

# Chamber Board Elects Board Officers

**Melissa Charles** has been named Chair of the Board, **B. J. Baxter** has been elected Chair-Elect for the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce to serve 2017. **Heather Emert** was elected treasurer.

Melissa Charles is a lifelong Anderson County resident, and recently retired from Sellers Realty where she was the office manager and a licensed affiliate broker. Melissa now spends her time on various volunteer opportunities

and looks forward to celebrating the Chamber's 85th Anniversary during her term as Chair.

B.J. Baxter is Director of Operations for MMC Healthworks, a board member, graduate of Leadership Anderson County and active on the Cham-



**CHARLES**

ber's Government & Community Relations Committee.

Heather Emert is the Mortgage Department Manager and Assistant Vice President at TNBANK. She has spent the last 26 years in the financial industry with the exception of a short



**BAXTER**

sabbatical where she served as the Director of Membership for the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce. Heather is a graduate of Clinton High School and The University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Science Degree.



**EMERT**



## Parade a Huge Success

The Annual Clinton Christmas Parade, "Once Upon a Christmas," sponsored by the City of Clinton and the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce was held on December 17, 2016. Although there were weather reports of rain, thunderstorms and wind, the weather held off until after the parade. It was a perfect evening for a parade with the temperatures in the 50's.

Judges for the parade were Trent Magill, WATE; Clyde Wood, Tennova North; Joy O'Shell, Knoxville Entrepreneurial Center; Elizabeth Ross, ECS; and Alice Crawley, Realty Executives Relocation.

The Anderson County Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors led the parade followed by the Bucketeers, a bagpipe and drum corp, local Motorcycle Officers and Clinton City Police, Grand Marshalls, Larry Foster and Vicki Violette, the Anderson County Sheriff's Department and the 7th Judicial Crime Task Force. The remainder of the parade followed with a total of 120 total entries, including 30 floats, princesses and several car groups. Closing out the parade was Jolly St. Nick himself!

See **PARADE** on page 2

## Member Focus: Ober Gatlinburg

Ober Gatlinburg joined the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce this year to increase awareness about our business as a whole. Connecting with a well-organized chamber like Anderson County helps us reach other individuals and businesses who may be looking for a connection with us. There is a wonderful hometown feel and while at networking events—you never feel like a stranger! With the recent events in Gatlinburg and our wonderful Smoky Mountains, we have seen an overwhelming outpouring of support and love coming from our neighboring cities. We appreciate the connection and the community we share with all of our fellow Anderson County Chamber Members!

Remember that Ober Gatlinburg is open year-round. The Ski Area and Amusement park offers mountaintop fun for visitors of all ages. Activities include ice skating all year, skiing, snowboarding & tubing (winter only), plus and amusement park (spring until winter) with water rides, kiddie land, mini-golf, a maze, chair swings, arcade, carousel and much more.



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### Parade

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The winners of the entries which depicted the theme best were; 1st Place – Clinch River Service Unit Girl Scouts, 2nd Place- City Lights Church, 3rd Place – Andersonville

Bus Lines. All the entries were outstanding and deserving of recognition. The chamber appreciates the community support, the hard work of the entrants and the wonderful volunteers without whom the event could not take place.



The Clinch River Service Unit of Girls Scouts presented “Santa’s Workshop” on their float and won first price. Amanda Ramsey, service unit manager, accepts their check from Janet Hawkins with her scouts and parents gathered around. Santa Claus braved the wet weather to close out the parade, sitting on top of the Clinton Fire Department’s fire truck, complete with his sleigh. City Lights Church presented their float “A Candlelight Christmas Service” featuring a live band and won second place for the entry. City Lights Pastor Peyton Wills accepts the check from Rick Meredith.

# PARTNERS IN THE NEWS

**Eagle Bend Manufacturing** announced that Rick Winfree has been promoted to Assistant General Manager.



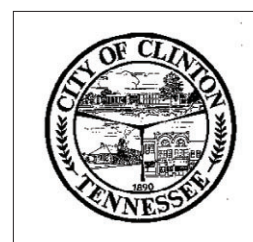
ing quality management systems. ORAU President and CEO Andy Page and ORAU Executive Vice President Eric Abelquist presented a \$100,000 donation for the International Friendship Peace Pavilion.

**Thermocopy** received ENX Magazine's 2016 Elite Dealer Award



which have been presented since 1998 to honor the best and brightest of the office imaging dealer community.

**City of Clinton** Police Department's Detective Sgt. Russell Barker, currently serving as the director of the 7th Judicial Crime Task Force, has graduated from the Southeastern Leadership Academy and received the LEIC Innovator Award which honors the outstanding innovator of each SELA session.



**Y-12 Federal Credit Union's** Stephanie Zuleger, Vice President and Chief Lending Officer, was recently named the Credit Union National Association's 2016 Rising Star Award Winner. The Rising Star Award recognizes an emergent talent in the field of credit union lending.



**Methodist Medical Center** named Chelsey King the MMCer of the Month of December.



**ORAU** has received the ISO 9001:2015 registration, the latest international standard from the International Organization for Standardization for validat-



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# MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

**Roane State Community College** announced their Outstanding Alumni for 2016; The recipients are Lisa Chadwick of Knoxville, Director of Risk Management for Functional Pathways in Knoxville, and Dr. Whitney Emch with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. Governor Haslam appointed Roane State educator Andy Anderson to the state's 10-member Board of Examiners of Psychology. Also, dental hygiene student, Kelly Tallent, received a \$1,500 study abroad scholarship provided by Oral Surgery Specialist of Tennessee.

**Windrock Park** announced the addition of new mountain bike trails at the park with a new uplift assisted area. The park is laid out on 550 acres and connector trails give riders the option to combine trails.

**Emory Valley Center** promoted Jenny Shreeve to vice president of human resources and Janet Wood to vice president of community engagement.

**Studio Four Design** won the 2016 Knox Heritage Fantastic Fifteen Preservation Award for its collaborative design efforts with Jeffrey and Patricia Nash for the preservation rehabilitation of Patricia Nash Designs' corporate headquarters in downtown Knoxville.

**Design Innovations Architects** hired Maria Cristina Ortiz Idefonso and Tyler Goza as intern architects, and Austen Barrett as student intern. Brent Blalock joined as director of business development.

**Coldwell Banker Wallace and Wallace** added Rebecca Peters, Matt Kasey and Tara Hanouskova as full time real estate agents. Lynn Willis earned the military relocation professional certification.

**Legends Event Photos** has a new loca-

tion; 363 N. Main St., Suite 1.

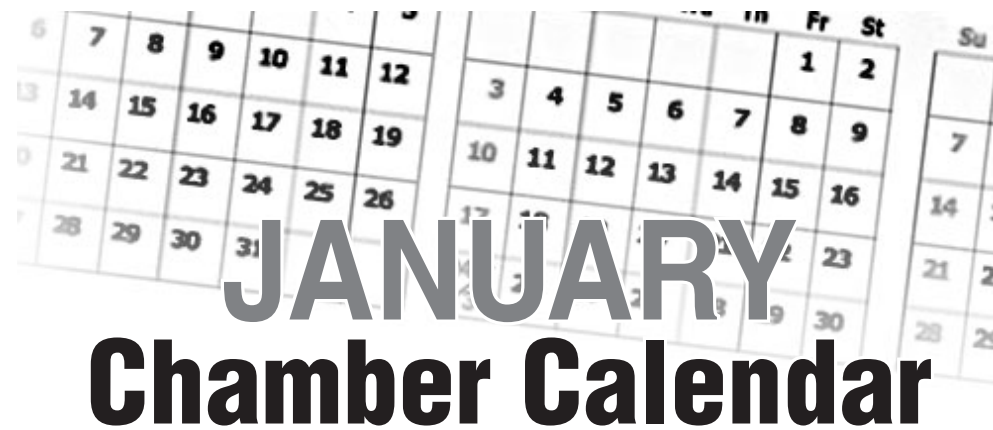
**The City of Oak Ridge** has re-elected Warren Gooch as mayor and appointed Rick Chinn as mayor pro tem.

**Y-12 National Security Complex** received National Nuclear Security Administration Defense Programs Awards. The Defense Programs Awards of Excellence recognizes significant individual and team accomplishments across the nuclear weapons complex in support of NNSA's nuclear weapons program.

**Oak Ridge National Laboratory's** Energy and Transportation Science Division received the Director's Award for Outstanding Individual Accomplishment in Mission Support. Robert Jubin, a distinguished researcher at ORNL, was elected a fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Seyoung Lee, a computer scientist, received the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineer's Computer Society Award for Excellence for early career researchers in high performance computing. Bill Strunk, received the ORNL Director's Award for Outstanding Individual Accomplishment in Science and Technology.

**Kramer Rayson** recently had five of their attorneys selected by Mid-South Super Lawyers for including in the 2016 list in five areas of law. Thomas Hale for business/corporate, John Johnson for insurance coverage, Steven Kramer for employment and labor, Edward Phillips for employee litigation-defense, and John Waters for civil litigation-defense. Brandon Morrow and Adam Russell were listed as Rising Stars.

**Food City of Clinton** is participating in their annual Pet Hunger Drive. The money collected will go to local animal shelters.



**Thursday, January 19,  
8 – 9:30 a.m.**

Networking Coffee-  
Morning Pointe Assisted Living  
960 S. Charles Seivers Blvd.,  
Clinton, 457-4005

**Thursday, January 19,  
8 – 3:15 p.m.**

East Tennessee Business Growth Conference  
The Hollingsworth Center for Entrepreneurial  
Leadership  
2135 N. Charles G. Seivers Blvd.,  
Clinton, 457-9564  
Register online:  
<http://www.tnptac.org/registration>

**Saturday, January 28,  
6:30 Cocktails,  
7 – 11:00 p.m. Dinner  
& Entertainment**

85th Anniversary Gala  
New Hope Center, 602 Scarboro Road.,  
Oak Ridge  
Register online or call 457-2559  
for ticket information

**Tuesday, January 31,  
8 – 9:30**

Member Orientation  
presented by Norm Nelson,  
Director of Membership  
Chamber Conference Room,  
245 N. Main St. Suite 200  
Register online or call 457-2559

*To register online: Go to  
[www.andersoncountychamber.org](http://www.andersoncountychamber.org),  
go to on Chamber calendar,  
click on event and it will  
prompt you to register.*

## Economic Indicators

Unemployment –  
**5.1%**

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# School News

## ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

### “2016 Report Card” for Anderson County Schools

The Tennessee State Department of Education recently released its “Report Card” for school systems across the state and yet again, the Anderson County School (ACS) district has earned high marks. According to the state report, Anderson County achieved a Level 4 district ranking, which places Anderson County above the state averages in most tested subjects. The state realigned student and school achievement categories for the 2015-2016 academic year, identifying achievement based upon the following levels: “mastered,” “on track,” “approaching,” and “below.” Anderson County Schools earned the highest scores possible in Science and Social Studies and ACS students scored above the state level in six out of the nine tested subjects for the 2015-2016 school year. According to the state report, Anderson County Schools also had fewer students scoring “below” in eight of the nine tested subjects as compared to state averages. Comparisons between student scores in English, Math, and Science reveal that fewer students in Anderson County scored in the “below” category compared to state averages in each subject. ACS students exceeded the state averages for Science in the “mastered” (advanced)

and “on track” (proficient) categories by 2 percent and 7.5 percent respectively, with 58.3 percent of Anderson County students scoring proficient or advanced. Anderson County exceeded the state averages for proficiency in Math by 3.3 percent, with over 20 percent of students scoring proficient on Math assessments. Scores for proficiency in Algebra I and Algebra II surpassed the state averages by 1.7 percent in Algebra I and by 5.9 percent in Algebra II. English scores for Anderson County reveal that 30.4 percent of Anderson County students scored either proficient or advanced compared to a 30.3 percent average for the state.

Finally, Anderson County Schools has placed a great deal of emphasis on the improvement of ACT scores across the district and the state report card would indicate that the school district’s efforts have proven worthwhile. The overall ACT composite for Anderson County reported by the state is currently a 20.8, which is higher than the state average of 19.9. Additionally, ACT reports reveal that students in Anderson County achieved higher than the state average in all ACT subtests for Math, Science, Reading, and English.

## CLINTON CITY SCHOOLS



*Clockwise from top:* **Clinton Elementary School:** Monica Rael, Assistant Principal, E. T. Stamey, Coordinator –Pathways to Prosperity, and Jenna Sharp, Principal. **South Clinton Elementary School:** Rob Herrell, City of Clinton, Vice-Mayor and Leighann Bonesteel, Principal. **North Clinton Elementary School:** Melanie Harb, Principal and Roger Fletcher of Fox Toyota

### Clinton City Schools participate in “Principal for a Day”

On November 29, business and community leaders found their way into Clinton City Schools to participate in “Principal for a Day.” During the morning, E.T. Stamey, Rob Herrell, and Roger Fletcher reported for early duty at Clinton Elementary, South Clinton Elementary, and North Clinton Elementary respectively. Throughout the morning, they participated in several activities

that allowed them to see the inner workings of an elementary school, including areas of strength and areas of focus. Some of the activities included welcoming students to the building, touring the school, visiting classrooms to see the Technology for Learning Program (T4L), talking with teachers, looking at test data, and observing some of the daily

See **CLINTON CITY SCHOOLS** on page 8

# “Principal for a Day”

This year Anderson County and Clinton City Schools hosted the first “Principal for a Day” on Tuesday, November 29. Members of our community including City Councilmen, Anderson County Chamber of Commerce, County Commissioners, local business owners and other stakeholders were invited to visit a school in either the Anderson County School system or Clinton City School system as principal for the day. These individuals shadowed the school’s official principal and team administrators. All community

members and principals met for lunch at ACCTC (pictured right) to share out what they discovered. This was an opportunity to hear many great things about both school systems. They were invited to speak and share their thoughts on both areas of strength as well as areas that might need attention. This day was such a huge success that many participants spoke about how they would like to see this opportunity offered several times throughout the school with the hopes of making “Principal for

See **PRINCIPAL** on page 8



*Clockwise, from top:* County Commissioner Phil Yager, Mayor Terry Frank, Principals Karen Cupples and Henry Baggett enjoyed lunch following their Principal for a Day duties. Commissioner Tim Isbel visited with Lake City Elementary students and Principal Henry Baggett. Emily Abbot visited Clinch River Community School and Principal Darren Leach

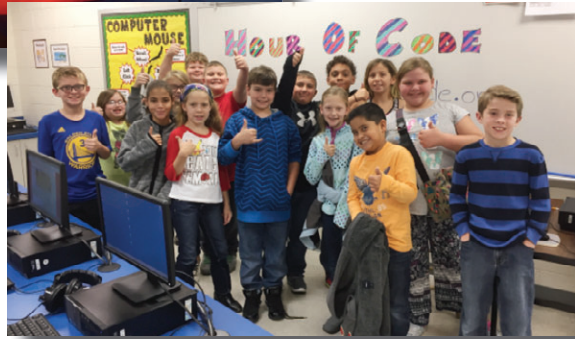
## Schools host Community Connection event

Norris Middle School (NMS) along with Andersonville (AES), Fairview (FES), and Norris Elementary Schools hosted a Community Connection event on Tuesday, November 1st in front of Norris Middle School. Anderson County Schools Director Dr. Tim Parrott set the date and asked NMS to plan an event. A team of teachers from all 4 schools involved met and put it all together.

The team included; Rachel Pemberton from NMS, Michelle Irons from NES, Jamie Linkes of AES, and Rachel Blakney of FES. These teachers planned and arranged the entire evening which featured bounce houses and corn hole for the kids and families while everyone sat around tables on the majestic NMS lawn and chatted. Over 500 people including Central

See **SCHOOL** on page 8





## Did you know ...

- That CCS ranks as one of the top 20 school districts in the state of Tennessee in proficiency and advanced rates?
- That CCS ranks 2nd in Achievement Levels in the 20 districts in our East Region?
- That CCS ranks in the top 10 school districts on the 2015 Writing Assessment in the state of Tennessee?
- That CCS is considered a Level 5 School based on System-Wide TCAP Composite scores (5 being the highest ranking)?
- That all 3-6 students across the district have an individual Chrome Book?

## New collaboration with Clinton Public Library



# Hour of Code

Technology is increasingly shaping almost every aspect of how we live our lives. During the week of December 5-9, Computer Science Education Week, Clinton City School students received their first taste of computer coding by participating in a national hour of computer science instruction called the "Hour of Code." The hour was part of Computer Science Education Week. The goal was to get students to think, create, and have a blast while learning aspects of computer programming.

During the Hour of Code, students spent one hour learning computer coding during their technology curriculum class. The Hour of Code is a campaign

to prove that regardless of age, race or gender, anyone can learn how to build the technologies of the future.

Clinton City Schools' students were among the 5 million children participating in the Hour of Code across the world. This movement was organized by Code.org and supported by Apple, Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and over 100 others. It is a statement that today's generation of students are ready to learn critical skills for 21st century success. We are honored that our students participated in this global event, experiencing all the amazing opportunities available to them.

Clinton City Schools is excited to announce a new collaboration with the Clinton Public Library. This collaboration gives students free access to thousands of digital eBooks, audiobooks, and videos in addition to their schools' library resources.

The Tennessee Regional EBook and Audiobook Download System (R.E.A.D.S.) allows CCS students to access, download, and stream digital resources to their computer or digital device. Students may log in, browse the collection of over 10,000 titles and check out the materials. Apps have been uploaded to student computers within their school building, but they may also access the materials at home or on any computer.

Clinton Public Library Director Meg Harrison has been instrumental work-

ing with CCS staff to make this project happen. Ms. Harrison and staff managed the data upload and trained CCS librarians for the push out. Clinton City librarians will train students on how to utilize the website and send home informational fliers during the month of December.

Students are encouraged to get their library card and check out books to take home as well. Students can get a library card easily with a parent identification card. Ms. Harrison will be coming to schools during events to assist parents in getting this additional piece.

An events calendar has been placed on the Clinton City Schools web site alerting parents and children to the variety of offerings for all age groups at the Clinton Public Library.

## ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

### Principal

from page 6

a Day” a regular tradition. We would like to thank all of those who were in attendance.

Mayor Terry Frank said “I wanted you to know what a great experience I had and how thankful I am that you put together such a program to bring in all sorts of folks from the community to get the best kind of experience—hands and eyes on! Thank you so much. I learned a lot today. Your team does a fantastic job.”

Claxton Principal Jennifer Coleman said “I think this was a great opportunity to begin building relationships and partnerships with our community. While I was anxious about how it would go in the beginning, it ended up being very relaxed. I

like that there was no pressure to ‘put on a show,’ but more focused on communicating our schools’ strengths and needs. Definitely interested in doing it again!”

B. J. Baxter, Director, MMC HealthWorks/ Covenant Health said “What a wonderful idea to engage community leaders by having them have a firsthand experience inside our schools to see the needs as well as the great passion and commitment of teachers and staff. It was truly a privilege to participate. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Norris Middle School with Jeff Harshbarger. The luncheon with the sharing of experiences was especially appreciated. I keep hearing good things about our schools so it was good to see for myself the wonderful job your educators are doing. Thanks again. . .you are off to a great start in your role as Director!”A

### Clinton City Schools

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activities of building level administrators.

All participants of “Principal for a Day” met at the Anderson County Technology Center at 11:30 a.m. for a debriefing lunch, provided by Anderson County High School’s Culinary Class. Both principals and business/community leaders communicated their experiences from this special day. Responses were charted as we gathered input on our areas of strength and areas to strengthen based on observations in the schools. The responses from the participants were overwhelmingly positive, recognizing the hard work of staff members and students. Much of the feedback focused on the effective use of tech-

nology, developing critical thinking skills, solid and supportive instruction from teachers, and a child-centered environment for students.

This is the first round of the “Principal for a Day” program, which is a collaborative program between Clinton City Schools and Anderson County Schools. The purpose of this program is to build close relationships between the schools and the community. We know that strong school systems are a product of a supportive community. Clinton City Schools is surrounded with a community of strong supporters of elementary education. We appreciate all who took time out of their busy schedules to come and learn more about Clinton City Schools. We encourage others to consider participating in this wonderful opportunity on the next Principal for a Day!

## CLINTON CITY SCHOOLS

### Schools

from page 6

office staff, teachers, parents, and even community members with no school-age children mingled and discussed many of the great things Anderson County Schools are doing. Free pulled pork BBQ and hamburgers were

provided and served by a hard-working team of volunteers from First Baptist Church of Norris.

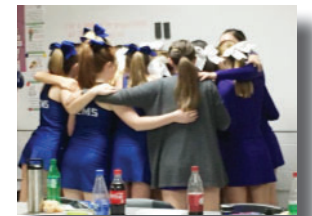
At 7 pm Dr. Tim Parrott, Anderson County Director of Schools was introduced to the more than 500 guests. Speaking for about 20 minutes as the golden sun dropped below the fall horizon, Dr. Parrott shared his vision of the school system and answered

some questions from the community. After Dr. Parrott’s message a drawing for door prizes was held by NMS Principal Jeff Harshbarger and a lot of helpful students. Door prize sponsors included; Sweet Café, Loy Johnson Real Estate, David Erb Allstate Insurance Agency, Navus Automation, Auto Image Car Detailing, GT Tire, HS Construction & Excavating, Museum of Appalachia, and The Velvet Pug Gift Shop.

The Community Connections tour that Dr. Parrott is on will continue as it rolls through Norwood at Norwood Middle School on January 31st at 7 pm and concludes in Rocky Top at Lake City Middle School at 7 pm on March 14.

## LAKE CITY DONATES TO GATLINBURG WILDFIRE RELIEF FUND

On Friday, December 2, Lake City Elementary School students and staff made a significant donation of \$1,089.00 to help our friends suffering from the devastating wildfires in Sevier County. Staff and students said they feel blessed to live in a community that is so generous and caring of others!



### CMS Gives to Sevierville Cheerleaders

CMS cheerleaders invited the Sevierville cheerleaders to a special dinner before their basketball game last Friday night. This invitation was to help their fellow cheerleaders feel supported after the terrible fires that destroyed much of their county. The girls bonded and were so appreciative of the gesture.

Money and supplies were also donated and given to the school at the game.



# Leadership Anderson County



Leadership Anderson County class of 2017 participated in Industry Day visiting Eagle Bend Manufacturing, Clayton Homes Appalachia (pictured), AISIN Automotive Casting (pictured), SL Tennessee, completing the day at the Dura-line Manufacturing facility in Clinton. Leadership Anderson County, a program of the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce, will begin accepting applications for the 2018 class in January. Interested? Contact Norm Nelson at the Chamber, 865-457-2559.



**Program now accepting applications for the  
Class of 2018**

**Beginning May 2017**

**For more information, contact  
Norm Nelson, 457-2559 or email  
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