

# The Abingdon Kiwanian

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<http://www.abingdonkiwanis.org/>  
We meet at 7 am at the Senior Center

A weekly publication of news, information and images from the Kiwanis Club of Abingdon, Virginia

## This Week's Program



### Whither 4-H?

Southwest Virginia 4-H Center near Abingdon

You may know her as the head pharmacist at the Abingdon Kroger store, but **Melissa Belcher** is passionate about more than pills. She and her two children are heavily involved in the Washington County 4-H program. The family lives on a farm near Alvarado. And Belcher is upset by the proposed reductions in funding for 4-H and other Virginia Extension Service programs. The culprit, of course, is the state's budget shortfall, but that has not stopped Belcher from placing a sign-up sheet on the counter of her pharmacy where people can object to the cuts in 4-H.

While she claims not to be a public speaker, Belcher will present a program to our club at this week's breakfast meeting, and use a PowerPoint slide show to help tell the 4-H story and how its work will be severely cut under new proposals that have originated at Virginia Tech.

Belcher says Washington County's in-school 4-H program now serves 4,400 students from ages 5 through 19. Under the new proposal, the first five of those years would be eliminated and only students ages 10-19 would be eligible.

Once wholly agriculture-oriented, both 4-H and the Extension Service have adapted to the state's urbanization and now serve non-farm families as well.

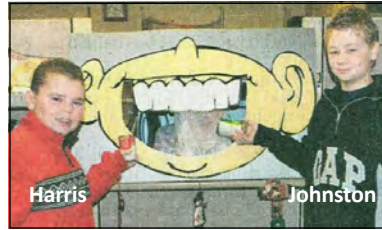


Belcher



4-H members on the tire traverse

## Boswell runs "Mouth Full of Food" Contest for Young Patients



Harris

Johnston

Bristol Herald Courier photo

Club member Dr. Cramer Boswell told his orthodontic patients that whoever brought in the most food for the needy could ride in his vehicle in the Christmas Parade. **Gabriel Harris** and **Gabe Johnston** got the ride.



Boswell

## It snowed again on our Parade

But even without the bands, crowds were larger

The 2010 Kiwanis Christmas Parade was held in a snowstorm that caused leaders of the three high school bands to send their students home before the parade began.

But Santa was there, in his open carriage. J.W. Hornsby used his cell phone camera to catch this shot of the old man waiting for his trip to begin.

Despite the weather and lack of bands, our report said the crowd was larger than last year, when it also snowed on the parade.



Cool Santa

Club Chair Charles Seaver did a masterful job of organizing the event and lining up volunteers.

## Last Week's Meeting

### Tom Perry told us about the extraordinary Stuart brothers

Tom Perry drove to Abingdon in the snow to talk to us about two Stuart brothers who grew up near his home in Patrick County.

J.E.B. was the dashing cavalry general whose name is revered by Civil War aficionados. But his brother, William Alexander, probably saved the day and produced the most notable lineage.

Perry related how the brother took J.E.B.'s widow and two children into his Saltville home after the General's death. And



Dave Jordan has his book purchase signed by speaker Tom Perry

he told how the brother's son in Russell County became a Virginia Governor and grew the family land company to the largest private land holding in the eastern United States.