



AFTERTHOUGHTS

MARGARET
HOBBS



Growing bottle trees

Since Warren County is blessed with numerous nurseries, there is an abundance of trees in the area. Trees of all kinds and varieties dot the landscape and growing fields. Since I am married to a third-generation nurseryman, I have been exposed to this lifestyle for many years.

Nurserymen are a breed all to themselves. Yes they are qualified as farmers, but the crop they grow is not usually edible. They work long, hard hours, fighting all the elements provided by Mother Nature. My husband, like his father before him, feels the need to watch the weather every day in hopes of making plans for the upcoming work schedule.

Is it going to be too cold, wet or dry to dig? Do I need to run the watering system on plants already dug? Has the ground thawed enough to dig, or dry enough? Most of the same dilemmas also pertain to planting new crops. There are very few days of perfect weather for nurserymen.

Keeping an eye on the weather forecast has become a frustration for him, with him watching four TV channels for information, plus a weather app on his phone. Needless to say, with all the advanced equipment, radars and tracking devices available today, they still miss the forecast on a regular basis.

They can tell us what kind of jacket to wear, golfing conditions, pollen counts and what day would be the best to mow our grass! They just seem to be off a little on the actual weather conditions. I do give them a little leeway, because Tennessee weather is always subject to change. Facebook has been flooded with fun remarks about the unpredictable weather in the South, especially Tennessee.

Despite all the trials and tribulations facing the nursery industry, my husband, Michael must enjoy the roller coaster ride because he has been in the business 46 years.

We both love plants and take pride in our yard and surrounding property. He is always bringing in a new tree variety for the yard, and loves to shower me with blooming plants for my flower beds.

We did find an unusual tree lately on a trip to Mississippi – a bottle tree! I have seen a few around the county over the years, and never thought I would want one, but things change.

We were making a nursery delivery, and the business had some bottle trees for sale. Basically, it consists of an iron tree with various sizes of "branches" coming from the trunk. The idea is to invert glass bottles in various colors on the branches, making an interesting effect when you "plant" it.

So, I have been on the hunt for colored glass bottles, and have actually had good luck, but if you have a bottle you would like to share, you know where I am.

All in the family

Young twins tie for Boyd valedictorian

BY MARGARET HOBBS
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(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Two highly motivated students have earned the right to be called valedictorians at Boyd Christian High School.

Twins Hannah and Morgan Young are quick to say they are close, and enjoy spending time with each other. They both have the competitive gene, and decided a while back their goal was for one of them to be the class valedictorian and the other the salutatorian.

When their grades were tallied, they came out to a perfect tie, with a weighted GPA of 4.18. Both girls scored 25 on their ACT.

"We didn't set out to beat each other, but we were always comparing our grades," said Hannah. "Maybe she would score higher on one test, and then I would make it up in another area."

The girls are also students at Motlow State Community College, already earning 27 college credits. When they start Middle Tennessee State University in the fall, they will be entering freshman, but in actuality they are sophomores.

They are applying for the honors program at MTSU, and will room together.

"We are so close, we finish each other's sentences, can look at each other and say the same thing, so it's second nature for us to work together," said Morgan.

Even though they are identical twins, they say they are complete opposites. One is right-handed and the other left, Hannah loves science and Morgan enjoys reading and art.

They have attended Boyd for six years, and feel it has had a very positive influence on their lives.

"I just love Boyd and it has been a good thing for me," said Hannah. "We were homeschooled before, and everyone here has become a family to me. I would choose Boyd again without a doubt."

Morgan voiced some of the same positive comments about the school.

"I have made so many close friends here and it has made me into someone I didn't think I could ever be," said Morgan. "I'm the best me I can be because of the Boyd staff and administration."

Hannah plans to start in



Co-valedictorians and twin sisters, from left, Hannah and Morgan Young share the honor and will speak at Boyd's graduation May 24.

pre-med, and after she develops interest in a specific field, will focus on that area. She has received numerous awards during her high school career, and she is a member of Rockliff Church of Christ.

Morgan focus her college career around either

social work of psychology because of her strong desire to help people. She, too, has earned several high school accolades and played volleyball, basketball and softball. She is a member of Bybee Branch Church of Christ.

Boyd principal Jessica

Akers is very proud of the girls, and said, "Morgan and Hannah are truly remarkable young ladies. Their work ethic, determination and kindness is a joy to be around. We look forward to the wonderful things they will accomplish."

Locals attend Tennessee 4-H Congress

For the 71st year, 4-H members from across the state gathered for Tennessee 4-H Congress. The event gives 4-H'ers the opportunity to learn about the day-to-day functioning of state government by assuming the roles of state representatives and senators. Since its beginning in 1948, 4-H Congress has given some 37,000 4-H'ers and volunteer leaders firsthand experience in state government.

Approximately 400 high school-age 4-H'ers from all over the state became legislators and formed a "junior" state Congress. They had the opportunity to debate and vote on youth-oriented bills in the House and Senate Chambers. In addition to learning about government and their state capitol, delegates competed in public speaking, poster and essay contests. They also competed in the leadership and citizenship projects for college scholarship money and trips to the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta. The theme for the meeting and for all 4-H programs in 2018 is "Tennessee 4-H: Branching from Our Roots."

Claire Brooks, Erica Cantrell, Will Prater, Jacob Scott, Jasmine Sartin and Tyson Warner attended as official Congress delegates. Marynia Harris, Ethan Hitchcock and Caroline Brooks attended as Citizenship and Leadership portfolio finalists. Jennifer Brooks attended as the adult volunteer.

Delegates also met with Representatives Paul Sherrell and Judd Matheny to learn about local government and bill proposals. Portfolio finalists had the opportunity to meet Tennessee Speaker of the House Beth Harwell and Lt. Gov. Randy McNally to discuss future goals and the importance of education.

"Tennessee 4-H Congress is one of the highlights for our 4-H program," said Shay Davis, Warren County 4-H agent. "The event helps youth better understand government and the legislative process and how they can be a part of this citizenship experience in order to make a difference."

Delegates voted in an election for the roles of Tennessee 4-H



Tennessee 4-H Congress delegates attending the event in Nashville are, from left, Jacob Scott, Tyson Warner, (unidentified student not from Warren County), Will Prater, Jasmine Sartin, Erica Cantrell and Claire Brooks.

Governor, Speaker of the House, and Speaker of the Senate. Will Prater ran for Governor and Claire Brooks was elected as the 2018-2019 4-H Speaker of the Senate and will return to 4-H Congress to fulfill her duties in 2019.

The theme for the 2018 Tennessee 4-H Congress service project is "Our Hands to Larger Service." Delegates are being challenged to collect items to benefit families who are being served by the Ronald McDonald House in Nashville. Tennessee 4-H Congress delegates are asked to bring items which will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House to benefit children and families.

4-H is the Youth Development program for University of Tennessee Extension. 4-H teaches leadership, citizenship and service learning to more than 179,000 youth in grades 4-12. 4-H also has more than 5,000 adult volunteers. UT

Extension is one of four units in the UT Institute of Agriculture.



Warren County 4-H'er Claire Brooks accepts her position of Speaker of the Senate for 4-H Congress. She is the daughter of Duane and Jennifer Brooks.