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## Has Burlington been forgotten?

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The residents of Burlington are wondering if the City of Knoxville has abandoned them.

Funds were granted back two years ago for business facade renovations and the city offered a tax credit for rehabilitation of structures. But since then, the 2.19 square mile community with more than 6,000 residents, has been waiting for help.

Sixty-five percent of the people in Burlington are African American, 25% are White and 4.5% are

Hispanic. The area was annexed into the city in 1917.

The lapse in attention was brought up at a recent city council meeting. When Councilwoman Amelia Parker said the nearby Magnolia Streetscape Project resulted in discord and anger in the Burlington community, Vice Mayor Gwen McKenzie replied the efforts there "have been spaced out too far."

"It's been two years since we had community input and we need to get that again," she said. Councilwoman Parker

bemoaned the lack of funds in the new budget for Burlington.

Vice Mayor Gwen McKenzie said there are \$587,000 community funds left over from the current budget for Burlington and the city is adding more bring it to about \$612,000.

In 2018 the Burlington Residents Association and the East Tennessee Design Center held public meetings and came up with ideas for the area. Among those was the rehabilitation of

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Burlington's footprint in east Knoxville as shown two years ago by the East Tennessee Design Center's proposal to the neighborhood. The "oval" in the picture is Speedway Circle, designed by Cal Johnson as a horserace track many years ago and now lined with houses.

## Etters vs. Knox County hearing set for July 16

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The COVID-19 pandemic saw the closure of courts in Tennessee. Some courts have opened with limited seating recently and the Etters vs. Knox County lawsuit, which has been in limbo for several months, finally appears on the Chancery Court Docket.

During the Knox County Pension Board meeting Tuesday the board's attorney, John Owings, said that July 16 at 9:30 a.m. is the new date and time. The hearing is to rule on a motion to dismiss filed by Knox County and the Pension Board regarding a class action lawsuit against the county filed by thirteen citizens.

The lawsuit charges that actions taken by Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and the Knox County Board of Commissioners were illegal when they pulled the Knox County Law Department out of its suit against the pension board.

Since the law director's office was pulled out of the case the mayor hired an outside attorney, John P. Valliant, to represent the county.

Owings, following a closed-door meeting with the pension board, asked for and received permission to intervene on behalf of the board. Chancery Court Judge John Weaver permitted Owings to take part.

While a hearing date on dismissal and a reply from the citizen group attorney, Tom McFarland, had been set, delays and the COVID-19 Phase One statewide mandate had further delayed the hearing.

## Family Fights Frustration: caring for a loved one from afar during pandemic



By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

He's finally back home and recovering but the difficulties and worries that his family faced while he was in the hospital during the pandemic is a heart-wrenching story that must be told.

The 85-year-old West Knoxville lay in Parkwest Medical Center several weeks ago awaiting surgery for his broken hip. Mostly deaf and confused, Franklin Davis Wills was alone and could have no visitors because of hospital policy due to the coronavirus pandemic.

One of his daughters, Missy Shorter, was panicked and concerned about her 77-year-old mother wanting to be with Wills during the ordeal. Missy and her husband, Mike, began a frustrating effort to see her father.

"We've been trying to get in to see him," she told The Focus. With the help and advice of Knox County Commissioner Charles Busler she was reaching out to anyone who could

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Missy Shorter visits with her father, Franklin Dallas Wills, following weeks when no family member could see him in the hospital during the COVID-19 shut down. Finally home, the 85-year-old man is back with family and doing better. Photo courtesy of Mike Shorter.

## KCS 2021 budget reluctantly passed

By Amy Box Fellhoelter

The overall mood of last Wednesday's Knox County Board of Education special called budget meeting can be summed up with two sentences spoken by Superintendent Bob Thomas: "The outlook is grim. We are facing a \$20 million projected revenue shortfall and we are balancing a budget with less revenue than the current year." He added the last time the school budget reflected these two

factors was in FY1992. Due to the economic downswing of the COVID-19 pandemic, a reduction of \$2,805,000 from the current 2020 budget was reflected in the FY21 proposal.

Eight of the nine members were present for the two and one half hour meeting which was held on the first floor of the Andrew Johnson Building. Tony Norman was unable to attend or join the discussion due to technical difficulties.

The superintendent admitted to frustrating times but encouraged members stating, "We will be prepared upon school opening, provided we have a normal opening. Even if we don't have a normal opening, we will be prepared for that as well. We will be ready."

Thomas emphasized his disappointment with the budget's inability to fund an across-the-board salary increase, ELA textbook adoption, the enhancement

of RTI services, and additional mental health services. Thomas stated that every effort was made to not make cuts to the classroom. Although \$700,000 was cut from the salaries of some KCS employees, step increases were left in the budget for certified and classified personnel. The construction projects of Adrian Burnett, Lonsdale and Northwest elementary schools

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# Legal Separation or divorce for Christians

When people ask me about my personal position on the concept of divorce, I tell them, "I am not pro-divorce, I am pro people being happy." I would never, and do not, push people toward getting a divorce.

Some people are hesitant to file for divorce because of religious reasons. There are some strong passages in the Bible that speak against divorce.

"For I hate divorce," says the Lord, the God of Israel... (Malachi 2:16 New American Standard (NAS)).

"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman, commits adultery" (Matthew 19:9 NASB).

Those are strong statements condemning divorce. However, Tennessee law has an option available to individuals who desire to separate from their spouses without actually divorcing them, legal separation.

Tennessee Code Annotated section 36-4-102 allows someone to be legally separated from their spouse while still officially remaining married to them.

What's the difference between a divorce and a legal separation? Well, the big one is that you are still married to your spouse so you cannot get remarried. However, many aspects of being legally separated are the exact same as a divorce. You divide up assets and debts, you put in to place a parenting plan, you can set up alimony and child support, and you separate yourself from being liable for each other's debts going forward.

So in effect, you are going through the steps to "divorce" your life from your spouse while remaining legally married to

them.

One other aspect of legal separation is that it allows the spouses to remain on each other's insurance because you all are still married. I have seen some couple choose a legal separation instead of a divorce simply because it is cost-prohibitive for them to obtain separate medical insurance.

So, if you would like to separate yourself from your spouse while also honoring your religious beliefs, legal separation might be an option you want to explore.

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



**By Jedidiah McKeehan**  
attorneyknoxville@gmail.com

## Ijams Nature Center Opens Quarry Swimming Area, Paddling Rentals

Ijams Nature Center has opened the swimming area at Mead's Quarry in phase two of the City/County reopening plan, which went into effect May 26.

River Sports Outfitters (RSO) began offering paddle rentals on the lake Memorial Day weekend. Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon to 7 p.m. Sunday. Rentals will close due to inclement weather and will be announced on the RSO Facebook page at @RiverSportsOutfitters.

The Ijams Outpost, which offers concessions, beer and other items, will mirror RSO hours. Restrooms at the quarry remain open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Visitor Center restrooms and limited-contact gift shop/concessions purchases continue to be open daily from 10 a.m. to 4

p.m. All restrooms will close for short periods at set times each day to allow facilities to be cleaned and sanitized. During those times, the front lobby of the Visitor Center also will be closed.

Navitat is open Monday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday-Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are by appointment only.

You are encouraged to wear masks when entering the Visitor Center and while passing other people on the grounds.

Ijams remains committed to the health and safety of visitors and staff, and will be evaluating reopening policies, procedures and hours; changes may be implemented at any time.

For more information, visit [ijams.org](http://ijams.org) or call 865-577-4717.

## Mineral Springs Avenue bridge to be replaced

A more than 100-year-old bridge spanning First Creek in North Knoxville will soon be replaced. On Monday, June 1, Jones Brothers Construction crews will begin a year-long project to replace the Mineral Springs Avenue bridge.

The new 68-foot-long concrete bridge, between North Broadway and Walker Boulevard in North Knoxville, will replace a 52-foot-long bridge that was built in 1910.

The new bridge will aesthetically resemble its 110-year-old predecessor, but it will feature a larger opening beneath the deck that will reduce flooding along First Creek.

The \$1.2 million project also includes a new sidewalk connection from North Broadway to Walker Boulevard along Mineral Springs Avenue, and about 350 linear feet of a new 10-foot-wide greenway connector will be built on the south side of Mineral

Springs Avenue between North Broadway and Walker Boulevard.

The section of Mineral Springs Avenue between North Broadway and Walker Boulevard will be closed from Monday until May 31, 2021.

Motorists can travel a short distance eastbound on Mineral Springs from Broadway, but only to access businesses there. No through traffic or turnarounds will be possible.

Westbound through traffic on Mineral Springs will be detoured onto Walker Boulevard. Motorists wishing to access northbound Broadway or eastbound Interstate 640 can turn right (north) onto Walker. All other westbound Mineral Springs motorists should turn left (south) on Walker to access Broadway, about six blocks south of its intersection with Mineral Springs Avenue.

## New Human Resources Department on City Agenda

**By Mike Steely**  
Senior Writer  
[steelym@knoxfocus.com](mailto:steelym@knoxfocus.com)

Mayor Indya Kincannon's creation of a Department of Human Resources will have its first reading when the Knoxville City Council meets Tuesday. The city code might be amended to make room for the new administrative department which would take some duties currently held by the Civil Service Merit Board.

While the mayor and her staff say that the merit board will continue operating within the charter, several duties, such as recruiting, salaries and jobs, will transfer to the new department and a director would be hired.

The creation of a Human Resources Office appears on first reading and must be voted on a second time before the new budget begins July 1st.

### ALSO ON THE AGENDA

One of the "consent" items worthy of note is a monthly pension of \$5,139.03 to former

Deputy Mayor Bill Lyons. Lyons, a former UT professor of political science, served Mayors Bill Haslam, Daniel Brown, Madeline Rogero and stayed on to help with Mayor Kincannon's transition.

The council will also consider a resolution in support of federal funding for the U. S. Post Office and take up several COVID-19 related resolutions. Those include funding of the HomeSource East Tennessee, Public Service and Housing Assistance, and Homeless Prevention.

The James White Parkway Urban Wilderness Corridor Study may receive \$231,354 in funding in a contract with Gresham Smith.

Parks and Recreation is asking the council to authorize the mayor to apply for \$ 40,000 from AARP for improvements to the William Powell Park.

The Community Development Department is asking for \$500,000 in federal home funds to go to Covenant Village L.P. for the rehabilitation of 25 affordable housing units for low-income households at 322 Forestal Drive.

## 'Second Amendment County' passes Knox Commission

**By Mike Steely**  
Senior Writer  
[steelym@knoxfocus.com](mailto:steelym@knoxfocus.com)

In the end, a rather in-your-face debate at the Knox County Commission resulted in the passage of a resolution that has no power and was described by some commissioners and the law director as being political in nature.

Commissioners Carson Dailey and Richie Beeler introduced the long resolution to declare Knox County a "Second Amendment Constitutional County" in Tuesday's commission meeting.

Commissioner Brad Anders, a retired city policeman, said he would vote for the resolution but it should not be a matter for commission to consider. Anders noted that Dailey and Beeler had passed on two beer applications because of moral principles and chided them for introducing the Second Amendment resolution.

"I agree with the content but it's divisive and sets a bad example," Anders said.

Beeler, a minister, responded that he has never voted to deny a beer permit but chooses to pass on permits because he is opposed to alcohol drinking.

Commissioner Evelyn Gill opposed the idea and also called it a political move.

"We should not show favoritism," said Commissioner Larsen Jay who then said each commissioner takes vows

to uphold the United States and State Constitutions. "It's more about political peer pressure," he said.

Several commission members said they own guns and two said they have never felt threatened by talk of regulatory laws. However Commissioner Charles Busler, who said he has a license to carry, said each state has its own laws depending on who's in office. He said passage of the non-binding resolution "makes a statement."

"I see nothing wrong with supporting the Second Amendment," said Dailey.

Chairman Hugh Nystrom said he owns guns and loves to bird hunt but added he was "struggling with the issue."

Commissioner Randy Smith said he was also struggling with the resolution which he said "has no teeth." Smith said the resolution tends to "divide people."

Beeler said he respects people with different opinions but that a majority in our area believe in the idea of the Second Amendment.

Just before the vote Knox County Law Director Richard (Bud) Armstrong reminded the commissioners that state and federal law supersedes local law.

Voting "Yes" on the Second Amendment Constitutional County resolution were Commissioners Michele Carringer, Justin Biggs, John Schoonmaker, Anders, Busler, Beeler, Dailey and Smith. Gill voted "No" and Nystrom and Jay chose to "Pass."

In another heavily debated matter, the commission voted to fund, for the next year, the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center. Although several commissioners quizzed the staff of the operator, Helen Ross McNabb Center, those commissioners eventually voted for the funding.

Leanne Human-Hilliard, vice president of Helen Ross McNabb, answered several questions telling the county commission that 94% of the patients at the Behavioral Center are brought there by city and county police. She said that the staff and care has been reduced because the state stopped its funding. The original three-day care there has been reduced to 23 hours followed by outpatient care.

Commissioner Smith asked her for a quarterly report and Hilliard was also asked for the cost per patient and in what zip code the people being treated there reside.

Commissioner Schoonmaker noted that the annual funding has the county picking up 60% and the city pays 40%. Hilliard responded that there is an increase in intake brought by the sheriff's department and said the county law enforcement needs more training.

Smith said the Behavioral Center "was a pilot program until the state threw us a curve ball."

Despite the critical questions the commissioners agreed to fund the center for another year in a unanimous vote.



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Publisher ..... Steve Hunley

Editor, Art Director ..... Marianne Dedmon  
[editor@knoxfocus.com](mailto:editor@knoxfocus.com), [design@knoxfocus.com](mailto:design@knoxfocus.com)

Managing Editor ..... Lisa DeMarsico  
[managingeditor@knoxfocus.com](mailto:managingeditor@knoxfocus.com)

Mike Steely, Senior Writer ..... [steelym@knoxfocus.com](mailto:steelym@knoxfocus.com)

Sales ..... [sales@knoxfocus.com](mailto:sales@knoxfocus.com)

Pam Poe ..... [phpoe2000@yahoo.com](mailto:phpoe2000@yahoo.com)

Bill Wright ..... [wrightb@knoxfocus.com](mailto:wrightb@knoxfocus.com)

Andrea Owens ..... [owensa@knoxfocus.com](mailto:owensa@knoxfocus.com)

Lori Burchett ..... [burchettl@knoxfocus.com](mailto:burchettl@knoxfocus.com)

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# Odds & Ends of This & That Vol.5



**By Steve Hunley, Publisher**  
[publisher@knoxfocus.com](mailto:publisher@knoxfocus.com)

cut positions from KPD and reallocate them for other departments. From all reports, crime is rising, particularly in South Knoxville and is a prime concern for Councilman Tommy Smith. Hayes is a certain candidate to run again for city council in the South Knoxville district. It'll be interesting to see how David tries to ride that wave.

education of their children. Look for a decision in early June.

## SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET APPROVED

The Knox County Board of Education approved a budget that was somewhat reduced, but hardly bare bones. It even included step raises for teachers, an idea Board member Mike McMillan thought was optically challenged. "The truth is teachers haven't missed a paycheck, they still have jobs and will have jobs once schools re-open. That isn't true for a lot of Knox Countians. Businesses have closed and some will never reopen. Folks have lost jobs, internships have been revoked from college students and graduating seniors have had job offers cancelled. I thought it just looked bad. Every so often I think we should consider the people who actually pay the bills," McMillan said.

Apparently, the women - - there are seven of them on the board of education currently - - didn't agree as board member Tony Norman was absent. The savings would have been enough so positions didn't have to be cut.

The board had been flooded with emails from folks, primarily at Beaumont Elementary School and the L&N Stem Academy, both of which really are two of the best schools in Knox County, who feared budget cuts. Superintendent Bob Thomas had recommended a cut of something like \$120,000 for magnet schools. Now, keep in mind, Knox Countians give the school system more than \$500,000,000 of their tax dollars to spend annually.

Some think that the best tax is one you derive a benefit from and don't pay.

## UH OH

Well, while some folks are worrying about opening things back up, reality is beginning to sink in for some. The Tennessee State Supreme Court has issued a decree that eviction proceedings can once again be heard in courtrooms across our state starting June 1. Jury trials can resume on July 3, 2020.

According to the high court, "Deadline in court rules, statutes, and administrative rules that were previously extended until May 31 are extended only until June 5." The State Supreme Court says it doesn't anticipate any further extension of deadlines.

## ANOTHER UH OH

If you live for the annual sales tax holiday, you best get over it this year. It can't be a big surprise to anyone living in Realville with the dire economic situation, but it doesn't look like there's going to be a sales tax holiday this year. The sales tax has likely been too sick to go on vacation this year. Yet there are those who say we need to keep everything shut down...

## UNEMPLOYMENT FACTS & FIGURES

Our neighbors in Sevier County appear to have the highest unemployment rate in the state at 30%. Knoxville has the lowest unemployment rate of Tennessee's four big cities at 14.7%. Sevier County, which is heavily dependent upon tourism to produce tax revenue, has been especially hard hit with the

closure due to the coronavirus.

## FRANK CLEMENT 100TH ANNIVERSARY

June 2, 2020 will be the 100th birthday of the late Tennessee governor Frank Clement. The Knoxville Focus historian, Ray Hill, has a special column celebrating the life of Governor Clement, don't miss it!

## NASHVILLE WOES

The legislature is back in session and the two houses are not exactly seeing eye-to-eye. The House of Representatives was due to hear a whopping 391 bills last week while the state Senate heard exactly none. Senators believe the legislature has one really important responsibility: pass a budget and go home. The House thinks there's lots more to do with a slew of bills, some of which are going to be really controversial, to be heard. The two houses don't even agree about who to let into the Cordell Hull Building. The House is granting limited access to lobbyists and the public, while the Senate has locked the doors to everybody but senators, staff and the news media.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

It has been a lot of fun watching the various ways folks are celebrating the young people graduating from our local high schools. Folks have shown a lot of creativity in celebrating these young people. From innovative photos of sons and daughters, which give at least a hint of their individuality and personalities, to small events and drive by

greetings.

We here at The Knoxville Focus realize this is a really difficult time to be graduating. Hopefully, most of you are going on to further your education and take your place in the world. It really has been hard to watch as much of the summer employment our young people have depended upon has evaporated, but remember, there have been no people on the face of God's Earth as resilient as we Americans. We join with your parents, families and friends in rooting for you.

Every person here at The Knoxville Focus offers his or her sincere congratulations on the occasion of your graduation from high school. We congratulate your mothers and fathers for helping guide you, provide for you and love you throughout your life journey to reach this important milestone. Be thankful for good parents and good friends.

Every generation has been molded by the events surrounding them and yours will be no different. Whether you graduated from Gibbs or South-Doyle, Carter or West, Farragut or Fulton, we pray that your road will be straight and wide rather than bumpy and narrow. We wish those graduating from private schools, all schools, the best of everything as you take that first big step in living on your own. Everyone here at The Knoxville Focus wishes you success and happiness.

## WHO WOULD A THINK IT?

Regular readers will remember I wrote last week the City Council Movement just doesn't like cops. There are two members of the Knoxville City Council who are members of the City Council Movement - - Seema Singh and Amelia Parker - - and both are also socialists. To be fair, they describe themselves as "Democratic socialists" but the only difference between the two is a word. Last year, Parker scraped by, beating Amy Midis while her running mate, David Hayes, was handily beaten by Janet Testerman.

Hayes wanted to be appointed to the vacancy on the council, caused by the resignation of Stephanie Welch, which went to Tommy Smith, who was born and raised in South Knoxville and lives there still with his family. David Hayes posted on his Facebook page on May 27 at 2:25 p.m. the following comment: "If you still believe in increasing police budgets, instead of decreasing them, you are a willing advocate of white supremacy." Wow. Mayor Indya Kincannon raised the budget of the Knoxville Police Department anyway. Amelia Parker, on the other hand, wanted to

## IS SHE A DEMOCRAT?

How many geniuses are there on the Democratic State Executive Committee? None. Not a one. Evidently, the members of the Democratic State Executive Committee ran out of ordinary Democrats to serve as delegates or alternates to the Democratic National Convention. So what did they do? They named Amelia Parker as a delegate, who is a socialist and last I heard, most Democrats say they are not socialists. Well, first suggestion from Amelia: dump Joe Biden and pick a new nominee. That's party loyalty, right?

## THE RIGHTS OF PARENTS & EDUCATION

Who would be against the rights of responsible parents to direct the education of their children? Nobody, right? WRONG! I can think of several groups that would be dead set against a crazy idea like parents having more say in the education of their own children, first and foremost would be teachers' unions. Well, it looks like the U. S. Supreme Court is going to rule on a case that may be a landmark decision. *Espinosa v. Montana* will likely decide whether parents have the right to direct the

# Has Burlington been forgotten?

*Cont. from page 1*

old buildings, landscaping, lighting and sidewalks. The residents had also suggested new restaurants, theatres and recreation facilities.

A survey of residents found people asking for trees and street parking, lower signs at businesses, clearly marked crosswalks, bike lanes, enhanced bus stops, pedestrian lighting, benches along streets,

dumpster screening and public art such as murals and sculptures. Other suggestions included a historic maker at Speedway Circle, district markers when entering the community, and possibly ending MLK at the entrance to Magnolia Avenue.

Citizens of Burlington complained then about the problems in getting bank loans to purchase or improve property. Only

about \$350,000 in city funding was in the city budget then for the area.

Dr. Dasha Lundy, who faces Reginald M. Jackson for the District One Knox County Commission seat, is the past president of the Burlington Residents Association and spoke to The Focus following the city council meeting. She said that during recent city budget meetings many community leaders

came together to speak on increasing funding.

"Unfortunately that did not go in our favor," Lundy told The Focus.

"Burlington has been on the agenda for years for redevelopment. I watched as downtown was being restored. Happy Holler has been restored also," she said. Lundy said it seems development happens everywhere but in the black

community.

"The zoo has approximately a half million visitors in a year. Can you imagine those people visiting the Historic Downtown Burlington District for shopping, arts and cultural activities and the great food? Can you see the revenue that comes with that?" Lundy commented to The Focus.

"Burlington is a diamond

in the rough. I want people to recognize that Burlington can be a place of destination for East Knox County," she added.

"We just need the support of the City and County governments and the Private Sector to assist with the redevelopment process. The community is ready."

# Kincannon responds to Burlington question

"Economic redevelopment in any neighborhood takes time, and we're still in the early stages in Burlington. But Burlington definitely has huge potential," Mayor Indya Kincannon told The Focus.

"The East Tennessee Community Design Center and the Burlington Residents Association did a great job crafting a vision plan in 2018 for what Burlington could look like in the not-too-distant future. The ETDCDC model envisions public-private collaboration, with long-term public investments in sidewalks, streetlight amenities, transportation enhancements and public spaces leveraging private investment in new residences and businesses," she said.

"We've made some initial investments, and so have property owners.

More than \$600,000 is in the City budget right now for the next round," Kincannon said.

Eric Vreeland, deputy communications director for the mayor, noted that recent investments in Burlington, more than \$460,000, included commercial facade improvement program, including three improvements on Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue.

He also noted a 2018 ribbon cutting at Fern Street and MLK Avenue including asphalt crosswalks, ADA curb cuts and resurfacings as the first step in recommendations outlined in the Burlington Enhancement Plan.

Vreeland said that that year KAT upgraded the Eastern Superstop on Kirkwood Street and increased frequency of buses to Route 34 in Burlington.

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## City unveils alternate July 4th plans

The City of Knoxville has announced plans for "Knoxville's Neighborhood Trails of Red, White and Blue."

All neighborhood organizations across the City are encouraged to participate in the event that promotes physical distancing, while also offering a sense of community this Fourth of July.

Neighborhoods can choose one or two streets for the friendly competition. Those neighbors would decorate their houses, porches, lawns, mailboxes, driveways, and even their family members with a patriotic theme.

"It is unfortunate that the Festival on the 4th had to be canceled this year because of the pandemic, but this is a fun, new way to celebrate that will create a sense of connectivity, while keeping everyone safe at the same time," Mayor Indya Kincannon said. "Our neighborhoods are so creative during the holidays and Knoxville Marathon weekend. I can't wait to see what they come up with now!"

The city will invite people to drive through the participating neighborhoods to enjoy and celebrate all of the creative décor Friday, July 3-Sunday, July 5.

Judges and a caravan parade will also drive through the participating neighborhoods on Saturday, July 4, between 1:00-4:00 p.m.

If your neighborhood is interested in participating, register with Eden Slater at [eslater@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:eslater@knoxvilletn.gov). Get ready to show off your red, white and blue!

For more information, visit [knoxvilletn.gov/4th](http://knoxvilletn.gov/4th).

# Feeling Old, Thinking Young

This past week I celebrated another birthday with my twin brother. Without stating how old I am, let's just say that if the coronavirus cooperates, my high school class will celebrate its graduation

from 50 years ago. I'm not ashamed of my age, but I don't want to be one of those persons who brags about how long he's survived. To be honest, I'm stunned at the number of years that have flown by.

I'm a senior citizen, a Baby Boomer, and a retiree. Yes, I'm one of those individuals of which the younger generations make



By Joe Rector  
[joerector@comcast.net](mailto:joerector@comcast.net)

fun. We older folks deserve the pokes because our complaints sometimes are too loud and occur too often. The things about which I most fuss these days deal with health. I'm tired of starting and ending each day with a handful of pills. Prescriptions keep my cholesterol and blood pressure low, my blood flow clot-free, and my restless legs still. I'm not excited about swallowing these medicines, but I'll do it because staying on this planet a while longer is a goal of mine.

My body is not cooperating with me anymore. I used

to be able to eat anything I wanted. These days, the wrong food choice leads to heartburn. Even late-night bouts of throwing up occur. I miss eating onions on a bowl of soup beans or a hamburger. Pizza now battles my digestion whenever I make the mistake of eating it. If this continues, I'll be left eating leaves and twigs for meals.

Each year brings more aches and pains. My knees and hips ache whenever I do yard work. Yes, Jim and I have a tendency to overdo things. We still will dig ditches or move tons of river rocks. Still, a person would think that his parts would hold up better. Some nights, the aches and pains make sure I don't get much sleep.

Another thing that comes with each new birthday is my problem with names. Too often, I call the family roll when I address a comment to one of the children. I know my daughter's name is Lacey, but more often, I call her Sadie, the name of our dog. Dallas is my son, but on occasion, I call him Jim, all the while knowing who he is. I'm also at that point where I put things in safe places; as a result, I struggle to find those objects again. I start to say something, and the slightest interruption might well cause me to forget my train of thought.

What befuddles me most is the fact that my body is that of an old man; however, my mind is stuck between 18-22 years old.

I look in the mirror and wonder how the image came to be. If my body would only sync with my mind, I'd be ready for anything. Instead, I wear out much too early and need to hit the sack. My mind wants to stay up late as I did as a young man; my body tells me I'll regret it the next day.

I enjoyed my birthday and hope to have many more. At the same time, my hope is that I can maintain my health and that my mind still stays young. It's when we begin to think old that we begin to lose the light that burns inside. All of you "Boomers" need to remain young at heart and mind. We still have much to do and accomplish.

## God's Gift for the Day

I had a coupon and correct cash in hand. Cars inched along the drive-thru at a local fast food restaurant that morning.

"Maybe we should have gone to another restaurant," I said as we slowly navigated our way forward.

Finally, it was our turn to pull up to the window and pay.

"Keep your coupon," the cashier said. "The car in front of you paid for your order!"

We were shocked! The unexpected gift of a



By Ralphine Major  
[ralphine3@yahoo.com](mailto:ralphine3@yahoo.com)

stranger on an ordinary day in the middle of a pandemic was beyond kind.

As we proceeded to the window to pick up our order, the car in front was still in view.

As the driver waited to pull out onto the street, I slowed to catch a glimpse.

The lady glanced back at us. She was smiling.

We waved to her and yelled "thank you!" Mother threw her a kiss. She threw one back!

As we ate, we marveled at the stranger's generosity. It was human



While staying home during the pandemic, we have been organizing files. This photo of our father and his red chow, Koko, is from the eighties. Ralph was a dairy farmer until he developed a heart condition at age 36. After selling his dairy herd, he still surrounded himself with animals. His kindness was rewarded in the love they showed to him.

nature at its best. The lady's kindness lingered with us all through the day.

There is only one thing left to do---repay kindness by paying it forward.

Words of Faith: "And be ye kind one to another" Ephesians 4:32 (KJV).

## Family faces frustration

Cont. from page 1

help. She called Congressman Tim Burchett who told her the no visitors policy was not a state or federal ruling.

"We haven't seen him since he left by ambulance and my mother is getting really nervous," Missy said. "He cannot hear and cannot comprehend what's happening. He keeps calling out for his wife and children."

"They're keeping people out because of the coronavirus," she said. The

hospital said that visitors could wait outside in their cars if they wished.

Busler, The Focus, and others contacted the hospital. Missy said she told the hospital his family would pay for virus testing if they could be admitted to visit with him. Her pleas and prayers led to her being told that one family member would be allowed to see him after surgery when he would be taken to a 4th floor room in a non-virus section. That word came from a nurse supervisor.

Missy was ecstatic learning she or another family member would be allowed in the room to see him. "All I needed was someone to help us and because of that help and the most high God they're going to let me in," she said.

Area hospitals, including Parkwest, soon after announced a "phased reopening" that included visitation that allow visitors who are determined to be vital to the care of the patient and mandated that all visitors should wear a face covering at all times

and be screened prior to entry.

On the day of the Wills' 57th wedding anniversary, Franklin went to surgery and his wife, Evelyn, was permitted in the surgery waiting room. There were some complications and, following surgery, he was taken to the critical care unit rather than the 4th floor room.

The next morning Missy said a nurse told her that Franklin was waking only for a moment and going back to sleep. He was complaining about shoulder pain and the family was waiting for a call from the doctor.

Two days later Mike Shorter said that his father-in-law was doing better, sitting up in a chair to eat, and the hospital told the family Franklin might be moved out of the CCU and into a room. Missy was permitted to stay with her father that evening and said he had been sitting up and drinking water.

"I think this is my last run," Missy said her father told her.

She said that the next day the hospital talked her mom into transferring Franklin to NHC in Farragut despite the family trying to get the transfer two days later. Missy said the hospital said he needed therapy and there was only one bed open at NHC.

"Mom said she felt like

she had no choice" in deciding to agree to the transfer. Missy said she left the hospital mad with the idea, "Here we go again."

Missy said her dad was unresponsive after the transfer and the NHC nurse said that if he can't do rehabilitation therapy he can be sent home. "For the moment we're back to square one—not able to see him," Missy said at the time, adding they could get an update of his condition by telephone.

Three days later she reported they had visited with her dad by watching him through the window. The staff there had turned his bed so he could see the window and he waved to them.

Missy said that Franklin was on a pureed diet and had a bit of therapy. She said he's "rigid and frozen" and wasn't using his left arm.

"He's stubborn and 85 years old and they said he was taking a lot of fluids," she said, again saying no one was allowed in his room to actually see and talk with him. She said the center's COVID-19 precautions got him a private room.

"I'm going to pick up my mom now and we're going back down to his window to see him. My mom is 77 and not resting or sleeping. We're taking him some chocolate," she said.

"I'm just praying to the Lord that His will be done," she said.

Two weeks ago Franklin was cleared to go back home. Missy went over to her dad and mom's house to get it ready and a hospital bed was delivered. They were hoping that Franklin would perk up when he got home and were thankful that they can visit and take care of him.

Last week Mike told The Focus that Franklin rallied four days after getting home.

"He's got his senses back and he's eating. He's still bedridden but has a hospital bed," he said.

Missy said Franklin has hospice care with visiting nurses. She also said her mom is doing pretty well taking care of him and that the family also goes by each day to help and check up on them.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a lot of people problems well beyond the basic strategy of staying safe. There's little worse for a family than to have an elder member injured and hospitalized under normal times but not being able to see them except for looking into a window causes a heavy burden of worry and frustration.

Having a dear one return home and begin recovery eases the pain of separation. Just being able to visit with someone and hug them is a huge release for family members.

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# Frank Goad Clement

## A 100th Anniversary Celebration

### Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

It will surprise exactly no one who knows me well to discover I have been profoundly interested in the portraits of Tennessee's governors in our State Capitol since I knew they existed. There are many fine portraits of our various chief executives of the Volunteer State, but I have always had a few particular favorites; I have liked the portrait of redheaded Malcolm Patterson, the stately bearing of James Beriah Frazier as well as several of Tennessee's governors from the time of my grandparents: Gordon Browning and Prentice Cooper. Some of the later governors made a profound impression upon me as well: my friend Winfield Dunn, Lamar Alexander, and Ned McWhorter. The first governor that I can personally recall was Frank G. Clement and to this day my favorite portrait remains that of Governor Clement. Frank Clement, wearing a dark blue double-breasted suit and tie, his arms folded across his chest, the French cuff of his shirt peeking out of his sleeve, a serious look etched upon his face. The artist captured the intense sky blue of the young governor's eyes, his body neatly framed by the red of the State of Tennessee.

That same portrait was part of the dust jacket of Dr. Lee S. Greene's unmatched biography of Frank G. Clement. I knew Dr. Greene who would occasionally regale me with bits and pieces of his knowledge of the political figures of Tennessee's past. I still recall his telling me about his unexpected encounter with Senator K. D. McKellar on a train. For those of you who have not had the pleasure of reading Dr. Greene's biography of Frank Clement, Lead Me On, I would highly recommend it.

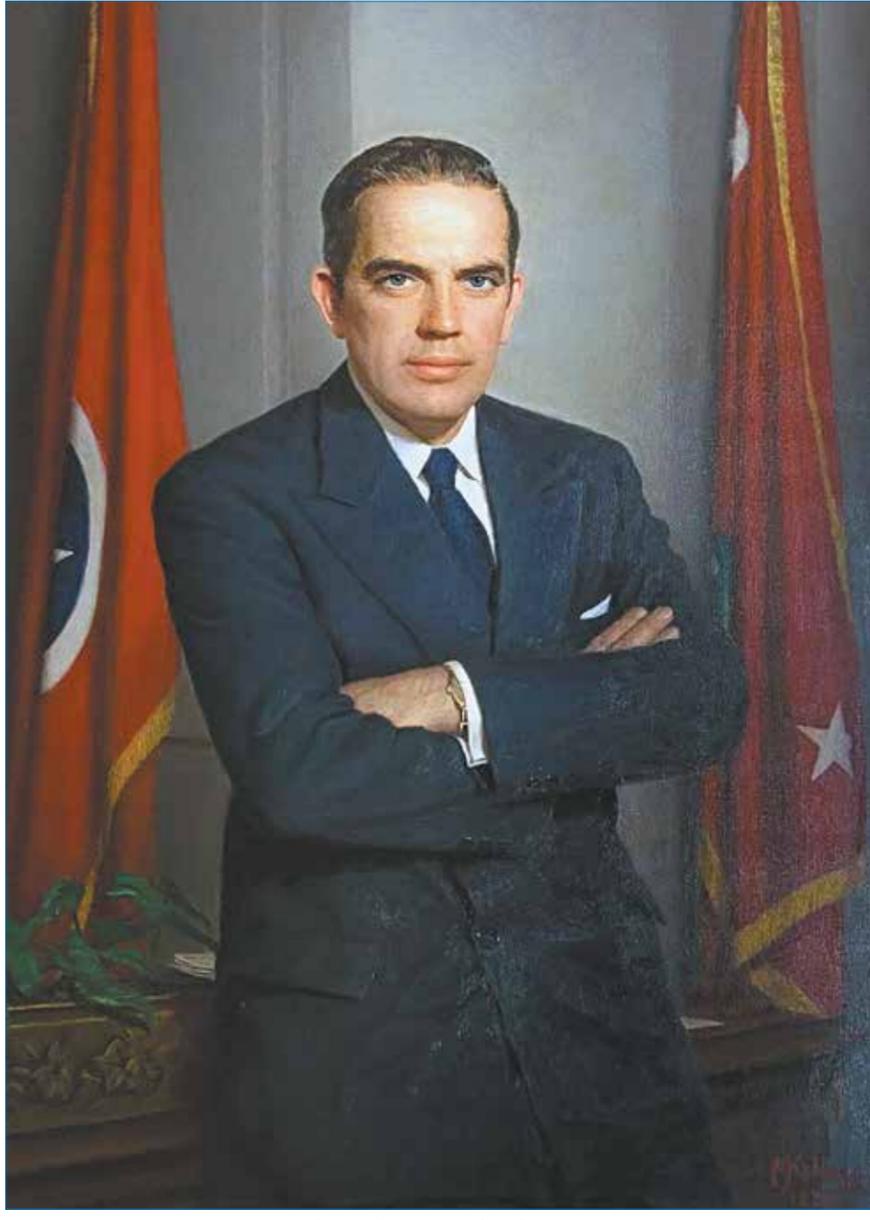
We are fast approaching the 100th anniversary of the birth of Frank Goad Clement, which will be celebrated at the Frank Clement Museum in Dickson, Tennessee. The museum is located inside the old Hotel Halbrook, which is Frank Clement's birthplace and was operated by the future governor's family. The museum is located at 100 Frank G. Clement Place in Dickson, Tennessee. Incidentally, for those of you who love history, the Hotel Halbrook is a near-perfect example of those hostels which, once upon a time, dotted the American landscape. There were hotels near railroad depots for weary travelers to disembark and spend the night. One can see the rooms where the Clement family lived while managing the hotel and there is a trove of interesting items related

to the history of Dickson County, as well as items from a time when railroad travel was prevalent in the United States. The people of Dickson and Dickson County are justly proud of the Frank G. Clement Museum. It is said Frank Clement launched his campaign to become governor of Tennessee at age ten when he told his classmates one day he would run the State of Tennessee. Frank Clement was an early achiever; he passed the Bar exam before he was old enough to practice law.

Once elected governor, Clement began an ambitious road-building program, which was especially popular with rural Tennesseans. It was Frank Clement who created the Department of Mental Health in Tennessee. Frank Clement was also the first governor in the South to veto a segregation bill passed by the legislature. Governor Clement sent Tennessee state troopers and members of the National Guard to preserve the peace and protect citizens and their property when Clinton High School was being integrated. At the time, it was an undisputed act of uncommon courage. Bob Clement has recalled the vile threats against his father's life, as well as the governor's family. For a while, Governor Clement found it necessary not to venture into certain parts of West Tennessee. Bobby Cain, one of the twelve black students to integrate Clinton High School, later recalled, "One of the most beautiful sights I saw in South Clinton was seeing the troopers coming in." The governor's sister and Chief of Staff during his last term in office, Annabelle Clement O'Brien, said, "He took an oath of office to uphold the law of the land. It was the right thing to do."

Frank Clement married Lucille "Cille" Christianson when they were both 19 years old. I will never forget the first time I saw a really good photograph of Mrs. Clement. Evidently, she had daydreams about becoming a movie-star and Lucille Clement was a strikingly beautiful woman and was a gracious hostess and loving mother to her three boys.

It is likely difficult for voters today to understand just what an attractive and appealing candidate Frank G. Clement was to Tennesseans in 1952. My grandparents were probably representative of many Tennesseans of their time. My Methodist grandfather was a staunch Republican and did not like Frank Clement at all; my Baptist grandmother was from Madisonville, Tennessee, the



Gov. Frank G. Clement, official state portrait.

home of Estes Kefauver, and like Estes, she was a Democrat. My grandmother never once missed voting for Frank Clement or Estes Kefauver. Still, I can remember my grandfather taking me as a little boy to meet the governor. To this day, I can recall the firm grip of my small hand in that of Frank Clement, but what I remember most was his big, warm smile and the twinkle of those blue eyes. It made quite an impression upon me. My grandmother was tickled to death to see Governor Clement again and could not help mentioning my grandfather was a Republican, adding charitably, "Well, I guess nobody's perfect."

Clement was running that year for the United States Senate and I still have the campaign button, which I pinned to my shirt. Once we were in the car, my grandfather removed it and replaced it with a button for Howard Baker.

Frank Clement's personality reflected his innate love of people. One need not think every politician or vote-seeker actually really likes people; some don't, which made television a God-send for such candidates. Frank Clement liked people and he liked crowds, where he excelled. Clement could mesmerize thousands of people who came to hear him speak. Frank Clement's campaign spread like a wildfire throughout Tennessee. The young orator managed to put the veteran campaigner Gordon Browning on the defensive in his 1952 campaign and kept him there. Browning carried most of East Tennessee, while Frank Clement carried everything else, including Browning's own Congressional district.

Frank Clement was the first of Tennessee's governor's eligible to serve a four-year term after the voters had approved a

newly renovated Constitution in 1954. Running once again against his predecessor Gordon Browning, Clement carried every county in Tennessee save for Browning's own Carroll County.

Tennessee had plenty of political talent by 1956. Estes Kefauver had run for president in 1952, but had lost the nomination to Illinois governor Adlai Stevenson who had the support of President Harry Truman. Frank Clement's supporters had been delighted when the famous orator had been chosen to deliver the keynote speech of the 1956 Democratic National Convention. Governor Clement had few peers in speechmaking on the courthouse steps, but television proved not to be his medium. The time when candidates pressed the flesh in person and orated from hastily erected platforms, the courthouse steps or a stump was beginning to fade. The thirty-second commercial was becoming increasingly more important. While Frank Clement could draw several thousand people to hear him speak on a hot and humid night in Tennessee's smoldering July weather, a TV commercial could reach tens of thousands of people in a matter of seconds. Clement's keynote speech was not the success he had hoped it would be. On the convention floor, Tennesseans were divided when nominee Adlai Stevenson threw open the race for the vice-presidential nomination. Clement, Estes Kefauver and Albert Gore were all considered vice presidential prospects. A young senator from Massachusetts, John F. Kennedy, made a strong bid for the vice-presidential nomination, which was finally won by Kefauver. In yet another sign Tennessee was continuing to change, Kefauver's popularity in Tennessee did not

match that of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Once again, the GOP ticket of Eisenhower and Nixon carried the Volunteer State.

Clement almost surely could have been reelected yet again in 1958 had the Constitution not prevented it. Instead, Buford Ellington, Clement's Commissioner of Agriculture narrowly won the Democratic nomination and general election. So began the famous "leapfrog" era of government in Tennessee. Frank Clement had given some thought to running for the U. S. Senate in 1958 when Albert Gore was seeking reelection but decided against it.

Frank Clement made his triumphant return to politics when he was reelected governor in 1962 after a four-year absence from the governor's mansion. The death of Estes Kefauver in 1963 necessitated a special election to fill his seat in the U. S. Senate. Realizing he would eventually be out of office with few political options otherwise, Frank Clement ran for the Senate but lost the Democratic nomination to Congressman Ross Bass of Pulaski. It was Frank Clement's first political defeat and the first time the voters of his own party had rejected his candidacy. Bass had not campaigned on national issues but rather had pounded Clement hard for having raised state taxes. Tennesseans have routinely punished governors who have raised taxes when they have sought reelection or other offices. Clement ran for the United States Senate once again in 1966 and turned around the results from the 1964 election. Governor Frank Clement beat Senator Bass in the Democratic primary. It was Frank Clement's last great hurrah. Clement went on to lose the general election to Howard Baker, who became the first Republican to be elected to the United States Senate from

Tennessee. Frank Clement certainly had not forgotten politics; when he died he was pondering a fourth campaign to reclaim the governor's office and there is good reason to believe he would have been the Democratic nominee.

Time dims the memory but Frank Clement's unexpected death in an automobile crash left many Tennesseans stunned and saddened. The editor of the Johnson City Press Chronicle, in a frontpage editorial, confessed he was "shocked to the point" of "numbness" by the former governor's death. The editor wrote, "There are times and assignments in a newspaperman's life when the job seems bigger than he can handle." The writer admitted writing the editorial on Frank G. Clement's passing was one of those times. The editor of the Johnson City Press thought Frank Clement "one of Tennessee's finest governors", but readily admitted no chief executive could achieve greatness without becoming "a controversial person." The editor acknowledged Frank Clement was not a perfect person but thought "the greatness of his good points far overshadowed the bad ones."

Less than seventeen years after taking the oath of office as Tennessee's youngest governor, Frank Clement had passed way. Frank Clement had blazed brilliantly across the Tennessee sky like a meteor. Friend and foe praised the former governor as he was laid to rest in the rolling hills of his native Middle Tennessee. Perhaps former U. S. senator Ross Bass summed it up best. Bass said Frank Clement was "a fearless competitor and no man in Tennessee knew that better than I." Nor was Frank Clement afraid to do what was right.

Frank Clement left a rich political legacy. Clement's sister, Annabelle Clement O'Brien, was a legendary state legislator and his sons, Bob and Frank Jr., have attained high office. Bob served for years as the congressman from Davidson County, while Frank, Jr. is a highly respected judge of Tennessee's Court of Appeals.

Now as we begin to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of his birth, Governor Clement's legacy of accomplishments remains very much with us today. The storms of life, nor the winds and the rains, can erase the good one has done for his fellow man. As long as one remains in our memories, he or she never really dies.



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# Focusing on House Seat 15, III

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

This is the final in a series of questions The Knoxville Focus has asked candidates for East Knoxville's seat in the Tennessee Legislature.

The race for the Tennessee House Seat, District 15, pits the incumbent, Rick Staples, against three other Democrats, Sam McKenzie, Michael Park and Ovi Kabir.

Who ever wins the Democratic nomination in August will face Independent candidate Troy B. Jones in the November General Elections

## Make a statement about public education, Charter Schools, and Vouchers.

**Staples:** Our phenomenal Public Schools are the foundation of Knox County. I have always listened, respected and yielded to the voice of Parents, School Teachers and the Knox County School Board. I've yet to hear a desire for Vouchers in Knox County. My concerns regarding charter schools will always be based around

reallocation of funding. That could be used to support our public schools.

**McKenzie:** During my time on County Commission I chaired the Joint Education Committee where I was a loud voice for public schools/education. If people choose private education they should fund it themselves or apply for scholarships therefore I am not in favor of the voucher legislation recently passed in the State. I think charter schools are moderately successful but only in certain areas. I would not expand the current number of charter schools but focus on quality public education for ALL children.

**Park:** We need to increase public school funding in Tennessee by a minimum of \$1.7 Billion and fix the broken BEP funding formula. Since 2009, Tennessee's average teacher salary has decreased by 4.4% when accounting for inflation. This means that we need to pass a 10% minimum direct pay increase for Tennessee's public school teachers. We need more public dollars in public schools, not less. Gov. Bill Lee's voucher program should be permanently ended. We should work to fund Community

Schools programs across the state, they are the answer that vouchers and charters will never be.

**Kabir:** I am the product of our Tennessee School System. A vouchers system takes away money from schools that are already struggling. While I certainly see the pros to having charter schools, it is the duty of the state to ensure that all our schools are up to standard and that our own students don't slip between the cracks and fall behind.

## As a state representative would you hold public meetings with the people in your district on a regular basis?

**Staples:** Even during the "Shelter in Place" orders, I've been able to have ZOOM meetings and conference calls. I've had several Town Halls during my term as State Representative. I believe in bringing Government to the PEOPLE. I'm fortunate to have enough influence, which has allowed for Town Halls, with Commissioners of Education, Finance, Agricultural and Department of Labor and Workforce

Development. I will continue with these successful Town Halls moving forward.

**McKenzie:** I absolutely would hold public meetings quarterly and as emerging issues arise. I am and have always been accountable to the people I serve.

**Park:** Yes. Our campaign has been holding weekly Virtual Rallies. We have also implemented a system that allows individuals to schedule meetings directly with me on their schedule (<https://matthewpark.com/meet>). I will maintain this same level of availability and transparency when elected.

**Kabir:** As a state representative I believe it is my duty to be both available, transparent, and actively involved with the people of my district. I would not be able to do this if I did not hold public meetings regularly in my district. Furthermore, I believe it is important to meet people where they are at instead of having them come to me, so that is why I will do my part to reach out to communities in our district that have historically not been listened to. Moreover, day-by-day, we are seeing that people utilize social media and communication technology to get their news

more than ever and that is why I plan on sending out regular updates on the issues I am tackling and actions I take through our digital outreach program.

## If elected or re-elected what will be your main objective in the next legislative session?

**Staples:** Going into the next State Legislative Session, a mindset of Servant Leadership, will be more important than ever. Our Great State faces the daunting task of rebuilding. Rebuilding our economy, our educational system as well as our health care system. Established productive relationships. A proven body of work. Actual knowledge of the "job", most importantly, an individual who knows how to survive and serve. Especially during difficult times. Going into the next Legislative Session, with the future of Knox County, being the primary focus. Putting politics and pontificating aside, making sure the people of this City are being served.

**McKenzie:** I would have three phases initially, the first entails reestablishing

the trust and accountability in the Office. Second, I would advocate to fully fund the Basic Education Program (BEP) on a permanent basis. Lastly, offer legislation that directly benefits the people of the 15th District (e.g. Workforce Development and Healthcare reforms).

**Park:** My main legislative priority will be to reform our criminal justice system in Tennessee. As a first step, we should ban private prisons and private jails, end money bail, and require face to face visitation as a right for incarcerated people. We should then begin to shift our system to a restorative model, focusing on treatment and transformation rather than punishment and "getting even." This would include ending arbitrary time-based sentencing in favor of transformation plans developed by mental health providers, substance abuse counselors, and education professionals.

**Kabir:** If elected, my main objectives in the next legislative session are to focus on the expansion of Medicaid and tackle the issue of affordable housing in Tennessee.

# KCS 2021 budget reluctantly passed

Cont. from page 1

will continue to move forward, and keeping teacher ratios will remain unchanged. "We are all making sacrifices," he added.

KCS Chief Financial Officer Ron McPherson had the floor most of the meeting to explain the budget projection. He used slides and focused first on the revenue projection decrease in the past two months from March to May 2020. The revenue projections (eighteen million sales tax, and two million state revenue) dropped affecting the \$528.3 million FY21 revenue budget to forecasted revenues of \$507.8 million. Yet, the state requires a 3% cash reserve at all times (about four million currently) which lowers the revenue back down to \$503.8 million.

This reserve is called "Replenish Fund Balance" in the budget. However, a \$4.9 million budget savings is possible due to debt restructured for capital improvements, a reduction in retirement TCRS contribution rates, workers compensation insurance savings, fewer charter school pass-through payments, less sick leave payouts, the TVA East Tower move, transportation department savings, and various other system-wide savings.

McPherson explained the difficulty in developing a budget with many assumptions, and why budgeting in savings of the fund balance is so important -- because of a higher likelihood of using those funds this year. "The dilemma we are having is trying to predict fund balance.

We don't know and won't know the effect of COVID on the economy for a couple more months. Sales tax has a two-month lag time ... we really won't know the degree COVID has had on this year's budget, which affects fund balance, which affects next year's budget, until probably August," he explained. "We have less projected revenue available for spending than the current year budget that we are operating in," he added, that estimate being \$503.8 million dollars available to spend.

Protecting KCS jobs was a top priority to Thomas and

McPherson who said a \$10 million reduction is needed in the expenditure budget. These monies -- which come from \$4.9 million in savings, \$1.1 million in reallocation, and \$4.3 million in budget cuts -- are needed to include the spending of \$4 million for teacher raises (called step increases) and \$3.5 million in fixed increases.

Some of the budget cuts include a 50% reduction of school allocations which are used at the discretion of each school. Some of the schools have unspent allocations that total one million dollars. Those monies can be used to carry over to the FY21 budget. As far as Pre-K cuts, some of them may result in losing a few classrooms, but will not result in losing any student services.

A pay reduction of five days for year-round 255-day employees amounting in \$700,000, professional development and its related travel was cut in half, and the elimination of twenty positions at central office (\$1.7 million) were the cuts budgeted into the 2020 expenditure budget.

Board member Terry Hill asked for more information about the fund balance and Virginia Babb questioned how teachers would be trained for a 1:1 district with professional development taking a \$.4 million cut. Shannon Jackson answered her with the explanation that some of those dollars will come from the general purpose budget as reflected in federal title funding. She said a plan is in place to support teachers throughout the school year, and teachers will be sharing their talent across the district.

Board member Jennifer Owen commented next about funding from the state legislatures, "As a board we need to be looking far into the future ... our comptrollers say we are underfunded \$400 million every year ... our legislature is underfunding us ... the BEP (Basic Education Program) was adopted in 1992 and updated in 2007 and it's gotten smaller and smaller every year." She stated the BEP formula is short 22% for teachers and that many of her colleagues say some of the allocations for

our teachers haven't changed since 1985. "We are so concerned with not making legislators mad ... they have to help our kids, and if it makes them mad, then make them mad," she said.

The two main points of discussion were funding step increases, and cutting money from magnet schools. A four million dollar expenditure for step increases (\$.5 million more than fixed increases) caught the attention of board member Mike McMillan who asked if the board will forgo these raises for certain teachers now and then add them back for the FY21 if the economy bounces back. "It's a terrible year from an economic standpoint. What bothers me is, it's hard to explain from my perspective as a board member, why did certain teachers get raises when I don't even have a job and I'm a taxpayer?" he asked when talking with a community member.

McPherson answered McMillan's concern about step increases stating Knox County would lose ground on the average teacher pay, which would hurt teacher recruitment, and spoke of the difficulty that would occur in trying to add raises back once they are taken out.

McMillan acknowledged that while many teachers worked hard during the pandemic, "a lot of teachers had a lot of leisure time to do things they wanted to do." McMillan then made an amended motion to drop the four million dollar step increases in hopes to add them back later.

Board member Evetty Satterfield agreed, and said the step increases were "something that jumped out to me when the budget was presented. We have people in our community that don't have jobs ... and we are giving raises."

McMillan expounded further, "We exist because the public pays the money in state and local dollars for us to operate on. The kids are the number one item ... it's not that we should protect teachers at all cost every time ... this is a one-time situation."

Chair Susan Horn said she would not support the motion because teachers see this

increase as part of their salaries they haven't received yet. "It's less than one percent," she said, and the good will that comes with it outweighs the negative suggestion that it is such a small amount of money per teacher.

A vote for the amendment was called, and it failed with one affirmative vote from McMillan.

Consideration for budget cuts affecting magnet schools was first shown by Kristi Kristy who asked why the cuts were needed. She read an example from a magnet school budget that only had \$17,000 set aside for salary and wages. Satterfield next took up this same position to not cut \$120,000 from the budget which would directly affect the two schools that Knoxville receives local and national attention for -- the L&N STEM Academy and Beaumont Academy. Satterfield informed members, "We did receive in the last 24 hours over 160 emails from community members. It has been said multiple times that this money has not been attached to positions, but it is, this money is attached to positions ... Why magnet continues to come up when it's such a small amount of money in the bigger picture? ... L&N Stem Academy has been the forerunner of KCS since its inception. They are knocking it out the park ... it is a model school that people across the nation look at. L&N is number nine in the state." She said the cut will hurt the top achieving schools and the board should instead consider cutting athletics or one or two positions so that the \$120,000 can be added back to the budget.

She then made a motion to add the \$120,000 back to the budget for magnet schools. Babb asked if the budget can be raised to include the \$120,000. The superintendent spoke of supplementing the schools less their unused allocations from the last budget which would increase the budget \$30,000 instead of 120,000, thus making the magnets whole in the area of allocations. In a normal budget year, L&N Academy would receive \$15,000 in allocations. Since the school

has \$10,000 of unused allocations, the budget would provide \$5,000 instead of the \$15,000 as originally scheduled began another discussion. Satterfield spoke into the step increase raise conversation of members stating that once an item gets cut, it has a high likelihood to be cut for good. Owen cautioned members against allocating for each small piece of the budget.

"This is the money that goes towards creating the innovation that I want for all of our schools," Satterfield said. "Beaumont and L&N pull from kids all over this district.

"If we don't treat our magnet schools like they are supposed to be treated, then what is the point of having an open transfer, and what is the point of all the innovation that KCS provides to students if we are not fully supporting the innovation in our schools. L&N is doing exactly what we want our high schools to do. Beaumont has done exactly what we want our magnet program to do."

"It's not fair for magnets to be getting an increase when all the other schools would be getting a decrease," said Horn.

Satterfield answered, "The funding that goes into these schools is the reason we get national attention for KCS."

The amendment to add back the \$120,000 to magnet schools failed to pass its vote.

Babb said, "We have to present a realistic budget to show our mayor and county commissioners we need more funding." She gave the example of the state funding zero speech pathologists, yet the budget has to fund 63 for the next school year. She made clear the need for funding comes from the state and that state and local taxes need to increase.

Satterfield made a motion to pass the budget seconded by Babb, and it passed unanimously. The vote approved the 507.8 million dollar budget which included replenishing the fund balance for FY21.

Chairperson Horn thanked all of those individuals who have been involved in the budget reviewing process.

**SHINING THE BRIGHTEST IN TRYING TIMES**

**High school athletes are back to work**

By Mark Nagi

Tuesday, May 26 was a big day for some Knox County football teams. The high school fields were once again busy, as teams began the process of resuming organized workouts in anticipation of the 2020 season.

"It's been different," said Grace Christian Academy head coach Rusty Bradley. "When we got out for Spring Break on March 16, we had no idea that we wouldn't be coming back to school. I think we did the best that we could with it. We gave them workouts to do on their own the first four to five weeks. We made a challenge out of it to post funny videos on twitter. Then the last five weeks we did team Zoom workouts. I think our guys did a good job with that, but unfortunately that isn't the same as being in the weight room."

Bradley added, "Coming back and getting in the weight room will take some adjustment. We are basically back where we were in February instead of building on what we did between February and the end of May. We are behind but I think because of what our guys did we can get back quickly."

Over at South-Doyle, the Cherokees were like other teams, giving enough space on the field and working on conditioning last week. There will be a time for footballs to be through the pads to crunch. That time isn't now.

"While we have been off, we tried to stay in touch with players through our Remind app and texting," said South-Doyle head coach Clark Duncan. "We encouraged them to do things, but they

**Continue on page 3**



Jake Parris was a workhorse for Halls in 2019 and Coach Scott Cummings said: "His per carry average of 9.2 yards is stuff of legends."

**Red Devils' Parris had a football season to remember**

By Steve Williams

Jake Parris' 2019 football season was probably his last. But it was a mighty good one.

The Halls running back was named the Offensive Back of the Year in Region 2-5A after racking

up 1,855 all-purpose yards and 19 total touchdowns in his senior campaign. Defensively, he had 63 tackles, seven TFLs, one interception and one fumble recovery.

For his efforts, Jake was selected Halls' male

Student-Athlete of the Year.

"Jake is simply a football player in every sense," said Scott Cummings after his first season as the Red Devils' head coach. "He is tough, physical, strong, fast with good hands, too.

"His per carry average of 9.2 yards is stuff of legends. Almost a first down every time he touched it. Sure wish I had another Jake coming back."

Parris' numbers indeed were attractive enough to get the attention of college

recruiters, but Jake indicated earlier he had a plan for the future that didn't include football.

He will be enrolling in an electrical school in the fall and plans to own and operate his own business in **Continue on page 3**

**Defense is name of the game for Megan Turner**

By Steve Williams

Megan Turner had a school record 1,247 digs in her high school volleyball career at Gibbs. That should tell you what kind of player she is.

"A dig is when a player prevents the ball from hitting the floor after a kill or serve from the opposing team," explained Gibbs Coach Sarah Sharp. "Or it's a defensive move or a pass to the setter if possible."

In other words, Turner was a defensive specialist, and made the Tennessee Sports Writers

Association's Class AA All-State team at the libero position following her senior campaign. She thrived on keeping the ball alive.

Defense was actually a big part of both of Megan's games at Gibbs.

The three-time All-District 4-AA volleyball honoree was twice named her district's Defensive Player of the Year.

In softball, Turner, a second baseman, made the All-District 3-AA team in 2019 plus received the Lady Eagles' Golden Glove Award.

Gibbs' female Student-Athlete of the Year for 2019-20 signed with Middle Tennessee State University in volleyball. She also had a scholarship offer to play softball at Lincoln Memorial University.

Megan acquired her love of sports naturally. Both of her parents, in fact, coach at Gibbs. Her mom, Amanda Turner, has been an assistant in volleyball. Dad Brad Turner is an assistant in softball in addition to being head football coach.

"She has been playing ball her whole life," he noted.

In addition to her athletic talents, which included being named to the Region 2-AA all-tournament team twice, Turner graduated with a 4.3 grade point average and was a member of the National Honor Society.

"What most impresses me about Megan is her commitment to her team and teammates, the fact that she is a 'coachable' player, and her respect for her coaches and team, which has led to her success as a student-athlete," said Coach Sharp.

**Continued on page 3**



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## SHINING THE BRIGHTEST IN TRYING TIMES

# Team came first for Halls honoree Cassie Norris

By Steve Williams

Both of Cassie Norris' high school coaches at Halls talked about how her contributions to the team came before anything else.

That's a high compliment for the school's female Student-Athlete of the Year, who played softball and volleyball and signed a softball scholarship with the University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg.

"Cassie is the true definition of a team player," led off Bryan Gordon, Halls' softball coach. "She always put the team ahead of herself and did what we asked of her to make the team better.

"She started at first base her freshman and sophomore years, then moved to left field last year. And this year, when we needed her to pitch, she worked hard over the off-season to be ready for that challenge."

Unfortunately, Norris' and the Lady Red Devils' 2020 season was halted early by the coronavirus pandemic.

Cassie and many of her teammates, however, can look back at the 2019 campaign with fond memories, as the Lady Red Devils made their first appearance at the Spring Fling for the first time since 2002.

Halls also made a strong showing at the state, battling back to take third place after losing a 3-1 decision to eventual Class AAA state champion Jefferson County in its tourney opener.

The Lady Red Devils responded with three straight wins before finally going down 2-1 at the



*Halls High graduate Cassie Norris will continue her education and athletic career in softball at USC Upstate.*

hands of Siegel in the losers' bracket finals.

Norris, hitting out of the No. 3 hole in the batting order, went 4 for 15 at the state with five RBI and a home run to account for Halls' only run in the close loss to Siegel.

"Cassie has been a staple in the middle of our lineup for the last four years, leading us in most offensive categories every season," added Coach Gordon. "We will definitely miss her, but I look forward to following her career at USC Upstate!"

Halls volleyball coach Hollie Kilgore said: "Cassie is a very hard worker and was voted captain by her teammates. She pushes others to be their best by her actions. Cassie is a great student-athlete, getting the job done on and off the court. She represents

**Continue on page 4**



*Ethan Humphries "is everything you want in a student-athlete" said Gibbs Coach Brad Turner.*

# Ethan Humphries 'gave his all' at Gibbs High

By Steve Williams

On Friday nights, Ethan Humphries reminded many football fans of the days when the game had big, strong fullbacks.

Give him the ball and let him go to work.

As the game wore on, Humphries seemed to get stronger and harder to bring down.

But there is so much more to this young man.

"Ethan is a class act," said Brad Turner, Gibbs High head football coach and Strength and Conditioning teacher. "He is everything you want in a student-athlete."

It's no wonder Humphries is the school's male Student-Athlete of the Year.

"He is very motivated and pushes himself to be the best on and off the field," said Turner. "That starts at home with his parents. Ethan and his brother Wyatt both played at Gibbs and they are very mannerly and 'yes sir, no sir' guys. Their parents were

very involved in our program and this community."

A powerful running back, Humphries (5-10, 220) was a four-year letterman and team captain for the Eagles.

As a senior, he rushed for 1,433 yards and 14 touchdowns and was named to the All-Region 2-5A team for the second time.

Ethan also earned a first-team spot on The Knoxville Focus / Coaches' All-Knox County team.

Humphries will continue his football career at Centre College, a NCAA Division III school in Danville, Ky. The Colonels are members of the Southern Athletic Association.

"Ethan was dependable for us," said Coach Turner. "He took care of his body and really excelled in the weight room and conditioning his body to play a lot of snaps.

"Ethan was a very physical player and especially late in games he seemed to have more in his tank than anybody else."

That's just what you saw on Friday nights.

Humphries was a three-time Eagle of the Month inside the school.

He was in the National Honor Society, the National Technical Honor Society, a Student Government Association Vice President and a Spanish Honor Society Vice President.

Ethan also was a Link Up Executive Board member, which involved helping incoming freshmen with how to go about high school. He was a HOSA member, which deals with health science. He has a CNA license (Certified nurse assistant). And last but not least, he's a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"Ethan's academics speak for themselves," added Turner. "He has a 4.3 GPA and in all honors classes. He managed his time and gave his all to everything he was involved in.

"From what I understand, he wants to be a surgeon and major in pre-med."

# Trumm and Trusley have record-setting years at Powell

By Steve Williams

Bailey Trumm made news on the state scene this past winter as she became the all-time leader in making 3-point shots in TSSAA girls basketball.

The 5-7 Powell guard is now in the state record book with 416 treys, moving past Wilson Central product Kendall Spray, who totaled 390 from 2012 through 2016.

Trumm, the PHS female Student-Athlete of the Year, will be continuing her education and basketball career at Appalachian State University.

Walker Trusley is Powell's male honoree. The two-sport standout, who signed a baseball scholarship with East Tennessee State University, led the Panthers to a 10-0 regular season in football and had a record-setting year himself at quarterback.

"What a great honor for Bailey Trumm," said Powell girls basketball coach John Fisher of the student-athlete award. "Bailey is so deserving and displays the type of work ethic that a coach desires in their players.

"For all of her athletic accomplishments, which

have been well documented, she was also ranked No. 5 academically at PHS with a 4.3 GPA.

"I totally admire the job that Jennifer and Will have done raising an incredible daughter. I will miss her but look forward to seeing all the great things Bailey is going to do as an alumna of Powell High."

Bailey also was a finalist for Class AAA Miss Basketball in Tennessee.

Trusley threw for 2,342 yards and 27 touchdowns - both single season school records - as Powell reached the Class 5A state

**Continued on page 4**



*Walker Trusley was a two-sport standout in football and baseball during his prep career at Powell. ETSU signed him to play baseball starting next season.*



PHOTO BY TRACY HEARD

*Powell High's Bailey Trumm put her name in the TSSAA record book this season with her career 416 3-point baskets.*

# THSSCA to host state tournament in July

By Ken Lay  
When the coronavirus pandemic bought a premature end to the 2019-20 school year and the 2020 spring sports season, all high school boys soccer teams saw their campaign end before ever really got started.

Farragut will play as Admirals FC. Bearden will use the moniker Bulldogs FC and like Dover, Bearden coach Ryan Radcliffe won't be on the sidelines.

"I was advised by my athletic director not to coach the team in the tournament," said Radcliffe, who guided the Bulldogs to the 2019 TSSAA Class AAA State Championship. "I won't be there and Ray probably won't be either. I don't want to get a TSSAA violation."

"Every player will be given two tickets because they're trying to limit the number of people up there. I will go try to watch a game if I'm not busy with my girls team. "I didn't get to see my team play much this spring."

Bearden played just one regular-season match in 2020 while Farragut played two. Bulldogs FC is the tournament's No. 4 seed and Admirals FC is the fifth seed based on rankings by the coaches. The two West Knox County rivals will tangle in a first-round game on July 9 at 3 p.m.

Other teams in the championship flight include Bison FC (Station Camp), Dragons TTB (Collierville), Bruins (Brentwood), Commandos (Hendersonville), Rebels (Franklin) and Mustangs (Germantown Houston).

Also in Class AAA: West High will compete as Rebels FC in Flight 2. They'll open against Indians (Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett) at 12:30 p.m. on July 9.

In Class AA, Bobcats FC (Central) will play Yellow Jackets (Fairview) at 5:30 p.m. on July 9.

Cherokees (South-Doyle) will play Redskins FC (Loudon) at 5:30 on a different field.

In Class A: Roadrunners FC (Austin-East) will play Patriots (Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences) at 8 p.m.

Registrations are still being taken for the Division II-A and Division II-AA State Tournaments.

That obviously didn't sit too well with the Tennessee High School Soccer Coaches Association.

Many schools in the Volunteer State are having late graduation ceremonies and junior/senior proms.

So why not have a state high school soccer tournament?

And so it will be.

Gatlinburg-Pittman High School and the THSSCA will host state championships for Division I Schools from July 9-11 and Division II Schools from July 13-15 at the Rocky Top Sports World Complex in Gatlinburg.

There will be three flights in Class AAA with Bearden and Farragut playing in the Championship Flight. West High will play in Flight 2. There are no Knoxville teams in Flight 3.

Since the tournament is not sanctioned by the TSSAA, teams may not wear school jerseys or use school names. They can, however, use mascot names.

Also, coaches in the Knox County Schools system will not be allowed to coach their teams.

"I can't coach my team and I hate that," said Farragut coach Ray Dover. "But it is what it is."

"I think this will be a lot of fun for the guys. It should be a good tournament. The guys wanted to do this. So they put things together and we have some parents with coaching experience and they're willing to coach the guys. Although we will have four or five guys who won't be there. I can't coach per Knox County rules that prohibit us from coaching a club team with our players on it."

# Farragut's Swartzentruber retires as middle school coach

By Ken Lay  
One of Knox County's longest-serving and most successful middle school basketball coaches is retiring from the game.

from coaching and noted that he thought about retirement the past few years.

"I just thought it was time," Swartzentruber said. "I coached some great teams and I had some great kids. But I just thought that it was time for me to go home after school."

"My kids are getting older now and they're doing a lot more different things and my wife and I, we like to travel, but I'll still be around. I told (Farragut principal Wes) Edmonds that I would still be around and that I'd do anything I needed to, to help out."

At the time of his retirement from basketball, Swartzentruber was the dean of Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference coaches, and last season, he coached his son Brevin, who was an eighth-grader.

The coach said that he had some great years at Farragut Middle, where he will remain a math teacher.

"This is something that I enjoyed," he said. "And Farragut is a great place to teach and coach. You have great kids here. I know I enjoyed it and I hope the kids enjoyed it and I hope that we all learned something."

"It's the kids that you miss the most and you always have a good group coming up. But I enjoy teaching math and I think that I would enjoy teaching any subject."

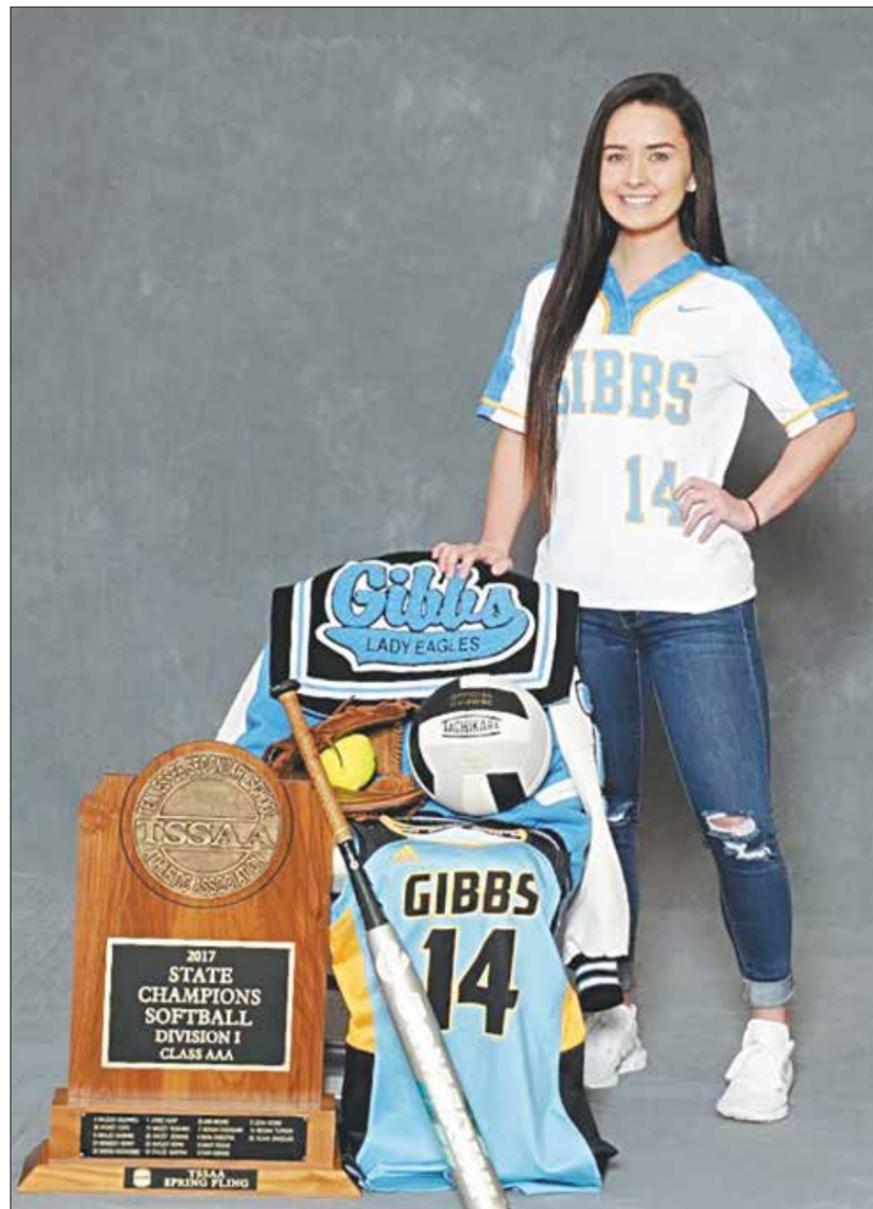
Randy "Swartz" Swartzentruber announced his retirement from coaching early last week after serving for nearly two decades as Farragut Middle School's boys basketball coach.

Swartzentruber, who took over the Admirals' program for the 2001-2002 season and had a run that included a James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament Championship in 2009 and another championship game appearance in 2018, said it was time for him to move on

and the Lady Eagles also reached the state tournament in 2018 and 2019.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Turner missed most of her senior season with Coach Carol Mitchell's highly regarded program but was among 5-Star Preps' 2020 "Softball Players to Watch."

Turner plans to major in occupational therapy at MTSU.



It's easy to see Megan Turner is a ball player, but she also excelled in the classroom and is Gibbs High's female Student-Athlete of the Year.

# Defense is name of the game for Megan Turner

Cont. from page 1

"We talked to the MTSU coaches when they were recruiting her. I shared with their staff that Megan is a dedicated student-athlete and will be an asset to any program she joins."

"Megan has been a big contributor in elevating the volleyball program at Gibbs, and I look forward to seeing what she will accomplish at MTSU."

Turner played a key role

in the Lady Eagles going 27-9 overall and 8-0 in district play as a junior in 2018.

Turner also was a two-year captain for Gibbs volleyball, was named to the TACA All-Academic team in both sports in 2019 and was a Johnny Mauer Award winner this year.

Megan was a freshman player on Gibbs' Class AAA state championship softball team in 2017. She

and the Lady Eagles also reached the state tournament in 2018 and 2019.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Turner missed most of her senior season with Coach Carol Mitchell's highly regarded program but was among 5-Star Preps' 2020 "Softball Players to Watch."

Turner plans to major in occupational therapy at MTSU.

# Red Devils' Parris had a football season to remember

Cont. from page 1

the future and work with his brother Luke, who is a licensed contractor.

"Jake said from the beginning he was going into family construction business," said Coach Cummings. "Within that he will be doing their electrical side. So because he

said that from the beginning, they (recruiters) all backed off of course. But Tennessee Tech, Western Carolina, Carson-Newman, etcetera, had shown a lot of interest. Tennessee Tech came to watch him in practice and loved him."

Halls Athletic Director Tucker Jackson said Parris, who was listed at 6-1 and

185 pounds last season, had a "tremendous year" in leading the Red Devils to a playoff berth last fall.

"I haven't seen many athletes as tough as Jake," added Jackson. "He played through injuries and was a great leader on the field and in the school as well. Halls High will miss Jake!"

# High school athletes are back to work

Cont. from page 1

are limited. Some had weights and some didn't. The good thing is we are back. We are excited. We have managed it. There is a lot of anxiety with the unknown. We just tried to be even keel and tell them to make sure they are social distancing and wanted them to lift and run as much as they could. Just trying to stay positive."

In North Knox County, the Halls Red Devils are hoping to build on a 2019 season which saw them advance to the Class 5A playoffs. Last November seems like a lifetime ago.

"It's a really odd feeling being out here," said Halls head coach Scott Cummings. "We are trying to social distance

and keep kids apart and that's not the easiest thing. We've had to have a very detailed plan to do that. Summer has started off very odd. We are used to coming in and hugging on our kids and high fiving them and we can't do those things.

That's a little disheartening right now. But everybody is in the same boat. Hopefully, we can get to Phase 3 and lighten the restrictions and guidelines even more and get back to more normality."

Cummings added, "We thought we were going to start June 1, which I was fine with. Then when they announced we could get out here on May 26, we had to get on it. There was a sense of relief and excitement. My phone was

blowing up with kids texting and parents emailing. We are happy to be here and see the kids again."

Many other Knox County schools were scheduled to get back underway on Monday, June 1.

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# Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame announces 2020 inductees

By Ken Lay

The Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame recently announced its inductees for 2020 and the induction ceremony will be held on July 21.

The 39th annual ceremony will be broadcast on WBXX-TV.

This year's inductees include Todd Helton, Mike Murray, Stan Cotten, Gloria Deathridge, Clark Duncan, Andy Landers, Rob Black, Mark Connor, Steve Hamer and Randy Lambert.

Helton, a graduate of Central High School, played first base for the Colorado Rockies. He was the face of the franchise for 17 seasons. The Rockies retired his number (17).

He was a five-time National League All-Star and a three-time Gold Glove Award Winner. He led the league in runs batted in and won the NL batting title in 2000.

He had a lifetime batting average of .316 and belted 369 home runs during his Major League career.

At the University of Tennessee, Helton played baseball and football. He was an All-America performer on the diamond and won the Dick Howser Award in 1995 as the best collegiate baseball player in the country. He pitched and played first base for the Volunteers.

Murray is the general manager of the Knoxville Ice Bears and was a professional hockey player. During his playing career, he tallied 424 goals and dished out 484 assists. He spent part of his playing career in Knoxville, playing for the Cherokees, the city's East Coast Hockey League franchise between 1990-1995.

Cotten is the Voice of Wake Forest Athletics and has been

working in sports media for 40 years, spending the last 24 with the Demon Deacons.

He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and Farragut High School. While at UT, Cotten served as the sports director at WIVK and was the weekend sports anchor at WTVK/WKXT-TV.

He began his college broadcasting career at Carson-Newman University and later moved to Marshall. He has been recognized multiple times as Tennessee and North Carolina Broadcaster of the Year.

Deathridge, nee Gloria Scott, played basketball for the Lady Vols between 1971-1974. She played high school basketball for Bradley Central, where she won a state championship in 1970.

She began her career at Tennessee playing for coach Margaret Hutson at a time when players were recruited once they got on campus.

She was a member of the Knox County Board of Education and she was inducted into the Greater Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame in 2020.

Duncan, the football coach and athletic director at South-Doyle, played for the Vols under Johnny Majors and was an All-Southeastern Conference defensive back. He was an All-America performer at Unicoi High School where he excelled in both football and track and field.

He began his coaching career as an assistant at Fulton High School under Steve Brewer. There, he coached Robbie Black, a quarterback, wide receiver and defensive back. He later coached at Powell High. He was there for 17 years before moving on to South Knoxville.

Black will join one of his mentors in the 2020 induction class. As a head coach at Fulton, he has won 91 games and guided his alma mater to three state championships.

Landers, the longtime women's basketball coach at the University of Georgia, hails from Maryville and began his coaching career at Roane State.

He coached for 36 seasons and won more than 800 games before retiring in 2015. He currently works for ESPN.

Connor, a former Tennessee

baseball coach, was a Major League pitching coach for the Baltimore Orioles, Texas Rangers, Toronto Blue Jays, Arizona Diamond Backs and New York Yankees.

He was UT's pitching coach (1974-1978) and was the Vols' head coach from 1989-1990.

Hamer was a basketball player for the Vols. He was a 7-footer. He never played on a winning team in Knoxville. He did, however, play for the Boston Celtics.

He played for Wade Houston and Kevin O'Neill on Rocky Top.

He works at UT and recently graduated from the school.

Lambert was the head basketball coach at Maryville College. With the Scots men's basketball team, he won more than 700 games and guided the team to 20 NCAA Division III Tournament appearances.

Dustin Colquitt and Chad Pennington are the Professional Athletes of the Year. Trey Smith will receive the Pat Summitt Ignite Courage Award and Buck Jones will receive a Special Recognition Award.

## Trumm and Trusley

Cont. from page 2

quarterfinals. In addition, he racked up 2,945 total yards and 35 touchdowns in helping lead Coach Matt Lowe's Panthers to the Region 3-5A title.

The 6-2, 180-pounder also set three PHS career records as a three-year starter: total offense (7,223 yards), passing yards (5,932) and passing touchdowns (59).

Trusley's senior year of baseball was cut short due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Walker is a tremendous young man that has contributed in many ways to the successes of both

Powell baseball and Powell football," said Josh Warner, who was in his first season as Powell's head baseball coach this spring.

"Walker has an extremely bright future ahead of him playing baseball for ETSU and I could not be more proud of Walker for all of the hard work and commitment he has displayed and that ultimately led to his success in the classroom and on the field."

Trusley could see playing time with the Buccaneers as a pitcher, shortstop or third baseman, because he's such a good contact hitter at the plate.

## Cassie Norris

Cont. from page 2

Halls High and Halls Volleyball very well!"

Tucker Jackson, Halls' athletic director, addressed Norris' academics.

"Cassie is the perfect representation of a student-athlete," he said. "Her GPA is over 4.0 and

she represented Halls with class on the court and field.

"I am confident that she would have led Halls softball very far this postseason. Cassie most certainly has a very bright future in whatever she decides to do in life and we are so proud of her!"

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**SHINING THE BRIGHTEST IN TRYING TIMES**

**High school athletes are back to work**

By Mark Nagi

Tuesday, May 26 was a big day for some Knox County football teams. The high school fields were once again busy, as teams began the process of resuming organized workouts in anticipation of the 2020 season. "It's been different," said Grace Christian Academy head coach Rusty Bradley. "When we got out for Spring Break on March 16, we had no idea that we wouldn't be coming back to school. I think we did the best that we could with it. We gave them workouts to do on their own the first four to five weeks. We made a challenge out of it to post funny videos on twitter. Then the last five weeks we did team Zoom workouts. I think our guys did a good job with that, but unfortunately that isn't the same as being in the weight room."

Bradley added, "Coming back and getting in the weight room will take some adjustment. We are basically back where we were in February instead of building on what we did between February and the end of May. We are behind but I think because of what our guys did we can get back quickly."

Over at South-Doyle, the Cherokees were like other teams, giving enough space on the field and working on conditioning last week. There will be a time for footballs to be through the pads to crunch. That time isn't now.

"While we have been off, we tried to stay in touch with players through our Remind app and texting," said South-Doyle head coach Clark Duncan. "We encouraged them to do things, but they

**Continue on page 3**



Jake Parris was a workhorse for Halls in 2019 and Coach Scott Cummings said: "His per carry average of 9.2 yards is stuff of legends."

**Red Devils' Parris had a football season to remember**

By Steve Williams

Jake Parris' 2019 football season was probably his last. But it was a mighty good one.

The Halls running back was named the Offensive Back of the Year in Region 2-5A after racking

up 1,855 all-purpose yards and 19 total touchdowns in his senior campaign. Defensively, he had 63 tackles, seven TFLs, one interception and one fumble recovery.

For his efforts, Jake was selected Halls' male

Student-Athlete of the Year.

"Jake is simply a football player in every sense," said Scott Cummings after his first season as the Red Devils' head coach. "He is tough, physical, strong, fast with good hands, too.

"His per carry average of 9.2 yards is stuff of legends. Almost a first down every time he touched it. Sure wish I had another Jake coming back."

Parris' numbers indeed were attractive enough to get the attention of college

recruiters, but Jake indicated earlier he had a plan for the future that didn't include football.

He will be enrolling in an electrical school in the fall and plans to own and operate his own business in **Continue on page 3**

**Defense is name of the game for Megan Turner**

By Steve Williams

Megan Turner had a school record 1,247 digs in her high school volleyball career at Gibbs. That should tell you what kind of player she is.

"A dig is when a player prevents the ball from hitting the floor after a kill or serve from the opposing team," explained Gibbs Coach Sarah Sharp. "Or it's a defensive move or a pass to the setter if possible."

In other words, Turner was a defensive specialist, and made the Tennessee Sports Writers

Association's Class AA All-State team at the libero position following her senior campaign. She thrived on keeping the ball alive.

Defense was actually a big part of both of Megan's games at Gibbs.

The three-time All-District 4-AA volleyball honoree was twice named her district's Defensive Player of the Year.

In softball, Turner, a second baseman, made the All-District 3-AA team in 2019 plus received the Lady Eagles' Golden Glove Award.

Gibbs' female Student-Athlete of the Year for 2019-20 signed with Middle Tennessee State University in volleyball. She also had a scholarship offer to play softball at Lincoln Memorial University.

Megan acquired her love of sports naturally. Both of her parents, in fact, coach at Gibbs. Her mom, Amanda Turner, has been an assistant in volleyball. Dad Brad Turner is an assistant in softball in addition to being head football coach.

"She has been playing ball her whole life," he noted.

In addition to her athletic talents, which included being named to the Region 2-AA all-tournament team twice, Turner graduated with a 4.3 grade point average and was a member of the National Honor Society.

"What most impresses me about Megan is her commitment to her team and teammates, the fact that she is a 'coachable' player, and her respect for her coaches and team, which has led to her success as a student-athlete," said Coach Sharp.

**Continued on page 3**



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## SHINING THE BRIGHTEST IN TRYING TIMES

# Team came first for Halls honoree Cassie Norris

By Steve Williams

Both of Cassie Norris' high school coaches at Halls talked about how her contributions to the team came before anything else.

That's a high compliment for the school's female Student-Athlete of the Year, who played softball and volleyball and signed a softball scholarship with the University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg.

"Cassie is the true definition of a team player," led off Bryan Gordon, Halls' softball coach. "She always put the team ahead of herself and did what we asked of her to make the team better.

"She started at first base her freshman and sophomore years, then moved to left field last year. And this year, when we needed her to pitch, she worked hard over the off-season to be ready for that challenge."

Unfortunately, Norris' and the Lady Red Devils' 2020 season was halted early by the coronavirus pandemic.

Cassie and many of her teammates, however, can look back at the 2019 campaign with fond memories, as the Lady Red Devils made their first appearance at the Spring Fling for the first time since 2002.

Halls also made a strong showing at the state, battling back to take third place after losing a 3-1 decision to eventual Class AAA state champion Jefferson County in its tourney opener.

The Lady Red Devils responded with three straight wins before finally going down 2-1 at the



*Halls High graduate Cassie Norris will continue her education and athletic career in softball at USC Upstate.*

hands of Siegel in the losers' bracket finals.

Norris, hitting out of the No. 3 hole in the batting order, went 4 for 15 at the state with five RBI and a home run to account for Halls' only run in the close loss to Siegel.

"Cassie has been a staple in the middle of our lineup for the last four years, leading us in most offensive categories every season," added Coach Gordon. "We will definitely miss her, but I look forward to following her career at USC Upstate!"

Halls volleyball coach Hollie Kilgore said: "Cassie is a very hard worker and was voted captain by her teammates. She pushes others to be their best by her actions. Cassie is a great student-athlete, getting the job done on and off the court. She represents

**Continue on page 4**



*Ethan Humphries "is everything you want in a student-athlete" said Gibbs Coach Brad Turner.*

# Ethan Humphries 'gave his all' at Gibbs High

By Steve Williams

On Friday nights, Ethan Humphries reminded many football fans of the days when the game had big, strong fullbacks.

Give him the ball and let him go to work.

As the game wore on, Humphries seemed to get stronger and harder to bring down.

But there is so much more to this young man.

"Ethan is a class act," said Brad Turner, Gibbs High head football coach and Strength and Conditioning teacher. "He is everything you want in a student-athlete."

It's no wonder Humphries is the school's male Student-Athlete of the Year.

"He is very motivated and pushes himself to be the best on and off the field," said Turner. "That starts at home with his parents. Ethan and his brother Wyatt both played at Gibbs and they are very mannerly and 'yes sir, no sir' guys. Their parents were

very involved in our program and this community."

A powerful running back, Humphries (5-10, 220) was a four-year letterman and team captain for the Eagles.

As a senior, he rushed for 1,433 yards and 14 touchdowns and was named to the All-Region 2-5A team for the second time.

Ethan also earned a first-team spot on The Knoxville Focus / Coaches' All-Knox County team.

Humphries will continue his football career at Centre College, a NCAA Division III school in Danville, Ky. The Colonels are members of the Southern Athletic Association.

"Ethan was dependable for us," said Coach Turner. "He took care of his body and really excelled in the weight room and conditioning his body to play a lot of snaps.

"Ethan was a very physical player and especially late in games he seemed to have more in his tank than anybody else."

That's just what you saw on Friday nights.

Humphries was a three-time Eagle of the Month inside the school.

He was in the National Honor Society, the National Technical Honor Society, a Student Government Association Vice President and a Spanish Honor Society Vice President.

Ethan also was a Link Up Executive Board member, which involved helping incoming freshmen with how to go about high school. He was a HOSA member, which deals with health science. He has a CNA license (Certified nurse assistant). And last but not least, he's a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"Ethan's academics speak for themselves," added Turner. "He has a 4.3 GPA and in all honors classes. He managed his time and gave his all to everything he was involved in.

"From what I understand, he wants to be a surgeon and major in pre-med."

# Trumm and Trusley have record-setting years at Powell

By Steve Williams

Bailey Trumm made news on the state scene this past winter as she became the all-time leader in making 3-point shots in TSSAA girls basketball.

The 5-7 Powell guard is now in the state record book with 416 treys, moving past Wilson Central product Kendall Spray, who totaled 390 from 2012 through 2016.

Trumm, the PHS female Student-Athlete of the Year, will be continuing her education and basketball career at Appalachian State University.

Walker Trusley is Powell's male honoree. The two-sport standout, who signed a baseball scholarship with East Tennessee State University, led the Panthers to a 10-0 regular season in football and had a record-setting year himself at quarterback.

"What a great honor for Bailey Trumm," said Powell girls basketball coach John Fisher of the student-athlete award. "Bailey is so deserving and displays the type of work ethic that a coach desires in their players.

"For all of her athletic accomplishments, which

have been well documented, she was also ranked No. 5 academically at PHS with a 4.3 GPA.

"I totally admire the job that Jennifer and Will have done raising an incredible daughter. I will miss her but look forward to seeing all the great things Bailey is going to do as an alumna of Powell High."

Bailey also was a finalist for Class AAA Miss Basketball in Tennessee.

Trusley threw for 2,342 yards and 27 touchdowns - both single season school records - as Powell reached the Class 5A state

**Continued on page 4**



*Walker Trusley was a two-sport standout in football and baseball during his prep career at Powell. ETSU signed him to play baseball starting next season.*



PHOTO BY TRACY HEARD

*Powell High's Bailey Trumm put her name in the TSSAA record book this season with her career 416 3-point baskets.*

# THSSCA to host state tournament in July

By Ken Lay  
When the coronavirus pandemic bought a premature end to the 2019-20 school year and the 2020 spring sports season, all high school boys soccer teams saw their campaign end before ever really got started.

Farragut will play as Admirals FC. Bearden will use the moniker Bulldogs FC and like Dover, Bearden coach Ryan Radcliffe won't be on the sidelines.

"I was advised by my athletic director not to coach the team in the tournament," said Radcliffe, who guided the Bulldogs to the 2019 TSSAA Class AAA State Championship. "I won't be there and Ray probably won't be either. I don't want to get a TSSAA violation."

"Every player will be given two tickets because they're trying to limit the number of people up there. I will go try to watch a game if I'm not busy with my girls team. "I didn't get to see my team play much this spring."

Bearden played just one regular-season match in 2020 while Farragut played two. Bulldogs FC is the tournament's No. 4 seed and Admirals FC is the fifth seed based on rankings by the coaches. The two West Knox County rivals will tangle in a first-round game on July 9 at 3 p.m.

Other teams in the championship flight include Bison FC (Station Camp), Dragons TTB (Collierville), Bruins (Brentwood), Commandos (Hendersonville), Rebels (Franklin) and Mustangs (Germantown Houston).

Also in Class AAA: West High will compete as Rebels FC in Flight 2. They'll open against Indians (Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett) at 12:30 p.m. on July 9.

In Class AA, Bobcats FC (Central) will play Yellow Jackets (Fairview) at 5:30 p.m. on July 9.

Cherokees (South-Doyle) will play Redskins FC (Loudon) at 5:30 on a different field.

In Class A: Roadrunners FC (Austin-East) will play Patriots (Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences) at 8 p.m.

Registrations are still being taken for the Division II-A and Division II-AA State Tournaments.

That obviously didn't sit too well with the Tennessee High School Soccer Coaches Association.

Many schools in the Volunteer State are having late graduation ceremonies and junior/senior proms.

So why not have a state high school soccer tournament?

And so it will be.

Gatlinburg-Pittman High School and the THSSCA will host state championships for Division I Schools from July 9-11 and Division II Schools from July 13-15 at the Rocky Top Sports World Complex in Gatlinburg.

There will be three flights in Class AAA with Bearden and Farragut playing in the Championship Flight. West High will play in Flight 2. There are no Knoxville teams in Flight 3.

Since the tournament is not sanctioned by the TSSAA, teams may not wear school jerseys or use school names. They can, however, use mascot names.

Also, coaches in the Knox County Schools system will not be allowed to coach their teams.

"I can't coach my team and I hate that," said Farragut coach Ray Dover. "But it is what it is."

"I think this will be a lot of fun for the guys. It should be a good tournament. The guys wanted to do this. So they put things together and we have some parents with coaching experience and they're willing to coach the guys. Although we will have four or five guys who won't be there. I can't coach per Knox County rules that prohibit us from coaching a club team with our players on it."

## Farragut's Swartzentruber retires as middle school coach

By Ken Lay  
One of Knox County's longest-serving and most successful middle school basketball coaches is retiring from the game.

from coaching and noted that he thought about retirement the past few years.

"I just thought it was time," Swartzentruber said. "I coached some great teams and I had some great kids. But I just thought that it was time for me to go home after school."

"My kids are getting older now and they're doing a lot more different things and my wife and I, we like to travel, but I'll still be around. I told (Farragut principal Wes) Edmonds that I would still be around and that I'd do anything I needed to, to help out."

At the time of his retirement from basketball, Swartzentruber was the dean of Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference coaches, and last season, he coached his son Brevin, who was an eighth-grader.

The coach said that he had some great years at Farragut Middle, where he will remain a math teacher.

"This is something that I enjoyed," he said. "And Farragut is a great place to teach and coach. You have great kids here. I know I enjoyed it and I hope the kids enjoyed it and I hope that we all learned something."

"It's the kids that you miss the most and you always have a good group coming up. But I enjoy teaching math and I think that I would enjoy teaching any subject."

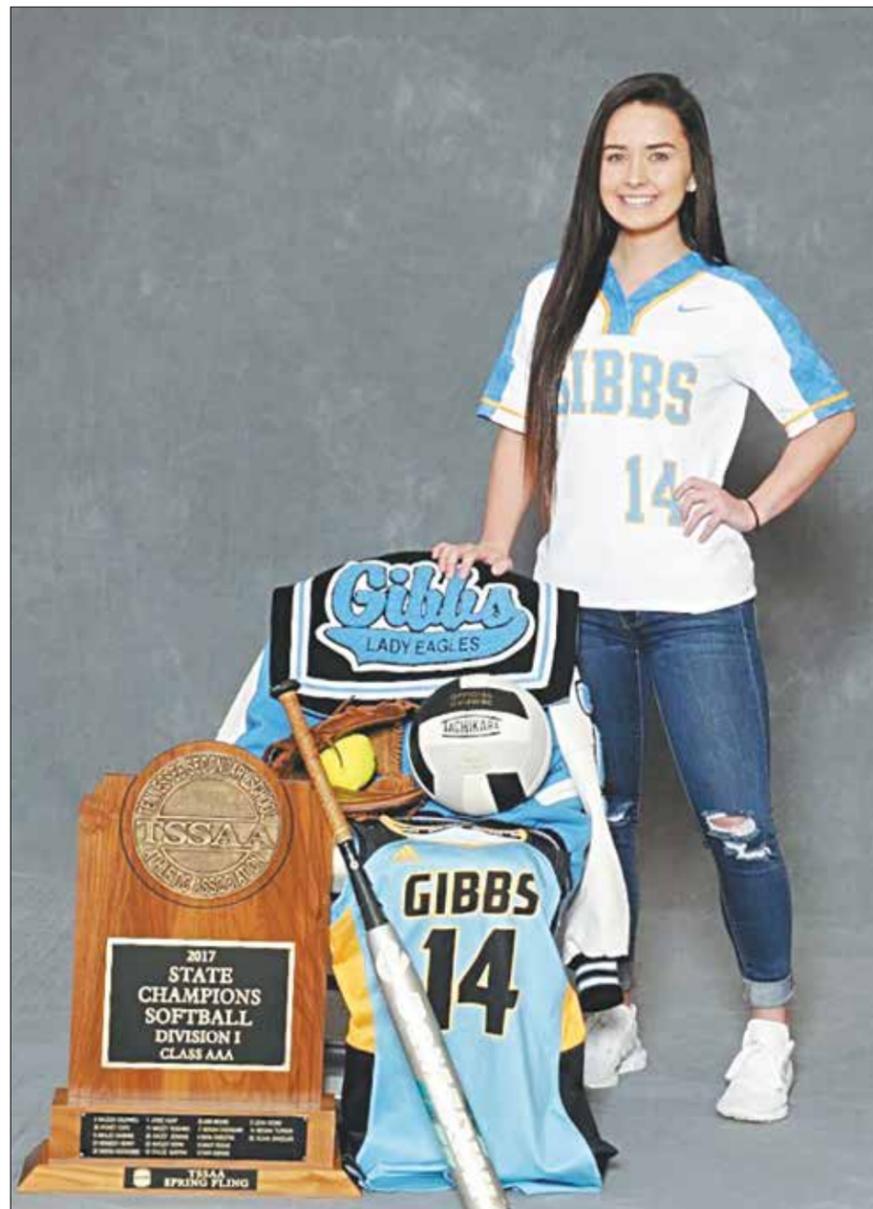
Randy "Swartz" Swartzentruber announced his retirement from coaching early last week after serving for nearly two decades as Farragut Middle School's boys basketball coach.

Swartzentruber, who took over the Admirals' program for the 2001-2002 season and had a run that included a James A. Ivey Jr. Memorial Middle School Basketball Tournament Championship in 2009 and another championship game appearance in 2018, said it was time for him to move on

and the Lady Eagles also reached the state tournament in 2018 and 2019.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Turner missed most of her senior season with Coach Carol Mitchell's highly regarded program but was among 5-Star Preps' 2020 "Softball Players to Watch."

Turner plans to major in occupational therapy at MTSU.



It's easy to see Megan Turner is a ball player, but she also excelled in the classroom and is Gibbs High's female Student-Athlete of the Year.

## Defense is name of the game for Megan Turner

Cont. from page 1

"We talked to the MTSU coaches when they were recruiting her. I shared with their staff that Megan is a dedicated student-athlete and will be an asset to any program she joins."

"Megan has been a big contributor in elevating the volleyball program at Gibbs, and I look forward to seeing what she will accomplish at MTSU."

Turner played a key role

in the Lady Eagles going 27-9 overall and 8-0 in district play as a junior in 2018.

Turner also was a two-year captain for Gibbs volleyball, was named to the TACA All-Academic team in both sports in 2019 and was a Johnny Mauer Award winner this year.

Megan was a freshman player on Gibbs' Class AAA state championship softball team in 2017. She

and the Lady Eagles also reached the state tournament in 2018 and 2019.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Turner missed most of her senior season with Coach Carol Mitchell's highly regarded program but was among 5-Star Preps' 2020 "Softball Players to Watch."

Turner plans to major in occupational therapy at MTSU.

## Red Devils' Parris had a football season to remember

Cont. from page 1

the future and work with his brother Luke, who is a licensed contractor.

"Jake said from the beginning he was going into family construction business," said Coach Cummings. "Within that he will be doing their electrical side. So because he

said that from the beginning, they (recruiters) all backed off of course. But Tennessee Tech, Western Carolina, Carson-Newman, etcetera, had shown a lot of interest. Tennessee Tech came to watch him in practice and loved him."

Halls Athletic Director Tucker Jackson said Parris, who was listed at 6-1 and

185 pounds last season, had a "tremendous year" in leading the Red Devils to a playoff berth last fall.

"I haven't seen many athletes as tough as Jake," added Jackson. "He played through injuries and was a great leader on the field and in the school as well. Halls High will miss Jake!"

## High school athletes are back to work

Cont. from page 1  
are limited. Some had weights and some didn't. The good thing is we are back. We are excited. We have managed it. There is a lot of anxiety with the unknown. We just tried to be even keel and tell them to make sure they are social distancing and wanted them to lift and run as much as they could. Just trying to stay positive."

blowing up with kids texting and parents emailing. We are happy to be here and see the kids again."

Many other Knox County schools were scheduled to get back underway on Monday, June 1.

In North Knox County, the Halls Red Devils are hoping to build on a 2019 season which saw them advance to the Class 5A playoffs. Last November seems like a lifetime ago.

"It's a really odd feeling being out here," said Halls head coach Scott Cummings. "We are trying to social distance

and keep kids apart and that's not the easiest thing. We've had to have a very detailed plan to do that. Summer has started off very odd. We are used to coming in and hugging on our kids and high fiving them and we can't do those things.

That's a little disheartening right now. But everybody is in the same boat. Hopefully, we can get to Phase 3 and lighten the restrictions and guidelines even more and get back to more normality."

Cummings added, "We thought we were going to start June 1, which I was fine with. Then when they announced we could get out here on May 26, we had to get on it. There was a sense of relief and excitement. My phone was

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# Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame announces 2020 inductees

By Ken Lay

The Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame recently announced its inductees for 2020 and the induction ceremony will be held on July 21.

The 39th annual ceremony will be broadcast on WBXX-TV.

This year's inductees include Todd Helton, Mike Murray, Stan Cotten, Gloria Deathridge, Clark Duncan, Andy Landers, Rob Black, Mark Connor, Steve Hamer and Randy Lambert.

Helton, a graduate of Central High School, played first base for the Colorado Rockies. He was the face of the franchise for 17 seasons. The Rockies retired his number (17).

He was a five-time National League All-Star and a three-time Gold Glove Award Winner. He led the league in runs batted in and won the NL batting title in 2000.

He had a lifetime batting average of .316 and belted 369 home runs during his Major League career.

At the University of Tennessee, Helton played baseball and football. He was an All-America performer on the diamond and won the Dick Howser Award in 1995 as the best collegiate baseball player in the country. He pitched and played first base for the Volunteers.

Murray is the general manager of the Knoxville Ice Bears and was a professional hockey player.

During his playing career, he tallied 424 goals and dished out 484 assists. He spent part of his playing career in Knoxville, playing for the Cherokees, the city's East Coast Hockey League franchise between 1990-1995.

Cotten is the Voice of Wake Forest Athletics and has been

working in sports media for 40 years, spending the last 24 with the Demon Deacons.

He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and Farragut High School. While at UT, Cotten served as the sports director at WIVK and was the weekend sports anchor at WTVK/WKXT-TV.

He began his college broadcasting career at Carson-Newman University and later moved to Marshall. He has been recognized multiple times as Tennessee and North Carolina Broadcaster of the Year.

Deathridge, nee Gloria Scott, played basketball for the Lady Vols between 1971-1974. She played high school basketball for Bradley Central, where she won a state championship in 1970.

She began her career at Tennessee playing for coach Margaret Hutson at a time when players were recruited once they got on campus.

She is a member of the Knox County Board of Education and she was inducted into the Greater Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame in 2020.

Duncan, the football coach and athletic director at South-Doyle, played for the Vols under Johnny Majors and was an All-Southeastern Conference defensive back. He was an All-America performer at Unicoi High School where he excelled in both football and track and field.

He began his coaching career as an assistant at Fulton High School under Steve Brewer. There, he coached Robbie Black, a quarterback, wide receiver and defensive back. He later coached at Powell High. He was there for 17 years before moving on to South Knoxville.

Black will join one of his mentors in the 2020 induction class. As a head coach at Fulton, he has won 91 games and guided his alma mater to three state championships.

Landers, the longtime women's basketball coach at the University of Georgia, hails from Maryville and began his coaching career at Roane State.

He coached for 36 seasons and won more than 800 games before retiring in 2015. He currently works for ESPN.

Connor, a former Tennessee

baseball coach, was a Major League pitching coach for the Baltimore Orioles, Texas Rangers, Toronto Blue Jays, Arizona Diamond Backs and New York Yankees.

He was UT's pitching coach (1974-1978) and was the Vols' head coach from 1989-1990.

Hamer was a basketball player for the Vols. He was a 7-footer. He never played on a winning team in Knoxville. He did, however, play for the Boston Celtics.

He played for Wade Houston and Kevin O'Neill on Rocky Top.

He works at UT and recently graduated from the school.

Lambert was the head basketball coach at Maryville College. With the Scots men's basketball team, he won more than 700 games and guided the team to 20 NCAA Division III Tournament appearances.

Dustin Colquitt and Chad Pennington are the Professional Athletes of the Year. Trey Smith will receive the Pat Summitt Ignite Courage Award and Buck Jones will receive a Special Recognition Award.

## Trumm and Trusley

Cont. from page 2

quarterfinals. In addition, he racked up 2,945 total yards and 35 touchdowns in helping lead Coach Matt Lowe's Panthers to the Region 3-5A title.

The 6-2, 180-pounder also set three PHS career records as a three-year starter: total offense (7,223 yards), passing yards (5,932) and passing touchdowns (59).

Trusley's senior year of baseball was cut short due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Walker is a tremendous young man that has contributed in many ways to the successes of both

Powell baseball and Powell football," said Josh Warner, who was in his first season as Powell's head baseball coach this spring.

"Walker has an extremely bright future ahead of him playing baseball for ETSU and I could not be more proud of Walker for all of the hard work and commitment he has displayed and that ultimately led to his success in the classroom and on the field."

Trusley could see playing time with the Buccaneers as a pitcher, shortstop or third baseman, because he's such a good contact hitter at the plate.

## Cassie Norris

Cont. from page 2

Halls High and Halls Volleyball very well!"

Tucker Jackson, Halls' athletic director, addressed Norris' academics.

"Cassie is the perfect representation of a student-athlete," he said. "Her GPA is over 4.0 and

she represented Halls with class on the court and field.

"I am confident that she would have led Halls softball very far this post-season. Cassie most certainly has a very bright future in whatever she decides to do in life and we are so proud of her!"

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