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## New city council members speak up

By Mike Steely  
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When the City Beer Board convened Tuesday afternoon Stephanie Welch, the new 1st District member, was left out of the roll call. This was brought to immediate attention and Board Chairman George Wallace

and the other members laughed when he said his name was, until now, the last name called on the roll and he had forgotten that "Welch" comes after "Wallace." Welch was noted as being present.

"Here we go," Wallace said as the first regularly

scheduled meeting of the new council got underway.

The five new city council members had no hesitation in speaking up during their first regular council meeting Tuesday. Each of them not only made motions in the beer board but also in the regular and

zoning requests with new Councilwoman Seema Singh Perez speaking up to question two affordable housing grants.

Perez told the director of Helen Ross McNabb she was disappointed with a structure at 3720 Middlebrook Pike being torn down

so 10 units for homeless veterans could be built. The city is awarding \$300,000 in a grant, which Perez said she supports but wanted to know why the demolition took place.

Director Jerry Vagnier responded that restoring the building would have

cost more than tearing it down and building a new facility. He said the project will cost about \$1.7 million and supplies independence for mental health.

Perez noted that \$800,000 of the funds are coming from the state and voted

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## HOLIDAY HELPERS



Central High School junior cheerleader LeAnna Rogers enjoys face-painting at the Fantasy of Trees. High school student-athletes have stepped up again during the holiday season this year. See story and more photos in Sports & Recreation, Section C.

## Ms. Senior United States



Royalty appeared at the Frank R. Strange Senior Center on Wednesday, Dec. 13 in the form of three Senior Pageants Group queens. Left to right are, Ms. Senior Universe Donna McGuffie, Ms. Senior United States Lauren Monahan, Cole Monahan, and Ms. Senior Tennessee Debbie Watts.

## Royalty is crowned in Knoxville

By Pete Gawda

History was made December 13 at the Frank R. Strang Senior Center when Lauren Monahan, coordinator of the center and former Ms. Senior Tennessee, was crowned as the first Ms. Senior United States. She was crowned by Donna McGuffie, the reigning Ms. Senior Universe, who is a friend of Ms. Monahan.

"This so special," Ms. McGuffie said as she crowned Monahan. McGuffie was representing the Ms. Senior Pageants Group which seeks to honor the women and daughters of "The Greatest Generation" through Ms. Senior Universe and other pageants. The Ms. Senior Universe Pageant is for ladies 60 and over and has been presented for a number of years. However, Monahan is the first Ms. Senior United States, which is a new category open to ladies 50 years of age and older.

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## Unusual year for Angelic Ministries

By Mike Steely  
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It's been quite a year for Angelic Ministries. The needs of destitute families keep growing and the ministry continues to serve them. Earlier in the year the ministry bought the former Salem Baptist Church building in Halls and it took months to convince the community there that Executive Director Tony Earl wasn't going to operate a homeless center there.

"God opened the door for us to buy the Halls church. We were granted \$100,000 to do so and borrowed another \$200,000.

We're doing a needs analysis in the Halls community with leaders there. It could become a facility for adult education, seniors, school arts, a wedding venue, a community garden or have a computer lab," he said of the former church.

Since then the ministry has had two "Christmas Malls" at the new location where needy families could come and pick gifts, toys, clothing, etc. for free. The Angelic Ministries location on Central held the same "mall" through December. Also within the items available to impoverished families were Christmas

trees and decorations.

"We served 99 individuals yesterday, 67 of them for Christmas items," Reverend Earl told The Focus earlier this month.

Having given the promise not to house recovering men in the Halls facility, Earl said they are now looking for a piece of property solely for that purpose. There's a waiting list to get into the men's program, which trains men in various job skills like garage work, wood shop, etc. He said that dorm-type housing is best for men who enter the program and they would spend the first three months there.

Earl said the program is "going well" and told of several men who have moved on to employment. "We call it Life Retraining." He added that the ministry is looking into getting some of the men special driver licenses so they can drive back and forth to work.

"We're selling two of our nine houses toward paying off the Halls property. Our vision is to pay it off in two years," he said. Of those ministry-owned houses which currently house men in the program he said, "There has never been a police officer called to our houses."

Angelic Ministries relies on

donations and prayers to achieve its goals. Two years ago they badly needed a large truck and someone stepped up and donated enough money for the ministry to buy a 28-foot truck.

"As a ministry God opens up a door for the needs of the community," he said.

"We serve 50 families each week with three to five members each. They are referred to us by churches, agencies, landlords, CAC, the Salvation Army, KARM and the public schools," Earl continued.

**Continued on page 2**

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# Old Sanitary Laundry gets more roof money

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The former Sanitary Laundry building at 625 North Broadway has been a clean-up problem for the city for several years. In Tuesday night's meeting of the Knoxville City Council the project got an additional \$49,361 in funding for roof and window renovation bringing the total spent on the reconstruction project there to more than \$613,000.

The contract for completion by Anderson Lumber Company was extended again and the council wanted to know about the project.

Development Director Ann Wallace told the council the city "inherited it through a tax sale" and the building had been abandoned since 1993. She said the city is attempting to bring the Broadway and Central structure "back into productive use." She said the building is a "brown fill site" and when completed could be offered for sale by the city for use as an office or used for light industrial.

Wallace said that if someone bought it to use as a residence the buyer would need to put a lot more work into cleaning up the site before use.

Council member Lauren Rider asked what the price might be in selling the building and Wallace said the city would like to recover the cost of renovation. Wallace said the neighborhood is changing and the building might be sold with

a base put on the asking price.

In other business the council voted to again contract with Fred (Tony) Thompson, Jr. for lobbying services in Nashville. Thompson, the son of former Senator and actor Fred Thompson, has represented Knoxville and other large municipalities for several years. He appeared before council and said he is "the eyes, ears and mouthpiece" at the State Capitol. He also said that he works with the city staff to make sure Knoxville's position is known in the legislature.

In other action the council approved just over \$3.3 million for improvement to the Merchant Drive and Clinton Highway intersection. Engineering Director Jim Hagerman told the council that the project is due to the "lack of pedestrian activity" there. He said that sidewalks, pedestrian signals, a bus stop and mid-street refuge will be added.

A new roof for Fire Station #18 was also approved as was a contract with Rogers Petroleum for bulk fuel for the Fleet Services Department.

Fifteen thousand dollars was added to a contract with Baseline Sports Construction for additional work on the Testerman Tennis Courts.

The contract with Waste Connections, Inc. was approved for collection and disposal of household waste and an agreement

with Knoxville Landfills, LLC was approved for disposal of waste collected at the city's solid waste transfer facility.

Funds were approved for the Urban Wilderness Gateway Project in South Knoxville. Council member Stephanie Welch said she was "excited to see that Phase One will move forward" and noted that neighborhood participation will be part of that project.

Just over \$71,000 was added to the Old City Streetscapes project along West Jackson Avenue from State Street to Central Street.

Vice Mayor Finbarr Saunders named Marshall Stair, Seema Singh Perez, Gwen McKenzie, Andrew Roberto and Rider to the city's Audit Committee. Several appointments and reappointments by Mayor Madeline Rogero were approved including those of Michael Thomas to the Better Building Board, Sara Glass, Ronnie Nease, Karen Pappas and Dr. Marcy Souza to the Animal Control Board and Adrienne Simpson-Brown to the KUB Board.

Dale Madden, Craig Walker, Thomas Welborn, Jenny Arthur, Andrew Caylor and Daniel Steinhoff were named to the Tree Board. Named to the Golf Course Advisory committee were Sheryl Ely and Chad Weth and Linda Gay Blanc was reappointed to the Pension Board.

# Property Protected Even When You Have a Judgment Against You

I see lots of people come to the courthouse who end up with a judgment against them for some reason or another. Maybe they got behind on their credit card payments, maybe they took out a payday loan that they shouldn't have taken, or maybe they couldn't pay the medical bills they incurred.

So these individuals end up down at the courthouse, and they end up having a judgment against them for a few thousand dollars. Once that judgment is entered, they may try to make payments on it or not. A great number of people never even show up to court to defend themselves against the creditor seeking a judgment against them. That may be because some people are what we call, "judgment proof." That means that even if they have a judgment against them, no one is ever going to collect anything from them because they do not have a job, they do not even have assets, and there is never going to be a single dollar collected from them on the debt they owe.

But what if you are not "judgment proof," but you do not have much in the form of

worldly possessions. Can the person to whom you owe money take your few possessions to satisfy their judgment? Well, yes and no.

According to Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) section 26-2-103, a debtor is able to protect up to \$10,000.00 worth of personal property from being seized to satisfy a judgment. This personal property can even include money in a bank.

How do you notify the court what you want protected? TCA section 26-2-114 states that the person wanting to protect their property must make a list of the items they want protected and the items approximate value and file that list with the court.

Of note, there are certain items protected under Tennessee law which can never be seized to satisfy a judgment and are always protected. They are: items of necessary wearing apparel for yourself and your family, trunks or other receptacle necessary to contain such apparel, family portraits, the family Bible and school books.

Jedidiah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knox County and surrounding counties. He works in many areas, including criminal, personal injury, landlord-tenant, probate, and estate planning. Visit attorney-knoxville.com for more information about this legal issue and other legal issues.



By Jedidiah McKeehan  
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Councilman George Wallace chaired the Beer Board meeting and got a laugh when he realized that the newly seated Council member Stephanie Welch's name comes after his and he is no longer the last person on the roll call. He's pictured with Sgt. John Coward and City Recorder Will Johnson.

# New city council members speak up

Cont. from page 1

for the grant.

She also voted for an affordable housing grant for The Restoration House of East Tennessee for the development of 12 units for low-income single mothers at 2205 Village place Way.

The Beer Board, led by Councilman Wallace, was a bit of a learning experience for the new members with Wallace often adding "pending final approval" to several of the uncontested beer license requests. The new members caught

on quickly and even began asking applicants if their employees had completed the "server compliance" training.

Generally the council member of the district where the business is applying, or on request in the regular meeting that is for their districts, are turned to for the motion.

New Councilman Andrew Roberto joined the discussion of a request from SWB Holdings for a beer kiosk in a local mall asking about safety exits from the food court there

to the outside.

Welch moved to approve a small convenience store. She and Roberto asked two applicants about server training and after Councilman Finbarr Saunders said he was uncomfortable with the application, Roberto moved to postpone the decision for thirty days.

New Councilwoman Lauren Rider moved to postpone applications from Fork Knox, Amigo's and Geezer's Brewery.

# Unusual year for Angelic Ministries

Continued from page 1

Each week Angelic Ministries also holds a church service at its Central Street location where meals are served and coats are given. On one Saturday of each month emergency clothing is given out to people.

Referring to the recent city cleanup of a homeless camp beneath the Broadway bridge, Earl said that he wants to develop a Clean Up Coalition to "ease the burden on the city." He said that the coalition would teach the homeless to clean up their sites and possibly even give gift certificates to those who do it.

"Some of those people down there need to a mind-set change. They've lost so much dignity that they just don't care anymore," he said.

As Angelic Ministries enters the New

Year several things are needed. Earl said they are always in need of toiletries and paper towels, donations for utility bills and volunteers.

"One thing we really need is a clothes baler for recycling. We use funds from that program to help with utility bills," he said.

Founded in 2002 by Betsy Frazier, Angelic Ministries is headquartered at 1218 North Central Street in the former Merita Bakery building. The Christian non-profit organization can pick up large donations and all donations are tax-deductible. You can contact the ministries by calling the Volunteer Coordinator at (865) 523-8884.

You can get more information at www.angelicministries.com and find them also on Facebook.

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# 2017 The year in review, part two

By Mike Steely  
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## May

Local fire departments, organizations and citizens came together to help the recovery in Sevier County following devastating fires there.

The county commission authorized special computer tables to be used by prisoners at the Knox County Jail. Citizens living near the proposed Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center continued their protest against the facility being located in their neighborhood. An appeal of a Board of Zoning Appeals ruling to permit the center as a "hospital" was denied by the commission with only Commissioner Nick Della Volpe siding with the homeowners.

Knoxville Mayor Rogero announced no new tax increase in a gathering at the new Suttree Landing Park. The former Supreme Court Building was sold to developer Rick Dover, who was in the process of restoring Old Knoxville High School and other buildings downtown.

Focus writer Mike Steely was honored by the East Tennessee Historical Society as winner of the "History in Media" for his stories. The Focus was also honored.

Several potential candidates began campaigning for the Knoxville City Council primary. By mid-month 31 candidates had qualified to run for the five offices that were becoming vacant due to term limits.

The school board wrestled with compliance with laws dealing with transgender students and school bathrooms. The board also discussed alternatives to the teacher evaluation program. Knoxville Mayor Burchett introduced his annual budget including money for a BMX Bike park. The proposal was 3.48% higher than the previous budget but no new property taxes were proposed.

The planning commission

voted to approve regulating short-term rentals in the city and sent the proposal to the city council. Mayor Rogero and the council began discussion of supporting the Emerald Youth Foundation's plans to build a facility in Lonsdale and decided to hold a public hearing there.

Policies dealing with harassment, tenure and sick leave were reviewed by the school board.

The historic Sterchi Mansion was added to the Fragile Fifteen list by Knox Heritage.

A pavilion was added near the Vestal Arch on Martin Mill Pike near Ogle Avenue and plans were announced by the city to further restore Fountain City Lake and create a wetland section of that lake.

The county commission approved a budget of \$788 million for the upcoming fiscal year and the beer board continued cracking down on illegal beer sales to minors.

## June

Former Knox County Commissioner Jack Huddleston was honored for his many years of efforts on behalf of Gibbs, Coryton and North Knoxville.

Lonsdale residents spoke up and demanded a say in the proposed Emerald Youth center in their neighborhood and South Knoxville residents voiced support for a proposed BMX bike track at South Doyle Middle School.

David Massey, director of the Office of Neighborhoods, was honored by Fountain City Town Hall during Honor Fountain City Day.

Stephanie Welch kicked off a successful campaign for the 1st District City Council seat and was endorsed by Councilman Nick Pavlis. The school board voted to give a lot for the Lonsdale center and the city began working on the short-term rental policy.



The late Alvin Frye with a Central High School cap. The owner and operator of Fountain City Exxon was a community leader and well-known icon of Fountain City. (Photo courtesy of Michael Grider)

Dr. Bill Bass spoke at "Bats and Bones" in Cherokee Caverns and Superintendent Bob Thomas spoke at the Fountain City Business and Professional Association. Tindell Building Supply celebrated 125 years in business and the Knox County E-911 system began looking for a new director, choosing Bill Bull as selected.

The city kicked off "Recode Knoxville" with the planning commission with an online survey.

Jolie Bonavita was honored for her years as director of Knox County Commission and the MPC introduced its new multi-colored yard notification signs.

## July

Gas prices went up 4% under state legislation and the tax on food was reduced by one percent all in an effort to put more funds into road construction.

Various candidates for city and county offices interacted with voters at the Knoxville Expo Center and Mayor Rogero begin a successful "Go Vote" campaign to boost turnout in the city. The Focus continued interviews with term-limited city council members.

Governor Ned McWherter Park was granted another 20-year lease between the city and the state transportation department.

The Knox County Commission voted to give

property next to the Sam E. Hill School on Delaware Avenue to Emerald Youth for the proposed Lonsdale center. Hardy Johnson, a longtime cobbler in Fountain City, was featured on his 89th birthday.

The short-term rental regulation debate came before the city council for the first time with opposition from some neighborhoods.

Local civil rights leader Rev. Harold Middlebrook had an interstate bridge named for him and Pleasant Ridge Elementary displayed a mural honoring the area's past. New Harvest Park hosted the annual Corn and Tomato Festival.

Fountain City icon Alvin Frye passed away at age 93. The Navy veteran and

community leader was noted for operating the Exxon Station there for 23 years. He was a 32nd Degree Mason and a leader in the Lions Club and the Kerbela Temple.

The Police Advisory Committee disagreed with an internal review of an off-duty policemen during a Jefferson City incident.

## August

Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett announced his plans to run for U. S. Congress shortly after incumbent Congressman Jimmy Duncan decided not to run. Also announcing for the office was Lenoir City's Jimmy Matlock. Mayor Rogero cut a ribbon opening a sidewalk extension on Young High Pike.

Developer Rick Dover hosted a pre-opening tour of renovations at Old Knoxville High School.

Roy and Iva Tallent celebrated 70 years of marriage. Citizens in East Knoxville demanded more bus shelters for their section of town prior to a KAT meeting.

The 10th Annual Tennessee History Fair was held downtown and the Cumberland Avenue renovation project was completed

except for some streetscaping. The two year project ended with a ribbon cutting.

The city council upped council member pay from \$19,000 per year to \$24,000 each for members starting in January 2018. Council candidates met in forum at Alice Bell Church.

Questions arose at the county commission when Rural/Metro pushed to renew its contract one year before it expired. A favorable ruling by the city Board of Zoning Appeals was appealed by neighbors and others over a decision approving the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center on Dewine Road.

The City Council Primary saw a tie vote for second place in the 4th District where Lauren Rider led but Harry Tindell and Amy Parker tied. The tie was resolved by city council and Tindell and Rider went on to the general election. P

Going on to face each other in the general election were Stephanie Welch and Rebecca Parr in the 1st District, Andrew Robertson and Wayne Christensen in the 2nd, James Corcoran and Seema Singh Perez in the 3rd and Gwen McKenzie and Jennifer Montgomery in the 6th District.



Officials celebrate the renovation of Cumberland Avenue



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# Lobbying company renewal questioned by school board

By Mike Steely  
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For several years the Knox County Board of Education has routinely hired a Nashville lobbying company for representation at the state capitol. The three other major school systems in the state use the same firm. Knox County government has no outside lobbying representative except for membership in the Tennessee County Commissioner's Association. Knoxville city government is preparing to renew its contact with Fred D. (Tony) Thompson, Jr. in a \$55,000 annual lobbying agreement. The renewal of the school's

one-year retainer agreement with Millsaps Gowan Government Relations comes at a cost of \$37,500. Although the resolution for this expenditure appeared on the Knox County Commission's agenda recently it was postponed until the commission meeting in January. Knox County Board of Education member Tony Norman apparently called and requested the deferment as the board was not finished with deciding on the renewal.

The lobbying company, comprised of Robert Gowan and Elizabeth Millsaps, represents Knox County within the Coalition of Large School

Systems, or "CLASS."

Norman brought up questions about the continual annual renewal in a school board work session recently.

BOE member Terri Hill told The Focus that the Tennessee School Board Association also lobbies for Knox County and there is some discussion on if the second lobby company is necessary.

"I'm the CLASS representative and I've worked closely with them," Hill said.

"I don't know much about it," Tony Norman told The Focus, adding, "I just want to know what we're getting out of it," he said of the contract

with the lobbying firm.

Norman said the contract routinely comes up and that he's just starting to investigate it.

Four commissioners sit on the Joint Education Committee. They are Charles Busler, Brad Anders, Evelyn Gill and Michelle Carringer. Busler told The Focus the county commission had discussed hiring a separate Nashville lobbying agent for the county in the past but added that the Tennessee County Commissioner's Association represents them.

"We're getting as much or more out of them," Busler said, comparing the efforts of the TCCA to a separate

lobbying company.

"The issue for me is since we're supplying the money—taxpayer money—how is it being spent?" Busler said of the renewal of the school system's lobby company.

BOE member Jennifer Owen said that Norman asked for the delay at the school board meeting as a "point of special privilege" and, after some discussion, Chairman Bounds granted the request. Owen did say that since the item was originally on the board's consent agenda it probably went on to the commission's agenda without notice of delay and the contract has yet to be approved by the board.

## How to repurpose your post-Christmas pine

A fresh-cut Christmas tree is a holiday delight, but what do you do when the decorations come down? Recycle it!

City residents can place their bare trees at the curb for pick-up by Public Service workers as time and resources allow around regular leaf collection.

These trees are taken to the City's mulch contractor, Nature's Best Organics. Residents can also take their trees to Nature's Best Organics for a minimum \$5 charge.

After Jan. 1, 2018, residents can leave trees at one of the Knox County convenience centers listed below:

- Dutchtown Convenience Center – 10618 Dutchtown Road
- Halls Convenience Center – 3608 Neal Drive
- John Sevier Convenience Center – 1950 West John Sevier Highway

- Karns Convenience Center – 6930 Karns Crossing Lane

- Powell Convenience Center – 7311 Morton View Lane

- Tazewell Pike Convenience Center – 7201 Tazewell Pike

Trees must be cleaned of all ornaments, lights, wire, string and other decor before bringing them to be tree-cycled.

And if your strands of Christmas lights have shone for the last time, you can keep them out of the landfill by taking them directly to a Goodwill attendant at any City of Knoxville recycling drop-off center or County convenience center at Halls, Dutchtown, John Sevier and Karns. Lights must be given to an attendant to be recycled. Lights can also be turned in at the City's Hazardous Household Waste facility at 1033 Elm Street.

## Historic Zoning Commission discusses new construction in Concord Village

By Pete Gawda

The Knox County Historical Planning Commission held a workshop meeting on Dec. 21 to discuss the preliminary plans submitted by Lisa Beer-Wigert to build a house and garage/workshop/carport on a vacant lot at 10817 Second Drive in historic Concord Village. The workshop meeting was held in conjunction with the monthly meetings of the Knox County Historical Planning Commission and the Knoxville Historic Zoning Commission.

Commissioners examined preliminary plans and discussed criteria for building in Concord Village so the owner would have a better idea of what would be required in final plans. Commissioners discussed setback requirements and looked at slides of the lot from different angles as well as slides of other homes in the area. Since accessory buildings in the area are typically smaller

than the main building, it was suggested that the garage, which is designed to be about the same size as the house, be set back further on the lot. It was also suggested that the garage might be turned sideways so that there would not be two gables facing the front of the property. Since front porches are prominent in houses of the area it was suggested that the house have a larger front porch. Neighbor Dave Russell suggested that the commission not move too fast and give proposed plans due deliberation. Carol Russell expressed concern that the proposed house fit in with the neighborhood since it is on the main road into the neighborhood.

The Knoxville Historic Zoning Commission issued certificates of appropriateness for proposed work on two house in the Fourth and Gill neighborhood.

Katie King applied to reconstruct the porch

roof on her house at 914 Luttrell St. to more closely resemble the original porch. Proposed plans included constructing a new porch roof with a steeper slope, redoing the beam structure, upgrading porch flooring and replacement of wooden elements of the front fence. There was no opposition from the community.

The next house on the agenda, 911 Luttrell St. was almost across the street from the first house. Owners Kelly Johnson and Jonathan Wimmer proposed to enclose a second floor porch on the south corner of the rear of the house, extend a porch on the first floor of the north corner of the rear of the house and enclose the second floor porch above it. They also intended to replace the original cone shaped roof over a turret on the front of the house. That cone-shaped roof section had been missing for 40 years. Again there was no opposition from

the community.

In addition to the above actions the commission heard reports from staff on four requests for minor renovations that did not need commission approval and were approved by staff. The renovations included construction of a carport behind the house at 2103 Jefferson Ave and porch renovation at 1704 Washington Ave. Both of these properties are in Edgewood Park. There were also two requests for property in Old North Knoxville. Staff approved roof work at 1232 Armstrong Ave and repair of the original balcony balustrade at 2412 E. Scott Ave.

The city of Knoxville Historic Planning Commission reelected Lorie Matthews as chair and Bart Carey as vice chair. The Knox County Historic Planning Commission followed suit and reelected George Ewart as chair and Scott Smith as vice chair.

## Royalty is crowned in Knoxville

Cont. from page 1

Monahan entered the Ms. Senior Tennessee Pageant as an at-large entrant. She said that various organizations including such groups as county fairs and Sunday school classes sponsor representatives to the pageant.

"How blessed am I," Monahan said as she was crowned. "How proud am I of my staff," she added as she thanked her support team. "This is a family and I love you to death"

"My job as Queen is to spread the joy, excitement and challenge of being the first Ms. Senior United States," Monahan said in a press release, "and to eventually hold a pageant that will choose my successor within the 50-59 year old category. This responsibility does not elude me and I plan on celebrating my age as I go forward this year."

Upon Monahan's crowning as Ms. Senior United States, Debbie

Watts became Ms. Senior Tennessee.

The ladies of the royal court were escorted to the stage by Cole Monahan, Ms. Monahan's son.

As part of the program McGuffie sang the Patsy Cline song "If You've Got Leaving On Your Mind."

Monahan told The Focus she has the best job in the world as coordinator of the Frank R. Strang Senior Center. She supervises a variety of programs in what she calls

"a very vibrant center."

"You name it and we do it."

The Ms. Senior Pageants Group recognizes outstanding senior centers with the Ms. Senior Universe Community Service Award if they meet certain stringent criteria. As a tribute to the work of Monahan the group presented the award to the Strang Senior Center. The award was accepted by Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett.



On behalf of the Senior Pageants Group Ms. Senior Universe, Donna McGuffie, presents Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett with a plaque recognizing the outstanding performance of the Frank R. Strang Senior Center.



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The original Ella Albers Fountain in Old Gray Cemetery was demolished in 1943 to recover scrap metal for the World War II effort. Plans are underway to replicate the fountain, statue and make many other improvements in the historic graveyard.

## Old Gray restoration campaign needs your help

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Many improvements are underway at the Old Gray Cemetery in downtown Knoxville and additional funding is needed to top off an effort named "Trees, Trails and Traditions."

Russell B. Kuhlman, president of the board of directors, notified members and the public by mail recently of the effort noting that 75% of the \$650,000 goal has been reached with the hopes of beginning the project this coming spring.

"The goal is to replace existing roadways, turn some roadways into green space, treat and protect our 150-year-old trees, repair and replace cemetery gates and replicate the beautiful Ella Albers Fountain," Kuhlman said.

The first burial in the cemetery was in 1851 for a man killed in a July 4th Celebration when a cannon exploded. Since then the cemetery has grown and now includes many graves of well-known Knoxvilleans including members of the Maynard, McClung, Brownlow, Kern, Rule, Mabry and Houk families.

The cemetery contains graves of Civil War soldiers of both sides and is a favorite walking place for many residents.

Kuhlman's letter summarized the efforts of the Old Gray Cemetery Educational, Historic and Memorial Association over the past year. He noted the passing of Alix Dempster, the Executive Director, whom he called "the face, heart and brain of Old Gray."

A commemorative plaque was unveiled honoring Alix and her mother in-law, Katie Dempster, for 62 years of dedicated service.

The campaign to publicly launch the \$650,000 project includes plans to replace the fountain and statue. The Ella Albers Fountain once stood 20 feet high and weighed 4 tons.

Mr. Kuhlman also noted that the cemetery was assisted this past year as the host of Knoxville Garden Club's annual Weed Wrangle and the club worked to remove intrusive ivy, privet and brush honeysuckle and improve the looks and reduce areas prone to vandalism.

Knox Heritage held a sold out summer supper on the cemetery grounds which brought new visitors and great exposure for the cemetery.

The board's 16th Annual Lantern Tour was attended by more than 300 people and the group reached out to media and social media to educate the public on the purpose and heritage there.

A workday at the cemetery saw volunteers come all the way from the Mountain Home Veterans Cemetery in Johnson City. It was a day-long effort to upright over 40 grave stones, cut back shrubs and dead trees, rake leaves and trim around the perimeter.

"We have increased security measures at the cemetery, working with the Volunteer Ministry Center next door to be a watchful neighbor and with the Knoxville Police Department which routinely patrols the cemetery," the board president reported.

"I am excited about the future of Old Gray and hope that you will consider an additional gift to help us ensure the historic cemetery remains intact for



Alix Dempster, executive director of Old Gray Cemetery, passed away in November. The Old Gray Association is asking for contributions to its current "Trees, Trails and Tradition" campaign be made to remember the lady who served the group for 31 years.

future generations. Please help us to honor Alix and her love for old Gray," Kuhlman said.

Contributions can be made to Old Gray Cemetery, P. O. Box 806, Knoxville, Tn. 37901-0806. You can also call (865) 522-1424 or find the Association online at [www.oldgraycemetery.org](http://www.oldgraycemetery.org).

## Who's going to be the Good Neighbor of the Year?

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

What do Vicki Forester, David Gillette, Rita Schwartz, Betty Jo Mahan and Diana Conn have in common?

All these people have been recipients of the Good Neighbor of the Year award, named for Diana Conn who was the first winner. Conn was a South Knoxville activist and noted member of the Old Sevier Community Group.

Last year's "Good Neighbor" was Forester, founder of the West Haven Community Neighborhood Association.

Do you know of someone in your neighborhood who should be recognized for their selfless contributions to the community? The Knoxville Office of Neighborhoods is asking "Who goes the extra mile to make his or her neighborhood better?"

Although the award will be presented at the annual Neighborhood Conference on March 24, the deadline for nominations is Tuesday, January 17. All the nominees selected will be recognized during the popular conference, planned for the Knoxville Marriott, and one of them selected as the Good Neighbor.

You can nominate someone by going on the internet to [http://knoxvilletn.gov/government/city\\_departments\\_offices/neighborhoods/](http://knoxvilletn.gov/government/city_departments_offices/neighborhoods/) and get a nomination form and send it to [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov). The site also gives you information about how to form a neighborhood association. You can also call Debbie Sharp at (865) 215-4382.

You may also mail nomination to "City of Knoxville, P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, Tn. 37901."

## Recode Staff Are Available to Speak

Would you and your neighbors or an organization that you are a part of like to learn more about Recode? Would you like to provide your feedback and find ways to stay engaged through the adoption of the new ordinance?

The Recode team wants meaningful community input throughout the process and welcomes opportunities to share information and hear your ideas.

The Recode Knoxville project is an update to the City of Knoxville's zoning ordinance. It is an opportunity to protect the things each of us value about our neighborhoods and commercial areas while allowing the kinds of smart, sustainable growth that will move Knoxville forward. It is a 21<sup>st</sup> century code that is easier to use, easier to administer, and will be a blueprint for the future. The project goals are: to support investment, protect things uniquely Knoxville, and connect our community.

Recode staff is available to join you at a meeting or gathering. To schedule something, call (865) 215-3758 or email them at [recode@knoxmpc.org](mailto:recode@knoxmpc.org).

You can also keep up with Recode meetings, draft releases, and news about the project at [recodeknoxville.com](http://recodeknoxville.com). Be on the lookout for the first draft of the new code followed by community meetings in February and March of 2018.

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# Three Veteran Cemeteries, One Noted Grave

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Wreaths Across America came again to Knox County recently, decorating the graves of veterans of our peacetime and wartime soldiers and sailors. The annual event, sponsored for the last time by Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett, will in the future be in the capable hands of the Vietnam Veterans of America's Captain Bill Robinson Chapter 1078. Graves were decorated at the National Cemetery, Tennessee Veterans Cemetery and East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery by hundreds of volunteers.

One grave got special attention at the request of The Knoxville Focus.

The first grave in the National Cemetery, the one closest to downtown and within the plot that holds East Tennessee Union

Volunteers, is that of Brig. General Joseph A. Cooper. He holds a unique place in the history of our region and our state.

Joseph Cooper was a private during the Mexican-American War and returned to his Powell Valley home after that conflict. After East Tennessee voted not to secede from the Union and most of the rest of the state voted to join the Confederacy, Cooper rallied his Campbell County men. They trained in the meadows secretly and one day snuck through Confederate pickets atop Pine Mountain to join the Union Army just across the line in Kentucky.

Cooper served throughout the war and commanded the Tennessee Militia after the Civil War to combat the KKK. Cooper moved to Missouri and, after his death, his body was moved to the Knoxville

cemetery where he was buried among his fellow East Tennessee Union Soldiers.

At the National Cemetery dozens of volunteers arrived long before the truck arrived with the boxed wreaths. They then worked to unload the wreaths and place boxes here and there around the graveyard but waiting until after the noon ceremony to place the wreaths.

The ceremony at the National Cemetery, which was started by Union General Ambrose Burnside, was repeated at the East Tennessee State Veterans Cemeteries on Lyons View Pike and Governor John Sevier Highway.

More than 18,000 veterans were decorated with the wreaths, in memory of those veterans and their family's service to our nation.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

The grave of General Joseph Cooper, an East Tennessee hero, is decorated in the shadow of the East Tennessee Volunteer monument in the National Cemetery in downtown Knoxville.



Volunteers unload boxes of wreaths from the tractor trailer truck at the National Cemetery. Hundreds of volunteers decorated Veteran graves at Knox County's three Veterans Cemeteries recently.

## KCS Schedules Strategic Plan Community Meetings

Knox County Schools is currently in year four of a five-year strategic plan. Seeking input from the community on the contents of the next strategic plan, which will be a three-year plan, Knox County Schools has scheduled nine community meetings—one for each school district—in January and February. The

meetings are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

- District 5: Tuesday, Jan. 9 at West Valley Middle School
- District 4: Thursday, Jan. 11 at West High School
- District 1: Tuesday, Jan. 16 at Vine Middle School
- District 8: Thursday, Jan. 18 at Carter Middle School
- District 7: Monday, Jan. 22 at Powell Middle School
- District 2: Tuesday, Jan. 23 at Whittle Springs Middle School
- District 6: Tuesday, Jan. 30 at Northwest Middle School
- District 9: Thursday, Feb. 1 at South-Doyle High School
- District 3: Monday, Feb. 5 at Cedar Bluff Middle School

Each meeting will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. and consist of a brief introduction and explanation of the process followed by a breakout discussion led by volunteer facilitators and a report back in the main meeting room.

Though the meetings are designated as district meetings, each is open to the entire public. If any meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, one make-up meeting will be scheduled in February.

BOE District 4 Representative Lynne Fugate is leading the Strategic Plan Committee. Of the process, she has said, "It is important for Knox County Schools to know where we want to go. The strategic plan will help us determine how best to get there and what is most important to the families we serve."

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# Ned Carmack

Part Two

## Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill

rayhill865@gmail.com

E. W. "Ned" Carmack's campaign for the United States Senate ended on a dusty road in rural West Tennessee under circumstances never resolved. Carmack's wife Charlotte arrived to whisk him home to Murfreesboro, where Carmack spent some time in a hospital. Found unconscious, beaten, bloodied and partially paralyzed, Ned Carmack was forced to withdraw from the 1938 senatorial contest.

Little was heard from Ned Carmack until May of 1942 when he entered the senatorial primary yet again; this time Carmack proposed to challenge Senator Tom Stewart, the victor of the 1938 special election. Stewart was the favorite and once again had the backing of senior senator K. D. McKellar and Memphis Boss E. H. Crump. Carmack announced he was running for the Democratic nomination for U. S. Senate on May 31, 1942.

Ned Carmack was quick to get on the campaign trail and charged Senator Stewart with "hogging patronage" in Dyersburg, Tennessee. Considering Stewart's senior colleague, Kenneth McKellar, had a national reputation for wringing patronage out of just about anything, the idea Tom Stewart could "hog" patronage was somewhat amusing. Ned Carmack made the most of his late father's legacy by opening his campaign headquarters in Nashville's Tulane Hotel. Carmack's father had opened headquarters in the Tulane when he was successfully elected to the United States Senate in 1900.

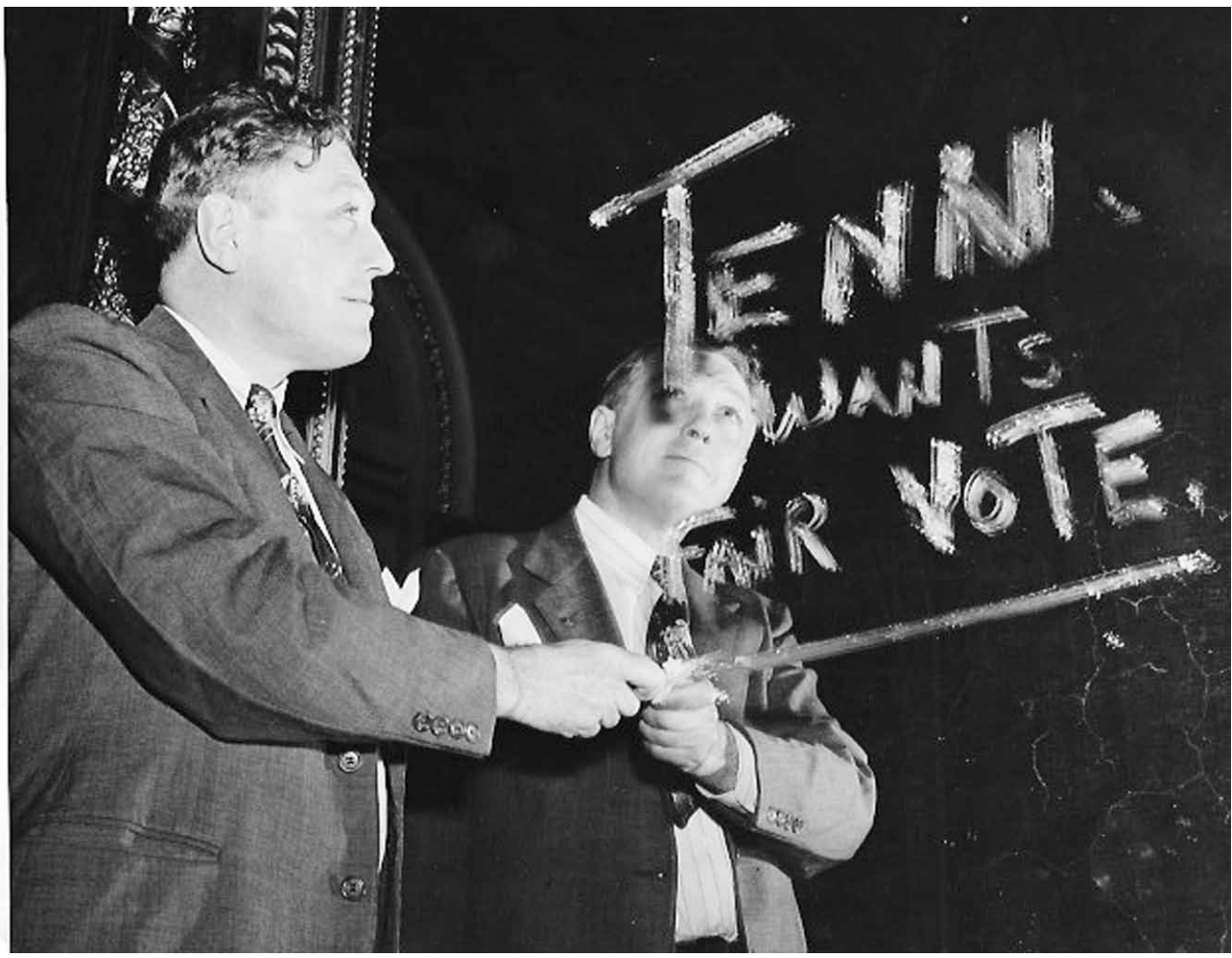
Ned Carmack was soon hitting his stride as a candidate, lashing Tom Stewart for having placed one of his sons on his Senate payroll, assailing Stewart for having backed a congressional reform bill that provided congressmen and senators a pension system, and generally for having been a "me too" senator to McKellar.

Carmack was a more formidable challenger in 1942 if for no other reason than he had the all out support of the Nashville Tennessean. Silliman Evans, publisher of the Tennessean, had broken with Governor Prentice Cooper over the question of the poll tax and was strongly supporting former congressman J. Ridley Mitchell against Cooper. Evans might well have backed Mitchell and Carmack out of principle, but it was also quite true he wished to be the power in Tennessee politics. The Tennessean lavishly covered the campaigns of Ridley Mitchell and Ned Carmack, while at the same time hitting Prentice Cooper and Tom Stewart hard. While bitterly attacking Tom Stewart,

Ned Carmack dramatically told audiences he realized he was a victim of "slander" while the senator remained in Washington. "They are saying, I am told," Carmack complained, "that I am running on my father's name. I know that, and am proud that my father's name has endured for more than 30 years. He has been my ideal in all things in life." "The greatest thing he left me," Carmack cried, "was an honored name. I have never sold that name for patronage nor for favor."

As the primary campaign drew to a close, both Governor Cooper and Senator Stewart were hard pressed by the opposition. The United States was in the middle of a global war and the war was not going well for the allies. The frustrations felt by many Americans was evident in the midterm elections, which was hard on incumbents. Both Cooper and Stewart ran well in East Tennessee where Senator McKellar was popular. All of the candidates were from Middle Tennessee and Senator Stewart easily beat Carmack in his native Franklin County, but Governor Cooper was soundly beaten in his own Bedford County by Ridley Mitchell. Both Senator Stewart and Governor Cooper were losing the same counties to their opponents. Cooper and Stewart carried three of Tennessee's large urban counties: Hamilton, Knox and Shelby and both lost Davidson County decisively. Ned Carmack won Davidson County (Nashville) 9,214 to Stewart's 3,077. Ridley Mitchell won Davidson County 14,236 to 5,899 votes for Prentice Cooper. Yet for once, it was Shelby County that made the difference, especially in the Senate race. Cooper won 47,186 votes to 2,749 for Ridley Mitchell. Senator Stewart won Shelby County with 42,875 votes to 6,959 votes for E. W. Carmack, Jr. The margins were similar for Cooper and Stewart in Shelby County where E. H. Crump held sway to that of Davidson County where Silliman Evans's Tennessean dominated news coverage. Tom Stewart edged out Ned Carmack for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate by barely 20,000 votes. More people voted in the gubernatorial contest where Prentice Cooper won by less than 50,000 votes.

The 1942 race for the U. S. Senate would be the peak of Ned Carmack's political career, although it was not the end of his attempts to win public office. For the rest of his life, E. W. Carmack, Jr. would bitterly insist he had been cheated out of the Democratic nomination and election to the United States Senate.



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Edward Ward "Ned" Carmack, Jr. in 1946

In 1943 Carmack bought a mansion on Main Street in Murfreesboro that would be his home until the end of his life. It was a lovely structure that still stands today. The next year, Carmack had his eye on the governorship. Prentice Cooper was not eligible to seek reelection in 1944 and Congressman Jim Nance McCord was running with the support of Senator McKellar and Crump, but Carmack announced, "I think it probable, now, that I shall become a candidate." Carmack felt there were two "questions" the voters needed to ponder before he would consent to become a candidate for governor, neither of which were within the purview of Tennessee's chief executive. Ned Carmack wondered if the Tennessee Valley Authority should not have "a proven friend in the powerful gubernatorial office?" The second issue was the "intolerable condition of the liquor traffic in wet centers?"

While flirting with a run for governor, E. W. Carmack, Jr. was attempting to move heaven and earth to be accepted into a branch, any branch, of the armed services. Carmack haunted the corridors of Senator K. D. McKellar's Washington office, seeking the help of the powerful McKellar. Although McKellar wrote numerous letters and made calls on behalf of Ned Carmack, no commission was forthcoming for Ned Carmack. Close to fifty years old and crippled, Ned Carmack was not a bright prospect for service during World War II, yet another disappointment that left Carmack bitter. The notion of a Carmack gubernatorial campaign never seemed to catch on and before the state filing deadline, another petition qualifying Carmack to run for the Tennessee Utilities Commission was presented to the Secretary of State. Eventually, Ned Carmack withdrew as a candidate for the Utilities Commission against a weak incumbent who had been appointed to office by Governor Cooper recently. In some counties, Carmack's name remained on the ballot and he carried more than a few of them. It was readily apparent Ned Carmack almost surely would have been elected to the Tennessee Utilities

Commission without much trouble had he merely left his name on the ballot. Another political possibility for Carmack was seeking the Democratic nomination for Congress from the Fourth District as incumbent Jim McCord was running for governor. When queried about the possibility, Carmack, according to the Tennessean, replied with "only a broad smile and a quizzical look out of very shrewd political eyes." Doubtless the reporter was being kind as Carmack likely had no clue as to what he intended to do, especially as he seemed more interested in hinting that he would run for governor after all.

Just weeks before the Democratic primary, Carmack announced he was not a candidate for any office, as he had received information he was being called to Washington for yet another examination in his effort to win a commission in some branch of the armed services. Ned Carmack frittered away probably his best chance of being elected to public office. One could make a compelling case that Carmack would have been a formidable candidate for the gubernatorial nomination and almost certainly would have been elected to the Utilities Commission. Likewise, it seems probable Ned Carmack could have won the Democratic nomination for Jim McCord's open congressional seat. Instead, Ned Carmack thought there was a chance, slender though it might be, for him to serve as part of the military government in the South Pacific.

His desire to serve in the military during World War II dashed, Ned Carmack's mind once again turned to politics in 1945. By the end of the year, Carmack was saying while he had received calls and letters from Tennesseans urging him to run for governor in 1946, he had given the idea scant thought and felt any discussion would be premature.

Ned Carmack embarked on his last campaign for public office by challenging Senator Kenneth D. McKellar. McKellar had been the attorney for Ned Carmack's father when the elder Carmack's election to the U. S. House

of Representatives had been challenged by the incumbent. McKellar had supported Ned Carmack's mother to be Postmistress of the Columbia post office and had tried to help him get into the military. Apparently gratitude extended only so far and Carmack once again had the all out support of the Tennessean. While waging a lively campaign, Carmack did not find the seventy-seven year old McKellar as vulnerable as Tom Stewart. McKellar was entrenched and most Tennesseans were grateful to the senator for his help. Aging and frequently ill, McKellar never came back to Tennessee to campaign while Ned Carmack crisscrossed the state. Opponents of the McKellar - Crump combine were surprised when the senator won easily, defeating Carmack with better than 60% of the vote. Never again was Edward Ward Carmack, Jr. a factor in Tennessee politics.

Even more bitter after his loss to McKellar, Ned Carmack contented himself by filing a series of \$50,000 law suits against political opponents whom he believed had questioned his patriotism. Carmack maintained that the opposition had cost him many votes in his 1946 campaign. Carmack spoke on behalf of Congressman Estes Kefauver's bid for the U. S. Senate against incumbent Tom Stewart in 1948. While speaking to a "small, but enthusiastic crowd" in Gallatin, Tennessee, Ned Carmack launched into a fierce attack on E. H. Crump, describing the Memphis Boss as "the Hitler of Tennessee." Carmack was once again on the fringe of the campaign when he claimed former Secretary of State Cordell Hull had commended Kefauver after the congressman had written Hull about his forthcoming autobiography. Hull had made reference to Kefauver's "splendid progress in congress", but it didn't amount to the sort of endorsement Carmack tried to make it during the primary campaign.

E. W. Carmack, Jr. could take some solace perhaps in the defeat of Senator Tom Stewart in 1948, as well as that of Senator K. D. McKellar in 1952. The

rise of Estes Kefauver and Albert Gore owed something to the candidacies of Ned Carmack, but Carmack was no longer a legitimate candidate for much of anything. Carmack had put politics behind him as he claimed to have borrowed money to invest in the Stone River Homes project, which surrounded a military installation near Smyrna, Tennessee. Stone River Homes was intent upon building housing for military families in the area. Carmack joined attorney Jordan Stokes, III and his brother-in-law Joe Hart in attempting to develop a \$3 million uranium plant in "the Black Hills territory. Carmack was described as one of the principal stockholders, but the corporation never amounted to much. According to one of Carmack's close associates, Carmack had been a teetotaler until around 1952 when he began to drink. By 1958, Ned Carmack seemed to be "dependent" upon alcohol.

Ned Carmack continued to live in his mansion on Main Street in Murfreesboro, more and more isolated from the rest of the world. Carmack's wife Charlotte died in 1968 and he saw fewer and fewer friends. E. W. Carmack, Jr. died alone inside his mansion on September 18, 1972. The Tennessean ran an editorial noting Carmack's death and his passing was overshadowed by his father's reputation, just as his life had been. The Tennessean was hard pressed to find some significant achievement to praise in Ned Carmack's passing away. Unable to do so, the Tennessean contented itself with noting Ned Carmack's "long and colorful career that embraced the fields of law, journalism, politics and real estate development." E. W. Carmack, Jr. had not really made a success in any field and Jim Summerville, author of The Carmack - Cooper Shooting, wrote that Ned "never found his purpose in life...found no place in the world."

It was a conclusion as sad as it was true for Ned Carmack.

# A Favorite Christmas Memory

By **Ralphine Major**

Do you have a favorite Christmas memory? Perhaps, it is your loved ones sitting around the dining room table on Christmas Day or family members gathered around the Christmas tree opening gifts. By the time Focus readers see this column, Christmas Day will have come to a close. But, our favorite memories will remain in our hearts and minds for years to come.

A favorite Christmas memory is captured in a photograph of our young family in the late 1950s when we lived on the dairy farm. As is the case with many families, animals have to be cared for even on the weekends and during the holidays. Somehow, our mother managed to have our family dressed up and downtown for a studio picture in time for it to be included with the Christmas cards she mailed that year. That was long before smart phones and instant photography. Obviously, this writer was not sure whether or not to smile!

I hope everyone reading this column is enjoying time with your loved ones during this holy season of our Lord's birthday. Thank you for being faithful Focus readers. May you be blessed in many ways during the new year. There is something magical about the Christmas season. I hope you captured those special moments in a photo so you can look back on your favorite Christmas memories for years to come. Happy New Year!



Picture of the Ralph Major family, courtesy of Juanita Major



Windsor Gardens Assisted Living hosted its Annual Family Christmas Party this month. The chefs prepared decadent hors d'oeuvres and punch, which the residents enjoyed while listening to the Miracle String Band play bluegrass Christmas carols, fellowshiping with friends and family, winning awesome door prizes, and visiting with Santa Claus! Pictured above: Bob Johnson, Betty Uhlman and Santa Claus

## Christmas Twists

Christmas is perhaps the day that brings the most happiness for most folks, but for some it's a day that elicits sadness and loneliness. Those feelings are never more stinging than that first



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

Christmas when a loved one is no longer there.

More than fifty years ago, my brothers, mother, and I agonized for more than a year as Daddy struggled with his health. For months, he was treated for allergies, as our family doctor and then a specialist misdiagnosed his ailment. The

following April, another doctor visited his hospital room, looked at him, and announced that he suffered from lung cancer. The disease proved terminal, and Daddy died the last day August, which happened to be the first day of school.

That first Christmas was smothered with feelings of loss and loneliness. Jim and I got new bicycles, but they did little to bring much joy. In every direction we turned and every thought we held, our dad's absences screamed at us. Only

because extended family came to share dinner did we manage to survive the day.

In 1996, Mother gave us an almost yearlong battle with the same disease. She died in June. We boys, our wives, and our children met at her house on Christmas morning to exchange gifts. It was another dark time for us. We went through the motions of the season that day, mostly to make Christmas enjoyable for the younger ones, but they, too, dealt with their own feelings of loss and loneliness.

The death of my older brother brought another dose of pain. His battle with lung cancer officially

began on Labor Day and ended only a few days into the following January. Jim and I didn't have Christmas with Dal that last year because he was too sick to travel from Nashville. We knew where things would end, and that crushed Christmas. The following year, Dal's wife Brenda and her young'uns stayed at home. We celebrated with our families amid bouts of loneliness and loss.

This year, Amy and I traveled to Cookeville to spend a day with some of her West relatives. Michael and Janice hosted a large crowd of relatives, and they exchanged gifts. Amy and I always go so that we stay

in touch with folks that we love. The West children, now all closing in on senior citizen status, lost their mother Nellie only a couple of months ago. This year's celebration was filled with plenty of laughter and fun, but the West kids, their children, and Amy and I felt the ache of Nellie's absence.

All of us will experience this same loss of a loved one and will grieve a bit more on that first Christmas that a spouse or mom or dad or brother or sister or cousin is absent. What makes the day all the more difficult is the roller coaster of emotions takes us through the highs of love of those who

are there to the lows of gut-wrenching sadness of the absences of that loved one. Yes, we manage to get through even though the pain and loss is sometimes unbearable.

What all of us must remember is that Christmas is the celebration of the coming of a savior. Because He came, all of us are free from the chains of death. At the end of this life, our spirits will be reunited with all those whom we have missed. Let's celebrate the lives our loved ones and rest assured that they are alive in the arms of the very person whose birthday we love to recognize.

Merry Christmas!

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## OUR VETERANS NEXT DOOR

# Christmas 2017

By **Randall Baxter**

1863 was such a turning point in the times of our American Civil War. The newspapers were filled with reports of battles won and lost. Stones River helped advance the capture of Western Tennessee. Chancellorsville, Va. produced the loss of Stonewall Jackson. The Siege of Vicksburg, Ms. Gettysburg, Chickamauga.

I have to include the battles of Campbell Station, Fort Sanders and Bean Station.

Two years before these battles, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's personal peace was shaken when his second wife of 18 years, to whom he was very devoted, was tragically burned in a fire. Then in 1863, Longfellow's oldest son, Charles Appleton Longfellow, joined the Union cause as a soldier without his father's blessing. Longfellow was informed by a letter dated March 14, 1863, after Charles had left. "I have tried hard to resist the temptation of going without your leave but I cannot any longer," he wrote. "I feel it to be my first duty to do what I can for my country and I would willingly lay down my life for it if it would be of any good."

Charles soon got an appointment as a lieutenant but, in November, he was severely wounded (in Virginia). Charles eventually recovered, but his time as a soldier was finished.

Longfellow first wrote the poem on Christmas Day in 1863. "Christmas Bells" was first published in February 1865. References to the Civil War are prevalent in some of the verses that were not sung by Burl Ives, who turned the song into a popular Christmas Song.

The following are the original words of Longfellow's poem:

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,

and wild and sweet, The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom.  
Had rolled along, The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
Till ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime, A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound, The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn, the households born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong, And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"  
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

I was taught this poem in high school, listened to Burl Ives sing the tune and did not put them together.

Now, at Christmas time, I think of the men at Valley Forge. I think of Lts. Lee and Grant serving their country in Mexico, years before the Civil War. Our soldiers marching through the cold as prisoners of war in Germany 1944, and in North Korea in 1950.

The Right will not prevail in the future, without our soldiers, at home or away. Merry Christmas to our soldiers and our veterans, and Thank You!

**Merry Christmas to one and all!**  
**Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men.**

**God Bless the USA!**

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## Middle school hoopsters hit the floor in holiday tournaments

By Ken Lay

Area middle school basketball teams will return to the hardwood for two holiday basketball tournaments in Knox County.

Halls will host its annual Christmas Tournament Dec. 28-30 with games being played at both Halls Middle and Halls High. West Valley will also have its annual Holiday Tournament, in which several boys teams will compete this season.

That event will be Dec. 28-29 and all games will be at West Valley Middle School.

Action at Halls opens

Thursday afternoon. Opening-round games at the high school include: Halls vs. Huntsville (girls) at 4 p.m.; Halls vs. Huntsville (boys) at 5:10. At 6:20 The King's Academy will take on Jacksboro in a girls game. The Lions boys will then play LaFollette at 7:30.

First-round contests at the middle school include: Powell vs. Birchfield (girls) at 4 p.m. The Panthers boys will then entertain Birchfield at 5:10. Westview's girls will then play Holston at 6:20 and Clinton will tangle with Holston's boys at 7:30.

On Friday at Halls High:

Huntsville will play Jacksboro at 4 p.m. in a girls game. Huntsville's boys will play LaFollette at 5:10. The King's Academy's girls will play the host Lady Demons at 6:20. The Demons will close out the second night when they play the Lions at 7:30.

In Friday's games at the middle school: Birchfield's girls will play Holston at 4 p.m.; Birchfield's boys will take on Holston at 5:10. Westview's girls will play Powell at 6:20 and Clinton and Powell's boys will play at 7:30.

Pool play concludes

Saturday at both locations. Games at the high school include: Holston vs. Powell (girls) at 1 p.m.; Holston vs. Powell (boys) at 2:10; Westview vs. Birchfield (girls) at 3:20 and Clinton vs. Birchfield at 4:30.

At Halls Middle: Jacksboro's girls will play Halls at 1 p.m. LaFollette's boys will take on Halls at 2:10. At 3:20, King's Academy's girls will tangle with Huntsville at 3:20. TKA's boys will take on Huntsville at 4:30.

The girls championship game will tip off at 6 p.m. at Halls High and the boys title tilt will follow at 7:20.

Meanwhile, West Valley will open its tournament Thursday morning. Action begins at 10 a.m. with a junior varsity game between Greenville and Farragut. At 11:05, Greeneville's JV team will play West Valley's JV squad. Greeneville's varsity team will play Farragut at 12:10 p.m. Bearden will take on West Valley at 1:15. Lenoir City North will take on Greeneville at 2:20. Farragut will take on Bearden at 3:25. The host Wolves will take on North at 4:30.

Opening day action concludes with a JV game between Bearden and

North at 5:35 p.m.

The tournament concludes Friday. It resumes at 10 a.m. with a JV game between Bearden and West Valley. At 11:05, Farragut's JV squad will take on North. At 12:10 p.m., The Bruins will play North in a varsity tilt. The Admirals take on the Wolves at 1:15. Greeneville plays Bearden at 2:20, North plays Farragut at 3:25. West Valley takes on Greeneville at 4:30. Action concludes at 5:35 with a JV game between Farragut and West Valley.

## High schoolers give and receive during holiday season

By Steve Williams

Every holiday season it seems Central High cheerleaders ring bells for the Salvation Army and paint faces and make pot holders at the Fantasy of Trees.

The tradition continued this year.

What do the cheerleaders get out of this community service?

Three members of Coach Jackie Raley's squad answered the question.

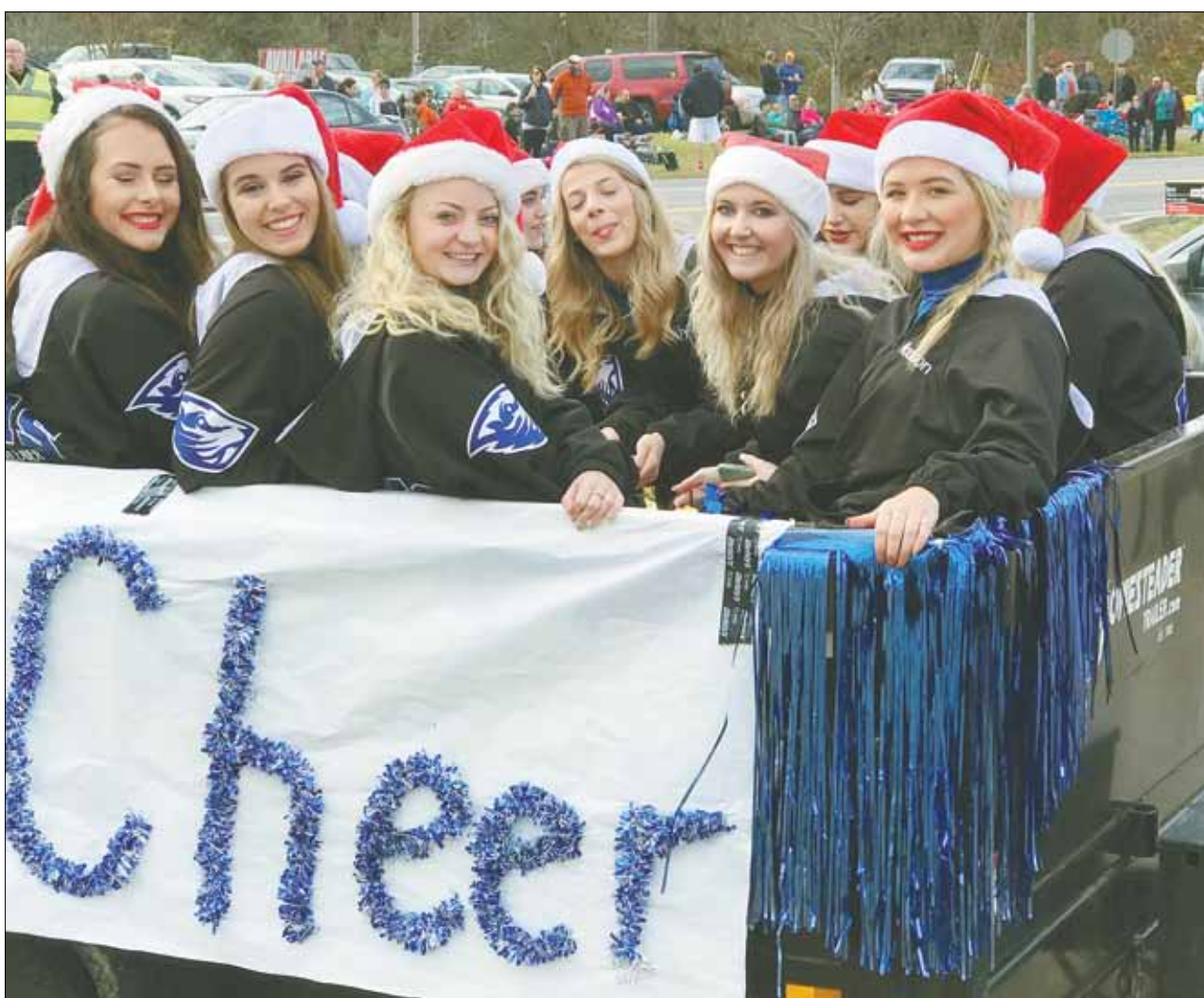
"What I get out of it is knowing that I get to put smiles on people's faces and see the satisfaction and gratitude of people who I've helped," said junior LeAnna Rogers.

Rylie Compton, another CHS junior cheerleader, replied: "It helps me to give back to the community that has given me so much and it has instilled values that I will carry with me throughout my life."

Senior Julianna Pratt added: "What I personally get out of doing community service during the holidays is seeing the smiling reactions of those who know we are helping others."

"Just recently while ringing the Salvation Army bells, it was clear to see that individuals passing by were willing to donate, after seeing how pleased our team was to be there."

Central football players rang bells too for the



Karns High cheerleaders are all smiles as they await the start of the Karns Christmas parade.

Salvation Army, noted Coach Raley.

**KARNS CHEERLEADERS** also have been holiday helpers, taking part in the Karns Christmas Parade on Dec. 2 and assisting in the Breakfast with Santa event at KHS on Dec. 16.

During the parade, the

girls handed out candy and performed dances to Christmas music.

Breakfast with Santa, including pancakes, sausage and juice, was open to the community. There also were crafts for the kids and picture taking. The KHS chorus sang Christmas songs.

In a tour of the school, visitors got to see classroom doors that had been decorated by the staff, with each hallway having a theme.

"The cheerleaders greeted people coming in, seated them and served breakfast," said Karns cheer coach Dewanna

Glover. "They also circulated, handing out candy to everyone."

**THE DANCE TEAM** at Hardin Valley Academy made blankets for East Tennessee Children's Hospital, and that's not all.

On Dec. 15, the dance team held their third

annual halftime show with the Jr. Hawkettes! Those in attendance for the HVA vs. Catholic basketball game that night got an extra holiday treat.

"We host a mini-camp every December that's open to our feeder elementary schools," said dance coach Meshon Crateau.

"We always save the last Friday night performance for our mini-dancers. This way, they dance the whole night with us. It's our favorite night!"

**HVA BASEBALLERS** have been involved in two community service events – the Second Harvest food collection in October and the Empty Stocking Fund this month – and they will assist Lost Sheep Ministry helping the homeless in January.

"We are looking at another opportunity to do work in the community before the 2018 spring semester closes out," said Hawks skipper Joe Michalski.

**TWO VOLLEYBALL** players from Berean Christian School's TSSAA Class A state championship team provided community service in Knoxville and Atlanta.

Jenna Kohagen, a junior outside hitter, volunteered at Fantasy of Trees with the Key Club and went to

**Continued on page 3**

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# Historic signing gives Gibbs its first UT football player

By Steve Williams

Before last Wednesday, when Ollie Lane signed with the University of Tennessee, the Corryton community's biggest link with Tennessee football was Ken Donahue.

Donahue had been a defensive coordinator for Bear Bryant at Alabama for years, but he's best remembered in these parts for masterminding the Vols' defensive game plan in that 35-7 rout of Miami in the 1986 Sugar Bowl.

"I wouldn't want to be held to this quote, but I don't know if Gibbs has ever had a kid sign a national letter with UT in football," said Head Coach Brad Conley, who was a UT student and in New Orleans the day Tennessee crushed the heavily favored Hurricanes.

In fact, Lane may be only the third Gibbs player who has ever signed with a Southeastern Conference school. Back in the 1980s, Donnie Collins, a wide receiver and defensive back for the Eagles, signed with Georgia.

In the 1970s, Stuart Donahue, a lineman, signed with Clemson but ended up not staying, said Conley.

"Stuart is a nephew, I think, of Ken Donahue," said Conley. "Ken Donahue was from Corryton. In fact,

there are children in school right now who are in that line. One of them plays for me and the other two play basketball here at Gibbs."

Going back even further, Gibbs had a player in the 1950s named Jimmy Jones, who went to Georgia Tech (then a SEC member), said Conley. "He came back home and went to Carson-Newman and had a great career."

With the signing of Lane, a standout offensive guard who had 21 offers, Corryton became a full-fledged, card-carrying member of Big Orange Country. One of its own was now a Volunteer. It was indeed a button-popping day.

But the Gibbs High administration and coaches kept things in proper perspective. After all, the school was hosting a double-signing on Dec. 20, with Dalton Widner, who lined up beside Lane at center to give the Eagles a strong punch up the middle, inking scholarship papers with the Charlotte 49ers, a Conference USA member.

The signings even occurred in alphabetical order, with Lane (6-6, 310) going first and then Widner (6-4, 280).

Not only did the two play side by side on the offensive line in Gibbs' triple-option



PHOTOS BY JAMES SPEARS

Gibbs guard Ollie Lane, left, said he never had any second thoughts about signing with Tennessee. Pictured right: Dalton Widner, Gibbs center, signs with Charlotte 49ers of Conference USA.

attack, but Lane wore No. 78 and Widner No. 79.

Lane had been committed to UT since he called then-head coach Butch Jones and offensive line coach Walt Wells April 9 and told them he was coming.

With the Vols having their worst record (4-8 overall and 0-8 SEC) in school history this past fall, and Jones losing his job, Lane was asked if he ever had any second thoughts about coming to UT?

"No, I can't say I did,

just because I knew Tennessee was my home," he answered. "I didn't want to go anywhere else."

"I was upset and disappointed that Coach Jones lost his job, but that's just the business that we're in. Now I'm excited to get to work with Coach (Jeremy) Pruitt."

Lane said he has talked with Coach Pruitt and new offensive line coach Will Friend a lot already.

"Both of these guys have done a great job - not just this year but all throughout

their high school careers of understanding what they need to do, and then also of being a great teammate," said Coach Conley, acknowledging how they helped new and inexperienced players coming into the program.

"I'm just so glad for these kids," he added. "It's a culmination of a lot of hard work on their part and hopefully it serves as a motivator for our guys coming up to have that same opportunity."

"It's all about putting the

work in and not only being a great football player, but a good student and a good citizen within the school and the community because these days colleges can't miss on signees.

"The fact that these kids checked off all those boxes for their respective schools is a testament to not only how good they are as a football player but academically and the way they've been raised. I'm very, very pleased for their parents."

# Cade Mays picks Georgia

By Alex Norman

For years, 5-star offensive tackle Cade Mays was committed to Tennessee. And there was no reason to believe that was going to change.

Cade was a Tennessee legacy. His father, Kevin Mays, played for the Vols in the early 90's, and was a senior in 1994, blocking for a freshman quarterback named Peyton Manning. Cade's uncle, Michael Frogg, was a walk-on that started at center for the Vols in the 2000s.

Cade Mays was a Mr. Football winner from Knoxville Catholic HS. He helped the Fighting Irish win a couple of state championships. He was selected to play in next month's U.S. Army All-American game.

He was going to be the

bedrock of the Tennessee Class of 2018. A local kid that other big-time recruits would want to play with in Knoxville.

Cade dreamed of "Running Through the T," and had been committed to the Vols since the summer of 2015. He wasn't taking official visits. He was Tennessee bound.

But after weeks of speculation about the job status of Vols head coach Butch Jones, Mays finally decided to do something different. He de-committed from Tennessee on November 7th. On November 13th, Jones was fired as the Vols head coach.

Mays had reopened his commitment, and now would choose between Clemson, Georgia, Notre Dame, Ohio State or Tennessee. He wanted to

know who the Vols were going to hire to replace Jones.

He was visited recently by new Tennessee coach Jeremy Pruitt and new Tennessee Athletics Director Phillip Fulmer, who coached his Dad and Uncle when they played for the Vols. They made that late pitch, but it wasn't enough.

In the end, the choice came down to Clemson or Georgia. The defending national champions, or the most recent SEC champion. He could not go wrong with either school. They are both in the national college football playoff.

During the Class 5A playoffs, Mays wore white gloves with the Tigers logo. This led many observers to believe that Clemson was

**Cont. on page 4**



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Powell's Dani Bryant signed to play basketball at Milligan College recently. Pictured with Dani are her mother, Donna, her father, David, and her sister, D. Bryant.

## Bryant signs with Milligan College

By Ken Lay

Powell School's Dani Bryant will continue playing basketball in college.

Bryant, a senior guard/forward recently signed a National Letter of Intent to play at Milligan College recently. She'll enter the school in Northeast Tennessee as a biology major and she will eventually go into a pre-med program.

She made her decision official at a signing ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 14 in the Powell High School Auditorium.

Bryant has emerged as a leader for the Lady Panthers on the hardwood. But she's also successful in the classroom.

She scored a 34 on the ACT and Powell's first-year head coach John Fisher said that Bryant is a top student-athlete.

"She's the ultimate student-athlete," Fisher said. "She's successful in the classroom and she comes to work and she works hard every day."

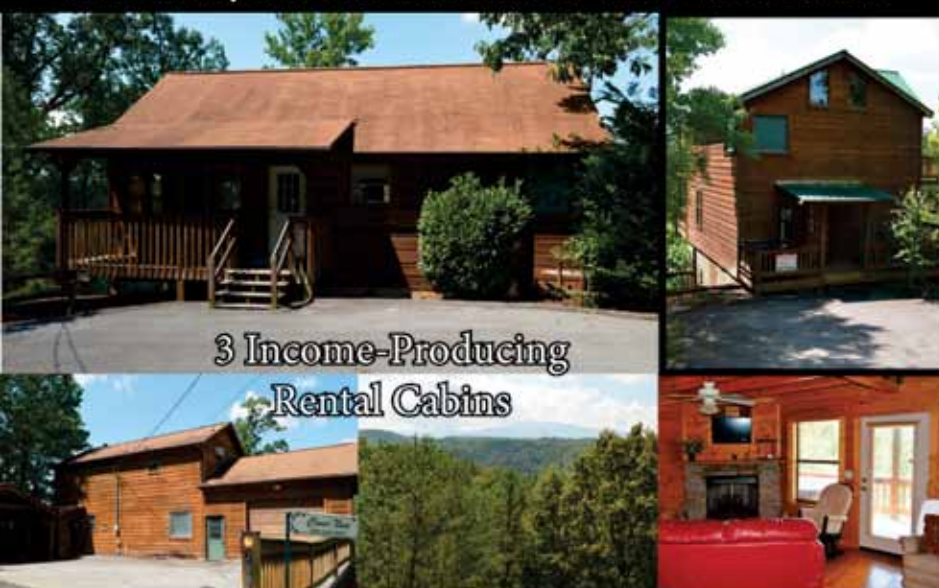
Bryant said that she liked the small class size at Milligan and she also noted that she wanted to stay close to home.

"It's a small school and staying close to home was a factor for me," she said. "I didn't want to be where I could only see my family on holidays but I also wanted to

**Continue on page 4**

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## Farragut's Collins to play at Appalachian State

By Ken Lay

Braden Collins, one of Knoxville's top high school wide receivers over the last two seasons, will continue his football career in college.

He made it official Wednesday on the first day of the early signing period for football players. He signed a National Letter of Intent to play at Appalachian State in the Farragut High School Auditorium as his teammates, family and friends were in attendance. He said that it took his

second trip to Boone for him to make a final decision.

"I didn't decide right away," said Collins, who will play for the Mountaineers but enter college as an undeclared major. "It was on my second visit that I decided it was for me. I went over there for the Wake Forest game. They have a great fan base."

"The campus was pretty and it's only about three hours away from home. I wanted to stay close enough to be near my

family. But I wanted to go where I could be independent."

"I can get a good education there," he said. "I'll either go into business or do something in the medical field."

While Collins looks forward to playing football in a college town, it was another aspect of Boone and the school that appealed to him.

"It's in the mountains and I really love to fish," he said.

# Lindsay returns to the diamond as Powell's assistant coach

By Ken Lay

Chris Lindsay didn't stay away from high school athletics for very long. He recently retired as the boys basketball coach and athletic director at Berean Christian Academy, where he remains in a consultant's role.

But he'll return to the baseball field as an assistant coach at Powell High School. There, he'll work for new coach Logan Dalton.

Lindsay a longtime baseball coach, basketball coach and athletic director at West High School, said he couldn't stay away from coaching.

"Coaching and teaching, and they're both really the same thing, are a calling," said Lindsay who is a member of both the KIL Basketball Hall of Fame and the East Tennessee Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. "You just can't ever really step away from the game. "God calls us to do these things and I really love working with kids."

While Lindsay, a 1972 graduate of West High, confesses that he never thought he'd ever be a high school coach, he said that he was always around high school sports and he noted that he loves both basketball and baseball equally.

"When people ask me which sport I prefer, I ask them what time of the year it is," Lindsay said. "In the winter, I like basketball and in the spring, I like baseball."

"I never really thought I would ever become a coach, but I guess I found that calling early in life. My uncle,

D.M. Miller, was the football coach at Rule. He's a TSSAA Hall of Famer and I was always around him. I love basketball and I love baseball but I really love football too. On Friday night, I'm always at a game somewhere."

Since relinquishing his coaching duties with the Rebels to become the school's athletic director in the early 2000's, Lindsay hasn't coached baseball. He decided to return to the diamond at Dalton's request.

"Logan Dalton was coaching at Roane State and he helped me at Berean Christian and when he got the job at Powell, he asked me if I would help him. And since he helped me, I told him that I would help him."

While working at his alma mater, Lindsay resided in Powell. His oldest daughter, Courtney played softball at West. His other two daughters, Canaan and Cassidy, both went all the way through school in Powell. Both were multiple sports athletes for the Lady Panthers in high school.

The new Powell assistant coach is obviously no stranger to the community.

"I grew up in Norwood but I was in Powell before I was ever really in Powell," Lindsay said. It was strange that I ended up at West. Being from Norwood, most of my friends went to Powell or Central. But I went to West."

Lindsay, who began his coaching career as a junior high baseball coach at Northwest in the late 1970s, began working in sports as

he ran the recreational program at the old West Powell Ballfields after he graduated from college. After those were no longer used, he moved to Powell Levi Field.

He took over as West's basketball coach in 1980. He later pulled double duty when became the Rebels baseball coach in 1986. He coached until he became the athletic director at West High in 2003.

He retired from Knox County Schools and went on to Berean, where he remained until last spring.

He's back in baseball and you can find him working at Danny T. Maples Field during the offseason and while he was recently toiling on the diamond, he recalled one of his first big wins on Emory Road.

"We came over here in my second year, in 1987, and we beat Powell 4-3 to win the district championship," Lindsay said. "That was the first time I got the Gatorade cooler dumped on my head."

Lindsay was once offered the head baseball coaching job at Powell. But he turned it down.

"I [still] wanted to coach basketball and I knew that former [Powell basketball coach] Mike Ogan was Jeff Hunter's right-hand man, and it was Jeff's program and I thought it was only fair that Mike get that job."

Lindsay is with the Panthers now and he's looking forward to the 2018 high school baseball season.



Karns High cheerleaders Ty McDuffie (left) and Kalynd Whaley were glad to help at the Breakfast with Santa.

## High schoolers give and receive during holiday season

**Cont. from page 1** ring the bell for the Salvation Army.

Atlanta to volunteer for Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas child at their distribution center.

Emily Claiborne, a sophomore outside hitter, joined her teammate as a volunteer in Atlanta.

"They put together shoe boxes full of gifts to be distributed," said Cory Felts, volleyball coach.

Emily also volunteered to

**THE ANGEL TREE** in West Town Mall got a helping hand from Cheri Duncan's state champion Halls cheerleaders ... "The football team helped with providing food baskets for our community," reported South-Doyle Coach Clark Duncan.

## Hard times couldn't keep Warren away from Tennessee

By Ken Lay

Jacob Warren came a step closer to seeing his lifelong dream come true on Wednesday afternoon.

Warren, a football star at Farragut High School, signed a National Letter of Intent to play for the University of Tennessee on the first day of the early signing period for football players.

"I grew up a Vol fan and my earliest memory of going to Neyland Stadium was of me, my dad and my brother going to the South Carolina game when I was about 10 or 11 years old," said Warren, who will enroll in college in January so he can go through spring practice with the Volunteers and new head coach Jeremy Pruitt. "I don't remember much about the game but I remember them winning by a field goal."

"This is an amazing day and it doesn't quite feel real. This is what I've been

working for the last four or five years. I've been playing this game since I was five. I've always loved it. I've never gotten tired of it."

Warren will enter college as an undeclared major. He said he has plans to go into forensic science or into the medical field,

It's no secret that Tennessee hit hard times in 2017. The Vols (4-8) had their worst season in school history and went winless in the Southeastern Conference for the first time ever.

That resulted in many recruits de-committing

and coach Butch Jones was eventually fired. The effort to replace Tennessee's beleaguered former head coach was tumultuous at best and comical at worse.

But Warren decided to stick around in Knoxville. "It was something that was between my family and me," he said. "I never went public with anything. I never really de-committing. But I knew that my family would support me no matter what."

Warren said that he was pleased with his decision. "I'm 100 percent committed to Tennessee and that never changed,"

Warren said. "I want to be a Vol."

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# A lot of us for once will be pulling for Alabama

Bobbie Fisher, who operates my favorite booth at the Expo Center Flea Market with her husband John, told me she would be rooting for Jeremy Pruitt and Alabama in the upcoming College Football Playoffs.



By Steve Williams

And I quickly told her I would be, too, as I'm sure a lot of Tennessee fans will be doing.

Pruitt, of course, is finishing out his commitment to the Alabama program, and particularly the players, in his job as the Crimson Tide's defensive coordinator. As soon as Alabama is eliminated or wins the national championship, he will head back to Knoxville and resume his duties as the University of Tennessee's new head coach.

I don't mind at all that Pruitt is coaching at Alabama to season's end. What he's doing is a reflection of his character. He's been with those Alabama players all season and they deserve to finish what they started together. I'm sure he would do the same for Tennessee.

Not long after leaving the Fishers' booth, another vendor caught my eye. A Crimson Tide fan wearing an Alabama ball cap, even though he was from Crossville.

We got to talking about Coach Pruitt, and he said, "You know, it won't be long before Tennessee fans start chanting, "Roll Vols."

I said that's not going to happen, but a lot of us Tennessee fans do like what we've seen and heard so far from Coach Pruitt.

And the better Alabama does, particularly on the defensive side of the ball, and the more TV exposure Coach Pruitt gets in semifinal game against Clemson and then possibly in the title game, the better that is for Tennessee.

With our Vols on the outside looking in, many of us thought we were going to have to go through another long bowl season without a rooting interest. But with Coach Pruitt still in the running, we have interest.

Go Bama! Well, I'll go that far.

**BOWL CONTEST:** I'm 4-4 in mine through the first eight games. No, I haven't been flipping a coin, though it does look that way.

Football bowl contests aren't as popular as March Madness basketball brackets, but I like to participate mainly so I'll have a team to pull for if I am watching one of the 41 bowl games.

**COMING UP:** I'll be pulling for David Cutcliffe and Duke against Northern Illinois in today's Quick Lane Bowl. Speaking of Lane, what about Florida Atlantic's 50-3 romp past Akron and the 10-year contract Kiffin now has with the Owls?

Missouri will be the first SEC team to take the field when the Tigers play Texas Wednesday in the Texas Bowl. Kentucky in the Music City Bowl Friday against Northwestern also will be worth a peek.

I think the 12:30 appetizer on New Year's Day between unbeaten Central Florida and Auburn is intriguing. It's too bad we don't have an eight-team playoff bracket. The Black Knights and War Eagles would be in it, plus USC and Ohio State who will battle in the Cotton Bowl Friday.



Bearden High's dance team won the TSSAA state championship in the Large Varsity Jazz division for the fifth consecutive year in November. Row 1 (left to right): Lauren Jacoby, Jade Gatton-Bumpus, Shaylie Rutherford, Gracie Benevicz, Chloe McClish, Sydney Schriver, Chloe Anders. Row 2 (left to right): Lauren Hall, Summer Davis, Meaghan Chase, Bailey Simpson, Lauren Hull, Alina Serafin, Taylor Tarquin, Emma Manalac. Row 3 (left to right): Abbie Drum, Katherine Newman, Sydney Hansen, Ali Berg, Ansley Pacetti, Natalie Adkins, Anna Snyder.

# Bearden stands out on and off the dance floor

By Steve Williams

Dancing may be what they do best, but Bearden High's state championship dance team does so much more.

"As a teacher, I am also very proud of how this team serves its school and community," said team sponsor Rebecca Nutter. "We try to have a focus on school spirit by supporting as many school athletics teams and clubs as possible."

At the TSSAA competition in November at MTSU in Murfreesboro, Bearden's dance team, coached by Hannah Keathley and assistant Kathryn Brasfield, captured the state championship in the Large Varsity Jazz division for the fifth consecutive year.

"We were thrilled to continue such an outstanding legacy," said Nutter.

Bearden's dance team has 22 members, including seniors Jade Gatton-Bumpus, Shaylie Rutherford, Gracie Benevicz and

Chloe McClish.

Bearden will be competing in Large Varsity Jazz and Pom at the Universal Dance Association's National Championships Feb. 2-4 at Walt Disney World in Orlando.

In the 2017 nationals, the team finished a program-best third place in Large Varsity Pom, competing against "the absolute best dance teams in the country," said Nutter.

In addition to performing on the sidelines of home football games and before basketball games, the Bearden dance team has cheered at a girls' soccer game, attended volleyball games, sent "good luck" packages to the BHS band before competition, participated in the Student Government Association's Fall Festival and opened car doors at elementary schools, said Nutter.

The team has also formed a partnership with Emerald Academy and

held a free dance clinic for 71 students in November. It also volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House, sponsored a Thanksgiving basket for a BHS family in need and was all set to run in this year's Jingle Bell Run to support the Arthritis Foundation before it was cancelled due to inclement weather.

"They make Bearden High School very proud," said Nutter.

At the free after-school dance clinic at Emerald Academy on Nov. 15, the girls taught basic dance skills, short dance routines and sideline cheers. The kids performed for their parents at the end.

Later that week, the BHS dance team was at the Ronald McDonald House, where the girls baked several batches of cookies, cleaned the entire facility top to bottom, wiped down playground equipment and made Thanksgiving cards for the residents.

## Farragut dance team earns state honors

Farragut High's dance team, led by seniors Presley Packer and Tatum Allen, took first place in the TSSAA's Small Varsity Pom division for the third year in a row and also placed second in Small Varsity Jazz.

"We practice multiple hours every week to prepare for competition," said Coach Adonia Adams. "Our goal this year was to give a better and stronger performance than we did last year and we accomplished our goal."

Farragut also will be competing at the UDA Nationals in February. At the 2017 event in Orlando, Farragut placed in the Top 5 in the nation in both the Small Varsity Pom and Jazz divisions, said Adams.

Tracy Moore is the FHS team sponsor.



Careacter Star Athletes during the high school football playoffs - from the second round through the finals - are listed below.

Selection of the honorees is based on attitude, careacter, grades, community service and performance as a person.

The Focus congratulates all the Careacter Star Athletes from the 2017 football season!

Recognition of Careacter Star Athletes in boys' and girls' basketball will start in January.

**WEEK 13 HONOREES**

**CHRIS AKPOROGHENE**  
The King's Academy

**CHRIS ALMANZA**  
West

**TRE BROWN**  
Knoxville Catholic

**JAMES DAVIS**  
Fulton

**JOEY DIETZ**  
Farragut

**CODY ESTEP**  
Grace Christian Academy

**ISSAC HUBBARD**  
Webb School

**ELIJAH JETER**  
Austin-East

**JAKE LUDWIG**  
Halls

**KAHLIL MCKENZIE**  
University of Tennessee

**TREY'SEAN MOORE**  
Central

**MICHAEL REDDING**  
South-Doyle

**WEEK 14 HONOREES**

**JOSH BROWN**  
Knoxville Catholic

**ISSAC HAMILTON**  
South-Doyle

**ELIJAH MCMILLAN**  
Austin-East

**PHILIP YOUNG**  
Central

**WEEK 15 HONOREES**

**COLTON GAINES**  
Knoxville Catholic

**DEVONE MOSS**  
Central

**WEEK 16 HONOREE**

**NICK IVERSON**  
Knoxville Catholic

# Cade Mays picks Georgia

Continued from page 2

the favorite. His former teammate at Catholic, Amari Rodgers, picked Clemson last season, as did Oak Ridge standout Tee Higgins.

So, on the first day of the new early signing period, Wednesday, December 20th, Mays sat with his family at a table in the school's gymnasium. He decided to forgo the traditional group of caps, and instead stood up, unbuttoned a couple of buttons, and revealed a black t-shirt with the trademark "G" in the center.

Mays was heading to Georgia.

"I just fell in love with Athens when I went there," said Mays. "Coach Smart has the program going the right way. I have a great relationship with (Offensive line) Coach (Sam) Pittman, the whole coaching staff. They really treated me like family, and that's where I want to call home for

the next four years."

Pittman was, at one time, the offensive line coach at Tennessee. That was in 2012, Derek Dooley's last season.

"He (Pittman) went out and combed the country for the best guys," said Georgia head coach Kirby Smart. "He had a relationship with Cade (Mays) long before anything changed, and Cade decided to open things up. That relationship and honesty he had early gave him a lead when Cade decided to look around."

The chance for Mays to play at Georgia, with other five-star talents like quarterback Justin Fields and defensive end Brenton Cox, who picked the Dawgs over Alabama, was too much for him to pass up.

"We just signed the greatest class in the history of football," said Mays. "We are gonna do something special with it I promise you that."

# Bryant signs with Milligan College

Cont. from page 2

be independent."

During her career with the Lady Panthers, Bryant has played for two coaches. Both Fisher and former head coach Christin Webb have impacted her life.

"I've definitely learned

a lot about teamwork," Bryant said. "Everybody wants to be a shooter or everybody wants to be the high scorer. But we all can't do that. We all have to play defense and we all have to work hard."

"Coach Webb taught me

a lot about perseverance, just because of everything she's been through. Coach Fisher also taught us about perseverance. But my basketball has increased tenfold since I've been working with Coach Fisher."



**The Doctor is in**

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

**The Fountain of Youth**

My Christmas essays for 2017 were written in weeks past. So, if you missed them or other essays, the Knoxville Focus has a fine website and archive of previous issues, including my pontifications. Just go to [knoxfocus.com](http://knoxfocus.com), click on archives and then select the week you missed. Finally, go the bottom of the page and select my name or that of another fine columnist.

The Holiday season brings early deadlines for columnists. This allows The Focus staff to "put the paper to bed" earlier and to spend time with their families. And understandably, people are more interested in family, friends and, in the case of Christmas, the Reason we celebrate during the winter solstice. In antiquity, the winter solstice was important and commemorated the time days began to be longer (at least in the northern hemisphere). Pagans celebrated a time when the

sun "reappears" and rises higher in the sky each day. Or is it the annual reappearance of the Son?

Since this week is fore-shortened, I suspect that fewer people will read this column or others. And since The Focus is a family friendly paper, it's just as well that fewer read this column which is meant for mature audiences - or for wrapping fish.

Because there's been a deterioration of morality in our culture, I shouldn't be surprised by the plethora of advertisements for "male enhancement" or ED (erectile dysfunction) treatment. I remember being taken aback when feminine products began to be advertised during the Super Bowl. Now, Viagra ads have been added to ads for "male enhancement" nutraceuticals and "low-T clinics." Intimacy is an important aspect of humans and married life. And sexual dysfunction fosters poor self image and

marital discord. I am a firm believer that proper therapy depends on a proper diagnosis. So, I have concerns that drive-through clinics focus on one aspect of physiology rather than nuanced patient care. I'm also concerned about mail order "medicinals" so powerful that users "should show caution with their use in the bedroom." P. T. Barnum once spoke to such unrealistic expectations.

Human sexuality is a complicated and sacred gift. You would think it obvious, but these days I must assert that women and men are different. Women respond differently than men and need emotional connection to their partner for intimacy. Men are aroused by visual imagery. Understanding these differences is crucial. Apparently, predatory men of the ruling class never learned their coursework in Court-ing 101.

When a man is aroused neural excitation causes the release of a chemical called cyclic GMP. Rising levels of this chemical within the penile vasculature cause the release of nitric oxide promoting penile arterial vasodilation and contraction of venous outflow channels. This results in an erection. As cyclic GMP is metabolized by an enzyme called phosphodiesterase-5 (PD-5), levels fall resulting in

declining nitric oxide levels and detumescence. Drugs like Viagra and Cialis are

PD-5 inhibitors and act to augment nitric oxide levels.

Similar physiology occurs in females, but the arousal state in females is more complicated and first involves emotional connection with her partner, then choice and situation must follow and finally physiological arousal can proceed. This explains why "female Viagra-like" agents are not very effective.

Vascular disease occurs as we age and diabetes is increasingly common in obesity. Both of these common conditions are associated with ED. Importantly, Viagra-like medications are contraindicated with some cardiovascular drugs. In that case other modalities including a vacuum tumescence device, penile injections with "triple mix" medications or a surgical implant may be indicated. All of these therapies require a comprehensive evaluation and thoughtful patient care - and the word care is integral to any remedy.

Recently, "selective androgen receptor modulators" (SARMs) have arrived on the scene. These agents are sold on the internet as "performance enhancing substances." These chemicals are thought to bind to androgen (testosterone) receptors and function like anabolic steroids. The latter

have been used to build muscle and augment athletic performance, but have been banned because of liver and heart disease as well as psychiatric issues of aggression known on the street as "roid rage."

A study of SARM agents in the November 28, 2017 issue of JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association) found that only half of the products tested even contained SARM class agents and 40% contained other unapproved drugs. The study also found that labeling of SARMs was very unreliable. As a sidebar you should be aware that medications sold in a licensed pharmacy and carry the USP label must conform to US Government standards regarding labeling and purity. There are no guarantees of nutraceuticals purchased in, for instance, a health food store if there is no USP label.

The Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon searched for the mythical Fountain of Youth capable of "reversing the aging process and curing illness." He never found it because it doesn't exist. Contained in the human genome is our specie's life limit of approximately one hundred and ten years. With technology, antibiotics, clean water, adequate food, vaccinations and modern medicine, humans are living closer to that limit. Research is ongoing

to extend those limits, but we are not there yet and may never arrive at immortality this side of the cross.

I believe in maximizing health, but I don't believe in another Fountain of Youth known as "Bioidentical Hormone Replacement Therapy." The focus of this therapy is to restore hormone levels to those of youth. Let me point out that, for example, I believe in using thyroid hormone to augment a failing thyroid gland and treat hypothyroidism. However, is it appropriate to restore my testosterone levels to those of an eighteen year old? Would it be wise to give a woman in her seventies estrogen? The notion of natural aging is at the heart of the question. Are hormone changes in my functioning sixty-six year old body a natural phenomena or are they reflective of a medical deficiency warranting treatment?

I have lived long enough to see things come with great hope and then see them go with great disappointment. I will say up front that endocrinology is not my specialty, and one can always find someone wiser than me or oneself. But for more than forty years I have operated by Ferguson's axiom #11: "Don't be the first on the block to try a new remedy or last in the neighborhood." Food for thought...

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

**Away in a manger**

The Christmas story can almost seem like a fairy tale with cattle lowing, the drummer boy beating his drum, shepherds being urged on by angels, and three wise men on camels bearing gifts. What do we know about the birth of Jesus?

The traditional site of the birth place of Jesus is marked in Bethlehem by the first Christian church building ever built at the request of Emperor Constantine's mother in 326 A.D. It is built over a cave that was believed to be the place where Jesus was born as early as 135 A.D. After Jesus was born, we are told he was placed in a manger. A manger was a feeding trough. We most often picture one made



By **Mark Brackney**, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

of wood. This was likely not the case. If you travel to Palestine (Holy Lands) today, you will notice that ancient feeding troughs were made of stone.

Luke tells us the first to come see Jesus was the shepherds. First-century shepherds were on the bottom rung of the social ladder at this time. They were usually uneducated, poor, and smelly because they lived among their animals. I suppose it should not surprise us that shepherds were the first to see Jesus. God referred to Himself as a shepherd and to His people as His sheep. Jesus called Himself "the good shepherd" who died for His sheep.

Next we read about the angels

who were messengers of the birth of Christ to the shepherds. The word angel means "messenger." The shepherds in turn became messengers to others about what they learned about Jesus. We, like angels, are to be messengers of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have good news to share. You can be an angel to someone by delivering a message of hope. You get to offer God's peace and give glory to God, just like the angels.

The wise men show up next in the story bearing three gifts. Actually, we don't how many wise men there were. Sometimes the wise men are referred to as kings, but they are called "magi" (Matthew 2:1-3). This is where we get our English word "magician." They were more like priests who studied the stars and believed

the relative position of the stars were signs of future events. They were likely from Persia (Iran) and followed the teachings of Zoroaster. They traveled about one thousand miles to Jerusalem to pay homage to the newborn King. Their journey would have taken anywhere between three and six months. What is amazing is that God gave a group of truth-seekers, who were not Jewish, a sign. The magi foreshadow that the gospel will be taken to the entire world. We should be like that star pointing others to Christ. Note that the magi did not enter the stable, but the home of Joseph and Mary. It is doubtful that they arrived the night of Jesus' birth, although if they did, stables were often attached to, under, or behind the home.

Their coming was likely months after Jesus' birth because Herod had ordered all the baby boys two years and under to be put to death (Mt. 2:16). From the time the Magi first saw the star, two years had passed.

The bread of life (John 6:35), Jesus, was born in the town of Bethlehem (which means the House of Bread). He was laid to sleep on that first night in a feeding trough where God's creatures ate. What we all really hunger for will not be found under the Christmas tree. We hunger for meaning, joy, and hope. We hunger to know we are forgiven and that we can start over from our mistakes. Jesus is for us the bread of life. Go to Him and eat of what He offers, for it will last.



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# Hobo's New Year's Resolution

Can you believe 2017 is coming to an end? I am not sure whether it is a sign of my age or the times we live in, but the end of another year has passed in record time.



By Howard Baker, RN BSN

Hobo the Wonder Dog keeps a watchful eye as I write the final article of 2017 on his New Year's resolution. I suppose Hobo's lack of enthusiasm as I write could be interpreted as his idea of a 2018 New Year's resolution would be one of more sleep and lazy days on the farm. I must admit he might be onto something. A quick search on Bing.com of the Top 10 New Year's Resolutions for 2018 were:

1. Lose Weight / Healthier Eating
2. Life / Self-improvements / Volunteer
3. Better Financial Decisions
4. Quit Smoking
5. Do More Exciting Things
6. Spend More Time with Family / Close Friends
7. Work Out More
8. Learn Something New
9. Sleep More

10. Meet Someone Special  
As I read the list, Hobo the Wonder Dog gave a big sigh and closed his eyes. I then realized Hobo and his friends could be the ticket to most resolutions listed above. The Journal of Physical Activity and Health found that dog owners are more likely to reach their fitness goals than those without a canine companion. Harvard Health suggests people with dogs have a decreased risk of cardiovascular disease, lower blood pressures, and lower cholesterol and triglyceride levels. I like this line of thinking, obviously exercising with your dog covers: losing weight, self-improvements, quit smoking, and working out more.

Hobo the Wonder Dog can also help with the other six New Year's resolutions. Our line of thinking: Better financial decisions, well owning a pet is a responsibility and causes one to budget better and examine one's finances. Do more exciting things—Hobo has definitely brought excitement to our world—like

hiking and finding our next adventure. Spending more time with family / close friends? Hobo you covered. Your dog will become part of your family and all the walks, hikes, and exercise will bring you closer to your family and friends. Now what about sleeping more? Hobo certainly has you covered on sleeping! Going to bed early or sleeping in late—Hobo never turns down sleep. Volunteering: at a local shelter, this is a great deed that will leave you wondering who benefited more—you or the animals.

Maybe adopting a pet from a shelter or rescue is an option for you. Hobo the Wonder Dog and I agree adopting a pet in 2018 just might be the best New Year's resolution ever. Adopting a dog covers all the top ten resolutions on the list. Trust me, a pet will bring you love and acceptance, without all the drama or judgment. Only a mother's love is stronger than a dog's love for you. Who knows, Fido may lead you to someone special in 2018, but no matter what your life will be filled with love! Happy New Year!

New Years are better with a dog—Woof!

# UT Arboretum hosting hike

If you are overloaded on football, food and festivities, the UT Arboretum Society is offering a great alternative: The Fourth Annual New Year's Walk at the UT Arboretum, 901 S. Illinois Avenue in Oak Ridge, on Monday, January 1, 2018.

Start out the year on the "right foot" by joining the walk that begins at 9:30 a.m. at the UT Arboretum Auditorium where you will be greeted by fellow hikers and offered coffee, hot chocolate and snacks. At 10:00 a.m. the group will leave for a guided walk that will last about 45 minutes. The hike will follow a forest trail and

will visit the Elmore Holly Collection, giving participants the opportunity to see the hollies still covered with berries.

This is an easy walk on the trails and is suitable for all ages. The Arboretum Society encourages everyone to come out to enjoy an outdoor respite before heading home to watch the bowl games on TV.

This is a free program offered by the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society.

For more information on the walk or the UT Arboretum Society, call 865-483-7277.

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