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Style that Works Beautifully

From the Editor

Separating the trash from the treasures

Living in a COVID quarantine has provided extra time to think, create, declutter and get a renewed sense of purpose. That's been the case with me, anyway, and when I resumed working in my den, I found a way to combine all four.

Those who read my now twice-monthly column in The Daily Times will be nodding your heads when I mention the infamous den. It's the place where I store papers, photos, books, memorabilia, genealogical and historical materials, and whatever else I find interesting. It's also the place where my children have told me that they fully expect to come in one day and find me buried under a stack of my "treasures," so with the slowing down of life after COVID struck last March, I decided to surprise them and actually get rid of some of the excess and organize the rest.

The first wave of organization was quite successful. I forgot to keep count, but more than 10 bags of trash were discarded either by recycling the contents or putting them in the garbage. The things I kept were properly stored in file folders or notebooks and put in file drawers or on bookshelves. It was glorious! I was doing a little bit almost every day and seeing the fruits of my labors.

Then, everything stopped. A bout with what my doctor later told me he suspected was COVID put an abrupt end to anything other than the most necessary of tasks. Even some of those necessary tasks took a back seat to lying on the couch wondering if it was time to call 911. Thank God, that was unnecessary. I eventually got back to semi-normal although my sense of taste has still not completely returned.

The following weeks kept me busy with other things so I decided to get back to decluttering after the first of the year. So far, so good — and this is where decluttering, thinking, creating and finding new purpose came together, all bound up in one when I found a handmade journal purchased from a craft show a couple of years ago. I had already rediscovered a lot of random photos, brochures, little notes and ephemera and such that I'd kept but didn't know quite what to do with; the journal was the perfect place to put them.

I started gluing things in the journal in random order, not trying to stay chronological, and writing a little bit about them. The process was simple and quick, just what I needed as a time to bring back memories of people, places and things that have meant so much to me. That "junk journal" is almost full now, and I've been doing YouTube searches on how to make them for myself and to give as gifts to friends and family. They can be made as mine was, using cardboard cereal boxes prettied up with scrapbook

paper and sewing in different types of papers using a pamphlet stitch, or taking a book and altering it. The uses are endless for projects such as this.

I have thoroughly enjoyed this new endeavor. The best thing about it is putting those little things you keep in a treasure box out where they can be easily seen and relived all over again. One of my favorite little pieces is from a friend and co-worker at The Daily Times, my buddy, the late Paul Bales. He had drawn a picture of a heart and scribbled "Happy Valentine's Day, Paul" on a piece of paper from a reporter's notebook. Whenever I see it, I think of Paul's big smile and bigger heart as he served this community, best known as chairman of the Empty Pantry Fund.

Memories. They are more and more precious as the years go by, aren't they?

Linda Braden Albert

Linda Braden Albert
Editor



We would love to hear your ideas and feedback
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Just Purrrrrfect

It's all about the CATS for Brenda Clark

By Linda Braden Albert



Feral

Brenda Clark loves cats. In fact, Clark said, "I am the 'Crazy Cat Lady'—I have hundreds of cats!"

Before you think this is a cat-astrophe waiting to happen, Clark quickly explains that her cats require no food, water or veterinary care, and they do not shed. Instead, they are treasures she has found while exploring thrift shops with a friend and range from 1-inch tall to life-sized, made from fabric, ceramic, plasticine, metal, wood, etc.

The tally is impressive. On a recent census-taking mission at her Maryville home, Clark said, "I counted 494 cats — plus 261 cats on just one pillow case — plus 50 children's books about cats with cat pictures on every page — plus socks, afghans, kitchen towels, earrings, calendar, puzzles, deck of cards, etc., etc., etc." The "etc." includes fridge magnets, quilts, cat clothing and accessories, cat gloves that glow in the dark, cat car mats, and what she calls her "seasonal cats."

"There are three cats sitting on a bench, and they all have their hands holding something," Clark said. In winter, they hold mittens; in spring, yellow, purple and blue flowers; in

summer, for Memorial Day and July 4, red, white and blue flowers; in fall, gold and yellow flowers; when it's football time in Tennessee, they hold orange pennants; and at Christmas, they hold gold stars. "I'm sure originally they were all holding fishing poles, but those are long gone," she said.

But this barely scratches the surface of her collection.

"I have cats in every single room of the house," she said. "Some are high, some are low. Some are just kind of tucked away."

Clark has a few rules when she goes on the hunt. "No fluffy cats, no Siamese, no dressed in people's clothes," she said. "I just want a regular old average cat."

All but a couple of the adoptees are from thrift stores and they have to "speak" to Clark before she buys them. "I don't get every cat that comes along," she explained. "It's an instant feeling, an instant 'yep' or an instant 'nope.' I don't know — it's just an instant bond. Probably my biggest risk was this little gray cat that looked like a bedraggled feral. He even smelled bad. So I said, 'I'm taking you home and I'm giving you a bath.' I put it in the washing machine, and

when it came out, it looked so cute and it smelled so good! That one is named Feral."

Her favorite one immediately struck a chord. Clark said, "Usually we'll take things to the front desk and kind of stockpile them. But this little kitty I could not put down. I carried her through the store the whole time. It's fabric, stuffed, a white kitty with a hand-embroidered face with a little blue flowery body. It's really sweet."

Books about cats figure prominently, as well. The title of one is "Millions of Cats."

"So I guess you could say I have 'millions of cats,' not just hundreds or thousands," Clark said.

Clark also wrote a cat story of her own. "It's one of those little kits, 'write your own fairy tale' type thing. All the pictures in it are things I printed off the internet and then I developed a story around it. The title is 'Cat Upon a Time.'"

How did she get cat-apulted into starting her collection?

"It all started when I was a single mom with three kids between 9 and 2, and a stray cat showed up in our yard," she explained. "I ignored it for a day, but the kids did not.

So we fed it milk. Then we got a flea collar. We brought it inside when it was cold at night." They named her Megan.

"We had a dining room table that had room for five, me and the three kids and one more place," she said. "So she would sit in this empty chair very daintily and follow the conversation all around. She would never, ever go for people food, never got up on the table; she would just follow the conversation. Whenever we'd watch TV, she'd sit on someone's lap and watch TV. If someone wasn't feeling good, she'd snuggle up close to them and just be there for comfort. Well, she lived to be 19. There's just no way you can replace a cat like that."

When Clark's younger daughter, who was raised with Megan, went to college and became allergic to cats, and Clark's son married a woman who is also allergic to cats, the writing was on the wall. After Megan passed away, "No more live cats for me," Clark said.

Collecting cats gives her a lot of joy. "I encourage people that when you find a little thing that fills a niche, just go with it," she said. "This is my thing, my little hobby."



More of Brenda Clark's cat collection, including cats of all sizes, a cat quilt, books, etc.



Brenda Clark holds her favorite cat



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Brenda Clark's seasonal cats



Cat Scrabble



Cat clothing

Photos courtesy of Brenda Clark

PROFILE Dr. Bryan Coker

Maryville College's 12th President

By Amy Blakely for Maryville College



The silicone bands around Dr. Bryan Coker's wrist represent things dear to his heart: family, serving students, and Maryville College.

He wears a dark blue band in memory of a Goucher College student who was killed by a drunk driver while crossing a campus street. "I walked with his family through the whole process, and I was in the room when they removed him from life support," Coker said.

A light blue band advocates suicide prevention. Coker lost his mother to suicide in 2016, after her lifelong struggle with mental illness.

His newest band, the green one, commemorates Maryville College's Mountain Challenge program. It's one of many things Coker has come to love about the College since becoming its 12th president.

Finding his niche

Coker grew up in Forest City in western North Carolina. His mother's family could trace their roots in the small town back to the Revolutionary War.

He was an only child, and his parents divorced when he was 6. He attended public school.

His stepfather — who died from ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease, when Coker was a college freshman — encouraged him to pursue a liberal arts education.

Coker set his sights on Rhodes College, a 2,000-student Presbyterian liberal arts college in Memphis. At Rhodes, Coker joined Kappa Sigma fraternity and began finding

"his people" — others who loved learning and wanted to make the world a better place. A psychology major, Coker found his niche studying college student development.

"I love the art of human interaction," he said. "I love watching how we bring people together in a college community who are from very different backgrounds."

In a sociology class during his junior year, Coker met the woman he would marry: Texas-born, Louisiana-raised Sara Barnette Coker.

"I finally got the courage to ask her out to a fraternity function," he said. They've been together ever since.

Life throws a curve

After finishing his master's degree at the University of South Carolina in 1997, Coker was hired as the fraternity affairs adviser at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Within two years, he was named director of student judicial affairs. He was only 25 — the youngest person in the office — and the first person without a law

degree to hold the position.

After six years at UT, Coker left to become dean of students at Jacksonville University in Florida, a private residential liberal arts university with about 3,000 students. There, he oversaw the construction of a residence hall and the university's first true student center. While showing a trustee around the unfinished student center, he described how he envisioned the space. She committed to funding the project on the spot.

*I love the art of
human interaction.
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we bring people together
in a college community
who are from very
different backgrounds.*

In 2008, after five years in Jacksonville, Coker was thinking about his next move — until a tragic accident put everything on hold.

The Cokers' daughter, Caroline, was 7 and their son, William, was 4. Sara was pregnant with their third child. The Cokers and Sara's parents were vacationing in Orange Beach, Ala. They'd gone out to dinner, taking two cars — Coker, Sara, and Caroline in one and Sara's parents and William following in another.

The Cokers had just returned to the beach house when their phone rang. Sara's parents' car had been hit head-on by an intoxicated driver. Sara's father died at the scene, and her mother was badly injured. William escaped with only bruises.

When the Cokers' third child was born later that year, they named him Chris, after Sara's father.

Also to honor her dad, who had worked in health care, the Cokers started a chapter of Solace for the Children, a humanitarian organization that brings children from Afghanistan to America for medical care. Over three years, 45 Afghan children came to Jacksonville and received \$10 million of medical care. The Cokers opened their home to three of the young patients.

Helping students find their voice

In 2013, Coker — who had completed his doctorate from UT in 2010 — was named vice president and dean of students at Goucher College, a 1,600-student liberal arts college near Baltimore, Md.

A pivotal moment of his tenure came in 2015, during racial unrest following the death of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old African-American who suffered a fatal spinal cord injury while being transported to jail after his arrest on weapons charges in Baltimore.

Goucher students joined the protests.

"I'll never forget following them around in my car," Coker said. "I'd tell the police, 'These are our students. I am here. They are here exercising their rights. If there is a problem, let me know.'"

When students penned a list of campus concerns, Coker met with them.

"Being with that campus on a journey of racial justice, I realized this is what I really wanted to do in my career — watch students find their voices."

While in Baltimore, Coker also taught at Morgan State University, a historically black university.

Work-life balance

The Cokers now have four children: Caroline, 19, a sophomore at Florida Southern College; William, 16, a sophomore at Maryville High School; Chris, 12, a sixth-grader at Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School; and Andrew, 6, a first-grader at Sam Houston Elementary School.

Although overseeing a college is more of a lifestyle than a



Coker family: (From left) Caroline, Sara, Bryan, Andrew, William and Chris Coker pose for a photo on the steps of their home in December.
Photos courtesy of Maryville College

career, Coker strives for a healthy work-life balance.

"I will outwork anyone," he said. "But I will also do my best to sit down and have dinner with my family. Once they're in bed, I'll get the laptop out and work some more."

When there's time, the family takes hikes and plays with their 11-year-old goldendoodle, Allie, and basset hound pup, Dolly. They also spend time working on their 100-year-old Barber-McMurray house, believed to be the first architect-designed house in Maryville. The family attends New Providence Presbyterian Church, and Coker is an ordained elder and liturgist in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Coker is both enthusiastic and optimistic about Maryville College's future.

"Even in the midst of this pandemic, we have incredible energy and momentum. Maryville College has been through a Civil War, two World Wars, and a past pandemic. We've got some resilience, some staying power. We're going to be OK."

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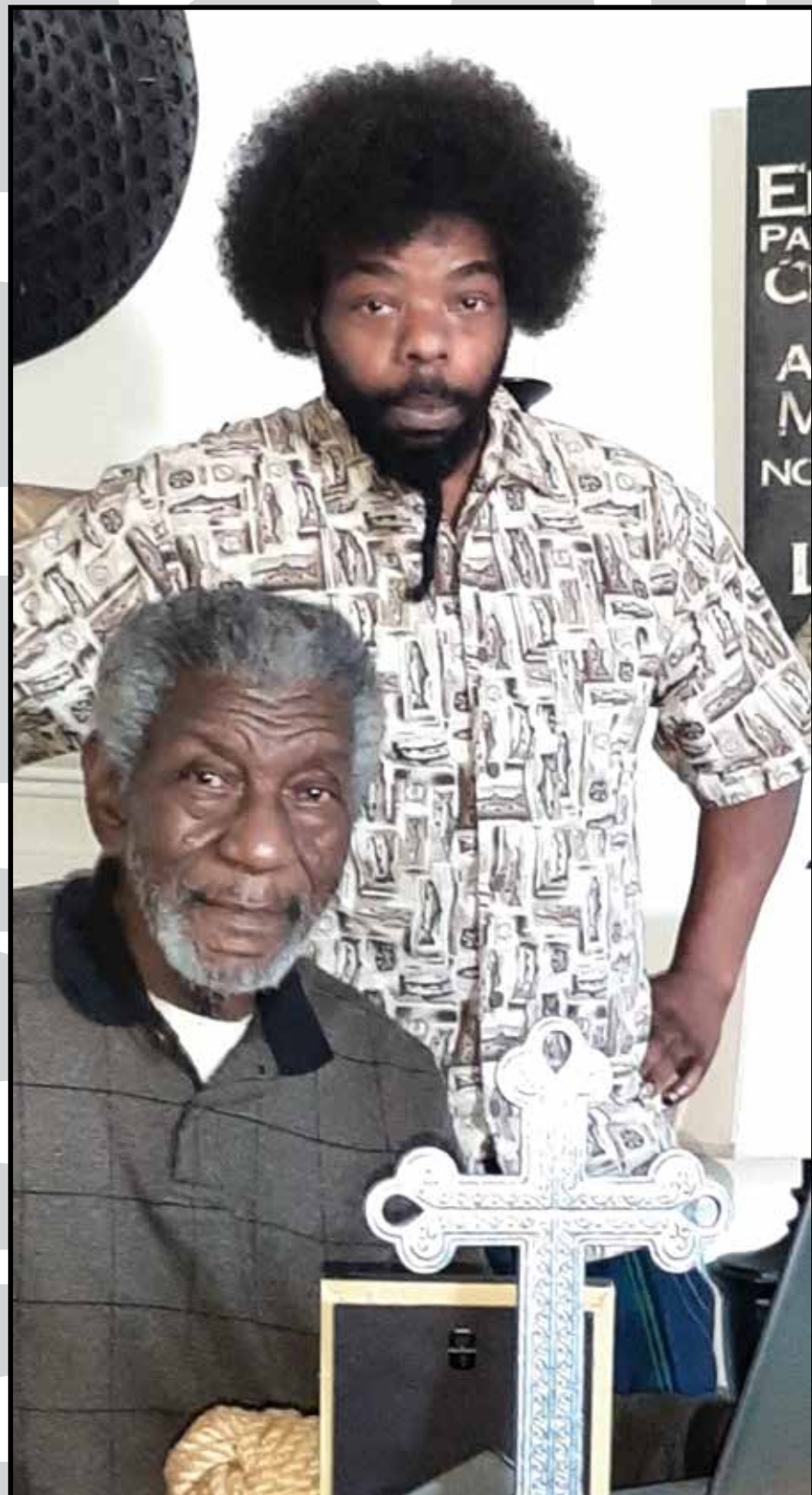
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Words Matter

By Lee Zimmerman



Alcoa poets Johnny Wilson (seated) and Michael Moss were chosen to read their works as part of the Philadelphia Says Black Lives Matter 2020 poetry reading in December.

Photo courtesy of Sara Moss

Two Alcoa poets share their stories

Words resonate, whether they come from a playwright, a folksinger or a president. They speak to truth, wisdom and a common humanity. Indeed, it matters little if voiced by the mighty or stated simply by the persecuted and oppressed.

In today's world, where division and dissent are prevalent and persistent, and awareness and understanding sometimes seem in short supply, words have more power than ever. They can seep into our consciousness, offer a signpost towards reason and resolve, and illuminate experiences that might otherwise escape our attention.

Poetry has always been a means of expressing the urgency and importance of issues that must be recognized and resolved. They can comfort or confront, challenge or chastise, but in the best of circumstances, they share unshakeable truths and allow us all to take notice.

Credit two Alcoa poets with recognizing the relevance and importance of that absolute expression. Michael Moss and Johnny Wilson are related by blood, but their work finds them intertwined in other ways as well, primarily through passion and purpose. The two men were chosen to read their works as part of the Philadelphia Says Black Lives Matter 2020 poetry reading contest that was presented on Zoom this past December.

Wilson's work, titled "The Law on Rape," is an insightful piece conveyed from the perspective of a woman that was victimized and violated, and then comes to realize that when the perpetrator is a person with wealth and power, justice isn't always served.

"I heard you bragging and boasting, about your manly pride, after you bruised my body and hurt me on the inside...There was no shame or regrets in the voice I heard, there was ridicule and harassment from the bully I heard."

It's a searing indictment of a system that marginalizes victims and lets abusers go free.

"I've seen so much abuse that's been shown on the news that I watch on TV," Wilson says. "All too often the victims receive no justice, no sympathy and the men that perpetrate these crimes simply go free. I have sisters and nieces, and I think about the world they live in and what they might be forced to endure. I believe that when you see people suffering, it's important to speak out. You have to put yourself in their place and speak to the truth."

Wilson says he began writing poetry while in military service. After sharing his work with the people that he served with, he was encouraged to keep the poetry coming. Ultimately, Wilson hopes that when people read this particular poem, they will encourage their sons to treat women respectfully, not inflict harm, exercise poor judgment or fall prey to peer pressure.

Moss, who is Wilson's nephew, began writing poetry when he was in school. His poem, "That's Just the Math" was written about an incident that took place 14 years ago, one that found him beaten, tased and physically abused while in police custody. Although it was originally incorporated into a song, his mother Sara convinced him to turn it into a poem that could express the anguish that he suffered while incarcerated.

"I prepared for war
Against my kind
Disrespected minds
Nevermind me, see me in back, center stage in 123
I have a mission..."

While Moss says he has made it his mission to write about life experiences, it's his faith in God that has allowed him to persevere. "God has my back," he insists. "I have no fear of what anyone can do to me."

Both of the men's poems were submitted to the Black Lives Matter poetry contest by Linda Goss, a Philadelphia Story Teller who is also Sara Moss' sister-in-law and originally from Alcoa. She was aware of Wilson's talent because her mother taught at a school that Wilson attended and was ultimately instrumental in getting his first book of poetry published.

Her gift allowed these gifts to be passed forward. As a result, the lessons still linger.

Editor's note: Johnny Wilson passed away on Feb. 28, 2021, prior to publication of this story. He was 78.

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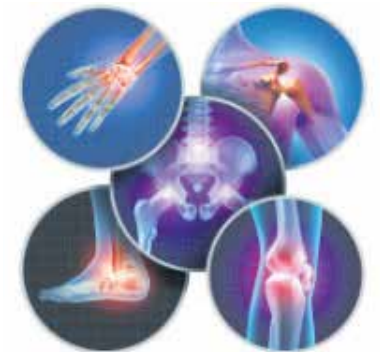


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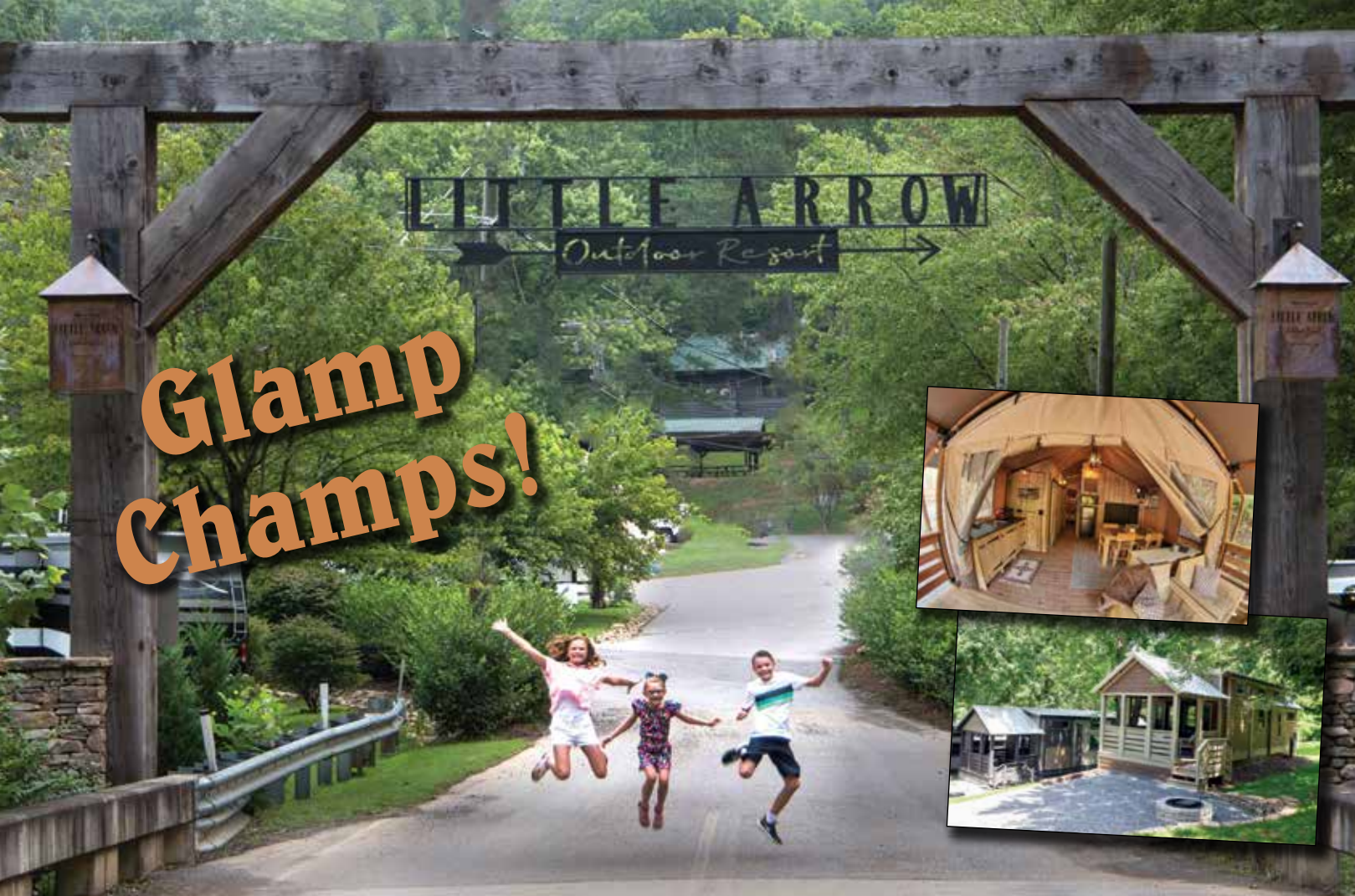


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**Glamp
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Little Arrow Outdoor Resort takes the outdoor experience to wider realms

By Lee Zimmerman



Here's a little lesson for those who still believe that the camping experience is all about pitching a tent, cramming into a sleeping bag, sleeping on the hard ground and warding off insects...or something worse. What was once euphemistically referred to as "roughing it" has now evolved into a luxury experience even in the midst of the great outdoors.

Welcome to the world of "glamping," the latest buzz word when it comes to meeting Mother Nature on her own terms, with creature comforts attached. A morphing of two words that once rarely went together — "glamor" and "camping" — the term, originally coined in 2005, represents the latest trend in the thriving recreational resort industry, one that's captured the attention of those who look to enjoy the camping experience but without the hassles that it traditionally entails.

The concept's been enthusiastically embraced by the folks that operate Little Arrow Outdoor Resort in Townsend, a popular pet-friendly travel destination that occupies 18 acres (and almost 40 undeveloped acres) adjacent to Little River and just before the entrance of Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Couples Carmen and Brad Simpher and Kevin and Chelly Clayton purchased the property formerly known as Tremont Campground at auction in 2017, changed the name and reopened as Little Arrow Outdoor Resort in April 2018.

Under their ownership the resort now provides a varied choice of accommodations — from two story luxury glamping tents, each equipped with heating and air conditioning, plush bedding, private bathroom, separate living spaces and a small kitchen — to 90 RV Sites, private cabins, tiny homes, airstreams, and luxury vacation homes.

In addition, an array of onsite amenities assures the ultimate in family-friendly hospitality. A fully equipped clubhouse and coffee

lounge, two bath houses, private hiking trails, a community fire pit, a natural garden, basketball court, horseshoe pit, and 24/7 laundry facilities cater to visitors' every need without having to leave the property.

Adding to the experience, new onsite construction was recently begun which will enhance the amenities that already exist. Marketing Director Cassie Simpher says that the effort is ongoing and will be completed this spring. Once completed, the resort will boast a new swimming pool area complete with a 12-person hot tub, a children's splash pad, a grotto and a waterfall. Other improvements will encompass a new pavilion that can accommodate up to 200 people, making it ideal for weddings, retreats and various events that are hosted throughout the year.

In addition, several new, deluxe pull-through RV motorcoach sites will also be opened, with buddy sites providing double hookups, paved parking pads and beautiful landscaping.

Given its emphasis on providing an upscale, all-inclusive environment, it's little wonder that Little Arrow Outdoor Resort was recently named the nation's number one Glamping Resort by USA Today.

With some 20,000 guests in their database and the ability to welcome 600 visitors at any one time, the resort — which is also pet-friendly — has come to attract a loyal, year-round following. "Our goal is to provide a unique experience for our guests that goes far beyond the traditional camping experience," Simpher says. "We want Little Arrow Outdoor Resort to be a place where people can have wonderful memories and share friendships that are renewed year after year."

Simpher says that most visitors come from within a six-hour or day's drive throughout East Tennessee, with the majority



Photos courtesy of Little Arrow Outdoor Resort

from Knoxville, Nashville and Atlanta. "We have also had some international guests come from Canada, Netherlands, New Brunswick, and Singapore," she adds.

Even as the construction continues, the resort continues to operate without any impediment or inconvenience. Simpher says that the pool area will be finished by May, just in time for the summer season.

"We cater to people who want a different kind of camping experience," Simpher says. "The upgrades and improvements we're making reflect our commitment to making memories that will last a lifetime."

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Getting Back to their Roots

The glory of gardening:
hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul.
— Alfred Austin

Gardening interest grows as people seek food sustainability

Spring is a time when gardening enthusiasts look forward to getting their hands in the soil and dreaming of the fruits and vegetables that will reward them for their efforts. In 2020 and 2021, however, that interest has reached a new high as more and more Blount Countians have turned to raising some of their own foods as a result of COVID-19.

John Wilson, director, UT-TSU—Blount County Extension, said that even in “normal” years, his office fields numerous inquiries from spring through summer about how to garden. “They come from novice gardeners all the way through to more experienced gardeners, on new varieties, how to maintain a garden, how to maintain orchards, tree fruits, as well as production of small fruit, like blueberries, strawberries, dewberries, blackberries, etc. But last year in 2020, with the advent of coronavirus, our call volume, emails and referrals really ramped up. From March last year well into summer, we saw probably 50- to 70%-increase in the volume of inquiries, particularly in the spring.”

Wilson believes the reasons for this include the number of people who were quarantined at home or working remotely because of COVID-mandated shutdowns and had the time to try gardening for the first time. “This, coupled with real and perceived shortages and hiccups in food supply, translated in heightened interest in folks becoming more self-sufficient or sustainable. And not only with vegetable and fruit production, but also interest and concerns over other food products, such as beef, poultry and eggs,” he said. “For a period with the coronavirus, there were backlogs with partial plant shutdowns in the meat processing industry and other aspects of the food supply chain. That also resulted in calls on where people could obtain beef products from local farmers. So not only were families producing their own fruits and vegetables, people living in town and residential communities were interested in where they could obtain locally produced beef, poultry, etc.”

Providing information

For those interested in gardening, Blount County Extension responded with site visits and providing information through a number of publications, particularly for the first-time or more novice gardeners. That continues in 2021 with publications such as Publication 901, “Growing Vegetables in Home Gardens.”

“Whether one is a novice or experienced gardener, it helps A to Z with the planting process, harvest and storage—all things gardening,” Wilson said. “It will highlight the times of the year that we can and should be planting, either starting from seeds or placing vegetable transplants into the garden.”

The guide breaks planting down into three areas: spring-planted, cool season crops such as lettuce, onions, cabbage and snow peas, most of which go in the ground from February to March, weather and soil conditions permitting; warm season vegetables such as tomatoes, sweet corn, peppers and okra which are

continued on page 18



Table 2. Guide to Warm-season Vegetables

Vegetable	Planting interval	Seed or plants per 100-foot row	Inches between rows	Inches between plants	Days to first harvest	Length of harvest season	Yield range per 100-foot row
Beans, Bush Snap	Apr. 10 to June 20	¼ lb. seed	24 to 36	3 to 4	52 to 60	2 weeks or more	80 to 120 lbs.
Beans, Pole Snap	Apr. 10 to June 20	¼ lb. seed	36 to 48	3 to 4	60 to 65	5 to 6 weeks	100 to 150 lbs.
Beans, Bush Lima	May or June	½ lb. seed	24 to 36	3 to 4	65 to 75	3 weeks	20 to 30 lbs. shelled
Beans, Pole Lima	May or June	½ lb. seed	36 to 48	3 to 4	80 to 90	4 weeks	25 to 50 lbs.
Cantaloupe	May	¼ oz. seed	72	24	80 to 90	3 weeks	100+ melons
Corn, Sweet	Apr. 1 to June 1	¼ lb. seed	36	8 to 12	80 to 95	7 to 10 days	90 to 120 ears
Corn, Super Sweet	Apr. 15 to June 1	¼ lb. seed	36	8 to 12	80 to 95	10 to 15 days	90 to 120 ears
Cucumber, Pickling	May	¼ oz. seed	72	12	50 to 55	3 to 6 weeks	115 to 250 lbs.
Cucumber, Slicing	May or June	¼ oz. seed	72	12	50 to 65	3 to 6 weeks	115 to 250 lbs.
Eggplant	May	50 plants	36	24	65 to 80	2 months or more	75 to 150 lbs.
Okra	May 5 to May 20	1 oz. seed	36	6 to 12	50 to 60	7 to 9 weeks	50 to 100 lbs.
Peas, Field	May or June	¼ lb. seed	36	4	65 to 80	3 to 5 weeks	30 to 40 lbs.
Pepper, Sweet	May or June	60 plants	36	18 to 24	55 to 80	2 to 3 months	50 to 75 lbs.
Pepper, Hot	May or June	60 plants	36	18 to 24	60 to 70	2 to 3 months	10 to 25 lbs.
Potato, Sweet	May	100 slips	36	12	110 to 120	5 months stored	75 to 125 lbs.
Pumpkin	May	100 to 144	48	100 to 120	4 months stored	40 to 50 pumpkins	
Squash, Summer	May or June	1 oz. seed	48 to 60	12 to 24	40-50	6 weeks	100 to 150 lbs.
Squash, Winter	May or June	1 oz. seed	72 to 96	24 to 36	90-110	4 months stored	50 to 200 lbs.
Tomatoes	Apr. 10 to June 10	50 plants	48	24	70-80	8 weeks or more	200-300 lbs.
Watermelon	May	¼ oz. seed	120 to 144	48	80-90	3 weeks	20-25 melons

continued from page 17

planted in May and June; and in Tennessee's temperate climate, fall-harvested vegetables planted in July and August such as lettuce, onions, greens, etc. "We can keep on harvesting something until frost," Wilson said.

Publication W436, "Tennessee Home Fruit and Vegetable Garden Calendar 2021," is another excellent resource containing monthly calendars with tasks to perform for the best results in gardening as well as a list of publications geared toward that particular month.

First step

The first step in growing a successful garden is to know what your soil resource is by having the soil tested. "Based on research, we've got a good handle on nutrient requirements for vegetable plants, and there are some rules of thumbs for assessing nutrient availability in the soil, but to be more precise, having a lab test performed on soil samples paints the more accurate picture," Wilson said. "From that, we know what recommendations to make with regard to soil amendments, fertilizer, organic matter, etc."

Even if you don't have the conventional backyard garden, you can reap the benefits of fresh veggies.

"The great thing about gardening is that you don't have to have a big plot," Wilson said. "We've got raised bed gardens, patio gardens, container gardens. In those instances, if you're growing in containers whether with your own soil or a growing media, we have a method by which we can test your growing media so you know if you need to make additional amendments to the soil. It's surprising for many how much produce you can actually get from container gardens or raised-bed gardens in a small space."

Make a plan

Wilson encourages gardeners, particularly more novice gardeners, to plan their garden size and how much to grow. "Do a little research on the productivity of various garden plants," he said. "One, grow something you like to eat: tomatoes, cabbage, sweet corn, okra, whatever you would like to do. Two, plant the appropriate amounts for your family. We have some guidelines that can assist with that."

He also recommends successive plantings in your garden throughout the growing season. "Depending on the vegetable species, ideally you have something growing and harvesting in your garden for the majority of the growing season," he said.

Raised beds are advantageous for gardeners where the soil tests unfavorably for gardening or if they're on extremely packed soil or rocky soil. "Once

properly installed, folks can make gardening more grower-friendly rather than dealing with less than stellar conditions," Wilson said.

"We have some resources available on how to construct container gardens or raised bed gardens to a height that is favorable to anyone who has mobility issues or challenges. Gardening is something that anyone can do, regardless of age or growing experience."

Food preservation

Once your garden begins producing, you face other questions, Wilson said. "Now I've got tomatoes out the wazoo, I've got cabbage and peppers, what do I with them? How do I can green beans? My colleague, Mary Beth Lima, teaches Canning College, tests canner lids, etc. It's always an interest, but it particularly ramped up last year."

Lima agreed.

"Canning is HUGE right now!" she said. "Last fall there were no jars anywhere."

Canning College is specifically designed for individuals with little or no experience in canning although anyone who would like to brush up on their skills is welcome to "preserve the season" by learning the science and art of canning jams/jellies, pickles and tomatoes as well as learning pressure canning.

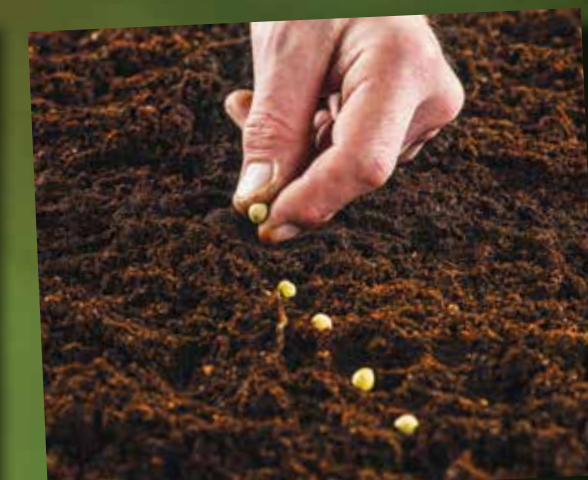
Like all facets of life after COVID, some changes have been made in the classes.

"We have moved onto Zoom," Lima said. "I have been doing monthly live canning sessions with the Blount County Library. Last December I canned a beautiful Cranberry Chutney live. It was a blast — we went from having four to 25 participants in-person to 50-80 on Zoom."

For more information, contact Lima at MLima@utk.edu or Linda Hyder at LHyder@utk.edu. Registration is at <https://forms.gle/FT9CaGXHBLsaffRJ6>. Upcoming classes, held from 7 to 8:30 p.m., are Best Practices: Jams/Jellies, April 6 (an important class for beginners); Tomatoes on May 4; and Pickles, June 15.

For information on gardening publications and more, visit the Blount County Extension website at <https://blount.tennessee.edu>. Wilson said, "The website is new and improving, and it's a good resource for folks. We've got a lot of new gardeners joining the ranks every year."

"It's good for people to know how to grow at least a portion of the food they consume, and it's easy to get started with a garden. Also, it can be aesthetically pleasing and can bring about personal satisfaction for a lot of folks. You literally can see the fruits of your efforts."



APRIL 2021						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

TASKS FOR APRIL

- Finish site preparation if not completed. Use proper pre-plant fertilizer.
- Finish direct seeding and transplanting cool-season crops to prevent them from maturing under hot summer conditions.
- Harvest may begin on the earliest seeded leafy crops or root crops.
- Begin purchasing transplants of warm-season crops.
- It is common to seed some direct seeded warm-season crops a bit before the frost-free date (beans, corn). Be cautious of soil temperatures, though, especially if you are seeding untreated seeds or sugar-sweet corn.
- Transplants of warm-season crops can be planted in Tennessee in April after frost-free dates. However, soil temperatures support root growth, and sometimes early transplant dates are not all that helpful due to cool soils.
- Harden off your transplants before placing them in the garden.

extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W436-01.pdf

Starting Out With Strawberries

Strawberries can be a great first home fruit crop because they can be harvested in a year or less and can be grown in small spaces, raised beds and containers. Pick a site that is well-drained and hasn't been in vegetables, purchase high quality bare root or plug plants.

- Short-day/June-bearing** strawberries produce a single large crop (during a few weeks in the late spring — often May or June in Tennessee. These flowers wait out the general year under late summer/fall short-day conditions. When the days are longer in the summer, they produce runners which will form new daughter plants. These types of plants are usually grown in well-matted rows for multiple years. Examples include Earligone, Albion, Cardinal and Inherit.
- Everbearing/Day-neutral** strawberries produce fruit at multiple times throughout the growing season because flowers are initiated through the growing season. They produce very few runners, which makes them optimal for small gardens or areas with limited space. However, they often don't have the total yield of short-day types. Examples include Tribute, Tribute and Seascape.

Getting Them in the Ground - Proper Fruit Planting

The Site
Drainage is essential for all fruit crops, so select a site that is well drained but also has deep enough soil to provide water for the growing crop. If the site and soil are poor, then go for small fruits and raised beds.

The Plant
Make sure the plants are not damaged or dried out before planting. Bare root plants should be planted soon after arrival. If required, you can keep them in a cool, dark area where the roots will not freeze or get too hot. Roots need to remain moist but not wet enough to decay. Dormant bare-root strawberry plants may be maintained, wrapped in plastic, and held in the refrigerator for a week or two. Soak the roots in water right before planting.

The Process
Dig a hole large enough to allow the roots to be spread out, making sure the edges are not straight and compacted. Trim any damaged roots and spread them in the starting hole. Stock with native soil instead of adding lots of amendment to the hole to prevent a bucket effect of the young roots only growing in the small amended area. Don't add fertilizer as it can burn the young roots — wait until the plants are actively growing. Water in well and don't let the plants dry out!

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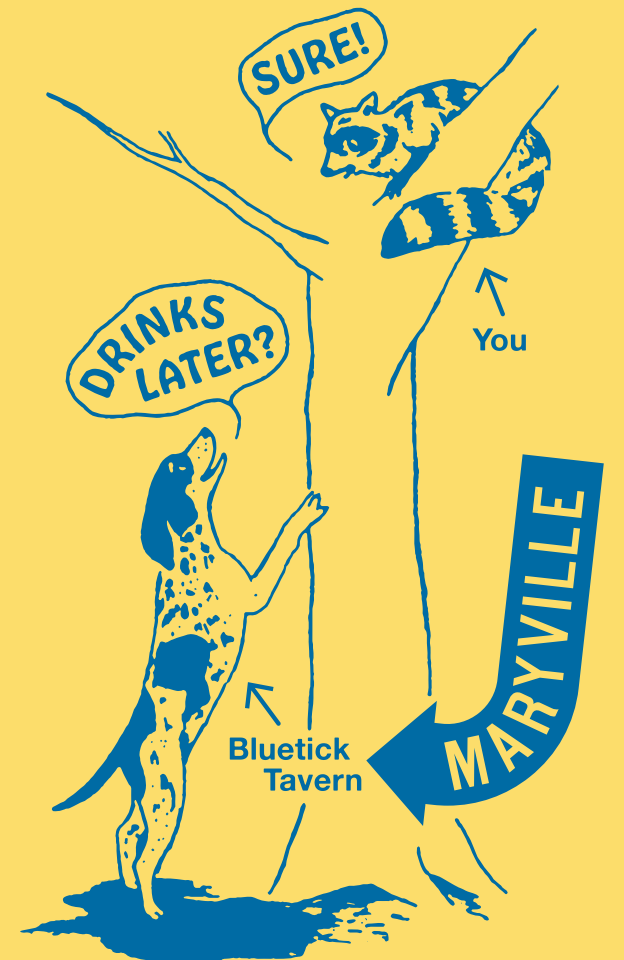
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Creating your own Adventure

By Kim Trevathan, Associate Professor of Writing Communication at Maryville College



Photos by Scott Keller/The Daily Times

Maggie and I had good days and bad. The bad days, like the time she jumped out of the canoe while we were locking through Pickwick Dam — only put the good days into sharper relief. After the Pickwick incident, which the lock operators are probably still talking about, we paddled across the lake to what would be one of our favorite campsites, a beautiful gravel bar landing at Bruton Branch, with plentiful firewood and a friendly campground manager who was ecstatic about the new bathrooms.

A few days later, a tornado missed us by about 20 miles. At various places, Maggie made friends with a herd of Angus cattle, a baby beaver, a raccoon afflicted with distemper, and any person who would let her jump up and embrace them.

We pulled into Knoxville 58 days after we had begun. I was 25 pounds lighter, and Maggie wore a life jacket that my friend, biologist Drew Crain, said I “should probably bury.”

I realized that I needed to design my own adventure every few years, to take a trip outdoors long enough to adapt to the pace of life on the river, long enough for a mental and physical reset — and I encourage everyone, no matter your age or your physical condition, to engage in outdoor adventures of your own making.

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Editor's Note:

This canoe journey is the subject of Trevathan's latest book, *Against the Current: Paddling Upstream on the Tennessee River* (University of Tennessee Press, 2021), which can be purchased at utpress.org, Amazon or at your local bookstore.

In February 2018, the month before I planned to start paddling my canoe up the length of the Tennessee River — 652 miles — I gazed out my window at the cold rain and wondered if this trip was such a great idea. It had been fun planning it, from the warmth and safety of my office, but as I approached my self-imposed deadline for starting in Paducah, Ky., on March 15, embarking on the actual trip became more and more daunting. I was about to turn 60, and my first mate would be a 10-month-old, 65-pound puppy named Maggie with potential for creating havoc in the boat and on land.

I'd paddled the length of the Tennessee in 1998, at the end of summer, a downstream voyage by a version of myself

20 years younger, accompanied by calm, mature, intelligent German shepherd mix, Jasper. This was the subject of my first book, “Paddling the Tennessee River: A Voyage on Easy Water.”

For this new book project, I wanted to see how the river had changed and how two decades had changed me. I truly did not know if I could complete the voyage. Rains had swelled the river so that the floodgates at each of the nine dams let through torrents of water. Locking through the dams going upstream would be problematic; it would be much more turbulent than going downstream. I didn't know if the lock operators would let me through in a canoe, without a motor, going upriver.

My mother said that when she told her friends about my trip, they asked “if I was an idiot.” My partner Catherine worried about marauding meth addicts accosting me. Colleagues at Maryville College wondered aloud if it wasn't a better idea to take the downstream trip at 60, having done the upstream at 40. I listened. Good points. But I went anyway.

I almost quit on the first day, the chilly, 20-mile-an-hour tailwind pushed us this way and that on a part of the river so industrialized there was hardly any place to pull off on the bank for a rest. I paddled continuously just to keep the boat from turning sideways to the wind and swamping, which would have been a disaster.

The first 200 miles was like basic training. My palms grew callouses and I began to tolerate bad weather; it was the coldest, rainiest spring I remember. Current and wind conspired against us.



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PROFILE
Jan McCoy



Family tragedy helps her bring enlightenment to others

By Lee Zimmerman

As any parent who has suffered the loss of a child can easily attest, nothing — no amount of consolation or compassion — will ever make up for the pain and anguish experienced in its wake. However, there are some who find ways to channel that grief and use it to bring relief and hope to others.

Jan McCoy knows what it's like to experience that emotional upheaval all too well. A Blount County resident for the past 20 years, she watched as her son Dane struggled with addiction — first from prescription pain pills, and then from heroin — resulting in his death from a drug overdose at the age of 22 some seven years ago. McCoy and her husband Dan felt blindsided as their son had become increasingly distant, confused and unresponsive while spiraling toward his physical and emotional decline.

"After Dane died, I was reeling from shock and grief," she says in retrospect. "There's an underlying sadness that will never disappear. I didn't know how or why this was happening to my son, and I felt powerless to prevent it."

A parent volunteer at Maryville High School, an active member of Maryville First United Methodist Church and a provider with Family Promise of Blount County, an organization dedicated to helping homeless families, McCoy has been involved with community service for over a decade. However, after Dane's death, she needed a new way to turn her grief into giving. She chose to help other families that had witnessed the same tragedy that

she, her husband and their other son, Cody, had suffered throughout the final three years of Dane's life. As a result, she made it her mission to provide support and counsel to anyone in the same situation.

For the past eight years, McCoy's been actively involved with Celebrate Recovery, leading a support group for parents of drug-dependent children, while also sharing her time and efforts with True Purpose Ministries, a faith-based drug rehabilitation and recovery program. She contributed to, and raised money for, the Dane McCoy Graduation House, a transitional housing facility for those that completed the 18-month True Purpose program.

Her efforts didn't stop there. She became a trained facilitator for the Partnership to End Addiction, a nonprofit program based in New York City that pairs her with parents who find themselves struggling with the same drug dependency issues her family once faced. "We talk about how to keep the lines of communication with their children open," she explains. "I help walk them through the process, and yet sometimes I can best help simply by listening."

In truth, she does far more than that. While she insists that her commitment to the cause never feels like a job, she continues to devote considerable time and effort to enlightening others about the dangers of drugs.

"People are grateful to find others that understand the trauma they're going through," McCoy says. "We try to

... sometimes I can best help simply by listening.



Jan McCoy (second from left) stands with some of the graduates from True Purpose Ministries' faith-based drug rehabilitation and recovery program, (from left) Frank, Jeremy and Josh. Photos courtesy of Jan McCoy

help bring them clarity, to know that their child is not a loser, and to realize that there's no shame or stigma or judgment ever shared."

Wednesday evenings find her participating in a weekly Celebrate Recovery session. Every year since 2016 — with the exception of 2020 when Covid forced its cancellation — she's helped organize a fundraiser for the Dane McCoy House. The event, "Power of Love and Laughter," provides both entertainment and enlightenment, raising an average of \$20,000 each year.

As if that weren't enough, in 2019 McCoy became instrumen-

tal in organizing the first "Hijacked: How Addiction Rewires the Brain and Poisons the Spirit" summit with Leadership Blount, an informational and education conference focusing on recovery options. Steve Wildsmith, a communications specialist at Cornerstone of Recovery, served as emcee for the event, which attracted experts, educators and representatives from several local churches. McCoy had hoped 50 people might attend. There were 200 participants instead.

"I can never replace the love I had for my son," McCoy says. "However, memories never die, and by honoring Dane's memory, his life will not have been in vain."

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A Century of Service

Mary Blount DAR celebrates centennial

By Linda Braden Albert

As the Mary Blount Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution looks forward to formally celebrating its 100th year in April, members want the public to know that the organization is far more than a social club — it is a service society with the mission of promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism.

As Mary Blount Regent Myrtle James explained, “We’re here for the community, and to honor our ancestors.”

Valerie H. Hendrix, in “The Beginning of a Hundred Years of Mary Blount Chapter DAR History,” writes that in the summer of 1920, Mary Boyce Temple, State Regent of the Tennessee Society Daughters of the American Revolution, contacted two women with close ties to Maryville and Maryville College, Sarah Henry Hood and Mrs. Sam Dunn, to see if there might be any interest in forming a chapter of the DAR in Maryville. They referred Temple to Lorena Stone Norton, who had been a member of the Wilderness Road Chapter in Virginia prior to moving to Maryville with her husband, Hugh, in 1917. Norton accepted the challenge to organize a DAR chapter in Maryville and began recruiting women who could prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence.

On April 16, 1921, Norton and 11 other DAR members, most



Lorena Stone Norton, founder of the Mary Blount Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Mary Blount DAR Regent Myrtle James stands with USMC Tony Joyce at the Blount County Veterans Memorial Service held at RIO Church.

of them only recently accepted for membership, gathered at the home of Lillian Smith Webb to form a new chapter. They named the chapter after Mary Grainger Blount, wife of William Blount, governor of the Territory South of the Ohio River, for whom Blount County is named. By December 1921, the chapter had grown to 50 members. The charter document and seal, received in September 1922, was signed by 52 members.

Following is a small sampling of the ways in which the Mary Blount Chapter continues to fulfill its mission:

Historic preservation: The chapter has researched and placed markers on the graves of some 69 Revolutionary soldiers or sailors in various cemeteries in Blount County. The list is available to the public, organized by cemetery, at www.tndar.org/~maryblount/wp/historic-markers. In addition, sites have been mapped and monuments erected to preserve the history of several pre-Revolutionary forts; monuments erected at the Blount County Courthouse with names of 117 known Blount County Revolutionary War veterans; time and money donated to the restoration of the Sam Houston School House and Museum and many other places of historic interest in and around Blount County. An ongoing project is collection and preservation of priceless historic records.

Photos courtesy of Mary Blount Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution

Education: The Junior American Citizen Committee sponsors contests each year in which students compete to receive recognition and a monetary award. Winners compete at area, state and national levels. The Good Citizen Committee annually chooses a local high school senior from among candidates selected by their school who best demonstrates the qualities of a good citizen. Each candidate must submit a resume of their accomplishments and community service, an essay with a theme that changes yearly, and letters of recommendation from their faculty. The winner receives a pin and small monetary award, and their information is sent to the state and national DAR for consideration for a college scholarship. The chapter also supports Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs at Heritage and William Blount high schools. In 1938, the Elizabeth Paxton Houston Society Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) was organized. Each year on Flag Day (June 14) the children learn to properly dispose of faded or damaged U.S. flags with a solemn burning ceremony, followed with a picnic.

Patriotism: James said, “We do anything and everything related to veterans,” including participating in Memorial Day services each year; honoring veterans with certificates and medals; supporting the Blount County Office of Veterans Affairs; placing flags and wreaths on veterans’ graves at East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery on John Sevier Highway in Knox County; donating lap quilts to veterans; and greeting veterans returning on HonorAir flights after visiting monuments in Washington, D.C.

“Sadly, I’ve also attended several of the unclaimed veterans’ memorials at East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery,” James said. She explained that “unclaimed veterans” are those who die homeless and without family. A program created by John Berry at Berry Funeral Home in Knoxville assures these veterans have a service in which fellow veterans, a Color Guard and others pay proper respects. “It’s very humbling to go and be there for those guys,” James said.



Vietnam veterans who are members of the Betrayed Retirees Organization receive appreciation certificates and medals from Mary Blount DAR.



Mary Blount DAR sponsors contests each year in which students compete to win recognition and monetary rewards. Winners then progress to state and national DAR contests. Zee Carnes, pictured with Wanda Taylor (left) and Regent Myrtle James, is the fifth-grade winner of the 2019 Tennessee State-TSDAR American History Essay Contest.



Mary Blount DAR supports JROTC programs at William Blount and Heritage high schools, honoring students with medals and certificates. Pictured are Regent Myrtle James (from left), William Blount Cadet Rebecca Breeden and Pat Reilly.

Mary Blount Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, will hold a ceremony celebrating the founding of the chapter in 1921 at 11 a.m. April 10 at the Greenbelt Pavilion behind the Blount County Courthouse, including dedication of a Cherokee Princess dogwood tree planted near the pavilion with help from the City of Maryville. Afterward, a wreath will be laid on the grave of Mary Blount DAR’s first regent, Lorena Stone Norton, at Grandview Cemetery. The public is invited. Learn more about Mary Blount DAR at www.tndar.org/~maryblount/wp

James said celebrating the 100th anniversary of Mary Blount DAR and its founding members is a reminder of how valuable the organization is. “We can look back and see all the good that they did and what our organization stands for — we value that and we respect it, and that gives us the incentive to move along and do some of the things they did.”

When she first began her tenure as regent almost six years ago, James said, “I was blind in a lot of ways, but it didn’t take me long to catch on to what we do and how important it is, especially for education and for our veterans. It’s invaluable.”



Members of Mary Blount DAR with members of the Elizabeth Houston Paxton Chapter, Children of the American Revolution, stand at the historical marker near the site of Fort McTeer after cleaning the stone.



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SUNDAY MORNINGS
10:00 AM & 11:30 AM

539 NORTH FOOTHILLS PLAZA DRIVE
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REAL PEOPLE. REAL PROBLEMS.

Real Love

FAITHPROMISE.ORG

IF A STROKE OCCURS

THINK

F



FACE
Ask the person to smile to see if one side of his or her face droops

A



ARMS
Ask the person to raise both arms to see if one arm drifts downward

S



SPEECH
Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence, looking for signs of slurred speech

T



TIME
Time is critical; if the person is exhibiting any of these symptoms, call 911



\$25 Sports Physicals for Kids



Appointments are available with sports medicine physician **Dr. Benjamin England.**

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Blount Memorial
Physicians Group

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[f](#) [t](#) [v](#)

When you or someone you love is having a stroke or experiencing stroke symptoms, every moment counts. Strokes occur either when a blood clot blocks an artery or when a blood vessel breaks, which interrupts blood flow. This means that the brain is no longer getting blood and oxygen. The longer it takes to get treatment, the greater the risk for long-term damage — hence the saying “time is brain.” Unfortunately, in many cases patients don’t report to the emergency room until more than 24 hours after the first onset of stroke symptoms. It’s im-

portant to remember that the longer a stroke patient waits to get medical help, the greater the likelihood of permanent disability.

Blount Memorial stroke medical director Dr. Deaver Shattuck says there are specific stroke symptoms to look out for. “One of the classic stroke symptoms is sudden numbness or weakness of their face, arm or leg, particularly on one side of the body,” Shattuck said. “Sudden confusion, or trouble speaking or understanding also may occur, as well as sudden vision problems in one or both eyes. A person having a stroke may also experience sudden

trouble walking, with dizziness or loss of coordination or balance. Sudden severe headaches with no known cause also can indicate that a stroke is taking place.

“Because time is such a factor in stroke care, it’s important to be able to spot these symptoms when they occur,” Shattuck continued. “A quick, easy way to remember them is with the ‘F.A.S.T.’ test. Ask the person to smile to see if one side of his or her face droops. Next, ask the person to raise both arms to see if one arm drifts downward. Third, ask the person to repeat a simple sentence, looking for signs

of slurred speech or issues remembering the words. Finally, since time is critical, if the person is exhibiting any of these symptoms, get him or her to the hospital immediately. Face, arms, speech and time — F.A.S.T.”

Shattuck says there are several different types of stroke a person can experience. Because you cannot immediately tell which type of stroke you or someone you love may be having, the message remains the same: Seek help immediately. “It is crucial to call 911 or get to the Blount Memorial emergency department as quickly as possible,” Shattuck said.

The Doctor Says



DEAVER Shattuck

Blount Memorial Stroke Medical Director Dr. Deaver Shattuck

DOWNTOWN BUILDINGS

The A. K. Harper Memorial Library

There is a building in Maryville in a class of its own. This building has not only graced our downtown with its architectural beauty for 89 years, it also honors the memory of Pandora 'Dora' Reagan Harper's family. It originated in the heart of Dora to memorialize the lives of her late husband, Andrew Knott Harper, and her two sons that died 12 years earlier.

In May 1930, Pandora Reagan Harper approached the Maryville Public Library Board to discuss the possibility of combining a new library with her desire to build a memorial to her family. The agreement was reached and a deed of trust to the library building was made to the Maryville City Commission in August 1930. Construction began in October and the building was dedicated in February 1931. At the time of the A.K. Harper Memorial Library's opening, the building was said to be "one of the most ornate library buildings in the state, made of brick, marble trim and gumwood stained walnut."



Andrew Knott Harper was born in 1853 and raised in Knox County. In 1875 at age 22, Andrew married Jennie F. Walker and moved to Maryville where he "conducted a general mercantile trade for H. L. Bradley & Company." The Harpers welcomed their son, Edward Fleming Harper, on March 18, 1878, but Jennie would not live to see her son's first birthday. She died 5 1/2 months later, at the age of 25, on Sept. 5, 1878.



Maryville Mayor Andrew Knott Harper

Andrew continued his work for H. L. Bradley for three years and then purchased the stock of goods and started his own business. Andrew's first building was on the corner of Main Street (now Broadway) and Cusick Street where Bill Cox Furniture now stands. The business had a wide variety of general merchandise and flourished in this location.

Andrew met Pandora 'Dora' Reagan and they married on Jan. 15, 1882. Dora was a native of Monroe County, the daughter of Erasmus and Nancy Mize Reagan. The couple's first child James was born in 1883 but only lived to be 3 years old. He died on Dec. 2, 1886, from diphtheria-

croup. Second son Milton was born Dec. 16, 1886, just 14 days after James died. Their third child, Fred Knott Harper, was born five years later on April 11, 1891.

Tragedy would once again strike the Harper family on July 28, 1906, when during a thunderstorm, lightning hit the A. K. Harper building. The fire not only destroyed the Harper building, but it spread to the courthouse which sat across Cusick Street and burned it completely to the ground. Andrew would eventually recover and rebuild his business stronger than ever. In 1907, Andrew was elected as mayor and served two separate terms, first from 1907-1909 and then again from 1911-1913.

Andrew and Dora's second child, Milton Lee Harper, grew up in Maryville but moved to Westville, Ohio, to work in the automobile industry. He married Ms. Jeane Cosette Broyles on June 28, 1910, in Champaign County, Ohio. Life for Milton and Jeane was good until it was interrupted by World War I. Milton was drafted into military service in August 1917 and assigned to the 117th Infantry of the 59th Infantry Brigade, 30th Division. On May 11, 1918, the 117th Infantry boarded ships bound for Europe and fought in various campaigns in Belgium and France. It was on Oct. 8, 1918, that Milton was killed in action near Premont, France, at the age of 31.



Pandora 'Dora' Reagan Harper

The third child of Andrew and Dora was Fred Knott Harper. He was born April 11, 1891, and by a very sad turn of events, died three days earlier than his brother Milton. Fred suffered and died from diabetes on Oct. 5, 1918, at age 27. I cannot imagine how



Andrew and Dora dealt with the loss of their first child at the age of 3 and now losing both grown boys so close together.

News of 1st Lt. Milton Lee Harper's battlefield death shook the community. Friends and family were already consoling the Harpers over Fred's death but now the news of Milton doubled their grief. To honor Milton's military service and sacrifice, the Maryville City Commission renamed Jail Street to

Harper Street (now Harper Avenue) on May 17, 1919. The street continues to honor his memory to this day.

Andrew's son from his first marriage, Edward Fleming Harper, became a very successful businessman in Maryville, operating the Ed F. Harper Furniture and Undertaking business for many years on Main Street. Edward did his best to help his father and stepmother through this time of grief. It is seen by Edward accompanying his stepmother Pandora to Belgium and France in October of 1919 to visit the battlefield where Milton was killed.

Andrew ultimately retired as one of the wealthiest citizens of Maryville and was vacationing at his second home in Saint Petersburg, Fla., when he died on Dec. 24, 1929. Andrew's body was returned to Maryville and buried in Magnolia Cemetery. Edward and his wife Mary Belle Gill Harper lived in and served the Maryville community for 57 years until he died from pneumonia on April 28, 1935.

Dora died on June 30, 1936, at age 77. She had outlived her beloved husband, three children, one stepchild, and most of her siblings. The family she had loved so dearly were all gone but she made sure they would not be forgotten. Their memories live on thanks to her generous gift to the community that bears her husband's name.

For 15 years this building has been the home of Dandy Lions Gifts. Next time you visit, notice the engraved name inscribed above the white columns that encircle the front porch. When you step inside be sure to look up and read the names on the brass plaque that memorializes the Harper family.



1905 - A. K. Harper Store on corner of Main and Cusick



1906 - A. K. Harper Store and Courthouse destroyed



1910 - Edward Fleming Harper Furniture and Undertaking

Looking Back



GREG McClain

Greg McClain is city manager for Maryville and an acclaimed history buff.

(Correction - my apologies to Harold Smiddy for failing to credit him as co-owner of the Federal Post Office in the last article. Also, condolences to the Jack Bowman family. Jack passed away very shortly after the article was written.)



1930 - A. K. Harper Library Construction

SPRING HAS ARRIVED ... IT IS TIME!



Let us help you get started!
A Small Sampling of
What Our Clients Are Saying.

"Jackie's expertise and professionalism made buying my commercial property a pleasure. She was always ahead of the game to head off challenges and always had my best interest at the forefront of every decision. I would not use anyone else for my real estate needs".
Brooke Nix, Commercial Buyer

"She is honest and does everything she can to explain and make the process as simple as possible. She did a great job keeping us informed and encouraged us during a very strange and difficult time of Covid-19".
Brian and Darla Kaufman - Sold Their Custom Built Home

"Jackie is very friendly and down to earth, which I liked. I felt comfortable asking questions about the selling process. I felt like she got the best price for my home and it sold very fast. I would list with her every time. Jackie was great!"
Lisa Saffles, Residential Seller

"I was a first time home buyer from out of state looking for a cheap house with land--NOT an easy job. Jackie went above and beyond at every step of the home buying process, and worked hard into the night some days for us. She is an upstanding member of the community, and made me feel more than welcome in Tennessee, a state where I knew nobody. The first time I went down to meet Jackie from Michigan, she could've easily blown me off as a college kid with little chances of closing on a house. Instead, she worked with me and now I am a happy home owner!"
Matthew and Dakota Theobald - First Time Home Buyers

"Jackie Mills is amazing. I've used multiple realtors and none compare to Jackie. She is professional and always there when you call. Before I knew Jackie, other realtors just didn't seem to get it done, but Jackie sold our last two homes extremely quick! I would highly recommend her to anyone!"
Parker Overman, Buyer and Seller

"From list to close, Jackie was the absolute best and made us feel at ease! We love Jackie Mills!"
Clay and Tiffany Kernell - Sellers

"My wife and I just closed on our first home, and Jackie made the whole process easy and enjoyable! She was very patient, made sure to answer all of our questions and was able to help us find any and all professionals we needed to get the home looked at as well. Loved working with her!"
Travis and Melanie Miller - First Time Home Buyers

"Jackie is amazing to work with and flat out gets things done! She's the only realtor we will ever use. I highly recommend her!"
Stan and Laura Brown - Buyers and Sellers

Jackie S. Mills
Reviews



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