

Wyatt Brown

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night.”

Anxious and exhausted, they struggled to find rest that night. The next morning, Wyatt underwent a spinal tap, bone marrow biopsy and port placement, beginning his difficult and demanding course of chemotherapy.

“In the hospital, that is the induction phase, and that’s 29 days,” Cortney detailed. “Then you go to the consolidation phase, and that is long, 70+ days. Next, there is the interim maintenance, delayed intensification and then maintenance. He will be finished with delayed intensification on August 6th. It’s months of intensive treatment. We’ve been in Louisville at least once or twice a week since December.”

Wyatt was discharged from the hospital for the first time on December 10th, 2024. He did get to be home for Christmas, but they had to travel back to Norton’s on Christmas Day in order to be there for an appointment on the day after.

“He was in remission when we left the hospital on December 10th,”

she said. “There were no blasts in his blood and no blasts in his spinal fluid. He’s allergic to the chemo, so he also has to get shots in his thighs. He just had a five-day treatment last week. That just makes him super tired. There are some that totally wipe out his platelets, hemoglobin and his immune system. Those just make him feel terrible—he’s tired, weak and nauseated. The nausea is absolutely terrible with different kinds of chemo. He fluctuates weight from 10-15 pounds. All the time when he’s on intense chemo his weight can fluctuate that much when he’s not eating at all. They always say he’s doing well.”

They emphasized the importance of donating blood, when you can, and to know the signs to look for so that diagnosis and treatment can begin quickly.

“Some of the things to look for are, of course, paleness in the face,” Cortney informed, “and petechiae, which are red dots on the thighs and chest, and that means your platelets are low. But you don’t know to look for that until you’ve been diagnosed with something. Of course, they look for platelets, your hemoglobin, and your ANC (absolute neutrophil count), which is your immune system. And so, you learn those

numbers and learn to look at those numbers pretty quick.”

ANC is a measure of the number of neutrophil granulocytes (a type of white blood cell) in the blood. It’s an important indicator of immune function and is often used to assess risk of infection, especially with individuals who are undergoing chemo.

They highly recommend for individuals going through chemotherapy to purchase a Reliefband as well. Wyatt said it has helped tremendously, especially with combating nausea and anxiety. He also recommends stress-relieving breathing techniques, and said it is very helpful for managing the anxiety that comes with a cancer diagnosis and undergoing treatments.

In addition, Wyatt’s parents wanted to make sure people are aware of radon exposure.

“We’re not saying that’s exactly what caused Wyatt to have leukemia, but just to be aware. It was high in our house,” she said, “and people can test for it fairly easily. They told us at the hospital to check our house for radon gas. Long exposure to radon can cause cancer. Radon is in the ground and it can come up through the cracks of your house. That’s what

we want people to know, but we don’t want to scare people. We tested our house and Wyatt’s room was actually the highest in the house.”

Tim & Cortney are both camp administrators at Schafer Baptist Camp & Retreat Center, and are also both involved with activities at Pellville Baptist Church. Tim is a maintenance supervisor at Southwire.

“Wyatt was able to teach kids how to shoot a bow and arrow and things like that recently because it’s all outside here at the camp,” Cortney said. “He’s been able to play golf and go fish with friends, so that helps too. We’ve not been around more people than what we should be, but he’s been able to be outside with people.”

“I was actually able to talk to a couple of people when my numbers (platelets) were good,” he said. “Just seeing people out here really did help me out a ton.”

He is homeschooled, and was also in his first semester at OCTC when he was diagnosed. Wyatt managed to continue classwork online even while receiving intense chemotherapy treatments. He is taking industrial maintenance classes, and completed his first semester, passing his final course with an A. Cortney said his professor was extremely proud of him. He hasn’t

let this slow him down. He took online classes during the spring semester, and is eager to return to the classroom in August.

“It’s always been a dream of mine to follow in my dad’s footsteps and work on these big machines, and help these big plants to make their money to help them move forward,” Wyatt said. “The other thing I’ve always wanted to do is just start seeing, not necessarily the world, but the U.S. I’ve always liked traveling. Just hopping in the car and not even looking at a map and going where the road takes you; I’ve always wanted to try to do that. I just hope that in a couple of years I’ll actually be able to do something like that...I end my treatment in three weeks, and I go into maintenance. I get to, basically, just go back to normal living. I do have to take treatments once a month. Other than that, I can get to do all the things I normally did. I’m very excited for that...I was doing really good in my classes two semesters ago and never missed a day. Then all of the sudden cancer hit. It is crazy to think about now. I went from playing in baseball games to within 4 or 5 days I was in a hospital bed.”

He said his faith in God has remained strong through this.

“That’s the only way we got through it so quickly, and so powerfully,” he said. “Some of the people we’ve met (at Norton’s), their situations are a lot worse. We met this little boy; his name is Noah. He has been in there probably twice as long as I have and he only got to go home maybe 3 or 4 days out of the entire time I was in treatment. He has B-cell ALL. He’s almost a year old now.”

Cortney said they do not intend on holding any fundraisers, and that there is no link set up for donations.

“Our community has totally blessed us and the Lord has blessed us with insurance and things like that,” she said. “People in the community send us things... Just please continue to pray for us.”

“What I’ve kind of said, because people are always wanting to do things, I just say, ‘Write me a letter.’ I love people writing letters,” Wyatt said. “I love getting mail. Ever since I was a little kid, I’ve always thought it was so cool to get my own mail.”

If you’d like to write Wyatt a letter, especially with some words of encouragement, you can send it to: Wyatt Brown, Schafer Baptist Camp & Retreat Center, 1003 Scherm Road, Owensboro, KY, 42301.

Hawesville City Council

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fore last. We tested six of those. We have some maintenance issues on our older engines that we’re working on right now; We found that out the night we were testing dry hydrants. We have some parts ordered. Thank you for the support you all give us, always.”

McCormick responded, “We appreciate you, chief, and the job you all do.”

Superintendent Report

Hawesville Superintendent Brian Patterson wasn’t in attendance and Powers provided a report.

“We had the Daviess Street job, off of 60,” Powers said. “There was a major dip, and we’ve had that corrected with a drain grate and re-concreted it. Brandon Jarboe passed his test and received his water operator’s license. That’s good news, and it helps us stay in compliance for the water treatment plant.”

McCormick added, “We have several trouble areas that we are continuing to work on daily, and one being the main lift station at the end of town where we have one pump up and running, and pump two is still being repaired. We still have the bypass pump there that’s pumping into the waste water plant. We don’t want to pull it until we get the second pump back in operation because we don’t know what these rains are going to do anymore. I have some videos of Mr. Newby’s yard, and Mr. Rowe’s, and it was almost coming up into his garage it was so bad. Greg Brown sustained damage. We are working on these. We have a lot of work to do. We have got to carry on and get the drainage out of Hawesville the correct way. Hopefully, in the downtown area, the new storm water plant will do this. We did discover that we’re going to have to jet out (hydro-jetting) all the way down Main Street. The storm water line down through there is just packed. That could be part of the issue with what’s happening with some of the flooding downtown. We’ve gone back and done some analytical studies, as recommended by Councilman Tracy Johnson. I thank you for that, Councilman Johnson. What we

found, the problem is we’re not getting the water off Main Street to the storm water plant. It’s creating more water on the north side of Main Street because it’s running down over to that, instead of catching and going down to that lift station. We are working on those plans also.”

Resolution 2025-01

The first reading of Resolution 2025-01 for the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority-KY Water and Wastewater program (KY WWATERS) was completed. This resolution will allow the city to apply for funding that helps communities with these projects, especially those facing economic challenges. The resolution authorizes the mayor and future officials to act as the city’s representative, submit necessary paperwork and manage any funding received. This sets up the process for seeking state assistance, but does not guarantee funding at this stage.

Public Comment

“We have Mr. Darrell Newby here to talk about the drainage that is happening across his property. I’ve been up there and I’ve talked to him. I’ve seen it,” McCormick said. “You’re welcome to tell the council members about it. We do have plans. I’ve seen the videos you sent me. I have the videos too, if anyone would like to see them. The problem is, across from Darwin George (Street), and what you would call the middle or bow of that subdivision, the water originally ran down and around, and down to 2181. Now the ditches are full and we discovered a drainage tile across from Darrell that needs to be jetted-out to get the water to flow, and we’re going to have to do some ditching. What we’ve been trying to do, we’ve got to get locates and we’ve got to see the depth of the locates before we can grade to determine how we get the water to flow. I know it has been a headache to you on multiple occasions. We will be ditching that. We have several projects on the table. Yours is not put on the back burner, it’s just put in line. The ditch behind his house separates the property that Mr. Johnson (Ricky/CTR Homes) purchased. The subdivision that you gentlemen live in, I talked to the gentleman doing the dirt work and he does understand that the ditch needs to be straightened out. There is a lot

of water just going everywhere out there. A tile needs to be put it. I think they understand that. I hope that answers the questions you may have, Sir.”

Mr. Newby vocalized that his neighbors are facing the same flooding challenges in their yards. He respectfully and patiently expressed that he wants the problem addressed for everyone so they don’t have to deal with this every time it rains heavily.

McCormick responded, “That will end up affecting everyone up through there. It just needs to be straightened up and taken care of. I will continue to push for that. I really feel good that’s going to happen.”

Councilman Johnson expressed concerns regarding recent damage to the drainage infrastructure on his property. He stated that he believes a city truck parked on the drain tile, resulting in the plastic pipe being crushed. The pipe, which was installed underground to facilitate mowing after the ditch was covered, is now compromised. He noted that he was not present when the incident occurred, but observed tire tracks and yard marks consistent with a heavy vehicle.

McCormick said the other portion is on Pear Tree Lane, and that a contractor has inspected the area and is preparing a quote for hydraulic cement. Without proper repairs, further heavy rains could erode and potentially wash away that portion of the road. It will have to be cored down to solid ground before rebuilding, and concerns are that the current backfill materials include tree roots and branches which have since rotted, contributing to ongoing soil erosion into the drainage area. With future repairs, the use of appropriate materials and methods will ensure long-term stability and prevent further infrastructure damage.

“We have a lot of things we’ve got to get fixed and Thank the Lord our audits are complete except for the exit conference, and that will release from the state what they owe us, and give us funding for the road projects,” McCormick explained. “I’ll be fighting to get infrastructure money for the City of Hawesville... We’ll have all of our audits complete and we’ll be caught up. We’ll be

able to receive our state dollars. It’s taken us two and a half years of my term to get it done but we have accomplished that. It wasn’t me. The only thing I’ve done is surrounding myself with good people. They get the credit for everything else. They have worked diligently for this to happen. If it wasn’t for this team, none of this would be able to be done.”

Audits

An update was provided on the finalizing of past audits. The auditor had told them the completion date would be June 20th, but that has been slightly delayed.

“We got set back a couple of weeks on the audit,” McCormick said. “It was not to any fault of ours at all. It was their misunderstanding when we moved a CD out of First Financial to Independence Bank, and we put it all in one lump sum. We still don’t know what the final number is going to be on this ‘23 audit. I know it went a whole lot quicker, and a lot better than the others...I talked to Lewisport’s mayor (Chad Gregory), and they spend \$8,000-10,000 a year on an audit... We can’t afford to get behind again. We had spent \$93,000 plus another \$5K. I don’t even want to put a number on the final of what it’s going to cost. I just know that we set money back in order to pay for them, and we’ve just about depleted every bit of that to pay for them.”

Powers added, “The audit company, Tichenor

& Associates, emailed (July 7th), and we’re scheduling an exit meeting to complete that final audit. Once that exit interview happens, we’ll have them come in and present the audit. Then we’ll post that in the newspaper, and that will make that official and we’ll, at that point, have our vendor numbers unfrozen. We’re really trying to get it done.”

Many projects and also plans, such as the construction of a park in downtown Hawesville, are held off until that is finalized. The completion of these audits will unfreeze funding, including \$180K in KYTC Municipal Road Aid funding, and will make a huge difference in being able to move forward.

Powers continued, “We had the park grant. We’re still waiting on any sort of answer or updates from the DLG (KY Department for Local Government), and GRADD relayed that message. They are helping with the park grant. They said for all the 2023 through 2025 Land & Water Conservation Fund projects, they haven’t had an update on any that they’re handling. We’re waiting for that. There was a cyber security grant, and we had gone through a lot of steps with that. We’re still waiting to hear back from Homeland Security on that one. That’s the same with all applicants in the region; No one has heard anything back on that just yet. And with the storm water plant,

and save the creatures.

This is a beautifully written children’s tale. I would love to see it brought to the big screen. While reading I thought of several of my favorite stories, Narnia, and Never-Ending Story. This is tale that should open dialogue between parents and their children.

The characters are well done, loveable and likeable. Mal is from the Archipelagos; she found a griffin and raised him. Mal is a courageous little girl that lost both her parents. She has a flying coat. Mal is ferocious, determined, and kind despite all she has suffered in her short life. Christopher is an outsider that ends up in the Archipelagos. He is courageous, kind, ordinary and mystical. He has a way with animals that is almost magical. He discovers that his grandfather is the keeper of a

our city engineer and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, they are in final discussions on that. We are waiting on a couple of things to be cleared before we can move forward with those.”

Code Enforcement

City Attorney Jamie Stephens reported, “We did receive a complaint from Barr Media on the citation that was issued by the Code Enforcement Board. They did appeal that. The direct appeal that comes from a code enforcement board meeting is to the Hancock County District Court. They did file that complaint with them. In my opinion, the law that they cited was an inaccurate claim about the ruling. I filed a response to the summary judgement motion, asking for the matter to be dismissed [for the motion to be denied]. That’s going to be heard on August 5th. In our code enforcement ordinance, it does provide for — if they lose that court case, then obviously any attorney’s fees, court costs, etc., that the city has expended will be attached to that judgement and also added into the property tax lien. We should have an answer on August 5th, and I’m hopeful for a positive ruling on that.”

Upcoming Meetings

The next Hawesville City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12th at 6:30 p.m. The next Code Enforcement Board meeting will be on Monday, August 18th at 1:30pm. Both are held at Hawesville City Hall.

watery portal between the ordinary world and a magical archipelago. Mal and Christopher from a special friendship. There is a few secondary characters that need to be mentioned, Nighthand is a Berserker pirate; he is unusually kind and Irian is a marine scientist, she is rather odd. The two children and two adults work together in order to save glimourie.

The cover of this book is a beautiful piece of artwork. This book is sure to become a classic.

THE BOOK MARK



Debra Gaynor

Impossible Creatures Katherine Rundell

Impossible Creatures is a beautiful children’s fantasy. This is a great book for parents or teachers to read to their children or students.

Author Katherine Rundell introduces readers to the magical hidden world of Archipelagos. It exists in our world but is magically kept hidden. Magical creatures of myth and fable exist there. Magic of the glimourie runs through the islands, feeding it and keeping it alive. When glimourie slowly begins to weaken the creatures begin to die. It is up to two children to find a solution

