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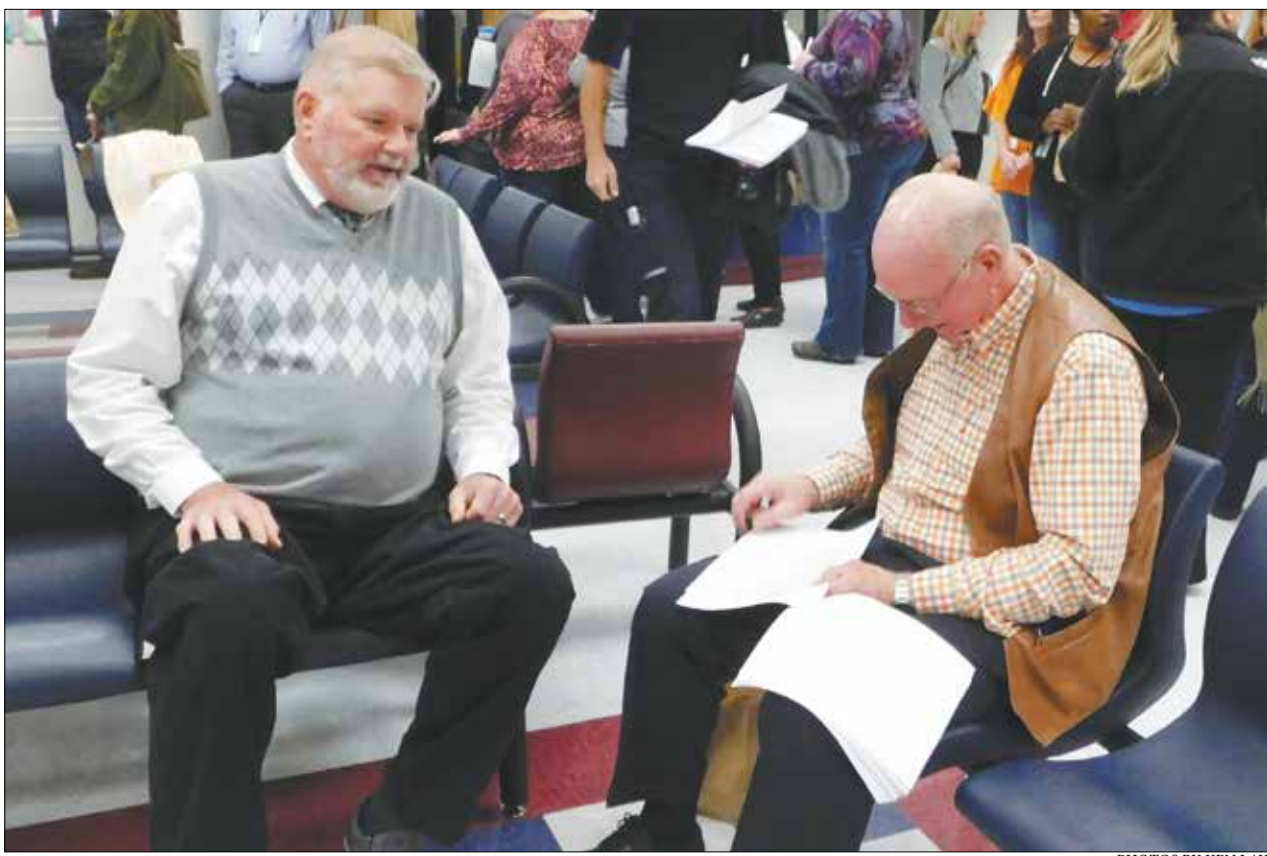
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PHOTOS BY KEN LAY

Knox County Juvenile Court Judge Tim Irwin visits with Robbie Franklin at Friday's chili cook-off to benefit foster children in the area. Franklin was one of Irwin's football coaches at UT as well as a retired auctioneer. He officiated the live auction at last week's event.

Tim Irwin hosts auction and cook-off fundraiser

By Ken Lay

It was a day for chili and fun. But it was also a day to raise money to help the foster children of the Knoxville area.

Knox County Juvenile Court Judge Tim Irwin hosted the 2019 Juvenile Court Assistance Board Basket Auction and Chili Cook-off Friday at the Knox County Juvenile Courts Building.

Irwin started the fundraiser, which included a silent auction, a live auction and a chili cook-off, 14 years ago.

The fundraiser is designed to help underprivileged youth, foster children and foster families.

"We do this for those who Angel Tree doesn't help because of their age," said Irwin, a former Central Bobcat, Tennessee Volunteer and National Football League player who once taught social studies at Northwest Middle School. "This is a special day and a fun day for us."

"We're going to raise some money, we're going to eat some chili and, most of all we're going to help some children. Without this day, we would have to say no to a lot of kids. It wouldn't be me saying no, it would be DCS. We're here to raise money for the kid who's 15 years old and needs a new coat, a new pair of pants or new tennis shoes."

Irwin also noted that this way could keep families together.

"This is a day to help a grandma get bunk beds, so the



Juvenile Court bailiff Ron McCartney samples some chili from a cook-off to benefit the Knox County Juvenile Court Assistance Board. McCartney was one of the judges for the contest.

kids can stay with her in her house and not have to be put into the (foster care) system," he said. "This also to raise money for that kid who wants to make that safety patrol trip."

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Clayton Science Center plans to be presented

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The proposed Knoxville Science Museum for the grounds of the Knoxville Civic Auditorium and Coliseum was contingent on the city acquiring another location for the police department. The current police headquarters sits atop the hill above the auditorium and, as it looks as if Knoxville will close all paperwork to relocate that to the former Tennova Hospital just off North Broadway, talks on the proposed museum are going forward once more.

A public meeting is planned now for Thursday at 5:30 in the Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building where Jim Clayton and BarberMcMurry Architects

will talk about three different concepts for the proposed \$100 million educational, science and discovery center.

Clayton has already signed a development agreement with the city. Mayor Madeline Rogero is calling the project "a unique opportunity to create a science educational amenity in downtown Knoxville."

She said the city looks forward to sharing the details of the concept plans.

Tentatively called "The Knoxville Science Museum" the gift from the Clayton Foundation also includes a \$50 million endowment to support the proposed center's operations.

LMU to get the former St. Mary's tower building

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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One of the final steps toward Knoxville taking possession of the former Tennova Hospital, formerly known as St. Mary's, takes place Tuesday evening. City Council will be asking the mayor to sign an agreement that will lead to Lincoln Memorial University to move into the Magdalene Clarke Tower property there.

The city administration has the item on the agenda and it would convey the tower building to the Knoxville

Community Development Corporation for redevelopment and then transfer to LMU. The university plans to use the building for a future nursing school, business school and a criminal justice school. With that completed the city will be officially acquiring the abandoned hospital with plans for a \$35 million renovation for the new police and fire department headquarters.

David Brace, the City of Knoxville's Chief Operating Officer, told The Focus the Purchase and Sales

Continued on page 2

Planning commission deals with clash over neighborhood expansion

By Bill Howard

Seldom, if ever, does a city's growth and expansion follow a smooth path. Developers forever want to build houses, subdivisions, or business centers. Existing residents often resist, fearing extra people, traffic, and noise. Sometimes the issue is whether a piece of property should be developed at all. Other times the debate is about how many

dwelling units per acre (du/a) will be allowed.

At its monthly meeting on Thursday, November 14, at the City-County Building, Knoxville-Knox Co. Planning faced the latter issue head-on when attorney John Valliant, representing applicant Ball Homes LLC, requested from the commission that a parcel of land be rezoned for development.

The 17-acre plot, located west of Andes Road and north of Middlebrook Pike in Commission District 6, is currently zoned as Agricultural. Ball Homes requested the zoning be changed to PR (Planned Residential), so they could build a subdivision of 4 du/a. The staff recommendation was for 2.68 du/a.

Unsurprisingly, area residents are less than thrilled

with the idea. A major objection is the inadequate roads. Valliant addressed that issue and more.

"The county commission voted for four dwelling units per acre," said Valliant. "What Ball Homes is ready to do is what the traffic engineering said should be done. It will redo the 13-foot road and whatever else county engineering determines need to be done in

order for this development to proceed. It seems to me 2.68 is a somewhat arbitrary number. I'm not sure how they arrived at that number. You all know Ball Homes is a good developer ... they've done a lot for the community and a lot for the schools. So we request that it be zoned the same as the adjacent tract, at four units per acre."

Representing the

opposition were two area residents. Michelle Goldman was emotional in her plea to the planning commission to keep the area unsullied.

"We sit on the porch and enjoy the field behind us," she said. "I'm here to ask you the following question." Her question list went way beyond one.

"Have you ever been to

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Collecting Money After a Judgment – Garnishments and Bank Levies

When individuals or business come to me and state that they want to sue someone for money they are owed, one of the topics I always cover with them is, does this person have any money? Or another way to put it, if we go to trial and win a big judgment against them, is that judgment collectable?



By Jediah McKeenan
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judgment has no money, then your judgment is not worth the paper it is written on. But say you get a judgment against someone in the amount of \$10,000.00. The court does not have \$10,000.00 sitting in a back room for you. It does not work like that. And after the judgment is awarded against the defendant, no one is standing behind him forcing him to write a check, or go to the bank

and get cash to pay the judgment. Sometimes, you have to chase down people for the money they owe you. The two most common ways of acquiring money from defendants with judgments against them is through garnishments and bank levies. If you know where a defendant works, then you can have the court send a garnishment to their employer. Then their employer is required to send part of the defendant's paycheck to the court to satisfy the judgment, and then the court

turns around and sends a check to you for whatever is collected. A garnishment can only collect a maximum of fifty percent of each paycheck a person receives. If you know where someone banks, then you can have the court send a bank levy to their bank. A bank levy is a one-time cash grab of all of the funds held in the bank account of the defendant. Once the bank receives the bank levy they are required to freeze the account of the defendant for a period of time and send all of the funds in the account to

satisfy the judgment to the court. So, if a judgment is for \$10,000.00 and a person has \$12,000.00 in their account, then they will leave \$2,000.00 in the account. However, if they only have \$5,000.00 in their account, then the bank levy will seize all of those funds. A bank levy is a one-time cash grab. It does not continue to grab money in the future. A garnishment is on-going. However, are there ways for defendants to dodge these collection efforts? Of course! They can quit

their job or change banks. There are other ways to try to collect money from defendants, but these are two of the most common methods. *Jediah McKeenan 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.*

LMU to get the former St. Mary's tower building

Cont. from page 1
Agreement (PSA) calls for KCDC to sell the Magdalene Clark Tower Building property to LMU for \$10. "Part of the PSA includes

a development agreement where LMU agrees to rehabilitate the tower/property for the purpose of locating a nursing school, a criminal justice school, a business

school and potentially other educational or office uses." Brace said. "The benefit for the City is it saves us approximately \$700,000 in demolition

costs and adds educational uses to the campus and north Knoxville. The costs associated with redeveloping the building for their uses is fully assumed by LMU. Bottom line, we keep a positive use in a building and save money on demolition," he said.

"Nursing education has been a long term use at the St. Mary's campus," Brace said.

IN OTHER BUSINESS the city council will consider zoning changes on Warrick Avenue, Forestal Drive, Callahan Drive, Chambliss Avenue, Keck Road, East Fifth Avenue, Osprey Point Lane, and Tocar Road. The Tocar Road change is to

extend the size of the Fountain City Ballfields.

The council will also vote on accepting a proposal from HM Insurance Group for stop loss insurance for the city's self-insured medical plan. They will also consider a bid from WSP USA to design a Broadway Accelerated Bus Route.

The Blount Mansion Association is appealing a denial by the Urban Forester to remove a magnolia tree from behind the Craighead-Jackson House at 200 West Hill Avenue.

Other items on Tuesday's agenda include an agreement with the Public Building Authority to assume property management and maintenance at the Public

Works complex, revise the agreement with the state for the Western Avenue Project, and find additional funds for the Rogers Group Inc. for the resurfacing project.

Dewhirst Properties LLC. may be granted a purchase and sale agreement for 1200 McCalla Avenue for redevelopment as a small-scale manufacturing or artist-maker space for \$100,000.

The council may also amend and reestablish the Knoxville-Farragut-Knox County Growth Policy Plan and donate \$25,000 to the Knox County Library Foundation to fund the Suffrage Seed Fund.

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Deadline for submissions is Thursday by noon.

Articles, announcements, photo attachments and cutlines may be submitted by e-mail to staff@knoxfocus.com.

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Publisher's Position

Out of School Time Programs Produce Benefits for Students



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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For years there has been a tug and pull about out of school time programs and whether or not it benefits the students. It will likely not surprise you those most solidly opposed to out of school time programs are teachers and the public school bureaucracy. That debate has come out into the open here locally due to a Bible time release pilot program proposed at

Sterchi Elementary School. To their credit, the school administration doesn't seem to be opposed to the program and obviously, participation isn't mandatory and requires parental permission.

Studies have proven what seems to me only natural; that being to develop emotional and social skills, programs have to have some element aiming toward that goal. Nobody seems to chant the mantra of "diversity" and "tolerance" more than the teachers and educational establishment. The entire theory behind the restorative practices program is some youngsters are not really responsible for their own bad behavior and therefore shouldn't be punished for it. Instead, they should remain in the same classrooms with those they have bullied or beat up, for they are the

true victims and should be treated as such. We are told it will take more money --- lots more money --- to provide the resources these unfortunate victims of society need to heal: psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, additional education bureaucrats, etc. You'll never see anybody affiliated with the school bureaucracy from the superintendent down to the lowest teacher's aide who is against stuffing the bureaucracy with more.

That same bureaucracy always seems to be against any kind of choice for the parents and if truth be told, for the students. They are hysterically and adamantly against any kind of school choice; they are against anything which threatens the monopoly of the public school system. Likewise, the teachers are now flooding the email boxes of Board

of Education members to protest the proposed Bible time release program at Sterchi Elementary School.

Virtually all of them throw up the old bugaboo of separation of church and state, yet I daresay not one of them has written to complain to UT President Randy Boyd about the dastardly idea the university should have an entire Department of Religious Studies. Last time I checked, the University of Tennessee is a state-owned and run school, paid for by the taxpayers of the State of Tennessee.

Far too many decisions are taken out of the hands of parents these days and I'm not sure my neighbor ought to have an opinion about what class my wife Kim and I approve for our daughter or son. Nor do I think a school teacher has the right to interfere with what classes or programs

my wife and I feel benefit our children the most. When the State can decide instead of a responsible parent, this has ceased to be the United States of America.

I will be the first to agree there are far too many irresponsible parents who either don't care or pay no attention to their children's education and educational opportunities. There are far too many parents who have given over responsibility for their children to their own parents. All of us know friends or have family members who are raising their grandchildren because their own children are in the throes of drug addiction or just plain unfit parents. Yet we lament the fact there is not more parental involvement in our schools. Whether or not the school bureaucracy actually means it when it says there should

be more parental involvement or perhaps only up to a certain point. It very well may be like the use of the words "tolerance" and "diversity." There's certainly been very little tolerance of an optional program that requires parental permission.

You see, the school bureaucracy usually screams, cries, and wrings its collective hands when something comes along that might actually reinforce good behavior and values. It's worse still if it doesn't cost any money or create a slew of new jobs to expand the bureaucracy.

It wouldn't surprise me to see the Board of Education cave under pressure from school teachers. Too many of the Board members have forgotten they represent the parents and students, the taxpayers, instead of the teachers.

County candidates pick up petitions

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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Hot on the heels of the recent Knoxville City elections, several candidates for election and re-election are picking up petitions for Knox County's March 3rd Primary. December 12 is the qualifying day.

Voters in the primary and general election will vote on everything from their choice for president, congress, party delegates,

property assessor, and county law director. Deputy Law Director David Buuck made his announcement for that office recently and has a petition to replace Richard (Bud) Armstrong.

As of last Thursday 19 people have picked up petitions for election. Some opposition for commission and school board are already appearing. The school board races are the only non-partisan slots on the upcoming ballot and there are no term limits among board of

education members.

Within the school board John Meade picked up a petition opposing incumbent Jennifer Owen in District 2 and Daniel Watson would oppose incumbent Tony Norman in District 3. All four of those candidates have picked up petitions.

Incumbent Susan Horn has a petition for reelection to District 5 and Adam Brown has one for the District 8 seat, a seat held now by Mike McMillan.

So far only two Democrats,

incumbent County Commissioner Evelyn Gill and her challenger, Dasha Lundy, have petitions.

Among the other candidates, all are Republicans so far including Eric Lutton and Rhonda Lee who are seeking replace retiring Public Defender Mark Stephens.

Incumbent John R. Whitehead would be challenged by Tina Marshall for Assessor of Property.

Knox County Commission Chairman Hugh Nystrom has announced he is not seeking reelection and

Scott Broyles has a petition for that District 4 seat. Former school board chair Terry Hill has a petition to replace Brad Anders in the District 6 seat. Anders is the only commissioner leaving because of term limits. Incumbents on commission that have petitions for re-election include Michele Carringer in District 2, Richie Beeler in District 8, and Carson Dailey in District 9.

Winners of the primaries will go on to November 3, 2020 local General Election.

Planning commission

Continued from page 1

this part of Knox County?" she asked. "Have you experienced the rural environment of these neighbors? Did you know that old Andes Road is nine feet wide and is barely paved, and there are houses right on the edge?"

"These are rolling farm hills," she continued. "Has anyone studied what impact this subdivision will have on Cedar Bluff, Karns and Hardin Valley schools? Have you ever seen all the wildlife that live in these fields? I ask you: do you serve the rights of Knox County or do you serve the builders?"

Larry Northcutt and his wife Kim also live in the area. Larry was unhappy with the communication process of the whole matter.

"Before the last meeting (about the adjacent tract), I called them (Ball Homes) three times and never got a return call," he said. "Every email they sent they said 'there's no changes; we're still considering our options.' This was after they promised the planning commission they'd communicate

with the neighborhood."

"It's about the density and the planning and the roads," said Kim. "The roads that are there now cannot hold the traffic. We have a stream on our property. If the property is developed, there's gonna be nowhere for the water to go."

Commissioner Art Clancy weighed in on the matter. "I've never been down Old Andes Road, it's just too narrow," he said. "We make decisions on what's best for everyone in Knox County."

"Probably when (the adjacent tract) was put in we heard the same argument: we shouldn't put one to three units per acre on this beautiful farmland," Clancy continued. "If we did that, nobody in Knoxville would have a place to live. If the city council or county commission wants to bump it up to four, then they can, but I think three is the right number." He then made a motion to approve the development at three du/a.

The commission voted 10 to 5 to approve the development at that number.

Tim Irwin hosts auction and cook-off fundraiser

Cont. from page 1

"We're going to declare a winner (in the chili cook-off but the real winners are the children of Knox County."

Many of those who donated items, money and time are juvenile court employees, but Irwin had other friends who were willing to lend a helping hand.

Coach Bill Deatherage, a longtime basketball coach at Knoxville Catholic High School, coordinated the judges for the chili cook-off.

Those judges were retired professionals and detectives and one, Ron McCartney, is an active

juvenile court bailiff.

Deatherage said that his contribution was a labor of love.

"I started doing this 15 years ago and Judge Irwin has been doing this for a long time," Deatherage said. "It's a fundraiser and I coordinate the cook-off judges."

Among those who were on the judging panel were McCartney, retired police detective Jim Wilson and Ron Wyrick, who retired from Tennessee Valley Authority.

Robbie Franklin served as the auctioneer as he's done for several years. Franklin coached football at Tennessee under

Johnny Majors. He helped recruit Irwin to the Vols and was one of his coaches on Rocky Top.

After his coaching days, he landed at Furrow Auction Company and he's thrilled to help Irwin with this event.

"I coached football under Johnny Majors and I helped recruit Tim," Franklin said. After that, I became an auctioneer and I worked for Furrow Auction Company.

"I'm retired from there now. But I want to continue to use the talent that God gave me to give back, and this is giving back."

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Opposition to the Bible Release Program voiced at November BOE Meeting

By Amy Box Fellhoelter

After a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance, Board Chairperson Susan Horn began the Nov. 13th meeting by welcoming Boy Scout troop 154 members and announcing the next policy meeting and days of the upcoming Knox County holiday break.

A vote whether to move agenda item C13 to a policy meeting or not gained some discussion during the changes to the agenda portion of the meeting. The item, which reads "Approve request of Karns High School to name basketball court in honor of current Karns Head Basketball Coach Mr. Lee Henson," was favored by Member Tony Norman to be moved to a policy review meeting for further discussion. Member Terry Hill disagreed and requested to vote on the item commenting, "This is not something that's changing what hasn't already occurred many times, I would request this be brought to a vote." A roll call vote of 6-3 was taken and the motion was not approved.

The board then gave three special recognitions to outstanding educators in Tennessee. Desiree Jones for University of Tennessee Theory and Practice in Teacher Education 2019 Outstanding Alumna, and Dr. Chad Smith for receiving the 2019 Tennessee Principal of the Year award. Nathan Langlois, who wasn't present at the board meeting because of sharing leadership information in Washington D.C., was honored as well.

He received accolades as the University of Tennessee Theory and Practice in Teacher Education 2019 Outstanding Collaborator.

Once congratulations were given and photos taken, the board moved to the consent agenda items. Board policies approved for the first reading were: C-220 "Automated External Defibrillator," C-230 "Bus Photography/Video Retention and Viewing," I-370 "Graduation Requirements," I-441 "Wellness Policy - Physical Activity,"



PHOTO BY CARLY HARRINGTON

From left, Superintendent Bob Thomas, Dr. Chad Smith, Member Patti Bounds, and Chairperson Susan Horn pose for a photo during the Nov. 13, 2019, board meeting as the BOE congratulated Dr. Smith for receiving the 2019 Tennessee Principal of the Year Award.

I-450 "Public Charter Schools," and J-580 "Student Suicide Prevention."

All grants and contracts in the agenda were approved, and regular agenda Item 12B stating "Approve Intragovernmental Memorandum of Understanding with Knox County regarding the design and construction of a new Lonsdale Elementary School" was discussed. Norman had a few more questions about the revisions of the program standards in regards to construction and asked if the BOE would need to approve those changes. Facilities Management Director Doug Dillingham answered, "After discussion with Mr. Oaks, we have determined that they are not substantial enough to require board action on them... most are not definitive to the point of actual requirements. Based on the modifications proposed, the storm drain, they are fairly general requirements."

Further explanation was given by Norman about the outdoor drainage design language in the MOU and what educational outdoor space on a school campus might look like with regards to maximizing the use of the property.

Discussion was then framed around the language in the MOU regarding middle schools because the agreement does not specifically state the middle school names. Member Jennifer Owen asked to include

the specific names of the middle schools and made a motion to do so by including the wording "Hardin Valley Middle School" and "Gibbs Middle School." The motion was approved after asking Gary Dupler of the Law Department if adding the middle school names would change the terms of the MOU. Dupler stated the change would not.

The last item that provoked conversation of the regular agenda was 12C "Accept Charter School Monitoring Reports for Emerald Academy." Norman congratulated Emerald Academy for forty-one percent of its third grade students are reading above grade level, according to the first part of the report. He then asked about the student attrition and teacher retention

rates. Steve Diggs from Emerald Academy explained, "We have to get our school director in place ... and keep someone there for a longer period of time ... that's our number one issue. We need a leader that will bring security and stability with the teachers as well." He stated that teacher turnover in Tennessee is at fifty-seven percent, and Emerald Academy is at fifty-one percent and the rate is sixty-six percent for those teaching in inter-city schools. "What I am encouraged about it is in the midst of the attrition, we have recruited high quality, highly talented teachers in the school right now," Diggs added.

Public Forum began and ended with Knox County resident Vivian Shipe who stated her opposition to the Bible Release Program presented by the Elgin Foundation. She stated that if the program allows one organization to have access to children in the public school system, then it will have to allow all organizations to do the same. Shipe spoke of this possibility as opening "the Pandora's Box of the unknown" and cited the Jonestown massacre. After stating our county ranks 41st in the world for education, she said, "The school day belongs fully to the education of our children."

Ethics Committee reelects Roche and Covington

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The first meeting of the new Knox County Ethics Committee was Wednesday morning in the main assembly room of the City-County Building and the members chose to re-elect Chairwoman Jennifer Roche and Vice Chairman Michael Covington. Covington nominated Roche and she nominated Covington.

Three new members are joining the ethics committee but the only one present at Wednesday meeting was Elizabeth Sherrod. The other new members were not present.

Deputy Law Director David Buuck spoke to the new and current members about the need for all of them to undergo ethics training and a need to know the ethics code "in and out." He also said they should learn the rules of procedure. Buuck reminded the members they are a "quasi-judicial body" and should notify the committee if there's a conflict of interest in any case or discussion.

"We don't get a lot of action because you are here, it's a deterrent," Buuck said. He added that the county is going into an election year and recalled the last election when three commissioners had ethics charges filed against them. All the charges were dismissed but Buuck indicated the complaint against Commissioner Brad Anders may have cost him the county mayoral primary, which he lost to Glenn Jacobs by only 24 votes.

Buuck told the committee that they, as members, could introduce a complaint, though most complaints would come from citizens against employees and elected officials. Covington, who had unofficially complained about Commissioner Evelyn Gill, said he didn't realize a committee member could file a complaint.

Chairwoman Roche discussed asking for a \$1,500 budget for next year to be used when hiring sign language interpreters during televised hearings on complaints.

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Girl Scouts Snowman Project Benefits ETCH Patients

By Amy Box Fellhoelter

The hustle and bustle of Market Square on Nov. 9th was full of Christmas shoppers, football fans, and farmer's market patrons, but among the downtown crowds was a room full of Girls Scouts hoping to make someone else's holiday season a little brighter. As part of the first ever Snowman Project presented by the Girl Scouts of the Southern Appalachians, girls from kindergarten through twelfth grades took time out to make snowmen for the patients of East Tennessee Children's Hospital.

These girls were creating not snowmen who melt but instead those made of yarn, Styrofoam, fabric, buttons, and ribbon. Four hours were made available for girls to gather in the Square Room thanks to its donation and the support of sponsors from

Continue on page 4



From left, Lyzah McClunie, Maggie Barber, and Diana Gao of Troop No. 20335 showed off their snowman in the Square Room on Market Square as part of the Girl Scouts of the Southern Appalachian's first ever Snowman Project.

Marble Alley granted another extension to buy adjoining lots

By Mike Steely
 Senior Writer
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

The large apartment complex on State Street near Summit Hill Drive was granted another three year extension on acquiring adjoining lots owned by Knox County last week but only after some serious questions by one Knox County Commissioner in Tuesday's work session.

Buzz Goss, developer of the 240-unit complex that opened in 2016, was seeking a fifth extension date of three years until he purchases five more parcels of what is known as the State Street Property.

Commissioner John Schoonmaker pointed out that

Continue on page 2



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

The Knox County Retired Teachers Association awarded scholarships to six aspiring educators at its annual awards luncheon Wednesday at the Foundry. The recipients are pictured with their presenters following the awards ceremony.

Aspiring educators receive scholarships from Retired Teachers Association

By Ken Lay

Six aspiring teachers received scholarships last week at the annual Knox County Retired Teachers Association Scholarship Foundation Awards Ceremony and Luncheon.

The event was held at the Foundry at The World's Fair Site Thursday.

Each of the recipients were students at the University of Tennessee in 2019 and the annual scholarships were increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500 this years and those awards are designed to help students with their respective expenses while they serve as interns or student teachers.

The Tom Underwood Scholarship was awarded to Sarah Benson and presented by Nancy

Gerhardt.

The Reuben and Pat Hunter Scholarship went to Katarina Steffan and was presented by David Sincorbox.

Kristine Andersen received the Colleen Bennett Scholarship, which was presented by Connie Silvey.

The Bill Crosland Scholarship, presented by Anne Loy, was awarded to David Leventhal.

The Betty Berry Scholarship was awarded to Cassandra Dean. It was presented by Judy Fleenor.

The Cindi Fuller Schowalter Scholarship, presented by Vicki Andrews and Don Loy, was awarded to Sarah Wade.

Christmas in the City begins Friday

Mark your calendars for these fun, family-friendly events taking place in and around downtown during Christmas in the City, beginning Nov. 22, 2019, and continuing through Jan. 5, 2020.

Note that the annual Christmas at Chilhowee event will be held about two weeks earlier than in previous years due to a visit from the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree.

All Christmas in the City events can be accessed by public transit using either a KAT bus or one of KAT's free downtown trolleys.

All Christmas in the City events are listed at KnoxvilleTN.gov/Christmas.

Christmas at Chilhowee
Friday, Nov. 22 - 6-9 p.m.
Chilhowee Park, 3301 E. Magnolia Ave.

Santa will share the spotlight at this year's Christmas at Chilhowee with the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, a 60-foot blue spruce harvested from Carson National Forest in New Mexico. The tree will visit 30 communities before reaching its final destination of Washington, D.C., on Nov. 25.

In addition to viewing the Capitol Tree and visiting Santa, guests can enjoy free doughnuts,

marshmallow roasting, face painting, train rides, golf activities provided by First Tee and a performance by the Austin-East High School Choir, plus additional booths and special guests. Admission is free. The park will be open nightly for self-guided walking and driving tours from Nov. 23, 2019, to Jan. 1, 2020.

Regal Celebration of Lights
Friday, Nov. 29 - 5:30-9 p.m.
Market Square, Krutch Park Extension and Market Street

Mayor Madeline Rogero and special guests will light the 42-foot Christmas tree in the Krutch Park Extension with a ceremony that includes live music, fireworks, lasers and a visit from Santa. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with the K-Town Band, followed by the lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. The event also includes food vendors, activities, children's train rides, marshmallow roasting and free hot cocoa and doughnuts.

WDVX Holiday Ho Ho Hoedown
Friday, Nov. 29 - 6:30-9 p.m.
Market Square stage

The post-Thanksgiving kick-off

Continue on page 2

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Rosie's World

women for 130 years. I got these interesting facts from Google on the computer and it immediately made me think of years gone by.

My grandmother sold Avon products back when I was growing up. Due to a bout of spinal meningitis, which left her an invalid, she walked with a crutch most of her life. Later on, she was confined to a wheelchair. Unable to go door-to-door, her telephone was the means of selling her products and I was the delivery person for her customers. She got the idea of selling from her young married days when she sold Watkins Products door to door, walking with her crutch, and she did very well at it, receiving many awards for her work. She made many friends with her telephone contacts and became a number-one seller for Avon, back in the days when they sold mostly talc powder and fragrances.

It became a normal enterprise for me, also, when I came of age. I sold it for many years up North and many years here. The holidays are the best time to sell and give these precious commodities, for they sell everything from A to Z and no one has to be ashamed of giving or receiving an Avon gift.

Thought for the day: The best way to show our gratitude to God and the people is to accept everything with joy. A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love. Mother Theresa

Send comments to rosemerrie@att.net or call 865-748-4717. Thank you.

A Big, Brilliant Idea

In 1886, thirty-four years before women in the U.S. earned the right to vote, Avon's founder, David H. McConnell, helped give them the chance to earn an independent income. He didn't set out to create a beauty company. In fact, McConnell was a traveling book salesperson who offered fragrance samples as an additional perk to his female customers. He saw that these women were more interested in the free perfume than the books. Since women had passion for his products and loved networking with other women, McConnell was inspired to recruit them as Sales Representatives. From a small New York City office, McConnell himself mixed the company's first fragrances. This began Avon's long history of empowering women around the globe.

95 years before the first woman was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court...

77 years before the first woman traveled into space...

76 years before the first woman took the reins of a Fortune 500 company...

34 years before women in the U.S. had the right to vote...

17 years before the first woman won the Nobel Prize...

Avon has been empowering

Our heads are spinning



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

I'm not about to enter an argument about the benefits of technology in our lives. That argument would be voided by the fact that I'm using the thing about which I rail to write my rant. So, instead of downing these wonders of modern life, I'll recall how we managed to live without them for so many years.

I took typing in high school. Everyone told me I'd need the skill for completing papers in college. What proved to be my downfall was the inability to type fast. My manual dexterity was limited, and I fumbled with the keys on the typewriter. It felt as if I were pounding the keys instead of skillfully striking them.

At the same time, I panicked whenever the class took a timed test. Typewriters on either side of me sang as students zipped words across pages. On the other hand, the sound from my machine was more of an uneven series of "clacks," followed by backspacing to type over mistakes or insert omitted letters.

These days, I spend hours on a keyboard to complete columns. Yes, I still struggle with my "typing skills," but corrections are much easier to make now. Striking the keys is also much

easier, and corrections are much completed with little trouble; no need for whiteout is needed, and programmed layouts give us much better-looking documents. Many documents of today are printed out to paper for submission. We could have produced the same information we need back then, but

in much smaller amounts and much larger time frames.

In a different lifetime, the search for information was often cumbersome. If our families fell prey to door-to-door salesmen, we owned a set of encyclopedias. The smell of the new, slick pages of those volumes filled the air as we spent hours thumbing through pages. The photos were wonderful, and we took in plenty of unnecessary bits about unimportant topics.

Other ways of gathering information also kept us busy. All students in college owned a dictionary. Correct spelling sometimes proved to be a chore when a person tried to find an oddly spelled word. At other times, research papers required students to travel to libraries. There, they searched the card catalog or the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature for things that helped develop research

topics. Copies of pages were a nickel each, but they were necessary in order to work at home.

The Internet drowns us with information. We can find the facts on almost any topic that comes to mind by simply typing in a couple of words. The most difficult task we face is limiting a search to the exact information we need.

Most families owned a camera. Some were compact, while others were Polaroids that produced instant photos or more advanced ones that required picture takers to set f-stops and other things. Then rolls of film were taken to a store for developing. Folks paid for all those photos, whether they were masterpieces or goofs.

Our cell phones take photos now. People whip them out and capture images of events, faces, and even plates of food. They are saved on the phone or stored on the cloud. People have thousands of pictures, many of which contain images nothing of significance.

Yes, technology has improved our lives. For many, it frees up time to do more important things, such as surfing the web, playing video games, or texting. For some of us, the overload of information, entertainment, and trivia is more than we ever expected... or wanted. Our heads are spinning.

Christmas in the City begins Friday

Continued from page 1

to the holiday season also includes WDVX FM's annual Holiday Ho Ho Hoedown featuring live performances on the Market Square Stage by Tray Dahl & The Jugtime Ragband and The Royal Hounds. Admission is free.

Holidays on Ice presented by Home Federal Bank

Friday, Nov. 29, 2019 to Jan. 5, 2020
Market Square

Knoxville's open-air ice skating rink returns to Market Square. The rink will be closed on Christmas Day and during inclement weather. Standard hours vary throughout the season, so check KnoxvillesHolidaysOnIce.com for dates and times as well as for information on special guests and discounts. Weather-related closures will be posted on the Holidays on Ice Facebook page.

Window Wonderland

Friday, Nov. 29, 2019 to Jan. 5, 2020
Various locations

The sidewalks of downtown Knoxville transform into a Peppermint Trail with windows of restaurants and merchants decorated for the holidays with the special peppermint theme. Participating merchants and restaurants will have peppermint items for sale; offers are listed at DowntownKnoxville.org/holiday/peppermint/.

10th Annual Gibbs Christmas Parade
sponsored by the Gibbs Ruritan Club
Sunday, December 1, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.

The parade begins at Gibbs High School and ends at the Clear Springs Baptist Church property. A donation of money or canned goods for the Coryton Food Pantry in lieu of an entry fee is greatly appreciated.

WIVK Christmas Parade

Friday, Dec. 6 - 7 p.m.
Gay Street

Dozens of festive floats will make their merry way down Gay Street during the 47th annual WIVK Christmas Parade. This holiday favorite features high school marching bands, dance groups, costumed characters, theme floats, vintage vehicles and the man of the hour, Santa Claus. To enter a float in the parade, you will need to fill out an application with WIVK.

A Safety City Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 7 - 5:30-8 p.m.
165 S. Concord St.

The Knoxville Police Department's Safety City is decked out for the season, and families are invited to its annual celebration to play games, make crafts, enjoy holiday music and visit with Santa. This event is free to the public. Safety City will also be open 5-8 p.m. Dec. 10, 12, 17 and 19 for youngsters to ride their bikes along the Trail of Lights.

Marble Alley granted another extension to buy adjoining lots

Cont. from page 1

the county sold Goss the initial lots for the apartments back in 2009 and has been holding the other undeveloped lots for ten years. Schoonmaker said the other lots could have been sold to other developers during this ten year wait.

"We've been sitting on this, waiting for the developer to purchase it," Schoonmaker said. He noted that the current extension ends December 31st.

"Let's get it on the tax rolls, why just continue this?" he asked.

Commissioner Brad Anders said the Marble Alley development is "very impressive" and said the extension gives the county "an opportunity."

"Nobody has done what they've done," Anders said.

Goss spoke before the commission and called Marble Alley "a game changer for downtown Knoxville." He said that construction costs have "gone through the roof" and he's looking to convince lenders of the value.

"We're trying to create a district and it's worth giving us more time," he said.

Commissioner Evelyn Gill said, "We've forgotten what downtown looked like" prior to the Marble Alley project.

"What's the total investment?" asked Commissioner Larsen Jay. The answer was \$36 million on a property the developer bought from the county for just over \$2 million. He added, "It takes a long time to do these developments."

Commissioner Carson Dailey asked Goss if he's willing to stipulate that the three-year extension will be his last request to delay purchase and Goss agreed.

"A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, it's unwise to move this to

the unknown," commented Commissioner Randy Smith.

Schoonmaker moved to delay the extension decision but only he and Dailey voted to do so. The approval then came on the original motion, to grant the extension of three years, and passed with only Schoonmaker and Dailey opposing it.

IN OTHER COMMISSION NEWS

The commission also passed a non-binding request of the school board to install bi-directional amplifiers in all new schools during construction. Commissioner Justin Biggs proposed the idea and said the signal "boosters" will give the school buildings means to communicate with emergency services.

Chairman Hugh Nystrom said that the lack of communication from inside the new schools is an unintended consequence of weatherproofing the windows.

Also approved for tonight's regular commission meeting was an ordinance adding microbreweries in the Neighborhood Commercial districts and making the small breweries subject to a Use on Review. Commissioners Anders and Smith had questions about the breweries locating in shopping centers where bars are not permitted.

Chairman Nystrom reminded the commissioners that the 2020 Charter Review Committee should be named by the end of the year. Each commissioner is asked to name a person who lives in their district soon so the election commission can verify the person's address.

The commission also discussed Knoxville's Big Ears Festival and the county's past \$25,000 contribution

to the music event. Commissioner Smith asked the county finance director to look into the city's contribution and said the festival is "very important to downtown"

Smith also asked for a discussion on a possible Western Avenue-Oak Ridge Highway Corridor Study. "We really haven't taken a look at it," he said, adding "There's a lot of vacant land there." Smith was talking about the entire stretch of the road "all the way out."

Knox County Health Department Director Dr. Martha Buchanan presented a summary of the first quarter of the year's Indigent Care Program. She said that the number of people treated was down for the second year in a row and that the program is being renamed "Knox County Medical Program."

Dr. Buchanan said the department and Cherokee Health are trying to live with lower budgets due to county cutbacks.

The commissioners also voted to take part in a State Library and Archives purchase of computers, software, network hardware and peripheral devices for Knox County Libraries with a state and county cost of \$13,307 each. The program will also replace microfilm readers because much of the library records are stored on the old style readers.

They also had a brief discussion concerning backyard chickens in the county and heard Deputy Law Director Daniel Sanders tell them that because of state laws on agriculture there's no provisions for the county to regulate fowl kept at homes. Asked why the city can regulate backyard fowl and not the county, Sanders said the city operates under a different governmental system.

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Tennessee's Hermitage District, VIII

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Congressman Joseph W. Byrns, Jr. had first been elected in 1938 and as befitting Tennessee's "Hermitage District," so-called because it contained the home of General Andrew Jackson, was solidly Democratic. Byrns was being challenged for the Democratic nomination in 1940 by his predecessor in Congress, Richard M. Atkinson and W. D. "Pete" Hudson, a prosperous farmer/businessman from Clarksville, who had served five two-year terms as mayor of Clarksville, Tennessee and had won a statewide election in 1938 to Tennessee's Railroad & Utilities Commission, the forerunner of the Public Service Commission. A third candidate, M. S. "Monty" Ross, was also seeking the Democratic nomination for Congress in the Fifth District, but was not a serious candidate.

Atkinson, a former District Attorney General for Davidson County, was a seasoned campaigner, although something of a polarizing figure. The former congressman while campaigning in Hudson's home of Montgomery County, hit the Utilities Commissioner hard. Atkinson scolded Hudson for not rebating the two cents saved per gallon of gasoline back to the consumer, as well as operating barges on the Cumberland River in direct competition with businesses regulated by the Tennessee Railroad & Utilities Commission.

Congressman Joe Byrns, Jr. had shrewdly been able to remain above the political fray by virtue of his service on the House Military Affairs Committee. Byrns had been inspecting the country's defenses along the Atlantic seaboard and the Panama Canal Zone. The incumbent had reaped considerable favorable publicity from Tennessee newspapers anxious to cover his activities as the beginnings of the Second World War raged in Europe. With the Democratic primary in the first week of August, Joe Byrns, Jr. had not returned to his district to campaign; rather the thirty-seven year-old congressman was remaining in Washington in keeping with his 1938 campaign pledge to remain "on the job." The Byrns campaign released a speech by the congressman during the last days of July.

Byrns opened his speech by reminding his listeners of his campaign promise of 1938. "A little less than two years ago, I promised you that I would stay on the job. It is because I am keeping my pledge to you that I am resorting to the marvelous facilities of the radio rather than being privileged to see and speak to you in person."

The radio address by the congressman would constitute the only campaign activity by Joe Byrns, Jr. during the Democratic primary of 1940. Evidently it was enough. The advantages of incumbency and remaining "on the job" proved to be an effective strategy. Congressman Byrns won Davidson County by 1313 votes over Richard Atkinson with Pete Hudson trailing well behind. Hudson did carry his own Montgomery County by 633 votes over the combined total of Byrns and Atkinson. Congressman Byrns also carried Robertson, Stewart, and Sumner counties. Pete Hudson narrowly edged out Byrns to win Macon County by a meager 37 votes. Dick Atkinson carried only one county inside Tennessee's Hermitage District; the former congressman won Trousdale County by 20 votes over Joe Byrns, Jr.

Richard Atkinson's loss to Joe Byrns, Jr. in 1940 signaled the end of his political career. For the remainder of his life, Dick Atkinson would practice law in Davidson County. The former congressman died of a heart attack in his Nashville home. Atkinson was only fifty-three years old at the time of his death. The Tennessean published an editorial eulogizing Atkinson's time as District Attorney General, recalling "he prosecuted law-breakers vigorously and obtained many notable convictions." The editorial reminded readers of Atkinson's "genial yet energetic disposition" and recalled the former congressman's service to his church and community.

W. D. "Pete" Hudson resigned from the Tennessee Public Service Commission in 1942 to serve with the U. S. Army Transportation Corps during World War II. Hudson had risen to the rank of Captain during the First World War and was discharged from the Second World War with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Hudson was the statewide campaign manager for U. S. senator Tom Stewart's losing 1948 campaign. Pete Hudson was appointed to serve as Montgomery County's Criminal Court judge by Governor Gordon Browning in 1951, a post he held for a decade. Hudson died of a heart attack at his home in 1963 at age 72.

Both Richard Atkinson and W. D. Hudson sent telegrams to Congressman Byrns, conceding defeat and promising to support the Democratic nominee in the general election. It is quite certain virtually everybody considered Joe Byrns, Jr. to have been reelected to a second term in Congress. As thoroughly Democratic as the Fifth



COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

Congressman Joseph W. Byrns, Jr. at his desk, circa 1937.

Congressional district was, it was unthinkable a duly nominated Democratic nominee could lose the general election. History was about to be made in Tennessee's Hermitage District.

On September 10, 1940 J. Percy Priest, a member of the Nashville Tennessean's editorial staff, announced he was running for Congress from Tennessee's Fifth Congressional district as an Independent. Priest was once described as "being as ugly as homemade sin" yet having the sweetest disposition and a big heart. Whatever his exterior, it masked a shrewd political mind. The notion an Independent candidate could defeat the Democratic nominee inside Andrew Jackson's home district seemed an impossibility. Priest immediately said the reason he was running was because Joe Byrns, Jr. had broken faith with the people he represented by supporting an amendment to the conscription bill sponsored by Republican Hamilton Fish of New York. A notorious isolationist who had fought bravely during the First World War, Hamilton Fish was the congressman from President Roosevelt's home district. In his announcement of his candidacy, Percy Priest said as Congressman Byrns had betrayed the Democrats of the Fifth Congressional district, they should not feel obligated to support the Democratic nominee. "There are two parties to every agreement and when one party to a pact breaks faith it no longer can be binding upon either," Priest reasoned. Percy Priest said he found it shocking the congressman from Andrew Jackson's home district would conspire with a group of Republican obstructionists with regard to the preparedness program supported by President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull. "People who know me in this district will never question my loyalty to President Roosevelt nor to the principles of the Democratic party," Priest declared.

One sign that Percy Priest's candidacy should be taken seriously by Congressman Byrns and Tennessee's Democratic Party was the front page editorial appearing in the Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle entitled "Democracy At Its Best" hailing the

"overwhelming 'draft' movement" in Montgomery County in support of Priest. The Leaf-Chronicle flatly accused the congressman of having "misled and deceived" the people of the Fifth District. The Leaf-Chronicle believed Joe Byrns, Jr. had been renominated "because the people believed he was committed irrevocably to national defense and to national defense legislation." Unfortunately, the Leaf-Chronicle lamented, "His record has shown otherwise." That fact alone meant Democrats in Tennessee's solidly Democratic Hermitage District were no longer obligated to support the Democratic nominee for Congress, the Leaf-Chronicle informed its readers. The Leaf-Chronicle had supported native son W. D. Hudson in the primary and patted itself on the back for having been "the medium" through which the people living in the Fifth Congressional district "first voiced disappointment in the incumbent's record and first rebuked him for his defense stand." The Leaf-Chronicle said it was delighted to support Priest for "it knows it is supporting a man who will never let his people down."

The fact Joe Byrns, Jr. was the only Democrat in the Tennessee Congressional delegation to openly oppose conscription gave the young congressman little political cover. "The idea of conscription in times of peace is undemocratic, un-American and unnecessary," Byrns said. By way of contrast, Albert Gore, the congressman from the neighboring Fourth District, said, "We have too much at stake and our liberty is too precious to reply on Hitler's statement that he has no intention of coming to the Western hemisphere." Congressman Gore pointed out Hitler had said much the same thing before and "has lied like a cur and curdled it with the blood of innocent people whose sole offense was that they loved peace and stood in his way." Gore concluded, "If we are adequately prepared to defend ourselves and our outposts in this hemisphere, we will probably not be required to do so."

The Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle certainly had been horrified by the stand taken by Congressman

Joseph W. Byrns, Jr. and had urged him to change his mind and support the conscription bill. The Leaf-Chronicle had also been the first publication inside the Fifth Congressional district to urge J. Percy Priest be drafted to run for Congress. The fact Byrns had joined Tennessee's two Republican members of Congress, Carroll Reece and John J. Jennings, in voting for the Fish amendment only served to infuriate more Democrats. The Tennessean, then Percy Priest's employer, ran a news story that the Leaf-Chronicle wanted an opponent for Byrns.

Ultimately, Joe Byrns, perhaps in response to the reaction of his earlier stand inside his congressional district, voted for the final version of the conscription bill, but it did him little good politically. Joe Hatcher, not an unbiased source to say the least and the political columnist for the Nashville Tennessean, wrote in his daily column the reason Byrns was given little credit for changing his vote was because it was abhorrent to many of his constituents that he had sided with isolationist Republicans on the Fish amendment. Hatcher said the idea of a Priest candidacy, the Tennessean's "roving reporter", was the subject of much enthusiasm in both Nashville and Clarksville. Hatcher speculated one reason Joe Byrns, Jr. had voted for the delay of conscription as required by the Fish amendment was to avoid opposition from a Republican or "Willkie" (Wendell Willkie was the GOP presidential nominee in 1940) candidate. Considering the likelihood of success for a Republican in Tennessee's Hermitage District, much less a candidate tied to the opponent to the highly popular FDR, Joe Hatcher had to be advancing a theory designed to aid the Priest campaign as it was little less than preposterous.

One Nashvillian expressed his sense of hurt in a letter to the editor of the Tennessean, writing, "Just before the recent primary election" Congressman Joseph W. Byrns, Jr. "stated that he was so busy helping Mr. Roosevelt prepare the defenses of this country that he could not spare the time necessary to come to Tennessee for the campaign. I believed him." The writer then noted to

his dismay the congressman had "done everything in his power to nullify that defense" since winning renomination. The author concluded, "We voters owe it to ourselves, and to the nation, to defeat him for reelection in November."

The Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle penned another anti-Byrns editorial wondering, "Was Barnum Right?" "Since the death of the beloved Joseph W. Byrns, Sr., two Congressmen have been tried," the editorial stated. "'Little Joe' was chosen because he was his father's son and because he pledged support for the Democratic National Administration," the Leaf-Chronicle said simply. "His record has been disappointing."

The Leaf-Chronicle recalled the ungracious quote attributed to Byrns about the King and Queen of Great Britain and said the young congressman had been "excused on the grounds of inexperience." The editorial revived a supposed interview with a New York newspaper where Byrns allegedly made fun of his state and the people he represented. The Leaf-Chronicle reminded its readers showman P. T. Barnum had once gloated there was a sucker born every minute. Referring to Joe Byrns, Jr., the Leaf-Chronicle thought voters "can outgrow their suckerhood."

Immediately following his announcement he was running as an Independent for Congress, Percy Priest opened his campaign headquarters in rooms 501 and 502 in Nashville's Andrew Jackson Hotel. The Nashville Mailers' Union instantly endorsed Priest's candidacy.

Joe Byrns had yet to take Percy Priest's candidacy seriously. It was a serious miscalculation on the young congressman's part.

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Girl Scouts Snowman Project Benefits ETCH Patients

Cont. from page 1

Dunkin Donuts, A & W Office Supply, Target One Marketing Group, Home Depot Maryville, Loopville, and The Yarn Haven which made the outcome a success!

The GSCSA invited all the Girl Scout troops and the community to join them. All participants supported the East Tennessee Children's Hospital and the Girl Scout programing in the Knoxville area. Participating Girl Scouts came in uniform and enjoyed getting creative making snowmen, snowwomen, snow reindeers and more while eating refreshments and socializing with one another. Each snowman creation was tagged with a handwritten "Get Well" message by its Girl Scout maker.

Several high school students, such as sophomore Carolyne McCord of Troop 21156, worked a two-hour shift to receive the Girl Scout Snowman Badge, an extra-curricular badge. McCord, who worked at the yarn table, began her Girl Scout career as a Daisy in kindergarten. She explained, "It's good for resume building, scholarships, and to keep up relationships with the people I've made with friends who don't attend my high school."

McCord has completed the Bronze and Silver Awards and is working toward the Gold Award. "The project 'Take a book, Leave a book' was my favorite. I did it with a friend to complete the Silver Award," she added. She described it as an endeavor to encourage others to

read more and recycle by providing a book stand in her neighborhood.

"Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. We are trying to instill community service and empower the girls through projects like this one," commented GSCSA Vice President of Philanthropy Elizabeth Kramer.

Since it's not always possible to serve the community with children, Girl Scouts opens those doors of opportunity to do so.



High school sophomore Carolyne McCord worked a two-hour shift at the yarn table during the Snowman Project on Nov. 9th in the Square Room.

"Girl Scouts is a great way to get your kids involved in serving others and I get to experience it with them. We've helped Care Cuts, and KARM ... and when I ask the girls what they want to do for the year, it's community service," said Girl Scout leader and mother Lena Fry-McClunie.

Other responses from the girls when asked what

they enjoy most were "to make the world a better place," "to do fun stuff," and "you get to try a lot of new things." One of those new things, as explained by GSCSA Graphic Designer & Digital Content Coordinator Melanie Winton, was the creation of a rap song of the Girl Scout Promise and Law by two girls as part of an outreach program at the YWCA Phyllis Wheatley Center in Knoxville. Shermija and Desjhae from Troop No. 30024 wrote the lyrics and, with help from Winton and her brother, produced a music video.

"This is why I do what I do," said Winton referring to the snowman and music video projects. "Completing the video made them feel amazing, they have dreams too," she added.

The Girl Scout organization's slogan "Skills Today, Success Tomorrow" rings true for many women who connected with its girl-led experiences as a child and then followed their dreams as well. Kathleen Clontz was a Girl Scout for 50 years, while living in seven different states and in Japan.

When asked how the Girl Scouts prepared her for going into the military, Clontz answered, "Girl Scouts gave me confidence as a leader, a love of service, and a love and appreciation of the United States."

Clontz was ranked a SSG (E-6) in the U.S. Army and served for seven years. She now volunteers her time as a troop leader in Athens, Tenn.

A local leader who uses her scouting skills today is

Katie Boggs, co-owner of a nonprofit focused on counter-trafficking work named "Raising a Voice." The organization has two overseas locations in Kenya and Argentina, as well as a drop-in center for women in sex work in East Knoxville.

"I was a Girl Scout through my Gold Award in Maryville," said Boggs. Soon she will be opening a coffee shop called "Likewise Coffee" on Magnolia to support the nonprofit.

"We are really excited

to deliver the snowmen!" said Winton who will be part of the team distributing them to patients. Each snowman creation is sure to bring smiles because it is as unique as the patient it was made for and the girl who created it.

In August, the GSCSA and the Girls Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) rolled out 42 new badges for girls in every grade. From coding to adventuring in the mountains, the badges encourage independent decision making, moving beyond

comfort zones, and building confidence in leadership abilities for the girls. Nine cybersecurity badges and three space science badges are now options for sixth through twelfth grade girls to pursue.

The GSCSA has almost 14,000 girl and adult members, and is open to kindergarten through twelfth grades girls to join throughout the year. For more information, visit www.girlscoutsa.org or call 800.474.1912.

Go to www.wreathscrossamerica.org to donate wreaths or sign up to volunteer. Area veterans cemeteries are:
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Lots of character in this all-brick home with high ceilings, open floor plan, lots of windows, master suite on the main level, kitchen has island, gas stove, granite countertops, upstairs is a possible 2nd master suite, 2 more bedrooms and bonus, TREX deck for enjoying the outdoors. Estimated completion the beginning of 2020. MLS 1089805 \$359,900

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TSSAA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

DIVISION I CLASS 6A

Scores First Round

Bearden 23, McMinn County 6
Farragut 56, Bradley Central 21

Second Round

Dobyns-Bennett 28, Bearden 14
Maryville 42, Farragut 0

Quarterfinals

Friday at 7 p.m.
Maryville (12-0) at Dobyns-Bennett (10-2)

CLASS 5A

Scores First Round

Gibbs 20, Tennessee High 13
Central 24, David Crockett 14
Daniel Boone 32, Halls 3
South-Doyle 41, Cherokee 3
Powell 60, Lenoir City 14
Rhea County 47, Fulton 14
West 45, Walker Valley 7
Oak Ridge 40, Soddy-Daisy 23

Second Round

Central 49, Gibbs 7
South-Doyle 28, Daniel Boone 12
Powell 34, Rhea County 16
West 34, Oak Ridge 14

Quarterfinals

Friday at 7 p.m.
Central (10-2) at South-Doyle (9-3)
West (11-1) at Powell (12-0)

CLASS 3A

Scores First Round

Austin-East 41, Johnson County 0

Second Round

Austin-East 48, Kingston 21
Alcoa 58, Gatlinburg-Pittman 0

Quarterfinals

Friday at 7 p.m.
Austin-East (9-3) at Alcoa (11-1)

DIVISION II CLASS AAA

Scores Quarterfinals

MUS 35, Catholic 28

CLASS AA

Scores First Round

Grace Christian 35, Goodpasture 20
CPA 35, Webb 0
Chattanooga Christian 42, CAK 10

Quarterfinals

Lipscomb Academy 45, Grace Christian 21

CLASS A

Scores Quarterfinals

USJ56, The King's Academy 20



PHOTO BY JOHN VALENTINE

Central's Isaiah Osborne eludes Gibbs defenders on a long run deep into Eagle territory Friday night at Dan Y. Boring Stadium. The Bobcats started fast and rolled 49-7.

Central's playoff express picking up steam again

By Steve Williams

Central High's football team again appears to be built for a post-season playoff run.

The defending Class 5A state champions lost their last two regular season games and sputtered for most of the first half before getting things rolling in a first-round win over David Crockett High.

And in second-round action Friday night at Joel Helton Field, the Bobcats were in four-quarter mode, scoring on their first possession and never looking back as they avenged their last loss decisively and eliminated Gibbs 49-7.

Now the Bobcats' sights are set on South-Doyle, which snapped Central's 21-game win streak in Week 10 of the regular season. If the sky is clear and the field dry for the rematch, look out.

The rain poured and the Bobcats fumbled the football 10 times the last time these two powers collided, contributing to Central's 38-10 loss to the Cherokees.

Kickoff is set for 7 o'clock in the quarterfinal game Friday night at South-Doyle. The Cherokees (9-3) advanced with a 28-12 win over Daniel Boone. Central is 10-2.

"It's going to be an exciting game, without a whole lot of rain for sure," quipped Central Coach Bryson Rosser.

Asked if he had checked the weather forecast, Rosser answered: "I have

not. I won't check the weather until about Thursday, because it's going to change three times before then."

Central's offense was clicking against Gibbs. Senior quarterback Dakota Fawver completed 17 of 20 passes for 280 yards and five touchdowns. Braden Gaston had five receptions for 106 yards and four TDs.

Jason Merritts, who totaled 134 yards in rushing and receiving, ran for one touchdown and passed for one. Isaiah Osborne also had four catches for 50 yards and a score.

Makhi Anderson, a senior running back and defensive back, stood out on both sides of the ball, catching a 25-yard TD pass, running with great determination on one 18-yard carry and leading the defense with nine solo stops and one assist.

Linebacker Tyler Bost made his first start since an injury and was a powerful force in the middle, racking up four solo stops, six assists and one TFL.

Central jumped out to a 14-0 lead in the opening 12 minutes and led 35-0 before Gibbs found paydirt late in the third quarter.

Jarred Swislosky was seven for seven on PATs and twice activated the mercy rule running clock.

"A fast start," Rosser said was the difference this time against Gibbs. "Defensively, the guys came out and stopped them and then we put the ball in the end zone right away. It's

important to have the lead against teams like this and as good as they are. Just really proud of how the guys executed the game plan tonight."

The Bobcats also had a fast start after intermission, with Fawver completing two passes, including a 40-yarder to Gaston for a touchdown just 36 seconds into the second half.

Sophomore Syllas Williams kept Gibbs from being shut out when he fought to haul in a 34-yard pass from Troy Davis with 2:53 left in the third quarter.

Gaston soon after restarted the running clock with his fourth TD catch. Osborne took a shovel pass from Fawver and scored from five yards out at 6:39 to cap the scoring.

Ethan Humphries ended his Gibbs career with 20 carries and 85 yards inside the teeth of the Bobcat defense. Davis ran for 77 yards and passed for 78 on only five attempts.

Gibbs Coach Brad Turner said "turnovers" were the difference between this game and the Eagles' regular season win over Central.

"They came out ready to play," said Turner. "This was not our best game. We struggled offensively and in the secondary. Hats off to Central. They are a motivated team right now."

Gibbs finished the season 8-4, including a 20-13 win on the road over Region 1 champion Tennessee High in the first round.

Brang Returns, Lifts South-Doyle to Win Over Daniel Boone

By David Klein

South-Doyle's quarterback Mason Brang made a triumphant return for the Cherokees in Friday's second round 5A playoffs. Brang had been sidelined since week three with a broken fibula and had just been cleared to play Wednesday, November 13. Brang was efficient in leading the Cherokees to a 28-12 win over the visiting Daniel Boone Trailblazers as he went 9 of 15 for 169 yards passing and one touchdown.

"Rehab has been tough," Brang said. "I have to give all credit to my o-line (offensive line) and my receivers making plays, giving me time. It's a great overall team win tonight."

South-Doyle head coach Clark Duncan said, "Having Mason back this week has brought a new life to his seniors because he's been with them for 10 years and been their quarterback. I think that's special to them. The doctors have done a tremendous job. Honestly, did not think we would get him back for another couple of weeks provided we would continue to play. They (doctors) did a tremendous job and Mason did a great job getting himself rehabbed and here we are."

Daniel Boone struck first and took the opening kickoff and ate up 7:05 in the first quarter, capping off the drive with a 6-yard touchdown pass from Kaleb Worley to Devon White. Elijah Young blocked the extra point to keep the Trailblazers at six points. During the drive, the Trailblazers converted three 3-and-longs. Worley had two quarterback sneaks for first downs and White caught a third down pass.

Daniel Boone's
Cont. on page 2

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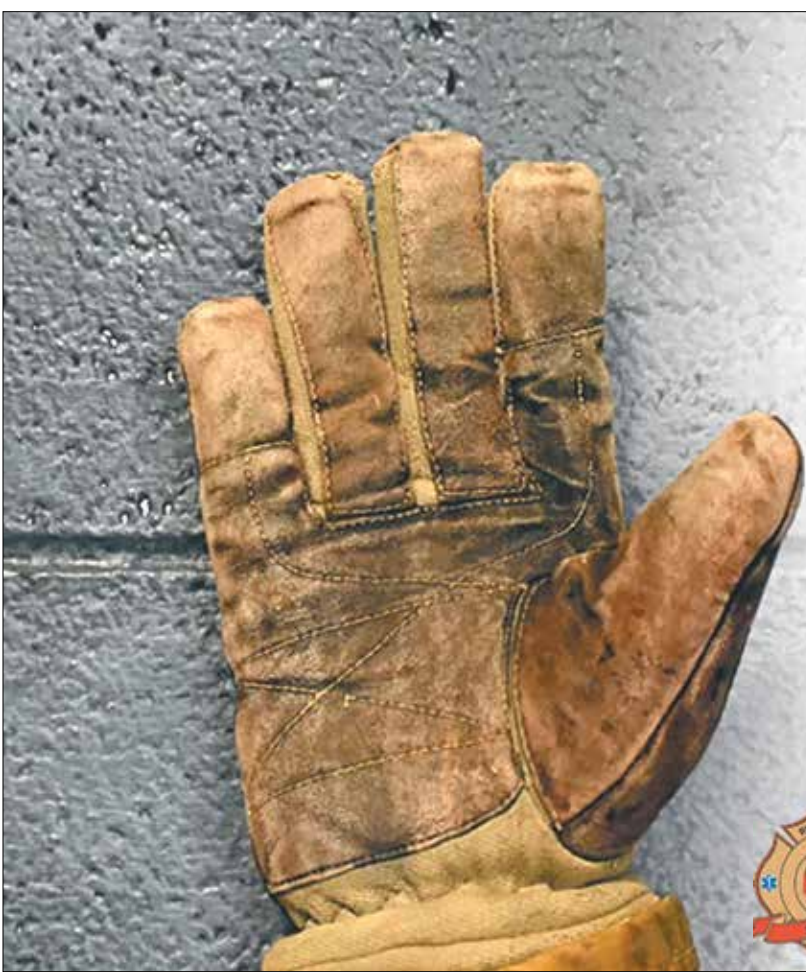
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Going the extra mile pays off for Tucker at state

By Steve Williams

Running hills has been only one ingredient in Callie Tucker's recipe for success.

Coach Sean O'Neil pointed out Tucker's attention to nutrition, sleep and supplemental work also figured into the Knoxville Catholic senior recently capturing the Division II Class AA championship at the TSSAA meet.

"Running is extremely important to Callie," said O'Neil. "It's something she loves to do, and she really challenges herself to keep getting better at it. This extends beyond the time Callie spends at practice.

"She has a very analytical approach to running, and considers how everything she does will impact her athletic performance. She pays attention to her nutrition and how much she sleeps, and takes time to do supplemental work and stretch every day. Callie's win at the state championships was the direct result of years of dedication to the sport."

Tucker triumphed with a time of 18:56 over the 5k Percy Warner course in Nashville on Nov. 2. She signed scholarship papers with the University of Tennessee last week.

"Winning state was definitely something I've been working towards for a long time," said Callie. "After overcoming injuries and off seasons in general, it was so exciting to see my hard work come together.

"The race went exactly how I planned, and I'm so



Catholic High's Callie Tucker, wearing the Irish green, is in a close race on her way to this year's TSSAA Division II Class AA state cross country championship at Percy Warner Park. "It was a very special moment getting to wear my Tennessee hat and Catholic jersey as I got my medal!" -- Callie Tucker.

thankful for everything my parents, friends, coaches, and school has done for me. The amount of support I receive is incredible and really sets our community apart from others."

Tucker said the Victor Ashe Park cross country course in Knoxville provided great preparation for the state. As a new Division II member, Catholic didn't have to qualify in the region at Ashe Park this season but still had its traditional workout of running the hills at the course after other schools competed in their regions.

"While I think Ashe Park is a significantly faster course,

the hills in the last mile are good practice for the tough state course," said Callie. "Percy Warner is deceptively difficult since the last mile is a steady climb farther from the excitement of the crowd. People often get out very fast and pay for it the last mile."

Next up for Tucker and L&N STEM Academy senior Seth Jinks, the Small Class boys' state champion, will be the new KYA 3200 meter time trial sponsored by On Running. The event, formerly the Hoka 3200 time trial, will be held Nov. 22 at Hardin Valley Academy.

Tucker and Jinks also will compete in the Foot Locker

South Regional at McAlpine Park in Charlotte Nov. 30.

"My future goals for this year are just to place well at the Foot Locker South Regional and hopefully PR at the (KYA 3200) time trial," said Jinks, who posted a time of 16:39 for his second TSSAA title.

"Coach (Mac) Pickle, Coach (Bobby) Holcombe and I have watched Seth grow into the athlete he has become over the past four years," said L&N Head Coach Sara Daugherty. "We definitely had feelings of nostalgia watching him cross the finish line in first place. I definitely had a good cry watching him meet his

ultimate goal as a runner and knowing that he is about to move on to bigger and better things.

"I am still thankful that we get to keep him through one more season (track) and I'm excited to see the things he does with his team. I can only see Seth going up from here."

MANCINI SIDELINED: Catholic's Eleanor Mancini, also a UT signee, missed running in the state meet due to injury.

"It was so sad when Eleanor found out she had her stress fracture," said Tucker. "She actually thought she may be able to compete, but her doctor advised against



Seth Jinks of L&N STEM Academy captured his second TSSAA state championship in cross country this season.

it once they found out the severity of it."

Coach O'Neil added: "She will be able to start running by the end of the month and should be ready to go for the beginning of indoor track season."

MAKE IT FIVE: Tucker became Catholic's fifth athlete to win a TSSAA cross country title. Past Irish champions: Megan Ferowich (2009), Joanna Thompson (2010), George Goodwyn (2016) and Jake Renfree (2018).

RISING RIVERA: Freshman Savannah Rivera of the Knoxville Ambassadors moved up to No. 9 in the state rankings on TN MileSplit after winning the Homeschool Nationals with a time of 18:17 at The Hermitage Course, said KA Coach Tracy Peevy.

While the Ambassadors' girls and boys varsity teams placed first and fourth, respectively, their middle school girls' team also was the national runner-up.

Self-inflicted adversity proves too much to overcome for Catholic

By Ken Lay

MEMPHIS --- Catholic High School's first stay in the Division II-AAA Football Playoffs was a short one.

The Irish had a lethargic first half and a myriad of mistakes throughout the night and that adversity, sometimes self-inflicted, would be too much to overcome in a 35-28 state quarterfinal loss at Memphis University School Friday night.

Things got off to a rough start for the Irish (7-4) as they took the opening kickoff and went three-and-out.

The Owls (10-1) and the Division II-AAA West Region Champions) had no such problems as they scored on their first drive on a touchdown run by Hunter Kendall.

The Irish would answer that one as sophomore quarterback Kaden Martin matched Kendall's scoring run with one of his own, a 46-yard scamper. Kicker Paxton Robertson knotted the game 7-7 with the ensuing extra point.

But from there, the rest of the first half would belong to the Owls, who would take advantage of multiple Catholic miscues

over the rest of the first half. MUS would score 20 unanswered points before halftime.

"We just kind of sleepwalked through the first half," Catholic coach Steve Matthews said. "These teams that we're playing aren't just good teams, they're great teams.

"But we didn't quit. We turned it on in the second half but it was just a case of too little, too late."

The Irish, who never led on this cold night in West Tennessee, were their own worst enemies at times against the Owls. Catholic was penalized 13 times and those infractions cost the Irish 103 yards. Throw in three turnovers, and you have the potential for disaster.

"These are great teams that we're playing and you just can't have those kinds of self-inflicted wounds and expect to come back and win," Matthews said.

But Catholic certainly made a valiant effort.

After falling behind big, the Irish answered the bell with a vengeance in the second half.

Nicklaus Iverson helped Catholic claw its way back into the game when he scored on a 4-yard plunge

to make it 27-13 just past the midway point of the third quarter.

The Irish would later pull to within 27-21 when Martin connected with Tommy Winton on a 14-yard scoring strike with 9 minutes, 32 seconds remaining in the game.

Catholic then had the momentum, but things didn't go its way as the Owls struck quickly when quarterback Vaught Bengé made it 33-21 with an electrifying 80-yard scamper. MUS would add a two-point conversion to make it 35-21 just 15 seconds later.

"Their quarterback broke loose for an 80-yard run after we scored and that was a back-breaker," Matthews said.

That was the second long run that the Irish defense surrendered to an Owls' quarterback.

Ethan Shy had an 89-yard touchdown run in the first half.

After Bengé scored the Irish responded as Martin had a touchdown pass to Jack Jancek.

Catholic had a chance to tie it late but its last pair of possessions ended in turnovers.



STILL ON THE PROWL!

Powell High senior Tyler Kirkess (5) and Jordan Brown (7) rip through the pregame sign prior to the Panthers' Class 5A second-round game against visiting Rhea County Friday night. Powell won 34-16 to remain undefeated. The Panthers will host West Friday night in the state quarterfinals. Powell handed West its only loss of the year, 21-20 in overtime, when the two teams collided at Powell in the regular season.

Brang Returns, Lifts South-Doyle to Win Over Daniel Boone

Cont. from page 1

strategy to keep the ball away from South-Doyle worked for a quarter, but soon the big play theatrics for the Cherokees kicked in. On the Cherokees' first offensive possession of the second quarter, the Trailblazers had the Cherokees stopped, but a running into the kicker penalty gave the Cherokees an extra five yards to make it 4th-and-one. Young then took a handoff 51-yards for a touchdown. The Cherokees kicked the extra point and took a 7-6 lead.

Penalties plagued the Trailblazers all night. A personal foul chop block kept Daniel Boone from picking up a first down on its next drive. South-Doyle took advantage as Brang lofted a pass to wide receiver Terrell Brown, and Brown turned it into a 78-yard touchdown for a 14-6 lead.

Following halftime, Young

scored his second touchdown of the game on a 9-yard touchdown run, dragging three defenders across the goaline. With the extra point, the Cherokees went up 21-6 with 6:58 left in the third quarter. Young went over 2000 yards rushing for the season as he would finish the game with 20 carries for 121 yards and two touchdowns.

"I still got to thank my o-line and my receivers for blocking their butts off and my qb (quarterback) for making the reads," Young said.

The Trailblazers would not go away just yet. They were able to run the ball effectively on a touchdown drive, punching it in on Joe Jones' 4-yard touchdown run on 3rd-and-goal. Cherokees' linebacker Noah Myers snuffed out the 2-point conversion attempt, stopping Jones just short of the goaline. South-Doyle stayed

ahead by two scores, 21-12.

"Noah Myers is a big-time player," Duncan said. "He makes the stop on the 2-point play, which if they get it, and then onside kick it, it's a different ballgame. Then they onside kick it, and Noah recovers that. Noah is a phenomenal, big-time player for us."

The Trailblazers had one more shot to get a score after forcing a 3-and-out on South-Doyle. However, defensive back Preston Sisler stepped in front of a Trailblazer receiver and picked off a Worley pass, running it back 59 yards with 1:19 left in the game for a game-sealing touchdown. The score gave South-Doyle a 28-12 victory, and the Cherokees will host Central Friday in the 5A quarterfinal round at 7 p.m.

Talking about Friday's game against Central, Duncan said, "I think it's

going to be a great game. I think it's going to be a game of who makes the fewest mistakes and it may come down to the last play of the game. We're excited about being in this opportunity to play them in the quarterfinals. Our goal will be to prepare, play the best football game we can play and hopefully beat Central."

Bearden Coach Morgan Shinlever said senior center Chase Butcher is "a hard worker that leads by example and has earned the respect of his teammates." (In a feature on Unsung Heroes this month, Chase Butcher was given that honorable distinction by Bearden Head Coach Morgan Shinlever. The Focus inadvertently ran an incorrect photo with the cutline information on Butcher and regrets that error.)



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SIGNING DAY, I

Norris signs to play softball at USC-Upstate

By Ken Lay

Cassie Norris will continue her softball career at the next level.

She made that official when she signed a National Letter of Intent Wednesday afternoon at Halls High School.

A pitcher, first baseman and outfielder for the Lady Devils, Norris will play her college ball at the University of South Carolina-Upstate.

She has been a three-sport athlete at Halls, where she played volleyball, basketball and softball.

She'll forgo her senior year of basketball, so she can do offseason work on the diamond.

"I'm not playing basketball this year," said Norris, will pursue a college degree in Pre-Physical Therapy. "I'm dropping basketball, so I can concentrate on pitching."

USC-Upstate is a mid-major NCAA Division I program and Norris said the size of the school was a major



Halls High senior softball player Cassie Norris signs a National Letter of Intent to play for USC-Upstate. Pictured with Norris is her sister, Erin, her father Paul and her mother Karen.

selling point. She was recruited by several programs. Among those was Virginia Tech, of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

But Norris said that the bigger

school just wasn't for her.

"I liked the size of the campus," she said. "I made a visit to Virginia Tech and I was just so overwhelmed."

Three CAK athletes sign National Letters of Intent

By Ken Lay

Three of Christian Academy of Knoxville's elite senior student-athletes officially finalized their respective decisions to continue their educations and athletic careers last week.

CAK held its signing day ceremony Wednesday in the high school's cafeteria where Hailey Carroll, Austen Jaslove and Connor Jurek signed National Letters of Intent while, friends, classmates, family members, coaches, other faculty members and administrators were in attendance.

Carroll, will continue her scholastic lacrosse career at Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina.

Carroll has been a four-year varsity starter for the Lady Warriors. She's also a member of the TNLAX Travel Team and a two-year member TN National



Three student-athletes from CAK signed National Letters of Intent recently. Connor Jurek will play baseball at USC-Upstate. Austen Jaslove will play baseball for Tennessee and Hailey Carroll will continue her lacrosse career at Gardner-Webb.

Lacrosse Team.

She has also been CAK's Offensive Player of the Year in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Jaslove is a native of Southern California but

said that Wednesday morning's ceremony helped him realize a lifelong dream for the University of Tennessee.

In the spring of 2020,

Jaslove will begin his fourth season as a starter on the diamond for the Warriors. He's played on three consecutive state championship teams at CAK (2017, 2018, and 2019).

He was an all-district performer and has been Sophomore and Rookie of the Year throughout his career.

Jurek has also enjoyed a stellar baseball career with the Warriors. He'll continue his career at the University of South Carolina-Upstate.

At CAK, he'll begin his fourth year on the varsity baseball team and his third year as a starter.

Like Jaslove, he's played on three consecutive state championship teams at the school.

He was named all-district and all-region last season for the Warriors and was CAK's Offensive Player of the Year.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS NOTEBOOK

Ellison, former Powell coach, 'interested' in Clinton job

By Steve Williams

Former Powell Coach Rodney Ellison's name has surfaced as a candidate for the vacant Clinton football head coach's position.

"I am interested in the job," Ellison told The Knoxville Focus Saturday. "We had a lot of success when I was there before."

Ellison was at Clinton three years, the last two seasons as offensive coordinator and quarterback coach. In 2014, his final season at Clinton, the Dragons won seven games – their last winning season – and averaged close to scoring 32 points per game.

Ellison left Clinton in 2015 to become head coach at Powell and had the Panthers on the rise when the Powell administration made the decision to let him go and hire Matt Lowe in 2018.

Lowe, a Powell High grad, had previously had a successful stint as the Panthers' head coach before leaving and taking the head post at The King's Academy

Ellison joined the Catholic staff as an assistant in 2018 and this season was wide receiver coach at Oak Ridge.

Campbell County head coach Justin Price and

twin brother Matt Price, an assistant at Campbell County, also have been mentioned as possible candidates for the Clinton post.

Randy McKamey announced his resignation at Clinton last week. McKamey had previously coached at Grace Christian Academy.

POWELL PROBE: The TSSAA announced last week it was "in communication" with Powell High regarding the school's football program.

Matthew Gillespie, Assistant Executive Director of the TSSAA, forwarded this statement: "Information has been submitted to our office regarding potential TSSAA rule violations. We are in communication with the administration of the school regarding the matter."

The Powell football program last year had to forfeit six games and was fined by the TSSAA for playing an ineligible player.

The Panthers are currently 12-0 and have advanced to the Class 5A state quarterfinals.

BASKETBALL TIME: The Knox County's two-night jamboree tips off at 5:30 this afternoon at Central.



Rodney Ellison at a 7-on-7 event at Powell in the summer of 2017. He says he's "interested" in the current opening at Clinton.

Two six-minute quarter "games" will be played in each girls and boys match-up and the jamboree will continue Tuesday night at Karns.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS: The TMSAA Baseball and Softball Championships were approved by the TSSAA Board of Control beginning with the 2020-21 school year at the Board's meeting in Hermitage last week.

There are currently state championships for middle schools in the sports of cross country, track and field, and basketball.

TIES TO PAST: Zane Whitson, talented junior

quarterback for Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett's football team, may be a "distant cousin" to former major league All-Star pitcher Ed Whitson of Erwin and Unicoi High, a source said.

NEW AT FULTON: Brian Cochran is Fulton's new head softball coach.

"We are excited to have Brian Cochran in the Fulton Family," said FHS Athletic Director Jody Wright. "He has coached at the high school level at Clinton and also has coached many years of travel softball. He has a really solid background in softball and is well respected in the softball community."

"We look forward to watching him coach and teach our young ladies this year."

SHOOTING AT GAME: A man and a boy about 10 years old were injured Friday night when gunshots erupted at a high school football game in Pleasantville, N.J., authorities said, according to a news report in The Philadelphia Inquirer.

The game between Camden and Pleasantville was in the third quarter shortly before 8:30 p.m. when there was gunfire in the bleachers.

Bearden Begins Title Defense

By Alex Norman

The 2018-2019 Bearden Bulldogs Boys' Basketball team will always be remembered as the team that delivered a state championship. It was the first AAA boys' hoops championship for a Knoxville area team in over 40 years.

The Bulldogs 83-68 upset of three-time defending state champion Memphis East, and the nation's top recruit in the Class of 2019 (James Wiseman) might have stunned basketball observers across the state, but it was all part of the progression at Bearden.

"We feel like our goal was the gold ball and to achieve that was relieving, satisfying, jubilant... all those things you think a championship would be," said Bearden head coach Jeremy Parrott, who is now in his fourth season at the head of the Bulldogs program. "But I think everything kind of got ahead of schedule. In year one we were in the state tournament with a group of tenth graders, which was rewarding, and you knew the ceiling was high. The next year we were back in the state tournament and made it to the Final 4. It was a gradual process."

Even though that was their first championship, Bearden was no stranger to playing in the state tournament. They have been there ten times, with the first visit coming back in 1994.

"Bearden was Bearden's tradition before me," said Parrott. "Everything that went on with Coach (Mark) Blevins and all the state tournament appearances and all the winning... being able to maintain the tradition here has been important to me. We didn't want to do it a disservice. We wanted to work hard to continue Bearden on its winning ways, and we feel like we been a part of that. And I say we because I don't do it alone. We have a lot of coaches and family members that play a part

as well."

This year's Bulldogs have some holes to fill and will look to a high flyer to push them forward this season. "We return Tyler Nordin," said Parrott. "He was a guy that got several minutes off the bench last year. We were injured a lot at the beginning of the year, and he stepped in nicely. He's a really good player. We are gonna count on him to be our key returner."

Nordin is one of the top dunkers in the area and averaged 25.6 points per game in the Rocky Top Fall League. He will be a player to watch this season. But the roster looks different without three key departing seniors that are now playing Division 1 basketball. Forward Drew Pember is a freshman at Tennessee. Guard Trent Stephney is now playing for UNC Asheville. And guard Ques Glover, the most valuable player at last year's state tournament, is a Florida Gator.

"There have been a lot of kids that played college basketball during (Mark Blevins) tenure, so the guys that graduated under us, the new regime, they are just continuing the tradition," said Parrott. "I feel blessed to have guys playing at that level, to watch them on TV and go to their games. It has been gratifying."

That said, has all the turnover adjusted what this team is trying to achieve? No. This is a group aiming for a trip to Murfreesboro once again.

"Even before I became the head coach at Bearden, it should be your goal always," said Parrott. "You plan for success. You talk about success. I don't think you ever really gonna get there and reach those mountain tops unless you talk about the journey and how to get there. We don't always end up where we start, but to have that goal makes it special. It makes you work harder and makes you appreciate it."

Benson guided TSD athletics through remarkable era

By Steve Williams

Luke Benson has ended his seven-year run as athletics director at Tennessee School for the Deaf.

Benson is now teaching in the TSD Elementary School, where he taught previously from 2005-2011.

"My seven years as the Athletics Director at the Tennessee School for the Deaf were incredible thanks to the coaching staff and student-athletes," said Benson Saturday via e-mail. "Their dedication to improving daily made the job a dream."

Since 2012, Benson oversaw what he says was one of the most successful eras in TSD athletics history.

It included one National Deaf Interscholastic Athletic Association volleyball national championship, three Mason Dixon championships (two in football and one in volleyball), 13 NDIAA All-Americans, one

NDIAA National Player of the Year and the first-ever Division 1 student-athlete (Gashaw Duhamel, 2016), cross country and track at the University of Tennessee.

"Stepping down as AD was one of my most difficult decisions and I will forever love TSD!" added Benson. "Go Lady Vikings and Vikings!"

The new interim athletic director at TSD is Rene Skelton.

"I was the athletic director at the North Carolina School for the Deaf for two years prior to taking the position as Post Secondary Coordinator at TSD," said Skelton.

"When Luke resigned I was asked if I would take his position as interim athletic director. Luke Benson did a wonderful job during his time as Athletic Director. I just hope I can continue his wonderful work."

Vols' infamous start may have historic finish

A Tennessee football team that got off to one of the worse starts in school history now has a chance to have the best finish ever.

From 0-2 and 1-4, including the embarrassing loss to Georgia State in the season opener, to a 5-5 record, that's how far the Vols had come after holding off Kentucky 17-13 with a determined goal line stand in Week 11 of the 2019 season.



By Steve Williams

date week healing, resting and preparing for their next 50-50 game at Missouri. They also would spend some extra time on academics as the end of the semester nears, said second-year head coach Jeremy Pruitt.

The Vols' second-half charge had me going through records since the early 1900s, trying to find a better turnaround season than this one has become.

Right now the 1988 campaign is the leader in the

club house. Many fans remember or have heard about that season. Johnny Majors' Vols lost their first six games before winning their last five.

A 13-point win over Memphis ended the skid, followed by winning margins of three, eight, four and seven points, respectively, over Boston College, Ole Miss, Kentucky and Vanderbilt. There would be no bowl game to cap off the 5-6 year.

The current Tennessee team can flip a 1-4 record to 8-5, if it closes with wins

over Mizzou, Vandy and a bowl opponent. In my book, that would be a better rags-to-riches story than the tale of '88.

I came across a few other interesting seasons in my research.

The 1923 Vols under Coach Mark Banks won their last two games over Ole Miss and Kentucky to finish 5-4-1.

The results of UT's up-and-down 1935 campaign were W-L-W-L-W-L-W-L-L. The Vols couldn't sustain the pattern in the finale, losing at Kentucky 27-0.

Bob Neyland's 1947 team won its last three games to finish 5-5.

In the only season (1963) Jim McDonald coached, his team won four of its last five games to hang up a 5-5 record.

The second UT team Majors coached in 1978 started 1-4-1 but won four of their last five. The lone loss down the stretch was against Notre Dame 31-14.

Six years later, in 1984, Majors' team started 2-2-1 and then won four straight, but lost to Kentucky in Knoxville 17-12.

The Vols were 2-5 under Majors in 1986 before winning their last five, including a victory over Minnesota in the Liberty Bowl.

The slogan - "They Remember What You Do in November" - was heard often in the Majors era. It's not surprising we've heard it a time or two already this season.

After plenty of tough times since the end of the Phillip Fulmer era, it's good to hear it again!

Defense, balanced scoring spell victory for Farragut Middle girls

By Ken Lay

Farragut Middle School's girls basketball notched an easy victory Thursday over Northwest but first-year head coach Devan McIntyre isn't about to take anything for granted.

"We look at every game as an opportunity to get better," McIntyre said after watching the Lady Admirals rout the Lady Rangers 56-8 in a Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference contest at Farragut's Bobby J. Henry Gymnasium. "You used this game to work on things that we needed to work on."

"We're really working hard on upping the intensity with our defense."

This certainly wasn't a problem for Farragut on this night as the Lady Admirals forced Northwest into multiple turnovers and surrendered just three field goals in a contest that saw Farragut (2-0 in conference play) score the first 17 points.

The Lady Rangers got on the board when Asyia Martin knocked down a 3-point shot with 1 minute, 53 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

Northwest's other basket before halftime was also a

long-range jumper Ayuniah Ramsey and that came in the second frame.

Farragut's defense was especially stingy in the third frame as it kept the Lady Rangers at bay and off of the scoreboard in the quarter.

In fact the Lady Admirals shut out Northwest (0-3 in the league) for nearly 12 minutes after halftime.

The Lady Rangers snapped their scoring drought when Martin converted a bucket with 4:01

left in the fourth quarter.

Farragut had no trouble scoring on this night and the Lady Admirals boasted a balanced offensive attack.

Hannah Enderson led the way with 13 points (all before halftime). Addison Pressley added eight. Sydney English, Kaitlyn Atwell and Madelyn Murphy scored six points each. Annie Priest had five. Carly Vining and Malena Maier had four each and Josie Tarantino finished with two.

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Week of Second Round playoffs	Gibbs - Carter Merritt	
Austin-East - Tyshawn Howell	GCA - Noah Bruhin	

Admirals shake off slow start, outlast Northwest 55-46

By Ken Lay

Farragut Middle School's boys basketball team kept its perfect Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference record intact Thursday night. But it wasn't easy.

The Admirals had to overcome some self-induced adversity, including a sluggish start, some shaky rebounding and an abysmal shooting from the free throw line.

When the dust had settled, however, the Admirals escaped with a 55-46 victory over Northwest, which looked to be one of the most improved teams in the county.

"They were good," Admirals' coach Randy Swartzentruber said of the Rangers. "And we were really sluggish at the start. But I guess it's better to be sluggish at the start than it is to be sluggish at the end."

Farragut (2-0 in league play) was without the services of two-time all-league big man Alex Doerger, who broke his leg.

The 6-foot-5 center looks to return after Christmas. For now, however, Swartzentruber said that his other players must step up while Doerger is on the mend.

"We lost our big guy and I told our kids that they're all going to have to step up, so we'll see what happens," Swartzentruber said. Out of the gate Thursday night, the Admirals were lethargic and seemed a bit out of sorts as they fell behind 12-7. The Rangers (0-3) scored the first points of the second quarter and advantage and built an eight-point lead before

Farragut began climbing out of the hole it dug for itself.

The Admirals, who were just 2-for-10 from the foul line over the first 12 minutes, got a late first-half boost from Eli Evans, who scored five points in the waning moments of the second stanza, including the final shot of the first half to tie the game at 24-24.

"Eli finished strong for us in the first half and that really helped us," said Swartzentruber, who is the dean of middle school basketball coaches in Knoxville. "The free throws and the rebounds really killed us."

While Farragut struggled, Northwest got solid performances from inside players Steven Soles and Ver-shaun Cash.

Soles scored 20 points to lead all scorers and Cash made a pair of layups throughout the game.

"Their bigs did a good job just being big," Swartzentruber said.

Poor free throw shooting continued to plague Farragut after halftime and that kept things close.

The Admirals finished the game 8-for-23 from the charity stripe but Parker Lane made four crucial shots from the foul line down the stretch, including two with 12.4 seconds left to provide the final margin of victory.

Lane led Farragut with 15 points. Evans and Eli Goss added 10 points each for the Admirals.

Jonathan McAfee finished with 10 for the Rangers.

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Music To My Ears

I'm a fan of many types of music. And I'm not alone in this appreciation which can at times be almost visceral. In fact, "music," in the form of beating, drumming or rhythmic sounds predates human speech. The first sounds heard are those of a mother's heartbeat, imprinted upon the soul of the child in the womb.

I do not play a musical instrument and only sing when alone in the car or sheepishly with the congregation on Sunday. Well...I also sing in the shower, "beautifully" I might add. I offered my services to the church choir director if he would add a shower stall to the choir loft. He just laughed and walked away.

Music resonates in my soul, and is very mathematical, though math was never my forte. When you pluck a string it produces a vibration

and a resonating musical sound. Then, if you shorten the string by half, the resulting note is twice as high.

As a medical example, consider the human voice. Human vocal cords stretch from front to back in the larynx. A woman's voice resonates at a higher frequency because her vocal cords are shorter than a man's. The Adam's apple of a man develops at puberty from hormone-driven laryngeal elongation producing the characteristic protrusion in his neck. As a result, men's vocal cords are longer and produce a lower pitch. Interestingly, the timbre of a boy's voice is different than a woman's. Choral works have been written specifically for a boy's voice and, surprisingly, for castrati.

Becky and I have thoroughly enjoyed the recent Ken Burn's documentary

Country Music. I like country music with its melodious sound and meaningful lyrics which speak of love and loss, joys and tragedies of life. But I also like rock 'n' roll, opera, Broadway musicals, bluegrass, classical music, and even the syncopated rhythms of hip-hop. I don't identify with rap, especially the so-called gangsta rap. But Ken Burn's documentary is about more than country music. It is the history of America told alongside its music.

Jazz originated in America as did the painting movement known as the Hudson River School. Though I am not a musicologist, I aver that country music, like rock 'n' roll, came together from diverse sources as part of our unique American experience and creation.

Each two hour segment of Burn's documentary chronicles a different period of country music and corresponding American history. It was the episode of the sixties which struck a chord.

Becky and I were born in 1951 so we "came of age" in the sixties. It was the era of the Beatles, Motown, the Vietnam War and the Counterculture. I remember Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement, the riots in Watts and at the Chicago Democrat Convention.

And I remember Walter Cronkite covering the Tet offensive and declaring that the Vietnam War was lost . . . then it was. Burns observed that America in the sixties was as divided as during the Civil War. And it still is.

The media, Democrats and the ensconced non-elected bureaucrats of the deep state say Trump is the cause of our division in America. If you believe this you should apply for a job in Washington where hatred of Trump is all that matters. Character assassination and Congressional investigation instead of legislation is the modus operandi of Democrats. This is their 2020 campaign focus. They have to get rid of Trump to protect their power and the system.

And you know what? Trump is hated because we elected him to change a system we recognized as broken. And vicariously, Washington and the media demonstrate their disgust and hatred of deplorables who voted against "crooked Hillary," against the status quo and for President Trump.

As I write this essay, Adam Schiff's Congressional charade continues. He and the Democrats have moved their inquisition out of the SCIF room (sensitive compartmented information facility) in the Congressional

basement, and ostensibly into the open. This is a crock and a facade. The Democrats and their media handlers have no candidate who can compete with Trump's successes. All that drives them is hatred and the blind pursuit of power. As a doctor I can certify that this is a sickness and destructive. If you doubt me, just look Adam Schiff in the eye.

I watched a bit of the Schiff inquiry being touted as an impeachment proceeding. It is not. There has been no House vote to impeach and in their inquisition, Trump is unable to defend himself. As I watched unelected bureaucrats testify, it became evident that none of them had first-hand information of the so-called problematic phone call between President Trump and the Ukrainian President. Apparently, the bureaucrats were frustrated that Trump decided to conduct American foreign-policy himself (which is the President's prerogative) and cut them out of the policy loop.

The Democrats struck out again with the Ukraine quid pro quo just as they did in the Kavanaugh hearings, the Mueller Russian investigation and pathetic Jerry Nadler's House Judiciary Committee hearing. One media expert compared the hapless Adam Schiff and

the Democrats to Wile E. Coyote, with Trump as the Road Runner!

I wonder if piping music into the Congressional inquiry would soften the souls of the participants. Nah. They are all too far gone. But if you could, what country song might you choose? Probably something more soothing than Roger Miller's, "Dang Me, dang me, they oughta take a rope and hang me, high from the highest tree..." If I were Trump I might choose David Allen Coe's "Take This Job and Shove It, I ain't working here no more."

I wish it were all over and we could get back to being Americans again. However, that is not possible without a victor and the loser admitting defeat. And that's the root cause of our current national crisis. Hillary Clinton was defeated in 2016. However, the deep-state bureaucrats of Washington, Democrats, the leadership of the Intelligence agencies, the media and those who consider themselves smarter and better than We the People refuse to accept their defeat.

I guess we'll just have to whip them again in 2020. And then, perhaps we can sing the old Buck Owens' song, "Together Again." ♪

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

The last days of East Towne Mall

I took my wife and grandson to East Towne Mall recently, just after the owners announced it was closing at the end of January. Belk, the only big-box store left there, had announced it is closing this month and that

More Than A Day Away



By Mike Steely

store was packed with shoppers taking advantage of 85% off most items.

As my wife went into Belk my grandson and I walked into the mall full of old memories. My wife had worked there for almost four years and the store where she was a clerk left the mall years ago. Over the past few years the anchor stores on each end closed, Sears being the last to give

up and leave. East Towne, or Knoxville Center, Mall had been our neighborhood place to shop. It was for most of East and North Knoxville and the nearby communities of Morristown, Jefferson

City, and much of Sevier County. In its heyday in the 1980s and 90', it was a place to dine, shop, and, most of all, socialize.

For years the mall walkers went there for their morning strolls. A few mall walkers passed us or stopped to chat on our final visit there. They were wondering where they could go to walk in safety and under shelter. They lamented the closing of the grand old mall.

Store after store sit empty now. A few have displays left behind and one empty fashion shop has only a torso dummy sitting in the store window. The once popular Regal Cinema is vacant but, oddly, one counter still has snack foods in the display.

The arcade across the hall has been gone for some time, once the draw of kids and teenagers. Of the few shops still open, including an eyeglass store, only Belk and CM Games were busy. Most stores offered hugely discounted bargains.

On the east end of the mall is the closed Sears store and, nearby, the escalators on that end were blocked with chairs because they didn't work. On the west end the University of Tennessee "Power T" still hangs majestic from the ceiling, above a painted map of the UT campus on

the floor below.

Many people, hearing of the closing in late January, were in the mall, poking here and there and taking cell phone photos. For many of the young adults there East Towne Mall had been an afternoon and weekend rendezvous with friends.

What's ahead for the huge soon-to-be empty mall? The owners, Knoxville Partners LLC, have plans for an apartment complex on the grounds and a possible entertainment venue inside. A spokesman said recently the mall would be "redeveloped to create needed space." They bought the mall in 2016 for an estimated \$10.1 million with hopes of reviving it with big box stores, but the remaining large stores failed and left. The 961,000 square feet could hold lots of things including



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

UT's Power T hangs from the ceiling at East Towne Mall, aka Knoxville Center. The future of the lonely "T" isn't known but it overlooks a painted map of the UT campus on the floor.

the Knox County School Administration Offices, as some people have wished. The owners managed to pay two years of back taxes last year but are said to be about \$900,000 behind on other expenses and current taxes.

You've got until the end of January if you want to relive your days working, walking or shopping there. Take your camera, your walking shoes, and your memories. The mall may never be the same again.



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