

# he Knoxville

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## Recode meeting long, confrontational

www.knoxfocus.com

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

The year of 2019 may well be remembered as the year Knoxville City Council struggled with Recode.

A second marathon sesexhausting and labored as the city council once again tried to correct the

and building standards. The special called meeting began at 3 p.m. and Thursday evening.

"Expect a protracted the meeting started.

of neighborhoods, reality groups and members of the Community Forum, went well beyond 9 o'clock spoke on changes to the regulations.

Well into the meeting the sion on Recode became meeting," Mayor Madeline council continued to make Rogero told the council as major and minor changes to the proposed revamping

Singh-Perez confronted representatives of Community Forum, the umbrella group representing West Knoxville neighborhoods. for its continual suggestions and corrections of the proposed regulation.

Singh-Perez said the city Several citizens, ofregulations. Atone point council and Community lene Malone had been

while other neighborhoods and citizens are being left out of the process. She asked about Community Forum's diversity and income level. She asked if anyone in the group made less than \$25,000.

Community Forum's Car-

speaking but Attorney Larry Silverstein stepped forward to reply to Singh-Perez. He said the Forum represents a variety of members of neighborhood groups.

"We need more opinions here," Singh-Perez said.

"I understand your

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#### LEADING THE WAY! STUDENT-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Knoxville Focus' annual series recognizing local TSSAA member high schools' female and male Student-Athletes of the Year starts in today's Sports section and will continue in the month of June. Each high school

chooses a girl and boy who stood out in academics and athletics during the school year and athletic directors are requested to send in the information.

In the spotlight this week are honorees from Career Magnet Academy, Carter High, Christian Academy of Knoxville and Concord Christian

> Luke Simpson, CAK's male Student-Athlete of the Year, was a valuable wide receiver for the Warriors last fall.



### Behavioral **Health Urgent** Care Center loses state funds

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

It's crunch time for the Knox County and Knoxville budgets and one item on both budgets getting some attention is the funding of the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center. The Helen Ross McNabb operated facility, hailed as a victory in treating mentally ill and addicted minor law offenders when it opened, is facing a total state funding cutoff. The center's treatment policies are changing and Jerry Vagnier, director of the McNabb center, is looking to local governments for support.

The city upped its contribution to the center from by \$183,950 to \$583.950 and the Knox County budget, which last year gave \$615,000, has increased to \$840,000 for the Behavioral Center.

Vagnier spoke recently at the commission's work session and said that the previous state funding accounted for about 75% of the Urgent Care Center's budget. He said the new governor stopped the funding and that is pressing the Center to look to local government. He said the judicial process has also changed as many of the minor offenders with mental health or additions are now being arrested rather

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## Nicholas Gibbs family assembles Saturday

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

More than 100 descen-Emory Road. The event, feature a tour of the home, of the group, a historic presentation, and live music in the shelter behind the old home

The Gibbs log cabin, built in 1793, may be the oldest standing log structure in the state and society member Joe Longmire took The Knoxville Focus on a tour recently. The original claim of Nicholas Gibbs was for 450 acres and other acreage was later added. Gibbs was a German immigrant who migrated to what is now Knox County and settled justeast of Harbison Crossroads. The entire community there is also known as

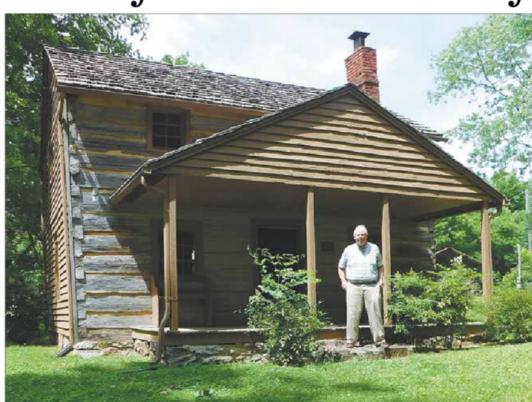
carry the Gibbs name. Longmire said he hopes clock. The clock is only in

ry, middle and high school

the gathering will generate enough money to continue restoring the old two-stodants of Revolutionary War ry house. He said it needs veteran and Knox County some new chinking as well settler Nicholas Gibbs will as new logs although most assemble Saturday at the of the logs are original, and patriot's original home on the house has a groundhog problem. He said the socisponsored by the Nicholas ety membership fee goes a Gibbs Historic Society, will long way in helping the continual restoration. Membera meal, a business meeting ship in the society is open to anyone who is a descendent of the Nicholas Gibbs

> The old home was occupied until 1985 which is when the historic society bought it. Since then the later additions to the home have been removed and the structure cared for and nursed back to its historical appearance. Longmire, a Gibbs descendant, said that many people in the area are also descended from the settler.

Inside the home are period pieces and relics unear thed by archeologists from the yard. Two of the items are original to Nicho-Gibbs and the elementa- las Gibbs including a small cast iron pot used to melt lead and a grandfather



Joe Longmire stands in front of the historic Nicholas Gibbs House where descendants of the Revolutionary War volunteer and early Knox County resident will gather this Saturday.

Gibbs family homecoming.

ic Emory Road and many Back then there wasn't people, including Andrew the patchwork of history

the home during the annual the stretch of the histor- there Longmire said. The society is still piecing descendants from across another home nearby on Jackson, may have stopped together for the home

Longmire said that the country come in for the

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