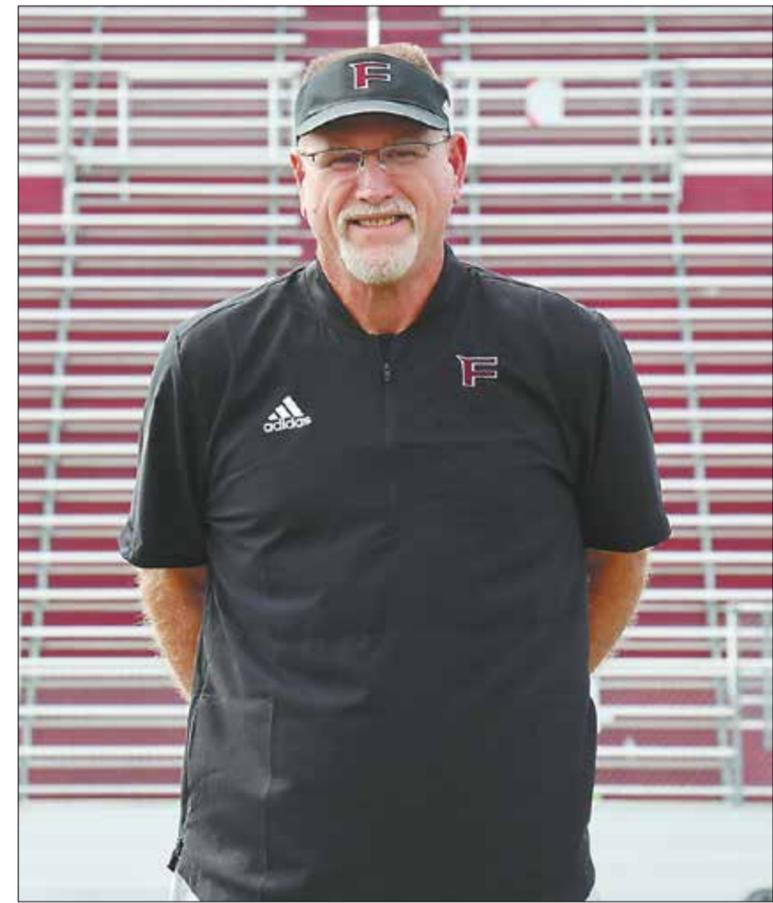
After his playing days at Carter High, where he was a standout, and Austin Peay State University, McMillan took his first high school coaching job as an assistant at Central in 1982.

His coaching stops after that year were: Lenoir City (1983), South-Young (1985-86), Central (1987-2009), Fulton (2011-13), Carter (2014-16), Fulton (2017-23).

His longest stop was the 23 seasons at Central, where he earned the reputation of being one of the top defensive coordinators in the state on the late Joel Helton's coaching staff.

During McMillan's time in Fountain City, the Bobcats reached the state semifinals in 1990 and 1991, and advanced to the Clinic Bowl State Championship Game in 1999. He also served as interim head coach at Central during the medical absence of Helton.

After spending a year away from the sidelines in 2010, McMillan became the DC at Fulton in 2011 under first-year head coach Rob Black and his defenses were a key to the Falcons' Class 4A state titles



Jeff McMillan in the spring of 2022 when he was named Fulton's head coach.

in 2012 and 2013.

McMillan left Fulton and went to Carter, his alma mater, in 2014 and took on his first head coaching position for three seasons. His defensive prowess emerged with his first Carter team as the Hornets nearly pulled off a Week 10 upset against undefeated Fulton, holding the state's highest scoring team to only 18 points.

He guided Carter to three Class 4A playoff appearances and a 14-19 overall record.

McMillan returned to Fulton as Co-Defensive Coordinator in 2017 and became the Falcons' 13th head coach in 2022 after Black resigned.

Both of McMillan's two teams at

FHS qualified for the playoffs, but the Falcons slipped to 2-8 in the regular season this year and were 4-6 in 2022.

"I would like to say thank you to Jeff McMillan," said Black, Fulton Athletic Director. "It has been a blessing to have Coach Mac as a part of our school and football family here at Fulton High School. He has served both as an assistant and head coach and has been a part of some of the best football teams in Fulton history. Coach Mac has a good football mind, and he is a good man. He will always be a part of the Fulton family. We will immediately start our search for the next head football coach at Fulton High School."



PHOTO BY JASON CANTRELL

West senior defensive end C.J. Smith (6-3, 250) lets out a growl and celebrates after putting pressure on Powell quarterback Deuce Rodgers, who released an illegal forward pass on the play.

West beats Powell, 31-5, in rematch

Cont. from page 1

with an apparent injury, did not start, but came in on the Panthers' second possession, replacing freshman Jaylon Benjamin.

West running back Marshaun Bowers, who appears to be back at full strength after a mid-season injury, scored three touchdowns, including a 23-yard return after he ripped the ball out of the hands of a Powell player that gave the Rebels their biggest lead with 8:37 remaining.

The key moment of the game, however, came late in the first half with the rain starting to fall and West having a first down at its 39-yard line.

"Our kids have been really good in the two-minute drill all year and we've got the ball with like 30 seconds to go," recalled Coach Brown. "We like (said) 'what the heck, let's throw a couple and see what happens.'"

Quarterback Hunter Dance quickly tossed short passes to Bowers for three yards and wide receiver Connor Cummings for 10 yards and a first down. Hunter's next pass was incomplete, but it stopped the clock.

Then came the Play of the Game. From the Powell 48, Cummings hauled in a 47-yard pass falling backwards and landed at the 1-yard line. Powell called timeout with 4.6 seconds on the clock. With his team leading 10-3, Coach Brown elected to go for the touchdown instead of kicking a field goal that would have given West a two-score lead (13-3). Bowers powered his way into the end zone and Patrick Schmid's PAT made it 17-3 with a little over a second on the clock.

"The Connor Cummings catch was a huge play," said Brown.

"When you throw it up, good things can happen. And he went up and got one

and the offensive line came through on the next play and got us the one yard we needed."

The two teams were tied 3-3 at the end of the first quarter, with Schmid kicking a 23-yard field goal for West and Dylan Stooksbury booting a 44-yarder for Powell.

A 25-yard run by Bowers on fourth-and-one at the Powell 40 led to his 1-yard TD blast that gave the Rebels a 10-3 lead with 3:42 to go in the second quarter.

In the third quarter, West's Antwain Burdine partially blocked a 43-yard field goal attempt by Stooksbury.

Powell did get two points for a safety when the West punter kicked the ball intentionally out of the back of the end zone after the ball was snapped over his head. That trimmed the West lead to 17-5.

The Panthers got good field position when the Rebels had to kick off from their 20-yard line and Connor Wheeler returned it 22 yards to midfield. But Rodgers mishandled a wet ball and was penalized for illegal grounding when he tried to get a pass off under pressure.

Early in the final quarter, Powell defensive end Steven Soles Jr. tackled a West runner for a 4-yard loss and then blocked a punt on the next play, but a Panther touched the ball downfield and the Rebels' Abel Ancelet recovered the fumble. Powell also was flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct on the play, which gave West possession at the 50-yard line.

After a 33-yard run by Bowers and a personal foul on Powell, Devin Jamison scored on a 1-yard run to give West a 24-5 command.

Kaden Paz recovered a Powell fumble and Syxx Hoard picked off a Benjamin pass later in the fourth quarter.



LEFT: Jeff McMillan, after taking his first head coaching job at Carter High, his alma mater, walks the sideline during a preseason scrimmage against Halls in 2014. He was a standout on Carter's 1976 team. Photo by Marsha Branch. RIGHT: Jeff McMillan on the Fulton staff in 2021. In his 40-year coaching career, he earned the reputation of being one of the state's top defensive coordinators. Photo by Drea Peebles.



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'Because he wouldn't have made it'

Looking at the November football schedule begs an important question for us old-time Vol fans.



By Tom Mattingly

Where the heck is the "Rambling Wreck," AKA Georgia Tech? It's been 36 years since the Vols and Tech last played in Knoxville (Tennessee 29, Tech 14 in 1987) and nearly 60 years since early November meant Tennessee and Georgia Tech clashing on the gridiron, with national rankings on the line, in even years at Atlanta, odd years in Knoxville.

You could go back to 1955 (a 7-7 tie), 1956 (Tennessee, 6-0), 1957 (Tennessee, 21-6), 1960 (Georgia Tech, 14-7), 1961 (Tennessee, 10-6), 1964 (Tennessee, 22-14), and 1965 (Tennessee, 21-7) for examples.

This was always a great series overall, but these November games had a special "feel" to them, not only weather-wise but with the Tennessee orange and white matched against Tech's white and old gold.

Adding to the mystique was the battle between Bob Neyland protégés Bobby Dodd at Tech and Bowden Wyatt at Tennessee or later battles between Vol head coach Doug Dickey and Dodd, by then a grizzled veteran.

In his first season in Knoxville, Wyatt had posted a 4-2 record going into the 1955 game. Tech was No. 8 in the country, losing only to Auburn, and favored by 7. It ended up a

deadlock, with Tennessee outplaying the favored Techsters. A Vol TD pass late in the game was called back by an ineligible receiver penalty, a decision the Vol crowd protested to no avail.

Wyatt was unbowed: "It was tied before we started. We wanted to win."

The 1956 game was named the No. 2 game in collegiate history by UPI in 1961, surpassed only by the 1935 Ohio State-Notre Dame game. With Tech ranked No. 2 and Tennessee No. 3, the two teams battled fiercely all day.

The only tally that day came after two passes by All-American tailback John Majors to All-American end Buddy Cruze, followed by Tommy Bronson's dive into the north end zone a play later.

There was a wonderful moment highlighting Wyatt's competitive spirit after the game at Grant Field. When it was fourth-and-4 at the Vol 28 early in the game, Dodd elected to punt.

"Why didn't Dodd go for it?" one media type asked.

"Because he wouldn't have made it," Wyatt responded.

In 1957, it was the Vols, ranked No. 9, against No. 18 Tech. Tennessee showed some T-formation that day, perhaps to Wyatt's surprise. With a minute or so to go in the first half and the ball on the Vol 2, Bobby Gordon went under center and, three times, fell on the ball while being "protected" by Bill Anderson, Tommy Bronson and Stockton Atkins. Russ Bebb reported that the

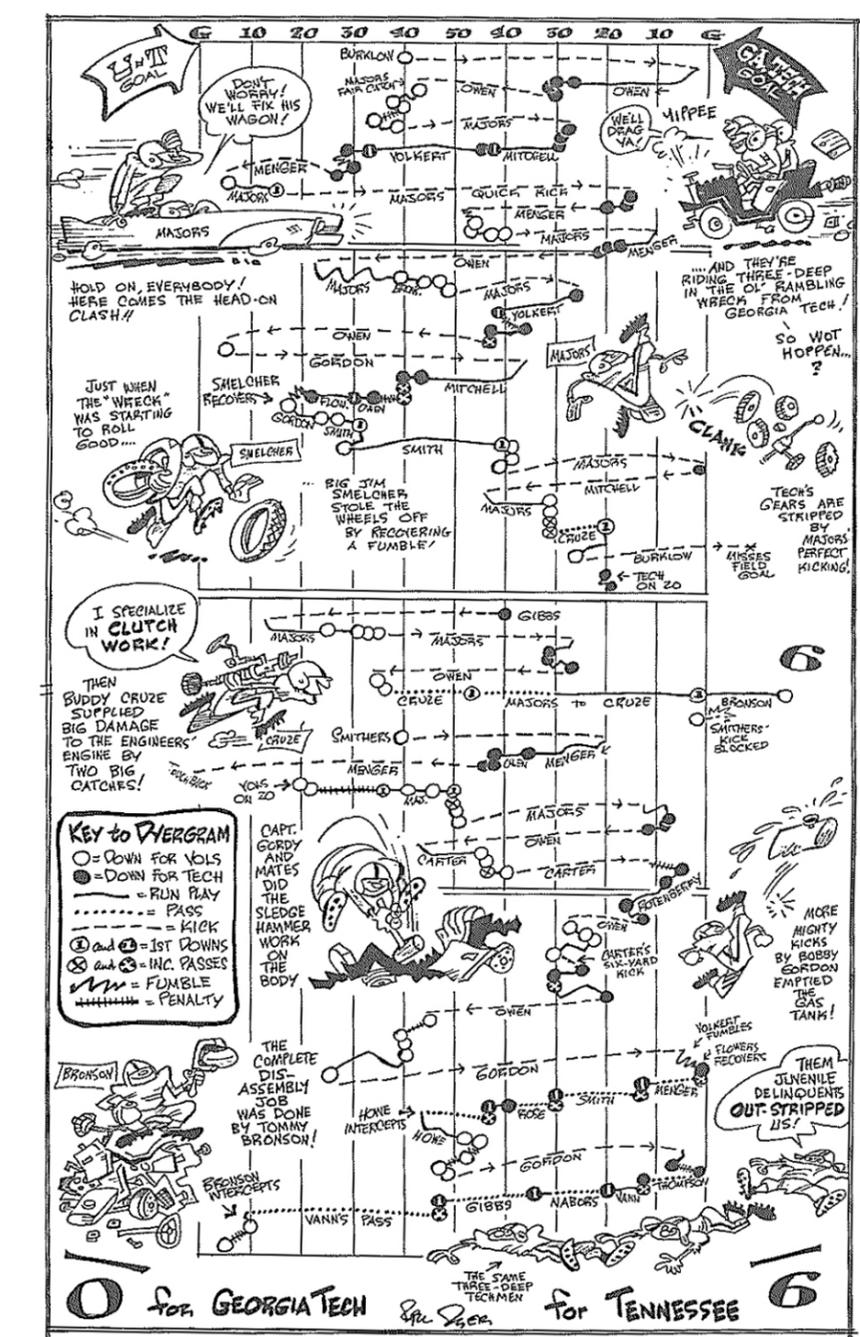
play had been rehearsed in Gordon's dorm room.

Anderson was co-captain that season (with guard Bill Johnson) and remembered very little about the game. "I had been bothered by a pinched nerve in my neck for some time, and I was almost out cold. They told me I kept on playing and later scored on a 45-yard reverse. I remember taking a shower after the game when I finally regained my senses. I even had to ask the score."

The two teams split decisions in 1960 and 1961, with the 1961 game being a major upset on Dodd's 53rd birthday. Billy Williamson returned a kickoff 93 yards for a score in 1960 that was a key to Tech's victory. Mallon Faircloth had a 22-yard TD pass to John Bill Hudson the next season, and Gary Cannon had a 31-yard field goal, highlighting another defensive struggle.

In 1964, Tennessee was a heavy underdog and trailed 14-3 in the final period before rallying for the victory. Quarterback David Leake led the comeback, tossing a TD pass to Al Tanara and leading a drive culminated by a Jack Patterson TD. Doug Archibald had an interception return for the final score. That gave the Vols a 4-2-1 record, before the team's offensive inadequacies became glaring in the final three games, all losses.

In 1965, the Vols were in the aftermath of the deaths of three assistant coaches, yet playing inspired football. Sophomore quarterback



Bill Dyer chronicled the 1956 Georgia Tech game in cartoon form in the Knoxville News-Sentinel and the "Monday Morning Quarterback"

Charlie Fulton led an offense that racked up 251 yards rushing, and 101 passing. Harold Stancell had an interception for a score, Fulton hit Hal Wantland for another,

and Stan Mitchell got a third. That victory helped convince Vol fans that Dickey was building a team to be reckoned with, one that finished in the Top 10 after a Bluebonnet

Bowl victory against Tulsa. Thus, these November games against Georgia Tech were something special, with enough "angles" for the most hardened fan. It was a great rivalry.

Farragut High School to host elite holiday basketball tournament

By Ken Lay

As Thanksgiving looms, the 2023 high school basketball season opens with some of the top boys and girls teams competing in a top local holiday tournament.

Farragut High School will host the RecruitMe Thanksgiving Tournament at the Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium.

Action begins today with four first-round games. Play opens with the host Lady Admirals taking on Christian Academy of Knoxville. Tipoff I slated for 4 p.m. The other girls game tonight features Livingston Academy against Fulton and tips at 7 p.m.

The boys tournament begins at 5:30 with Fulton, the defending Class 4A State Champion colliding with Morristown East, a top squad from Northeast Tennessee. In the final game of opening night, the Farragut boys will play McMinn County at 8:30 p.m.

First-round action continues Tuesday as the Science Hill Lady Hilltoppers at 4 p.m. In the final girls game of the first round, former Webb School of Knoxville head coach Shelley Collier leads Lenoir City against Gatlinburg-Pittman at 7 p.m.

The Lenoir City boys will play Gatlinburg-Pittman at 5:30. At 8:30, District 3-4A Champion Karns will play Greenback in the final opening-round contest.

After two nights off Wednesday and Thursday, tournament play continues Friday morning. Tournament play concludes Saturday.

The buyout life is undefeated

By Mark Nagi

Imagine that you are underachieving at your job to the point that your employer doesn't want you to come to work anymore... and that said employer will pay you \$77 million to go away.

Pretty sweet deal, right? Well, all you need to do is become the head football coach at Texas A&M, and your dreams will come true.

Earlier this month, Jimbo Fisher was fired as the leader of the Aggies football program, after nearly six years in charge. His time in College Station was filled with highly rated recruiting classes, but rarely the wins to go with it.

Fisher went 45-25 in his 70 games at Texas A&M, which doesn't sound especially bad. However, over the last three years the Aggies were a barely above mediocre 19-15. It gets worse when you look at his mark in conference play. They were 10-13 against SEC opponents. They were a woeful 12-14 against Power Five conference schools.

Maybe the biggest indictment of Fisher's tenure is

the way that this team has played away from home. They haven't won a true road game in over two years. That includes a 20-13 loss to Tennessee back on October 14.

Fisher arrived in College Station with a really good resume, which included the 2013 BCS national title with Florida State. But when he struggled to win big without having Jameis Winston as his quarterback, Fisher wore out his welcome with each passing year in Tallahassee. Texas A&M gave him a lifetime, and he took it, and the big salary that came with it.

Fisher got a 10-year contract worth \$75 million in December 2017. The Aggies went 9-1 during the 2020 COVID season, prompting Texas A&M to rip up his original contract and give him a brand new 10-year deal for \$95 million. Oh, and that contract was fully guaranteed.

That... was insane for many reasons. First of all, using the COVID season as a sign that everything was moving in the right direction was crazy, no matter how good recruiting was

going. Nothing went according to plan that year.

Second, and this is the big one for me... what other school was out there ready to give Fisher \$95 million? He was still under contract for seven more years and already making \$7.5 million a year. Texas A&M was under no obligation to give Fisher a raise, and there was no competition for his services. This was an example of an athletics department with more money than common sense.

The Aggies pulled the trigger on the firing knowing that after nearly six years, things were not going to get better, so give them credit for that at least. But this was yet another example of schools overpaying for coaches that couldn't get the job done.

Tennessee has paid millions of dollars to former football coaches Phillip Fulmer, Derek Dooley and Butch Jones (Fulmer got AD buyout cash too), but never the type of numbers we see in the Fisher case. Heck, when Auburn paid Gus Malzahn over \$20 million to leave, we never thought that would be considered chump change to their division rival.

Because these guys are all wired different, Fisher may well choose to coach again, despite the fact that he's getting that \$77 million no matter what his future holds. Spending the next 30 years at the beach sounds a lot better to me but hey, what do I know.

Just remember that the buyout life has been and always will be undefeated.

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Decision to play golf pays off for Bolton

By Steve Williams

Drew Bolton grew up in a "baseball family," but decided to take a different path in athletics after his 7th grade year at Gresham Middle School.

It ended up being a great decision, as the Central High senior signed his National Letter of Intent on Nov. 13 to play golf at Tennessee Tech University.

Drew had been playing basketball and baseball at Gresham.

"He didn't see himself with the potential in those two sports to be able to play much at Central," recalled Andy Bolton, his father.

Andy and his wife Kathy "supported his decision and encouraged him to be the best golfer that he could be if that is what he wanted to do."

At the signing, Andy credited Jim Bush, a friend of the family and a UT golfer in the mid-1950s, with "lighting the fire for Drew" in golf when as a 14-year-old he made a hole-in-one at Cherokee Country Club, where Bush is a member.

Drew's progress in high school was slow but steady. His scores were in the low 90s at the end of his freshman season, low to mid 80s his sophomore year, mid to high 70s as a junior and low to mid 70s by the time he was a senior.

"Drew has a great teacher in Brad Rose (Director of Instruction at Willow Creek) along with a wonderful golf mentor and family friend, Ryan Greer," said Andy,

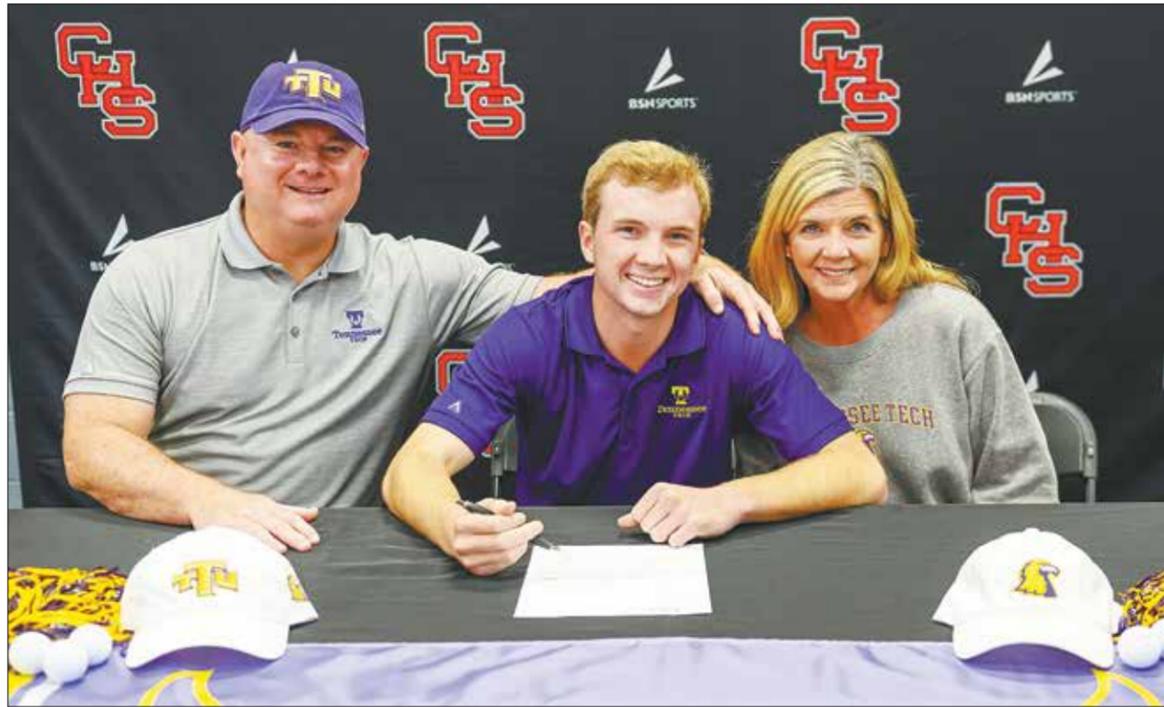


PHOTO BY JOHN VALENTINE

Mom and dad, Kathy and Andy Bolton, share a happy time with their son Drew at his signing with the Tennessee Tech University golf program on Nov. 13 at Central High School.

whose son started by working "tirelessly" at Beaver Brook and then at Holston Hills, a longer course, the past four years.

"It has been very rewarding for Kathy and me to see Drew set lofty goals for himself and achieve those goals through hard work and perseverance," added Andy.

Drew, a slender 6-1 who turned 18 this past Saturday, admitted there were "times when I asked myself, 'Do I want to stay with this?'"

But he always had his family's support, he said, "whether he was shooting in the 90s or 60s.

"I love this game," added

Drew. "It's great to get to play another four years."

Drew, who also is the Central High Student Body President, said the turnout "meant a lot." Among those

in attendance was his brother Ryan, who signed with Carson-Newman University two years ago as a punter and also played in the outfield with the baseball team last spring.

During his four seasons at Central, Drew shaved 17 strokes off his scoring average. He also was a four-time qualifier for the region tournament.

As a senior, Bolton posted three individual wins, as well as a runner-up showing, and scored

75 or under in 18 out of 23 rounds. He produced a stroke average of 74.0 for the season and ranked 14th in the state.

"I would say that his strength was his consistency on his tee shots," said Central Coach Luke Ladd. "He kept it in play off the tee very well."

In 2023, Bolton had a trio of top-three finishes on the Sneds Tour, including a pair of medalist finishes, and was the Tri-Star Match Play champion.

Other honors for Bolton include being a two-time State Junior Amateur qualifier and a State Amateur qualifier.

Tennessee Tech Coach

Polk Brown has been impressed with Bolton. "Drew has shown so much growth in his game over the last 12 to 16 months," he said. "From where he started as a freshman in high school to where he is now is extraordinary and a testament to his hard work and determination, which will serve him well when he gets here. He will be a fantastic student-athlete in every sense of the word and we are excited to have him be a part of this program."

Drew said he will major in Finance.

"I had some interest from other schools around here, but I knew if Tennessee

Tech was going to offer me, I was going to go there," he said. "That's where I wanted to go. I love what Coach Brown is doing up there. I think the program is going in a great direction and I really like the location. Cookeville is a great spot. It feels like home, so I'm looking forward to it."

Drew said he started playing competitive golf in 2020.

"Ever since then, it's been something I've been chasing after," he said. "It's my passion. I wasn't very good then, but I've always had this dream and to see it come true is really surreal."

"I learned how to play when I was four, but it always took a backseat to basketball and baseball and it wasn't until about 8th grade I decided I wanted to focus on golf. I'm not a big fan of running, so golf is a perfect sport."

Coach Ladd seems to think Bolton has the right mindset for golf, which can be very frustrating at times.

"Well, I've had many setbacks in the last four years and many times where it takes a lot of mental strength," said Bolton. "For instance, this year I missed going to the state tournament by one shot. Stuff like that, you can either let it break you down and not want to play again or it can be what motivates you to keep moving forward. My goal is just be the best golfer I can be, so even though I have setbacks, that's part of golf."

Scott quiets Powell's second-half start

Cont. from page 1

"We will eat breakfast at Dead End (restaurant on Sutherland Avenue) at 7:30. Practice from 9 to 10. "It is great to be together as a football team on Thanksgiving. Our kids are really looking forward to it."

Catholic plays Baylor close in second meeting

Catholic didn't have all of its best players on the field in a 42-0 loss at Baylor in the Division II-AAA regular season finale on Oct. 27, but the Fighting Irish did in their semifinal game against Baylor Friday night and it made a big difference in the outcome.

Catholic and Baylor were tied 28-all going into the fourth quarter. Baylor (10-2) pulled out a 49-35 win.

"Proud of the way our team performed (Friday) night," said Catholic co-Head Coach Steve Matthews Saturday. "We played them earlier, but the playoff seeding had been set, and it was the last game of the season, so we rested a lot of our players.

"Last night we definitely had a chance to win. We just weren't able to make the plays down the stretch. But overall we're very excited about where our program is headed and the future looks very bright."

Junior quarterback Jayden Neal threw five touchdown passes, completing 32 of 53 passes for 342 yards, with two interceptions.

Senior Braylon Harmon led the receiving corps with

12 catches for 127 yards and one touchdown. Tyreek King, a sophomore, had six receptions for 87 yards and one TD. Senior RB Quincy Pannell pulled in two TD passes. Senior Connor Ruth added a 5-yard TD catch.

In other action, Bearden led at Bradley Central 14-7 halfway through the second quarter, but the unbeaten Bears pulled away for a 35-14 win.

Boo Carter, a UT commitment, scored two touchdowns for Bradley Central after intermission.

The Bulldogs finished the season 9-4.

Three finalists to be named Tuesday for Mr. Football awards

The three finalists for each of the Tennessee Titans' Mr. Football awards will be unveiled by Mike Keith and Titans head coach Mike Vrabel at 8 pm ET on Tuesday, Nov. 21. The announcement will be streamed on the Tennessee Titans website and the Titans social/digital channels.

The three finalists for each award will be the ones invited to attend the awards luncheon at Nissan Stadium, where the winner of each award will be announced on Dec. 5.

Knox County has four in the running: They are Steven Soles Jr. of Powell in Class 5A, Markeis Barrett and Cooper Cameron of Webb in Division II-AA and Owen Taylor of Halls for Kicker of the Year.

West cheer squad's sign comes true

Cheer squads put in a lot of time making colorful and

clever pre-game signs that their football team runs through before the game... and in a matter of seconds destroys all that work... but

not the memory.

Sometime the sign takes a jab at the opponents. Like West's sign Friday: 'You can't spell Powell without

2 Ls.' The two Ls were a prediction that West would beat PoweLL a second time this season... and they did. Ouch!

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Seven Islands State Birding Park named State Park of the Year in Tennessee

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has named Seven Islands State Birding Park in Kodak its Park of the Year as part of the Tennessee State Parks Awards of Excellence.

"Seven Islands State Park had an outstanding year of achievement, and we are excited to announce this award for the park," said Greer Tidwell, deputy commissioner of Conservation at TDEC. "It takes a top-notch performance to stand above 57 state parks, and Seven Islands delivered extraordinary results."

The Park of the Year award is for a park that has demonstrated excellence in all award categories - Innovation, Sustainability, Interpretation, Resource Management, Facilities Management, and Customer Engagement as well as the fiscally responsible operation of the park.



Seven Islands State Birding Park is named Tennessee State Park of the Year. From left are Mike Robertson, director of operations for Tennessee State Parks; Veronica Greer, area manager; Justine Cucchiara, park manager; and Greer Tidwell, deputy commissioner of Conservation at TDEC.

Seven Islands worked with an Adverse Childhood Experiences grant and local schools to provide educational programs for over 1,100 students. The park recorded over 2,268 volunteer hours with over 50 volunteers and three interns

in numerous community science efforts. The park made major renovations to facilities, created 1,100 feet of new trail, and renovated another 676 feet. Park staff and volunteers removed six acres of invasive species, planted five acres of pollinator

habitat, removed 1,130 feet of barbed wire, and removed two tons of debris from historic dump sites.

The diverse natural landscape of aquatic and grassland habitats makes Seven Islands State Birding Park a premier birding destination with more than 190 species of birds sighted. The park encompasses 416 acres along the French Broad River in Knox County, approximately 19 miles east of Knoxville.

TDEC also announced awards for the best parks in the following categories: Pickett CCC Memorial State Park for Customer Engagement and Resource Management; Radnor Lake State Park for Interpretation; Booker T. Washington State Park for Innovation; and Johnsonville State Historic Park for Sustainability.

The winner of the Facilities Management category will be announced later.

Relaunched criminal court clerk's office program finding success

The Knox County Criminal Clerk's Office has relaunched a program that offers community service to some indigent defendants who cannot afford to pay their court costs.

"The Community Service Program is a way for qualifying individuals to honor their debts while making a positive impact in the community," said Clerk Mike Hammond. "The initiative is not solely about meeting court costs but also supporting individuals to grow personally and professionally. This approach reinforces the belief that everyone deserves a second chance."

Since the program's reboot in early August, five people have completed community service time for a total of 430 hours. The participants also decreased their debt by almost \$16,000.

Hammond worked with state lawmakers years ago to create the program and the legislature overwhelmingly approved it. The program, though, was put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hammond made a goal to reinstate the program and hired Elizabeth White to oversee it. White was one of the few people to complete the program before the pandemic, and she is passionate to see it reinstated. Since starting it back again this year, more than two dozen community nonprofits, agencies, and organizations have signed on as partners.

"I was delighted and honored to relaunch this amazing program," said White. "It gives people an opportunity to get their lives back on track as well as make a difference in their community. Alongside our community partners and participants, we're making Knoxville and Knox County a better place for all of us."

The Community Service Program also partners with another program that helps participants eligible for a driver's license to get it reinstated.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating, contact White at (865) 215-4087 or elizabeth.white@knoxcounty.org.

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