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## Knox County's 'Safe Babies Court' Is Working

By Focus Staff

Few people pay much attention to the court system until or unless they have a legal problem. Folks are too busy from day to day to give much thought to such things, nor do people much care about the variety of local courts - - the small claims court, the criminal courts,



**Juvenile Court Judge Tim Irwin**

nessee before going pro and playing with the Minnesota Vikings.

the circuit, chancery and juvenile courts. The juvenile court is headed by perhaps the most easily recognized judge in Knox County: Tim Irwin. Judge Irwin is still remembered fondly by many Knox Countians from his days playing football at the University of Tennessee before going pro and playing with the Minnesota Vikings.

An Academic-All-American who is in the Minnesota Vikings Hall of Fame, Tim Irwin planned for the day when one career was over and had prepared for another. Irwin went to law school, starting when he was still playing football and obtained his law degree and began a legal practice. When Juvenile Court Judge Carey Garrett passed away, Tim Irwin was appointed by the Knox County Commission and ran for a full term unopposed to succeed him.

Irwin is an imposing man and a no-nonsense dispenser of the law, a conservative Republican who manages to be fair and compassionate. It was this same imposing man who has invited dogs into the court to comfort children, as well as keeping a warehouse full of stuffed animals for youngsters. It is a heartwarming and memorable sight to literally see Judge Irwin handing out teddy bears with a grin to a child who is confused and frightened.

Irwin runs the administrative side of the juvenile court operation, which includes representatives from several other state and local offices including the sheriff's department, the attorney general's office, the public defender's office, and the department of children's services, all the while maintaining a heavy court docket.

The juvenile court has its very own clerk of the courts, who

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## MANNIS CAMPAIGN OPENS EAST KNOX OFFICE



Campaign consultant Gary Drinnen, volunteers Linda Conner and Linda Freeman, and mayoral candidate Eddie Mannis relax after putting some finishing touches on the Mannis Campaign's Downtown/East Knoxville office. Stop by and visit 900 East Hill Ave Suite 110!

## Knox County, Pension Board circling wagons

By Mike Steely  
[steelym@knoxfocus.com](mailto:steelym@knoxfocus.com)

In what began as a routine meeting of the Knox County Retirement and Pension Board stopped abruptly ten minutes into the session when pension board attorney John Owings stood and declared the board was going into executive. Anyone not a member of the board or an authorized county official was told to leave the meeting.

Like Old West settlers the Knox County Pension Board, Mayor and County Commission have begun circling their wagons in preparation of an attack.

The private session between the board, the attorney, and county administration last Monday lasted almost an hour. During the executive session Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs entered the meeting, stayed for a brief time, and left again heading back to his office in Room 640.

The Knoxville Focus waited outside the closed

doors until invited back in. The pension board reconvened its meeting and Owings addressed the members. It became obvious that his remarks had already been heard during the private session. He said the new class action lawsuit against the county was related to the pension board's allowing vacation pay to be included in sheriff department employee's retirement. It became obvious that a decision was made in the executive session but had to be "public" with a request and vote by the board members in an open session.

Owings called the suit "unnecessary" and said it "lacks merit," adding that he feels the matter was settled in a former lawsuit.

He then asked the board to authorize him to "intervene" as their representative. Although the pension board was not named in the lawsuit the board members

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## UGO holds children's hospital benefit



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Joining the Ghostbusters at the UGO Fundraiser for East Tennessee Children's Hospital were Angie Howell of the hospital, John Hickman who organized the event, and Andrea Thrasher of UGO. The Chapman Highway UGO Epic Event Saturday drew hundreds of parents and children who bought raffle tickets to support the Children's Hospital and chatted with various mascots and comic book and movie characters.

## Many questions remain about relocating the school offices

By Mike Steely  
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Why are the county mayor and some members of commission rushing the approval of a lease of the TVA East Tower for the Knox County School system? What's the actual value of the Andrew Johnson Building, where the school system is currently housed?

What's the actual projection of moving expenses and upkeep at the Towers compared with maintenance and operation at the AJ Building over the next several years? Who supplied the figures on the value of the AJ Building and the expenses the county will need to pay at the Towers?

Why haven't the school superintendent or the school board been asked if they want to move to the

TVA Towers? Why is the superintendent being treated so roughly because he has questions?

How does the parking at the Towers compare to parking at the AJ Building? Is there a problem with the public visiting the TVA-owned building and what about TVA supplying the security there instead of the Public Building Authority?

These are all questions that came up during and after the Knox County Commission meeting last week. Commissioner Larsen Jay had a discussion added to the agenda "regarding the potential location move of Knox County Schools." Jay called the proposed move "an opportunity to save

\$29 to \$30 million and build more schools." He called the proposal to sell

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# Knox County, Pension Board circling wagons

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voted, with no objection, to give Owings authority to assist with the case.

Owings said he would file the necessary papers to become involved "within the week."

Commissioners Brad Anders, Hugh Nystrom, Larsen Jay and Randy Smith voted to give Owings the authority and then the commission members went downstairs to the commission work session where another vote would come on the lawsuit. Other members of the pension board include Chris Caldwell, the county finance director as proxy for Mayor Jacobs; Tracy Foster, secretary; and Jennifer Hammelgarn, Gabe Mullinax and Janet Samar.

It soon became obvious that another decision was made during the secret executive session, this one between the Knox County mayor and the pension board members.

When the commission meeting began at 5 p.m. Mayor Jacobs asked permission to speak. He read a statement about the current lawsuit and referred to a July 1st letter from

attorney Tom McFarland, who represents the twelve Knox County citizens who are party to the action. He noted that the pension board is not a party in the litigation but that the previous action by the Knox County Commission is part of the suit.

McFarland's suit was filed the previous Friday but he had written the pension board back in July on behalf the Knox County taxpayers, demanding that the board stop the additional pay that retiring deputies receive. Owings had replied to the letter on behalf of the board citing the settlement the mayor and commission with the pension board, authorizing the retirement plan and pulling the law director from the court case.

One of the questions in the current suit regards whether or not the commission has the power to retroactively change the retirement program to include unused vacation pay in retirement calculations.

"I am requesting that the Knox County Commission authorize my office to retain outside counsel to represent Knox County in

this matter," Jacobs said, asking that the request be added to the commission's agenda. The motion to add it to agenda passed. The meeting went on to other business and then returned to the Jacobs request.

Chairman Hugh Nystrom said the mayor's request came in "right before we set our agenda" and would be considered.

Several of the commissioners had comments and questions but Mayor Jacobs answered one of them by saying he feels the law director has a conflict in the case. Jacobs asked the commission directly to authorize him, the mayor, to hire an outside attorney to represent the county.

Law Director Richard (Bud) Armstrong told the commissioners that the chancery judge ruled him to be the legitimate lawyer for the county and added that Owings is only the pension board attorney who is supposed to advise that board.

Armstrong had stated earlier in the meeting that he, Armstrong, could save the county money and hire an outside attorney through

the law office, in consultation with the mayor, but Jacobs pushed for the sole authority to hire. Armstrong said a reply must be made within 30 days.

The work session meeting finally motioned for a vote and the Jacobs request to hire an outside attorney without consulting the law director's office passed with seven votes, two "No" votes and two commissioners passing.

Voting "Yes" were Justin Biggs, Evelyn Gill, Michele Carringer, Randy Smith, Hugh Nystrom, Brad Anders and Larsen Jay. Voting "No" were John Schoonmaker and Charles Busler. Passing on the vote were Carson Dailey and Richie Beeler.

Gill and Busler had noted that the county has the law director as its counsel but Chairman Nystrom said that there is a "potential conflict with the law director."

"The mayor and I haven't talked about it, I'd like to discuss it with him. What's before you is who gets to pay for it," Armstrong said. He restated that the question is, "Does the county commission have the power to increase payment under the Uniformed Officers Pension Plan?"

Schoonmaker said the mayor's request "comes in at the 11th hour" and said that all legal matters are supposed to go through the law director's office.

"I'm confused," Schoonmaker said, asking why the commission was not informed of the cease and desist letter back in July. Armstrong said he was not copied on the July letter but had "heard rumors of one." He added that attorney Owings had no authority to answer the letter.

Jay responded that the letter came to the pension

board and that Owings had the authority to respond on its behalf.

Dailey asked Jacobs why he was asking for permission to hire an outside attorney and Jacobs responded, "The law director has a conflict."

The original suit against the pension board was filed by Law Director Armstrong after he found that the Uniformed Officers Pension Plan had been changed to include vacation pay as part of the retirement calculations. The mayor stepped into the issue in support of the board and took the matter to the commission. That vote removed the law director from the case and an outside attorney was hired to “settle” the case. When it went back to Chancery Court the case was dismissed but the legality of the pension board’s action was never resolved.

## 'Safe Babies Court'

**Cont. from page 1**

like Judge Irwin, is elected by the people. That Clerk is Charlie Susano, who is also the Clerk of the Circuit and Civil Sessions Courts. Susano and his staff follow the state law which give them the responsibility for assisting with the operation of the Juvenile Court, which also has a state-of-the-art detention center named for and run by Richard Bean. The Richard L. Bean Detention Center is one of the few in the country to be accredited and Bean is highly esteemed by professionals in his field.

The newest addition to the Knox County Juvenile Court is the “Safe Babies Court.” The Tennessee General Assembly passed legislation intended to improve the outcomes for perhaps the most vulnerable children in the state’s welfare system: infants and toddlers. The program specifically addresses the needs of children from infancy to three years of age.

The new program adopted by the legislature was based upon the success of two pilot programs based in Nashville and Grundy County in Middle Tennessee. The Safe Babies Court Team is designed to improve how the various bureaucracies interact with the people coming into the system: the courts, children's services and child welfare agencies are supposed to benefit from the program by taking a different and more practical approach to solving problems. By working together and sharing information, the agencies and the courts can expedite services for needy children and decrease the time children spend in foster care.

Just about everybody knows government "red tape" and bureaucracy is a problem," Judge Tim Irwin says. "One important

concept of the Safe Babies Court is to streamline the process so that everybody who is supposed to have the best interests of the child is on the same page and working seamlessly together.”

To that end, Judge Irwin assigned Magistrate Michael Fortune to the Safe Babies Court and hired Kaki Reynolds as the first coordinator of the court. Fortune is a quiet, friendly man, well-liked by those who work with him, who, as might be expected, has a deep and abiding interest in the welfare of children. Magistrate Fortune said he is “excited” about the Safe Babies Court “because it gives the participants and their families real hope of maintaining sobriety” due to “the increase in support from our staff and resource partners.” Fortune points out it helps those folks receive “consistent oversight from the court.”

Magistrate Fortune says it is essential “to establish a relationship with the clients and caregivers so that we can recognize when a person is beginning to struggle, so that we can all work together to address the root causes of why a parent loses custody.”

Kaki Reynolds, Coordinator of the Safe Babies Court, says it is vital for the judicial system to “thoroughly address the impact of substance abuse.” “Most of the babies in our program are impacted by opioid or methamphetamine use by their parents,” Reynolds said. “We work diligently to wrap services around the parents and the child to help the family get on the right track and to increase the chances for a healthy family future.” Reynolds points to working “heavily on the relationship between a parent and a child” and the need to “try to nurture that from the very beginning,

even if they aren't together in the same home."

Charlie Susano, Clerk of the Juvenile Court, added, "I think everybody realizes the significance of the opioid crisis across this country and here at home in East Tennessee, but it really is a very different thing to actually see what it does to families, and the heartbreaking impact it has on innocent babies and children." Susano says, "Ultimately, the Safe Babies Court is a program intended to give some hope where little or none existed before, and work to keep families together."

The program in Knox County was paid for through a \$900,000 grant contract with the Department of Children's Services. That includes the cost of the program and personnel. The Safe Babies Court started operating in Knox County on January 2, 2018. The current contract between Knox County and the Tennessee Department of Children's Services will expire in 2022 and have to be renewed at that time if it is to be continued. The contract was ratified by the Knox County Commission and several Commissioners expressed their strong support for both the program and its concept.

The safe Babies Court program has been in place in six other Tennessee counties; Coffee, Davidson, Grundy, Johnson, Madison and Stewart. Similar or identical programs will begin soon in Anderson, Dickson, Henry and Jefferson counties.

"Foster care is not the desired outcome of most cases involving children," Judge Tim Irwin said. "The Safe Babies Court is a pilot program that I hope will work and keep families together and make them stronger and free from addiction."

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# Publisher's Position

## Will Your Neighborhood Be Next?



By Steve Hunley, Publisher  
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Folks in the Parkridge community are upset their community isn't being treated fairly. What Parkridge residents are angry about is the use of land right next

to Caswell Park as the site for a three-story apartment complex for the homeless. The City of Knoxville intends to give the property to the Volunteer Ministry Center. Residents have pointed out to city officials the area in question is zoned park and open space, yet the die seems to be cast and this is an example of the Rogero administration's Recode rampage. The questions raised by the Parkridge community, as well as the city's response very well may be the new way of doing business in Knoxville. The Rogero administration seems hell-bent upon pushing through

Recode and mayoral candidate Indya Kincannon is running for Rogero's third term. While Kincannon would have voters believe she and Madeline Rogero are two peas in a pod, there are a great many similarities and few, if any, differences. Both have degrees in urban planning. Kincannon also likes to claim credit for having run the Knox County School System, although she has already apologized for not having been more sensitive to the needs of teachers under the reign of then-superintendent Jim McIntyre. Indya Kincannon claims she has always put people first, yet

her treatment of teachers during her time on the Knox County Board of Education disproves that notion. Kincannon claims she oversaw 8,000 employees in the school system while Tennessee State law absolutely gives sole authority in personnel matters to the superintendent. Kincannon claims she always supported "efficient, transparent and equitable funding" and if by that she means she was always asking for higher taxes, that would be true. Whatever her meager record as a member of the board of education, Indya Kincannon is all in for Recode and intends to

push Rogero's legacy. Her opponent, Eddie Mannis, has pointed out the all too apparent flaws in a process that likely cannot stand a legal challenge and promises to ask the city council for a six-month moratorium to work out a plan that benefits everybody. Keep in mind, Rogero and Kincannon have been brutally honest in expressing that housing for the homeless will be liberally sprinkled ALL across the City of Knoxville. For those who think land abutting a park owned by the city is part of the park, think again. To add insult to injury, the Rogero administration has

afforded the Parkridge community very little consideration in the entire process. The City of Knoxville is moving the rezoning right along in spite of the overwhelming opposition from the neighborhood for this project. Every property owner in the City of Knoxville needs to be paying attention to what is happening to the Parkridge neighborhood. Because if you think your neighborhood is protected, you probably also believe in the Easter Bunny and leprechauns. The question you'd better be asking yourself is your neighborhood next?

## Is the sale of the AJ Building good for taxpayers?

By Steve Hunley, Publisher  
publisher@knoxfocus.com

WVLT Channel 8 television in Knoxville reported on October 4th 2017, "Getting the Andrew Johnson Building back on the tax rolls has been a priority for me since I took office as Knox County Mayor," said former Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett.

If Tim "dadgumit" Burchett has a white whale he obsessed about it was selling the Andrew Johnson Building. This quest has been passed on to our current Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. When then Mayor Tim Burchett went on the road to sell this ambitious and doubtful project it sounded like the 'greatest idea' since giving out PILOTS (payment in lieu of taxes) and TIFS (tax increment financing) to get developers to rehab and build buildings in downtown Knoxville. This was going to be a good deal for taxpayers. Dadgumit.

Sigh, if downtown Knoxville is so great why does the city and county government have to give exorbitant long-term tax breaks/subsidies to developers?

The truth is selling the Andrew Johnson Building for a fraction of its actual value is giving away a very valuable and unique building and is getting close to nothing in return for the county taxpayers. The taxpayers may lose money they will never recover. This is a new low. Not only do the taxpayers have to give a PILOT and maybe also a TIF for this taxpayer subsidy, the low bidder buys a building we the taxpayers paid \$25.6 million dollars for in principle, interest and rent and own outright and then Knox County "sells" it to the highest bidder for

\$6 million dollars?

How does that make any sense? That is madness. That is a loss of paid for equity of \$19.6 million dollars and then the taxpayers are to lease the vacant TVA Tower for 40 years? I'm not making this up. This is happening right now. You and I will take a hit of 77% paid in equity and then will pay a PILOT and maybe a TIF so the Andrew Johnson Building can be on the tax rolls? The requested PILOT is for 25 years. How will this generate any taxes in our lifetimes?

Imagine if you were to sell your house that you own outright at a 77% discount and then sign a 40-year lease at a 'really good lease rate' to move to another house so you could escape some maintenance costs and some ADU (American Disabilities Act) upgrades? The actual truth is the elevator needs to be replaced in the Andrew Johnson Building because of a prior ADU agreement. The Andrew Johnson Building is your house. You literally own it. How do you feel about this real estate deal? It is your money. Do you see a financial return in your lifetime?

The low bidder for the Andrew Johnson Building is BNA Associates of Nashville. They want a PILOT before they break ground on renovations to the Andrew Johnson Building should this proposed 'deal' pass both the Knox County School Board and the Knox County Commission. The Andrew Johnson Building is worth between \$18 million and \$20 million dollars at market rate based on comparable real estate comps in that market area downtown. It is appraised at the Property Assessor's office at \$13.5

million dollars. The former county administration thought it was a good deal to sell it for \$6 million dollars. What you need to grasp is there is "accountant" accounting and "politician" accounting. They vary by many millions of dollars. You need to pay attention to these things. It is your money.

Boy howdy, you should see the "politician" accounting on this pursuit of selling the Andrew Johnson Building to supposedly put it on the tax rolls. The Knoxville Focus has received both the pro forma cost projections from the county administration and the Knox County School System. In a series of future Publisher Positions we will unravel this maze of cost projections. For this issue let's keep it simple.

Let's look at the first numbers presented two and a half weeks ago in a Knox County Workshop by Knox County Commissioner Larson Jay which were compiled with information from Knox County administration. In this workshop Commissioner Michele Carringer asked a great question, "If the TVA tower is such a great building why has it been vacant for 15 years?"

Since the commission workshop the numbers presented by Larsen Jay have been wildly revised by county administration.

The 2.0 version of the AJ Building sale tries to justify the insanity of this deal. The changes from version 1.0 to 2.0 varies by a factor of five for some line items.

Now remember, the whole reason for this quest was to put the Andrew Johnson Building back on the tax rolls. First let's address the numbers from the 1.0 version of the AJ giveaway from Knox County Commissioner

Larson Jay in the last Knox County Workshop. Please sit near a fainting couch. Commissioner Larsen Jay tells us the Knox County taxpayers will get \$2 million dollars in taxes over 40 years for putting the Andrew Johnson building on the tax rolls, IF a PILOT is NOT given by Knox County Commission.

You may laugh now. IF a PILOT is not given? Seriously? IF? When does anything happen downtown that does not have a PILOT or a TIF? Seriously, a deal on Henley Street a few months ago was approved with TWO PILOTS. Not one, but two. It's a mixed use development hotel and condos and some AirBnb units. Since we gave two PILOTS for that new hotel just a few blocks from the AJ Building can we just keep the AJ Building and save our \$19.6 million dollars?

Let's talk about that old non-ADU Andrew Johnson elevator. This is the key ADU remediation that will have to happen no matter who owns the building or is a tenant in the Andrew Johnson Building. Our Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs said on the WETR 92.3 FM radio show the Knoxville Morning News with Elaine Davis, "the elevator rehab is around \$500,000." In the 2.0 version from Knox County Finance the amount is \$1 million dollars. Close enough? If we the taxpayers lose \$19.6 million dollars in equity do we care about a \$1 million dollar elevator upgrade? I say fix the elevator and keep the AJ Building.

What does the superintendent and the employees of Knox County Schools want? That is a great question that apparently no one in the past or current

county administrations has ever asked. Now the employees park right next to the AJ Building in the Dwight Kessel parking garage. They have private offices. If this deal goes through they give up those private offices and become cubicle dwellers like in a Dilbert cartoon. How does that improve their work environment? In the 2.0 pro forma version for the AJ sale from county administration it is stated, "New KCS space will be more functional, efficient & modern, value added." I've never heard cubicles described that way.

Let's examine the so called 'economic benefit' that the county administration claims will be \$68 million dollars over 40 years. Right now the employees of the school system can have breakfast and lunch on the South end of Gay Street. If they move to the north end of Gay Street this is supposed to somehow generate additional economic benefits? If the AJ Building was sold to a private developer people who would stay in the refurbished Andrew Johnson hotel and apartment/condo complex would not be additional business that would be received otherwise. Downtown Knoxville has had an explosion of new apartments and hotel rooms. The claim of a \$68 million dollar economic benefit over 40 years is fiction. It is not real.

This is a bad deal for Knox County taxpayers and the school system. Please call your school board member and your Knox County Commissioners and tell them you want to keep your \$19.6 million dollars of equity in the Andrew Johnson Building.

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# Rick Barnes Emerald Youth Golf Classic Helps Inner City Youth

By David Klein

Monday, September 23 at Holston Hills Country Club, the Rick Barnes Emerald Youth Golf Classic was held to raise money for the Emerald Youth Foundation. Tennessee Basketball Head Coach Rick Barnes donated a \$50,000 check to the foundation, and 120 golfers played in the tournament. More than \$175,000 was raised to benefit the Emerald Youth Foundation.

It was the 21st annual Emerald Youth Golf Classic. According to the website, the Emerald Youth Foundation's mission is to raise up a large number of urban youth to love Jesus Christ and become effective leaders who help renew their communities. The Emerald Youth Foundation is in its 28th year of serving the Knoxville urban youth community.

Emerald Youth Foundation CEO and President Steve Diggs said, "What we're trying to do is build a foundation for the youth of this city. That's what's so great about this city. People care about children in this city and they make their caring count. They prove it



PHOTO BY DAVID KLEIN.

Auctioneer Phillip Hopper yells out bids for auctions at the Rick Barnes Emerald Youth Golf Classic as Rick Barnes looks on.

in this tournament."

Diggs continued, "We have an urban church ministry, we do sports, we launched Knoxville's first charter school. We also have a focus in trying to support families across the city. It's a whole

child development organization. Our focus is on youth that live inside the city."

Barnes, who serves on the Board of Trustees and is in his fifth year of involvement with the golf tournament, emphasized the

role of the golf tournament and the part that the Emerald Youth Foundation plays in kids' lives.

"It means a lot how we've grown the tournament," Barnes said. "What Steve Diggs does with Emerald Youth is really

amazing. What they do, the principles they're (Emerald Youth Foundation) trying to instill in these young kids is really something that I think all of us in Knoxville should be proud of. This town has great people, very unassuming people that I think want to see this community continue to grow. This is a great program, it really is, and to be a part of it over the last couple of years and watching it grow, I'm excited about it and I'm excited about the future because I know the more that we can affect these young kids, the better off it's going to be for all of us," Barnes stressed.

Diggs said about Barnes, "He's a generous man. We're fortunate that he did not leave Knoxville. He cares really deeply for children. He has a real heart for Christian ministry and city kids and we've been fortunate to be a vehicle for him to give back here in the community and to serve. We're very grateful he's in town."

## Many questions remain about relocating the school offices

Continued from page 1

the Andrew Johnson Building and relocate the administration offices to the TVA Towers a change that is "hard and inevitable."

Knox County Law Director Richard (Bud) Armstrong cautioned the commission that the negotiations are "very complex" and much is still being negotiated. He also said that Mayor Glenn Jacobs has asked that the process be finished by the end of October.

Commissioner Michele Carringer asked if it is legal to "push the system out of our building."

Armstrong replied that the board of education has to vote on the matter and, if passed, the

commission would need to vote on the contracts.

"It all has to flow together," Armstrong said.

Commissioner Charles Busler asked School Superintendent Bob Thomas what he preferred and Thomas answered said he would like to have one site that is easy to access with no-cost parking. The superintendent said he hasn't been consulted and the last time he was asked was "years ago, on the Rule site."

"We've not asked the schools what they need," Busler said.

Commissioner John Schoonmaker said that all legal documents are supposed to go to the Knox County Law Director's

Office.

"We've been told to leave our house that we own and go lease somewhere," Thomas told the meeting, adding, "I'm not opposed but let's get some real numbers, Let's get some facts."

Commissioner Larsen Jay and Superintendent Thomas got into a raised-voice exchange and Busler asked for a "Point of Order" saying, "They are bantering each other."

Thomas said that Mayor Glenn Jacobs called him for a meeting and told him, "We're reached a deal with TVA Tower, there will be a public announcement in a few days" and that's the extent of it.

Jay said he asked the mayor's

office if the superintendent hasn't been involved with the process. Jay said the conversations have been going on for ten years and especially the last two years.

"That's what is confusing to me," Jay said, adding, "I got a report back that said approximately 56 meetings have happened between the Knox County Schools and the mayor's office and 30 of those meetings were with school staff, and you attended at least four of those meetings."

"At what point did you make your opinion known?" Jay asked.

"I made my opinion known about moving to a location that really didn't improve from where

we were to where we're going. There's a difference in saying 'Here's what we're going to do to you' and 'what do you want us to do to you,'" Thomas replied.

"Nobody has ever said 'what would be best, what are your concerns,'" the superintendent said. "It's been top down to me. The board has been totally left out of the conversation as far as I know."

Apparently the idea of selling the Andrew Johnson Building and moving the school administration office to the TVA East Tower may or may not be decided by the school board and the county commission deadline of October 31.

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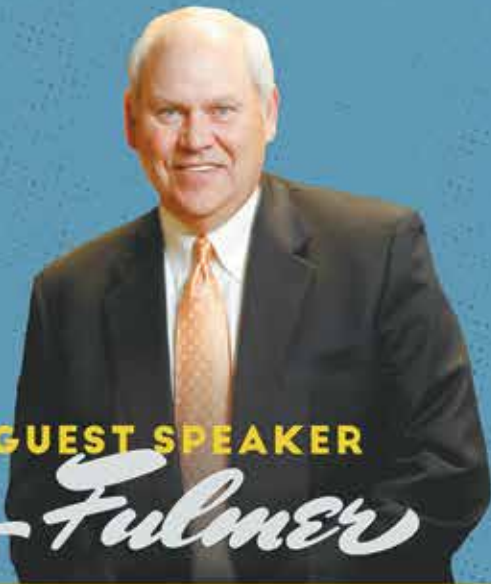


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# Proposed housing facility in east Knox brings out large, vocal crowd

By Bill Howard

Democracy, it's often been said, is a messy business. Cities and municipalities face a wide variety of issues and debates, and consensus is seldom, if ever, present. A perfect laboratory of that messiness was on display at the Knoxville Area Urban League Monday night, Sept. 23, when a public input meeting was held concerning the construction of a homeless/supportive-housing

facility in east Knoxville. The address of the building would be 1605-1617 E. 5th Avenue by Caswell Park.

Like most any city, Knoxville has an ongoing challenge of how best to serve the problem of those in need of affordable housing. Becky Wade, Director of Community Development, opened the meeting with some statistics about that particular population in Knoxville.

According to Wade:

- A one-bedroom apartment averages about \$840 a month.
- In order to afford that amount, one would need to earn 16 dollars an hour working 40 hours a week, or 89 hours a week at minimum wage.
- The people the new development will house fall within the extremely low-income range – currently \$14,700 a year or less.
- At that income level, affordable rent would need to be \$368 a month.
- For those on disability, or a senior citizen, earning \$912 a month through Social Security or disability, rent would need to be at \$274 a month for an apartment.
- The current waiting list for an efficiency apartment is 454 persons. Of that group, 325 are in the 0-30% average monthly income, 107 are elderly and 100 are disabled.
- There are over 8,100 extremely low-income households, and 50% of them are paying more than half of their income in housing costs.
- There are currently 1,050 people living in places that are not meant for human habitation.

**Continue on page 4**



City council candidate for the At Large Seat C, Amy Midis, and supporters get ready to participate in the Austin-East Homecoming Parade.

## Rise Above Crime offers free Coffee & Conversation Discussion Group

Crimes against older individuals can come in many different forms such as physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, but also those crimes that may not be as easily recognized such as financial exploitation and fraud, harassment, and stalking. Unfortunately violence against seniors is happening in our community at an alarming rate. Rise Above Crime hopes to provide education and support to those community members affected by this growing crisis in the form of a bi-weekly discussion group called Coffee and Conversation.

Rise Above Crime's Coffee and Conversation Discussion Group aims to

provide an open platform for Knoxville-Knox County's older adults to discuss elder abuse, and any issues surrounding this topic. Coffee and Conversation also aims to educate participants on elder abuse, while providing support and empowerment for those who have fallen victim to this type of abuse. Coffee and Conversation will be open to any vulnerable adult, aged 50+ in the Knoxville-Knox County area that has experienced or knows someone who has experienced elder abuse, interested in seeking support, education, and empowerment through a confidential discussion group. If you,

**Continue on page 4**

# Gun show decision goes to the new mayor, council

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

A non-binding gun policy resolution passed the Knoxville City Council Tuesday evening. The idea is to not permit gun shows on city-owned property but it appears the matter may be passed to a new mayor and council at the end of the year.

Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie, who represents the East Knoxville district that includes Chilhowee Park, said the proposal isn't a statement about legal gun ownership but one of holding a gun show

in an area known as a "Gun Zone." She said the sale of guns at public shows should not be held in close proximity to schools or churches.

Several East Knoxville residents spoke on behalf of the prohibition of gun shows in their community. Several council members also spoke on the subject.

Councilman and Vice Mayor Finbarr Saunders called the resolution "a step in the right direction."

Andrew Roberto said he supports gun ownership but there are "certain places where gun shows

are not appropriate and there are other private facilities available across our city."

George Wallace said he is concerned that the city may not have the authority to ban the shows under state law.

Two guns shows are booked at Chilhowee Park before the end of the calendar year and Mayor Rogero noted the fact, adding that she supports the move to ban gun shows in city-owned facilities. She added that next year she will "no longer be mayor" and said she would recommend the

action to the new mayor. She also said that the city will no longer accept requests for gun shows while she is still in office.

The resolution passed 8-1 with Wallace passing on the vote.

In other actions the city council voted to name the performance lawn at the World's Fair Park in honor of the mayor of Knoxville during and before the 1984 event. The lawn is becoming the "Randy Tyree Performance Lawn" and Tyree spoke briefly during the meeting.

The purchase of an

additional 1.7 acres of property at the former St. Mary's Hospital site was approved in a vote by council. Deputy Mayor Bill Lyons said the adjoining property became available and will add to the value of the proposed police and fire department headquarters there.

The council also voted to fund four additional tennis courts at West Hills Park and approved a greenway connection between Suttree Landing Park and Island Home Avenue. The contract with CDM Smith Inc. is for

preliminary engineering and final design services for \$481,620.

They also approved a transportation planning study for the intersection of Magnolia Avenue, Rutledge Pike and Asheville Highway.

A tax break was authorized for CMC Steel US LLC, for property at 1919 Tennessee Avenue. The company is planning a \$25 to \$30 million dollar expansion there over the next three years to modernize, add furnaces and welding technology.

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Picture of the Tennessee Valley Machine Knitters displaying their opossum items, courtesy of Becky Grindstaff.

# Corryton’s Annual Possum Chase

By **Ralphine Major**  
ralphine3@yahoo.com

Corryton’s Annual Possum Chase is set for October 12... but, the preparations started long before then!

The Tennessee Valley Machine Knitters held a knitting workshop on August 6 at the First United Methodist Church of Alcoa.

The knitters donate their yarn, time, and talent to create original opossum items that will be sold to benefit the Corryton Food Pantry. Last year, the knitters raised over \$700 in sales of the cleverly created scarves and purses for the Corryton Community Food Pantry. The knitters have been working on new pattern ideas for this year’s race.

The 8-Miler and 2-Miler Races are set to begin at the Corryton Senior Center, 9331 Davis Drive, Corryton, TN 37721, on Saturday, October 12, 2019. The 8-Miler will start at 8:00 a.m. EST, and the 2-Miler will start ten minutes later at 8:10 a.m. EST. Perhaps you are not into racing, but you would like to join the fun anyway. Volunteers are needed to help at the water tables, distribute awards, and much more. Mark your calendars for October 12! It is going to be an exciting day in Corryton at the Annual Possum Chase!!

Contact information: 541-786-5924 and fbushakr@eou.edu. Learn more about Corryton’s Possum Chase at <https://corrytonrace.weebly.com/>.



Rosie’s  
World

## His Wondrous Creation

The heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you endure;

they will all wear out like a garment. You change them like clothing, and they pass away. But you are the same, and your years have no end. Psalms 102:25-27  
“Holy Creator God, I look at an ocean and I marvel. I see a mountain and say, “that’s something!” The sheer magnitude of that bit of creation is awesome to me. I see a canyon cut

by a river and I delight in your artistry. But what is truly amazing is that you outlast all of these majestic masterpieces. I gaze at the night sky with its untold stars, and I exult in the wonder of your creation, but I don’t worship what you’ve made. I bow only before you, the Creator.”  
I read these words in

**Continue on page 4**

# Fighting for summer

Well, summer is officially over; at least that’s what those “in the know” say. Last century (It sounds so funny to say that), summer fun came to an end the Tuesday after Labor Day when schools opened their doors. However, this year, children sat in classrooms the first week of August. By the time the national holiday rolled around, they and their teachers were begging for a day off.

I fight the end of summer harder than anyone. The mower still cuts the grass, even though the lawn is beginning to look tired and just a bit brown. That happens to Bermuda grass when the season is over. I ignore as much as possible the leaves that have fallen from the trees. Instead, I convince myself that some strong wind that accompanied a thunderstorm ripped them from their branches, although those that litter my yard are still green and filled with life.

Tennessee football must have forgotten that fall was



By **Joe Rector**  
joerector@comcast.net

moved up. At least their opening performance seemed to suggest that the games against inferior foes had been forgotten that “It’s football time in Tennessee”. Oh, and Mother Nature decided that she’d make an already miserable situation even worse by throwing temperatures in the 90’s and a scalding sun at fans sitting on aluminum seats. Dejected folks left the stadium, stunned, disappointed, and sunburned. It wasn’t a good combination for the Vol Nation.

Public pools close after Labor Day. I heard on the news that even Dollywood Splash Country was closed for business on the Tuesday after the holiday. My pool is still opened and will stay that way until the end of September. Sure, the water slowly gets colder as the month wears on, but I made a promise to myself when we put the thing in several years ago. As long as the temperatures don’t fall lower than mountain streams, I’ll be in water

every day that doesn’t have a storm. One of the saddest times in our household is when the cover goes over the water. To us, that’s the end of summer.

I also fight changes in wardrobes at the end of summer. From the end of March until the first hint of frost on the ground, I live in shorts t-shirts and tennis shoes. A bathing suit and flip-flops make up my alternative wardrobe. The only time a pair of slacks or jeans leave the hangers in my closet is when I go to church, attend a funeral, or eat at a nice restaurant. Long-sleeved shirts and pants strangle my body and feel so uncomfortable after all those months of freedom.

By now, I’ve indirectly announced that I hate cold weather. The days are short, the nights are long, and the weather is raw. I feel trapped inside and unable to freely go about completing projects as I do during warm weather months. I know the end is near, but trust me; I’ll keep fighting for every moment of warm sun and pleasure that comes until the frozen-solid ground and freezing temperatures win the battle.

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# Tennessee's Hermitage District, I

## Pages from the Past



**By Ray Hill**  
rayhill865@gmail.com

Joseph Wellington Byrns was almost surely the most popular political figure inside Tennessee's "Hermitage District." That was the Congressional district in Tennessee which encompassed Nashville and the "Hermitage", home of General Andrew Jackson. For nearly twenty-eight years, that same district had been represented by Jo Byrns. Tall and lean with white hair and alarmingly bushy coal-black eyebrows, Jo Byrns had lost only one political race in his entire career and had ousted a supposedly unbeatable incumbent to win election to Congress in 1908. Byrns was regularly reelected and began rising in the Democratic ranks in the House of Representatives. By 1931 when the Democrats narrowly controlled the House, Byrns became Chairman of the powerful Appropriations Committee. When Speaker of the House John Nance Garner was elected Vice President with Franklin Roosevelt, Byrns was seriously considered as a replacement for the colorful Texan. Byrns had seriously pondered leaving the House himself and had very much wanted to run for the United States Senate in 1930 following the death of Senator Lawrence D. Tyson. Cordell Hull, the longtime congressman from Tennessee's Fourth District, had quickly announced he would be a candidate in the Democratic primary, but support for Hull was hardly unanimous. E. H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County political organization, did not especially like Hull and pledged Shelby County's support to Congressman Byrns. Eventually, Jo Byrns announced his candidacy for the U. S. Senate, but his campaign was over just as soon as it started. Byrns, unbeknownst to most Tennesseans, suffered a heart attack while delivering his announcement speech. Within days, Byrns had withdrawn as a candidate for the Senate and had declared he would again seek to represent the Hermitage District in Congress. By 1933, Byrns was the Majority of the House of Representatives. When Henry T. Rainey of Illinois died in the summer of 1934, the lanky Tennessean was considered the favorite to be elected Speaker of the House. Unfortunately, Jo Byrns did not spend long in the Speaker's chair, serving from January 3, 1935 until June 4, 1936.

Naturally, Tennesseans and especially the residents of Tennessee's Hermitage District were delighted to have the Speaker of the House

as one of their own. The sudden death of Jo Byrns shocked just about everyone in Washington, D. C. as well as Tennessee. Byrns was only sixty-six years old.

The Hermitage District was one of the most solidly Democratic districts in Tennessee when the Volunteer State was as blue as indigo. The heated primary to succeed Jo Byrns was won by Richard Merrill Atkinson, a former local attorney general. For a district that had not been politically volatile for decades, Atkinson proved to be somewhat controversial rather quickly. Much to the dismay of many of his constituents who strongly backed President Roosevelt, Atkinson was a bit independent-minded. Speaking before a Rotary Club in Clarksville, Tennessee, the congressman said he conducted himself in Washington by doing his best to "vote, think and act" as he believed "the average Tennessean would do." Atkinson then announced he was against FDR's plan to enlarge the U. S. Supreme Court. Many Tennesseans backed Roosevelt's bid to pack the Supreme Court and Senator Kenneth D. McKellar was one of the bitter-enders in the Senate to support FDR. Were that not enough, Congressman Atkinson had been in Clarksville to dedicate the Civilian Conservation Corp camp in the area to the late Jo Byrns.

As a freshman member of the House of Representatives, as well as one who succeeded a late Speaker, Richard M. Atkinson received more attention than many of his newly elected colleagues. Atkinson and his wife seemingly enjoyed the social whirl of the Capitol even if it impaired their ability to spend time back home. Most of Tennessee's Congressional delegation did not make it back to the Volunteer State to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday in the fall of 1937. Neither Senator McKellar or his junior colleague, George L. Berry, who had been appointed in May following the sudden death of Nathan L. Bachman, were able to leave Washington. That was especially unusual for Berry who routinely commuted between Pressman Home, Tennessee and Washington, D. C. Sam



COURTESY TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY & ARCHIVES.

*Speaker of the House Joseph Wellington Byrns and wife, Julia Elizabeth Byrns, ready for an event at Franklin D. Roosevelt's White House, circa 1935.*

D. McReynolds said he would spend time behind his desk and likely enjoy some Thanksgiving turkey later that evening. J. Ridley Mitchell told a reporter it would be "work as usual" for the bachelor congressman from Tennessee's Fourth Congressional district. Atkinson, while not claiming he would be working in his office, acknowledged he and his wife would be dining in Washington rather than Tennessee. Atkinson was back home briefly to attend a Vanderbilt football game before he and Mrs. Atkinson took a guest back to the Capitol for the special session of Congress.

The late Jo Byrns returned to the Capitol with the arrival of his official portrait, which was hung after the election of Speaker William B. Bankhead. The Chief Clerk and Curator of Art for the Capitol, Charles E. Fairman, had cautiously refused to "accept responsibility for hanging" the portrait of Byrns until it was sanctioned by Bankhead. Fairman admitted the Byrns portrait would likely take the place of a largely forgotten Democratic Speaker who would in turn be removed to a corner of the Capitol in relative obscurity.

In November of 1937, Senator K. D. McKellar announced he had recommended the appointment of Joseph W. Byrns, Jr., the only child of the late Jo Byrns, to serve as the Tennessee manager for the Home Owners' Loan Corporation. The younger Byrns was employed by the agency as an attorney. Byrns had been qualified to run for Congress in 1936 after his father's passing, but had refused to make the race.

Congressman Atkinson had already lit the admittedly short fuse of Senator Kenneth D. McKellar's temper by proposing to dismiss William M. Gupton, Postmaster of Nashville.

The right to appoint a postmaster fell to a congressman in his home city, but McKellar was one of the senior Democrats in the United States Senate, but most importantly chaired the Senate Post Office & Post Roads Committee. McKellar fired off a letter to Postmaster General (and Chairman of the Democratic National Committee) James A. Farley to protest any notion of firing Gupton. Congressman Atkinson had submitted the name of S. N. Allen as Gupton's successor.

"Such a plan would not meet with my approval in any sense," McKellar wrote to Farley. The senator said dismissing Gupton "would be an affront to him that cannot be justified, and I would regard it as an affront to me as well." There was virtually nobody in Washington, D. C. who did not realize what happened once Senator K. D. McKellar was personally affronted. Apprised of McKellar's fiery reaction to his plan, Congressman Atkinson claimed he was "surprised" and immediately claimed he wanted the postmaster of Nashville to be appointed through civil service rather than making a "political issue of it." Atkinson said he "intended to see" Senator McKellar "right away." "Civil service requirements suggest the appointment of the best fitted man for the office and I don't think Mr. Gupton, as a professional politician, should be given an advantage politically over other deserving men who can qualify on merit," Atkinson explained. In McKellar's letter to Postmaster General Farley, the senator noted a fact that was likely the reason Atkinson wished to replace William Gupton. McKellar pointed out Gupton had been appointed upon the recommendation of Congressman Jo Byrns. Gupton would be expected to support the

congressional candidacy of Joseph W. Byrns, Jr. and Atkinson surely wished to replace him with someone more loyal.

Senator George L. Berry, with his eyes locked onto running to succeed himself in 1938, also endorsed Joe Byrns, Jr. for the appointment to head the Tennessee branch of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation. Yet the New Deal agency took no action and neither senator could publicly explain the cause for the delay in considering the Byrns nomination. Byrns had other ideas, announcing on May 28, 1938 that he would be a candidate in the Democratic primary for his father's old Congressional seat. The younger Byrns declared there was but one issue between him and incumbent Richard M. Atkinson. "The issue in this campaign is Roosevelt and anti-Roosevelt," Byrns said. "I stand where my father stood. I am for Roosevelt."

Young Byrns immediately set out to win his late father's old seat in Congress, giving an impromptu speech at Yates Cave, near Cross Plains, Tennessee at a rally for farmers. He was introduced to the audience by Lee T. Dowell, the former County Clerk for Robertson County. Speaker Joseph W. Byrns had been a native of Robertson County and Dowell was a personal friend of the late congressman. Byrns campaigned in Stewart County in the middle of June where he was critical of the incumbent for Atkinson's "lack of a record" while in Congress. That was a charge most any freshman member would be vulnerable to in a reelection campaign and would later come back to haunt Byrns. Once again, Byrns was introduced to his listeners by an old friend of his father's.

Two minor candidates dropped out of the race

for the Fifth Congressional district when Earl J. Baker and Harry Nelson withdrew. Baker, an attorney, said pressing legal matters made it impossible for him to run while Nelson, a coal dealer, said he was quitting the campaign and endorsing Joseph W. Byrns, Jr. Nelson said he wished to see a clear-cut "conservative vs. liberalism - - Atkinson vs. Roosevelt" race. Nelson explained he had begun his campaign when it appeared two candidates who opposed the policies of President Roosevelt were running for the Democratic nomination. Nelson praised Byrns for running on a "100 per cent New Deal platform" and urged his friends to back the young candidate "in order to solidify the opposition to Richard M. Atkinson." Only Monty S. Ross, a former assistant city attorney, remained on the ballot against Atkinson and Byrns.

Byrns spoke at Big Rock, Bumpus Mills and Big Meadows inside the Fifth Congressional district and was moving through Dover and Cumberland City by the middle of July. Touring through the hamlets and hollows of the Fifth District, as well as the streets of Nashville largely informally, shaking hands and making extemporaneous remarks, Joseph W. Byrns, Jr. choose to formally open his drive for the Democratic nomination for Congress in Clarksville. According to the Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, somewhere between 1,500 - 2,000 people gathered to hear Joe Byrns, Jr. make his opening speech. The candidate promised to support Franklin Roosevelt and the President's policies "one hundred per cent" if he was elected to Congress. Byrns said Congressman Atkinson had betrayed President Roosevelt by his failure to properly back FDR's policies. "I am for President Roosevelt because he is the greatest humanitarian we have ever had in the White House and because I know he is a friend of the people of this district," Byrns said. The candidate was introduced by prominent Montgomery County educator Dr. S. L. Smith, who said he had agreed to introduce Joe Byrns because of his "love and devotion for his late father." Not coincidentally, Dr. Smith was a member of the Southern Economic Conference, appointed by President Roosevelt. Smith said he firmly believed FDR was trying his best to pull the country out of the depths of the Depression.

Byrns hammered Atkinson for voting against the wage and hours bill pushed by President Roosevelt. Byrns charged Congressman Atkinson had "forgotten or willfully repudiated" the promises he had made when first elected to Congress in 1936. Byrns believed Atkinson had betrayed not only the President, but the laboring people of the Fifth Congressional district.

The race for Congress in Tennessee's Hermitage District would be hard fought in 1938.



# Proposed housing facility in east Knox brings out large, vocal crowd

**Cont. from page 1**

“So it’s pretty clear rents need to be subsidized for that extremely low-income population,” said Wade. . “There’s a dire need for affordable housing in the city of Knoxville. Even if they’re housed they’re having to shell out an awful lot of monthly income in order to pay rent. We have 460 people enrolled with a case worker, so that they can get prepared to get into a housing unit. Right now there are 35 people who are ready to go, but we have no supportive housing for them.”

On the panel was Rev. Dr. Bruce Spangler, CEO of Volunteer Ministry Center. The plan is for the city to give VMC the plot of land on 5th Ave. in exchange for VMC’s development of the housing facility. VMC also plans to acquire Positively Living, a nonprofit agency that provides supportive housing, food service, and counseling to this who are homeless, mentally ill, suffering from addiction, or living with HIV/AIDS.

“We’re hoping to purchase Positively Living,” said Spangler. “Folks sign leases, so the tenant/landlord laws come into effect. The city is willing to convey the property to us, and then we develop the building. We looked around the city and saw some vacant property and asked about it. We told them (the city) what we wanted to do, which was build supportive housing.”

For the plan to go forward,

it has to be approved by two legislative bodies.

“It has to go through due process,” said Spangler, who has been at VMC for 13 years. Before that he was vice president of programs at KARM. “It has to go through MPC (the Planning Commission) and through City Council. I want to be sensitive to the community issues. We have a track record of almost 10 years of providing permanent, supportive housing. We do offer a level of compassion, but compassion always has a context, and that context is accountability. If it is successful, we intend to be the best neighbor they can have. I take their sentiments very seriously.”

By “their” Spangler referred to those in the audience who opposed the facility’s location. From the comments that followed, it was clear that the opposition comprised a sizeable part of the room, which overflowed with people.

“This is your park land,” said Dr. Greta Schmoyer, a board member of Parkridge Community Organization. “We don’t have answers for why they haven’t considered sites outside of east Knoxville. I want you to answer this question yourselves: Is this park land? And if you can’t answer that, don’t support pushing this forward on a railroad path to get it done in this (mayoral) administration. We have time to let it go to the next administration and do this properly.”

Schmoyer’s remarks

brought loud applause from the crowd.

Matt Mangrams-Tillery, president of the Knoxville-Knox Co. Homeless Coalition, spoke in favor of moving ahead with the project as proposed

“There’s an underlying discussion that’s not being talked about,” he said. “If we house people who are formerly homeless, then that is going to be a blight on the community around them.’ I want to challenge that notion. What we have found in South Knoxville, less than four miles from this spot, is that that community has grown into something gorgeous.

“That site now makes a contribution to the community there,” Mangrams-Tillery went on. “We have beautiful grounds. We have beautiful people there, who have jobs, who are seeking employment, who are seeking to improve their lives, who are going to school, who are being contributing members to their own societies. As we move forward, let’s challenge that notion that housing formerly homeless people is an automatic blight on the community.”

Some 25 of those in attendance spoke; many others still wanted to before discussion was cut off. The Knoxville-Knox Co. Planning Commission will take up the issue at its Oct. 10. meeting. If it passes there, it moves on the City Council on Nov. 19.

## Public presents different views

Listening to the many and varied respondents, it was apparent not a single one was opposed to helping those in need find housing. They differed strongly on various themes that emerged. One theme was social/cultural: east Knoxville has more than its share of problems already – crime, unemployment, inadequate economic and social resources – and that putting the proposed supportive housing facility in the area might well exacerbate those problems. The phrase “dumping ground” was used more than once.

Said De’Ossie Dingus, executive director of Alliance House Community Coalition: “If you keep putting people in East Knoxville that are addicted, undereducated, homeless, unemployable ... all you do is you create another haven for crime, more drugs. I’m not against people that are homeless, in terms of keeping them out of my community. I don’t want my community to be valued with homeless project after homeless project after homeless project.”

“The one issue we’re not talking about is NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard),” countered a woman in the audience. There is nothing wrong with us all living together. We cannot continue to push our people away. Let this be the beginning of the next new housing that we’re gonna build all over the city. The poor are with us. We have got to be willing to live with each other. We cannot continue to turn our backs on each other.”

Wade said that in fact supporting housing units are being built in other parts of the city.

A second theme, raised by a number of respondents, was official/legal: the plot of land on which the facility is to be built is part of Caswell Park, and is currently zoned as such. Therefore, until its zoning code is changed, it is legally off limits to development. Why, asked many, change its code and lose parkland? Why can’t the city find somewhere else to house those in need and save the parkland? One suggestion was a nearby lot that is currently used to dump excess rocks and other debris.

“Earlier this year, in order to meet this need, Volunteer Ministry Center came to our department to propose a development for permanent supportive housing to be built on the lot (on E. 5th) that is right across the street here,” Wade said.

The facility would be close to Positively Living. This, Spangler said, would make it more convenient for VMC to operate.

One man made the point that the land is hardly park-like - no playground, no walking trails, etc. - and that using it for a different purpose wouldn’t constitute losing parkland. Others disagreed.

Another man complained vehemently that the community had not had nearly enough advance notice of the plan

Said Wade: “The reason for this meeting was to provide information to the community. I think the people here felt they knew about the project already. The neighborhood was informed in March, and VMC met with the authorities at Parkridge in May.”

## Rise Above Crime offers free Coffee & Conversation Discussion Group

**Cont. from page 1**

or anyone that you know, are interested in attending, please contact Sasha Hammett at (865) 524-2786 for more information. The Coffee & Conversation Discussion

Group will meet at the O’Connor Senior Center (611 Winona St. in Knoxville) from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. on the following dates:  
October: 3rd and 17th  
November: 7th and 21st  
December: 5th and 19th  
January: 2nd and 16th

## His Wondrous Creation

**Cont. from page 2**

my little book “My Daily Psalms and Prayers” and was struck by the wonder of the words. In this day and age, when the winters and oceans are becoming warmer, it’s hard to remember that man has nothing to do with these changes, as so many fear. They are a part of God’s plan for His wonderful creation that He started millions of years ago. I do believe that man helped to put God’s plan in action, but most of the work is in His hands. It behooves us as God’s children to help preserve His wonderful creation. Recycle, save, preserve. It’s up to us.

I recently read in the News Sentinel that the world’s oceans and mountains are in peril, and so are we. The world’s oceans have reached or are nearing critical tipping points. Oceans have gotten warmer and more acidic and are losing oxygen, resulting in a cascade of negative effects that are wreaking havoc on coral and other marine ecosystems, threatening

the collapse of the world’s fisheries and turbocharging deadly hurricanes and tropical storms.” (Thank you, Jane Wilson and Doyle Rice).

But, let’s not despair, God is in charge.

Thought for the day: A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper, He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. Martin Luther

Send comments to: rose-merrie@att.net or call 865-748-4717. Thank you.

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# Unbeaten Powell impressive in 49-0 win over Red Devils

By Steve Williams

There's 5-0 and there's 5-0. Records can be deceiving. Powell High's football team proved that Friday night, turning in an impressive performance in a 49-0 win over rival Halls in the Battle of Emory Road. An estimated crowd of over 7,000 turned out at Halls' Dinzel "Dink" Adams Field to watch the two unbeaten teams square off. It was close for just a little over a quarter. "We have an unbelievable group of kids," said Matt Lowe, in his second year back at Powell. "Not only is there some real skill and talent on this group, they love playing football together. And they are so unselfish so much of the time. "A lot of that carried over to this past off-season and what they went through last year (having to forfeit six wins which cost them a playoff berth). They just want to win and win together and right now they are

doing a pretty good job of it."

Senior quarterback Walker Trusley had to be the Player of the Game. He completed 24 of 29 passes for 373 yards and five touchdowns. His first one capped the Panthers' opening possession – a 70-yard, 10-play march with Trusley completing passes in the flats on both side of the field before hitting sophomore Jayden Collins with a 12-yard scoring toss less than two minutes into the game. On the play, Trusley faked a run, drawing the defense in, then tossed the pass over the Red Devil defenders to his wide-open receiver. Kicker Cole Judy added his first of seven PATs. Freshman Adarius Redmond was Powell's leading receiver with four catches for 117 yards and two touchdowns, including a 79-yarder that sparked a 21-point second quarter. He caught the pass in the flat, broke a tackle and raced for paydirt.

Redmond's other score came on a 1-yard slant pass that gave Powell a 35-0 cushion and set off the TSSAA mercy rule running clock with 8:10 showing in the third quarter. Senior Tyler Kirkess also had two TD receptions (21 and 14 yards) and finished with five receptions for 94 yards. Powell's third touchdown came on Jordan Brown's 67-yard run midway into the second quarter. He got a great block downfield on the play from 270-pound senior lineman Michael Treadwell. Two freshmen produced the Panthers' final touchdown as Jordyn Potts threw a 14-yard pass to Gianni Magdos with 6:38 left in the game. Magdos' interception return to the 14 set up his first high school TD. Senior Bailor Hughes contributed 67 yards on five catches and also had 64 yards rushing on eight carries. The Powell defense shined, too. The closest

Halls got to scoring was a 37-yard field goal attempt by Jake Marcantel that sailed wide right early in the second quarter. "You can't ask for any more than a zero," said Lowe, complimenting his defense. Halls Coach Scott Cummings was disappointed with his team's play. "The bottom line is Powell is a dang good football team," he said. "They've accumulated a whole lot of talent in a short period of time. But at the same time, our deficiencies that we've been able to get by with and still win manifested themselves tonight because we did face a good talented team. "We've got to be able to cover people, tackle people and block people. It's all fundamentals and we are not very good at fundamental football. That's the bottom line. And we have got to get better." Central, the defending Class 5A state champion, will make the short trip over



PHOTO BY TRACY HEARD

Powell quarterback Walker Trusley put up big numbers in the Panthers' 49-0 win over Halls Friday night.

Black Oak Ridge next week will travel to Campbell County, seeking its fourth straight Region 3-5A win.

## West Rains on Hardin Valley's Homecoming Parade

By David Klein

It was not a very good homecoming night for the Hardin Valley Hawks Friday night. The West High School Rebels shot out of the cannon and did not look back, jumping out to a first quarter 31-0 lead on the way to a non-regional 52-20 victory. Big play after big play sparked the Rebels on the night as both the running game and passing game thrived. The party for West started on a 67-yard touchdown run on the first offensive play of the game. Running back Isaiah Mattress made the Hawks take a nap as he took a handoff and cut to the outside and raced untouched down the sideline for a 7-0 Rebel lead just 22 seconds into the game. West kicker Hudson Schmid added a 47-yard

field goal on its second possession of the game. The big plays continued after West sacked Hardin Valley. West took over and quarterback Baker Dance threw a 43-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Omarian Wright. The touchdown made it 17-0 West with 7:52 left in the first quarter. "We've started fast a lot of games," West High School head coach Lamar Brown said. "Baker's been doing a great job of getting the ball in our playmakers' hands. We will take a shot every now and then and we've been fortunate up to this point to have those shots work out for us with the athletes we have," he added. Wright got a second touchdown catch just one minute and 47 seconds later. Wright burned a Hawk cornerback deep for a

29-yard touchdown catch. West was barely breaking a sweat as the Rebels led 24-0 with 5:55 left in the first quarter. "Our game plan was to attack their secondary," Wright said. "I ran a slant and go. Coach Malone (offensive coordinator) talks about it. If I'm even, I'm leavin. I was even with the safety, and Baker Dance threw an unbelievable ball and I went to go get it." West's Elijah Roberts also got into the scoring party for the Rebels as he caught a 28-yard touchdown from Dance, his third touchdown pass of the first quarter. West led 31-0 as the first quarter drew to a close. The only bright spot for the Hawks in the first half came on a blocked punt by

**Continued on page 4**

## Valiant effort comes up short for Admirals

By Ken Lay

Maryville High School reached an obscure milestone on the gridiron last week but Farragut certainly didn't make things easy for the Red Rebels. A few mistakes kept the Admirals out of the win column as Maryville notched a 35-24 non-region victory Friday night before a packed and spirited house at Bill Clabo Field Friday night. It was Maryville's 100<sup>th</sup> consecutive victory over a team from Knox County. The Rebels (5-0) last lost a game to a school from Knoxville nearly two decades ago when they fell to Halls 21-14 in 2000. Maryville, which went 11-4 in 2000, also lost to Central. The winning streak continued but the Admirals (2-3) made things a bit difficult as Farragut quarterback Gavin Wilkinson kept his team within striking distance much of the night. The Admirals have bitten by the injury bug. Running back Matt White missed his second consecutive game but he looks to return to action this week when Farragut takes on Science Hill. But Farragut certainly put up a valiant effort after falling behind early.

The Rebels, who never trailed, got on the board first when their quarterback, Cade Chambers threw a short 5-yard pass to Nick Dagel with just four minutes into the game to make it 7-0. The Admirals answered when Wilkinson scored on a 5-yard run early in the second frame. Simeon Sharp tied the game with the extra point with 11:03 left in the first half. Chambers threw another touchdown pass before halftime and Parker McGill rushed for a score after a Farragut fumble and Maryville opened a 21-7 lead. But Farragut wouldn't go away and the Admirals pulled to within 21-10 when Sharp kicked a 31-yard field goal on the final play before halftime. Farragut also scored on its inaugural possession of the third quarter Wilkinson threw a 10-yard strike to Isaiah Arrington to make the score 21-17. The Admirals never came any closer but Farragut coach Eddie Courtney commended his squad's effort two fumbles that would prove costly. "We played with great effort again but we made a couple of mistakes that just

**Continued on page 3**



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# Tennessee Football is Broken

By Alex Norman

Tennessee's football program is a historical powerhouse. Six national championships. Thirteen SEC titles. One of the 15 winningest programs in the history of the sport.

But these days the Vols bear little resemblance to those glorious past.

The latest blow for Tennessee fans was a 34-3 loss at Florida. It's the 14th time in 15 meetings with the Gators that ended with a UT defeat. The Vols quarterbacks couldn't connect with open receivers. UT's defensive backs let Gators receivers run free. Tennessee's defensive linemen gave UF quarterback Kyle Trask all day to throw. Tennessee had four turnovers and the same number of personal foul penalties.

And while Florida is ranked in the top ten, I honestly don't think they are a very good football team (but we will find out more about them when they play Auburn and LSU in the weeks to come). So if the Vols are outclassed to this extent against the Gators, what on earth is going to happen when Tennessee plays national championship contenders Georgia and Alabama?

When Phillip Fulmer rode back to campus on his white horse to save Tennessee following Schiano Sunday in late 2017, he was tasked with fixing Tennessee football. Yes there were many other things to worry about in that athletics director role, but football drives the engine in that department. He knows it. You know it. The non-revenue sport coaches at Tennessee making six figures know it. Everyone on that campus knows it.

And so far, it looks like Fulmer made a poor choice in Jeremy Pruitt.

That's not saying he can't turn things around. If they can beat Mississippi State on October 12th, The Vols have a chance to change the direction of the season, gain some momentum and maybe... just maybe finish 6-6. But at the moment, that looks to be much more than this team can achieve.

During the Butch Jones era, one the biggest knocks on him was his inability to get players to improve. Many players arrived in Knoxville with 4 and 5 star hype, only to be an on-field disappointment. Despite having a coaching staff with big names like offensive coordinator Jim Chaney, wide receivers coach Tee Martin and defensive coordinator Derrick Ansley, you simply aren't seeing players get better at their craft.

Yes the argument can be made that some of these players were Butch Jones recruits, but that doesn't mean their trajectory couldn't be different with better coaches. For all the criticism laid at the feet of the players, the coaching staff should get their share of the blame as well. These guys make a whole lot of cash and the University of Tennessee is not getting their monies worth.

I'm not saying I have the answers. I don't. A place with the tradition, the facilities, and the fan base like Tennessee should not have this kind of dysfunctional situation. But this is where we are now.

There are conspiracy theories flying around among national media members that Fulmer is going to fire Pruitt and take over the program following the inevitable loss at Alabama in October. Personally, I don't buy it. Fulmer hasn't coached a game in 11 years. That part of his life is over. Also, this program needs stability. There have been way too many coaching firings and searches over the past 12 years. That said if the Vols finish say 2-10, Fulmer will have to give serious consideration to firing Pruitt.

Back in 2011 the Vols lost to Kentucky for the first time in 27 years. It was a historic defeat and one that proved Derek Dooley was not going to get it done at Tennessee. Dave Hart was the athletics director back then. He had only been on campus a few months and didn't want to make that big a decision right away, so he gave Dooley a third year. It was the wrong decision, and it set Tennessee back another year in the rebuild.

Acting swiftly and confidently would have benefited Tennessee eight years ago. It might need to do so later this year.

# Pruitt is still best hope for UT football in the long run



By Steve Williams

When Jeremy Pruitt said late last season that he needed better players, the first-year Tennessee football coach was criticized by some, although he was just being brutally honest.

When he said last week in his open date press conference that his team was "a hundred times better" than it was a year ago, he was criticized for going overboard in evaluating the team, which has gotten off to a 1-3 start in 2019, including a stunning season-opening loss to Georgia State and a 31-point defeat at Florida in its last game.

In both cases, I think Pruitt was just being honest with his remarks, although he probably could have picked a better figure of speech to use after the one-sided loss in the Swamp.

Pruitt, it seems, never had a honeymoon with this job – his first as a head coach on the collegiate level.

That's what happens I guess when you're the fourth head coach in what now is an 11-year long rebuilding project.

Patience has worn thin

for many fans. And even some in the local media critique Pruitt like he has been on the job for years, when in actuality, he's only been here a little over 21 months.

Is that fair? I don't think so.

You don't build a football program overnight, particularly one that has been down for most of the past 11 seasons.

I'll say this too: Despite being 1-3 right now, Pruitt is the best football coach Tennessee has had since Phillip Fulmer held the reins. And Fulmer, who was head coach of the Vols for 16 years and guided them to a national championship in 1998, hand-picked him – his first hire as UT's athletic director. Pruitt hasn't been perfect early on as a head coach, but I feel he will only get better with time.

As I've written before, Tennessee's football program needs stability in its coaching staff more than anything, if it wants to regain a place among the nation's elite. For 32 years – 16 under Johnny Majors and another 16 under Fulmer – UT football enjoyed a lot of good times and won

championships. Many of you are old enough to remember. If you're 30 or younger, you probably don't.

Tennessee football was blindsided at the start of this season. Nobody expected what happened to happen. But Georgia State was a better football team than Tennessee on that day and Pruitt admitted Georgia State "out-coached us."

The Vols bounced back and had a good BYU team beat. Then a breakdown in the secondary in the closing seconds of regulation allowed the Cougars to tie the game and win in overtime.

Tennessee did topple Chattanooga as expected in Game 3, but lost to Florida far worse than expected. Surprisingly, quarterback Jarrett Guarantano was benched and freshman Brian Mauer was put in at the start of the second half.

The Vols' strength going into this season, we thought, was having an experienced quarterback and a talented secondary. Instead, in the first four games, these two areas have been their weakest.

The starting quarterback position was reopened last

week and Pruitt said that Guarantano, Mauer and J.T. Shrout would get the same number of reps in practice.

"At quarterback and every position, we'll play who we think gives us the best chance to win," said Pruitt.

Youth also has contributed to the 1-3 start. Pruitt said 80 of the squad's 115 players are freshmen and sophomores. He also pointed out that 17 true freshmen have played this year and he expects more will as the season goes on.

With youth comes hope and surprises. Let's hope they grow up fast and help bring us something to cheer about over the remainder of the season. There's still a long way to go.

"I don't see any quit in this group," said Pruitt. "These guys I think are fighters."

The season resumes Saturday night with the No. 3 ranked Georgia Bulldogs coming to town. Word has it their fans plan to take over Neyland Stadium with a "Red Out."

I don't think the UT fans will let that happen. They've been one of the few bright spots of this season already and I'll be surprised if they don't step up again.

# Bearden knocks off Lady Rebels to clinch top seed in district tourney

By Ken Lay

For the third consecutive season, the Bearden High School girls soccer team has won the District 2-AAA regular-season championship.

Since joining the league, the Lady Bulldogs have yet to lose a district match and they'll look to conclude a third straight run to the district tournament title.

Bearden, which has played most of its games away from the friendly confines of Turner-Allender Field, will be home for the entirety of the postseason tournament.

The Lady Bulldogs clinched homefield advantage with a 4-0 victory over West High Wednesday night at Bill Wilson Field.

"This was huge for us," Bearden coach Ryan Radcliffe said. "We've played (almost) all of our games on the road. Now, hopefully, we'll be home until we get to state."

"I don't even remember what our home field looks like and being at home will be a big advantage for us."

Bearden (13-1-1 overall, 4-0 in the district) was playing its third game in as many nights. The Lady Bulldogs had a rare 2019 home match Tuesday, where they celebrated Senior Night with a 10-0 drubbing of Morristown East. They opened the week on Monday, Sept. 22 in lackluster fashion and played Hardin Valley Academy to a 2-2 draw on the road. The Lady Hawks are Knox County's other top Class AAA side.

Radcliffe was far from pleased with that result and gave his team a tongue lashing after that match. Bearden obviously responded Tuesday with a dominating victory over the Lady Hurricanes.

On Wednesday against the Lady Rebels (7-2-2, 1-1), the Bulldogs withstood an early rush and senior goalkeeper Megan Armstrong had a couple of big early saves that set the tone.

"Megan has done a great job. She had some big saves tonight and she had some huge saves against Hardin Valley," Radcliffe said. "She's been great all year."

"I don't want to say that we're in a valley right now, but we've reached that point of the season where you really just have to gut things out. I'm really proud of the girls for getting the job done. West is a good team and they gave us all that we could handle, especially early."

The game was in a 0-0 stalemate as the two defenses, along with Armstrong and Lady Rebels' netminder Halley Crouch, took center stage.

Bearden finally broke the deadlock when senior Abby Brewer tallied the first goal of the match in the 26<sup>th</sup> minute.

The Lady Bulldogs extended their advantage to 2-0 on a marker by Hannah Wilson in the 37<sup>th</sup> minute.

After halftime, Brewer got her second goal of the match in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute before Zneyah McLaughlin closed out the scoring in the 79<sup>th</sup> minute.

Bearden has a pair of road matches left. The Lady Bulldogs play at Maryville Tuesday before closing out the regular



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS.

**West High's Lily Norton (42) and Bearden's Chandler Alaniz use their heads in a crucial District 2-AAA match won by the Lady Bulldogs Wednesday at Bill Wilson Field. The Lady Bulldogs won 4-0.**

season at Oak Ridge on Tuesday, Oct. 8.

Radcliffe is hoping to stay home during the playoffs but West High coach Xandy Vandenberg and the Lady Rebels have other ideas as the Lady Bulldogs and Lady Rebels will likely play in for the district tournament championship.

Both squads will advance to the Region 1-AAA Tournament, but the runner-up will have to travel to Northeast Tennessee.

"The plan is to play them again in the district finals," Vandenberg said. "We had a great effort tonight throughout the entire game; we just made some silly mistakes."

"They are beatable. Everybody is beatable."

# Lady Bobcats clinch district title with 'nerve-racking' victory

By Ken Lay

Central High School girls soccer coach Bill Mize had to breathe a huge sigh of relief after this team won the District 4-AA regular-season championship Tuesday night.

"Boy, that was a

nerve-racking game," Mize said after the Lady Bobcats shut out South-Doyle 4-0 at Dan Y. Boring Stadium in Fountain City. "They made us work really hard tonight."

"We'll probably see them again in the district (tournament) finals, so we better

be ready. "They're a good team and they played really hard and they got some chances on the counter-attack. They're always well-coached and (Lady Cherokees' coach) Adam (Massie) always does a great job with his team."

On this night, the Lady Bobcats (9-6-1 overall, 3-0 in District 4-AA) honored one of the most successful senior classes in school history.

In addition to clinching the district's regular-season championship last week, Central has made back-to-back state sectional appearances where the lost to Seymour in both

2017 and 2018.

The Lady Bobcats won the 2017 Region 2-AA Championship when they upset Catholic in the region title match after the Lady Irish beat them during the regular season and during the district tournament.

In 2016, while still playing in District 3-AAA, the Lady Bobcats shared the league title with Powell. The 2019 senior class includes: Goalkeeper Ashton Blair, defender Ellie Dee, forward Braelyn Bruce, midfielder Kyleigh Haught and midfielder Kaitlynn Decker.

But against the Lady Cherokees (0-9-1, 0-1) the Lady Bobcats controlled

the tempo but South-Doyle sophomore goalkeeper Makayla Wilkerson stopped just about every shot she faced until Haught tallied in the 23<sup>rd</sup> minute.

Wilkerson made 13 saves in the first half and finished the match with 21 stops.

"She played really well," Mize said of Wilkerson. "We got shot after shot, after shot, and she made save after save."

The Lady Bobcats found their shooting touch after halftime as sophomore midfielder Lyric Fowler scored a pair of goals in the 54<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> minute respectively.

Central freshman forward Lily Wilds scored the Lady Bobcats' third marker of the match in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute.

Massie said he was pleased with Wilkerson's performance between the goalposts.

"She's our backup keeper and she really did a good job," Massie said of his netminder. "She did a good job and worked hard getting herself into position."

"She played without fear and she really played with a lot of heart."

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# Webb gets needed regional win, 26-7 over Notre Dame

**By Bill Howard**

The football game Friday night, Sept. 27, between Webb School of Knoxville and Notre Dame High School at David Meske Stadium was huge for both teams. Webb's lone regional game was a loss to Boyd Buchanan; the Irish were 1-1 in the region. A second loss for either would put them in a big hole in the Division II, AA-East Region standings.

A pair of touchdown passes by quarterback Joseph Moore complemented the Spartans' typical run-heavy offense, and Webb won going away, 26-7. For Meske, the game was pivotal.

"It's huge," he said. "That was a big game for us. We had to get going in the right direction. It puts us back in the running. We need to keep going...one game at a time. I think we have a chance to be successful if we work hard and keep going the way we're going right now."

Meske attributed the win in part to his squad's preparation last week.

"We had the best two days of practice on Monday and Tuesday we've had in a long time," said Meske, in this 35th year at Webb. "It just was intensity; they wanted to get it changed ... the intensity of practice went up, from the coaches to the players. The players ran the show. It was great."

The Spartans (2-3, 1-1) used all four scoring methods – touchdown/PAT, field goal, and safety – to build a 19-0 halftime lead, and put the game away. On the game's opening drive, kicker Otto Niendorff connected from 25 yards for a 3-0 lead.

After an Irish punt, Grissom Anderson capped off a six-play, 70-yard drive with a one-yard plunge. On the first play of the drive, running back Elijah Bane galloped for 55 yards. For the half, the pair ran for 135 yards on 19 carries. Dominic Vance added 73 yards on 10 carries for the game.

Webb's first-half defense, meanwhile, was more than doing its job: four Irish possessions resulted in three punts and a safety. Notre Dame's total offense in the half was a single yard, compared to Webb's 186.

"That's great for our defensive front," said Meske.

After a botched snap in the end zone gave the Spartans a safety, Webb marched 51 yards and made it 19-0 when Moore connected with Luc Nadaud for a 32-yard touchdown with 4:13 left in the half.

For Meske, Nadaud earns his keep and then some. "Luc caught a pass that was a hard one to catch," he said. "That was a really great play. (He) plays so hard for us. On every kickoff he makes a tackle...he plays defensive end...he plays tight end....he never comes off the field. He just makes plays."

Notre Dame's (2-3, 1-2) score – a 16-yard pass from Dallas Brown to Hugh Robinson late in the third – cut it to 19-7, and gave the Irish momentum.

"I was worried because all of a sudden if they score again I didn't want to get into a situation where you have to onside kick," said Meske.

When the Irish got the ball back early in the fourth, a score would have made it a new game.

Garrett Carnathan's interception with 8:01 left not only snuffed the drive, but set up Moore's game-clinching 25-yard touchdown pass to Bane with 6:26 left.

"Garett made a big interception and that changed the momentum," Meske said. "Bane did a great job. Joseph made a couple passes that were wonderful. When you run our offense and you do throw the ball you have a chance to make a big play."

Next week Webb hosts pass-happy Grace Christian. Notre Dame hosts CAK.

"That'll be a challenge," said Meske. "I know they throw the ball, so it'll be a totally different look than what we saw tonight.... from a totally single-wing running game to throwing the ball all over the field."

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS NOTEBOOK

# South-Doyle rated No. 1 among state's Class 5A football teams

**By Steve Williams**

At the halfway mark of the 2019 high school football season, South-Doyle was the No. 1 rated team in the state in Class 5A in the Sonny Moore Computer Power Ratings.

Gallatin was No. 2 followed by West, Powell and Central in Class 5A's top five.

As far as other Class 5A schools in the local area, Oak Ridge was rated No. 12, Halls No. 20 and Gibbs No. 22.

Coach Clark Duncan's Cherokees also were rated No. 6 in the state counting all TSSAA classifications.

The ratings included games played through Week 5.

In Class 6A, Murfreesboro Oakland was No. 1, Maryville No. 2 and Farragut No. 17.

No. 1 Elizabethton followed by Greeneville and Anderson County were the top three rated teams in Class 4A.

Alcoa was No. 3 in Class 3A behind No. 1 Nashville Pearl Cohn and No. 2 Covington. Gatlinburg-Pittman was No. 5, Loudon No. 8 and Austin-East No. 15 in Class 3A.

Chattanooga Tyner held down the top rating in Class 2A. In Class 1A, South Pittsburg was No. 1 and Greenback No. 3.

In the Division II-AAA ratings, Chattanooga McCallie was No. 1 and Knoxville Catholic No. 8.

Grace Christian Academy was No. 4 in the Division II-AA ratings, CAK No. 8 and Webb No. 11. Lipscomb Academy in Nashville was the top rated team in II-AA.

University School of Jackson is the state's top rated Division II-A team. The King's Academy is No. 8 in that classification.

**A GLANCE BACK:** West remained undefeated with a 52-20 win over rival Hardin Valley in Week 6 ... Austin-East bounced back from its loss at Greeneville with a 46-36 win over rival Chattanooga Brainerd ... Seymour snapped a four-game losing streak with a 37-14 win over Heritage.

**CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK:** Catholic's Kaden Martin, son of UT coach and Vol great Tee Martin, made his first start at quarterback for Catholic and threw three touchdown passes as the Fighting Irish defeated Science Hill 48-17 Friday night. It was Catholic's first win since Week 2.

**A LOOK AHEAD:** Bearden (0-5) and Hardin Valley (1-5) are scheduled to play at HVA in this week's Rivalry Thursday game on MyVLT. Despite the teams' losing seasons, a matchup like this is often close and exciting.

On the other side of the county, Central will be going after its 20th straight win when it plays at Halls in a Region 2-5A game.

**CAK SWEEPS:** Christian Academy of Knoxville captured the Division II Class A East Region boys' and girls' team golf championships Sept. 23 at Three Ridges.

Playing on the CAK boys' team were Jackson Huey 71, Aaron Frazer 71, Ben Johnston 72, John Meadows 74 and Eli Hinton 80.

The CAK girls' squad included medalist Kate Faulkner 77, Allie Cooper 84 and Caitlin Carroll 93.

The Webb boys and Boyd Buchanan girls were runners-up and also qualified for the TSSAA state tournament.

The Webb team included medalist Reece Britt 67, Eli Mayes 77, Sam King 82, Harrison Stephens 82 and Tyler Reed 90.

Qualifying for the boys' state as individuals were Cooper Hayes of Berean 70 and Spencer Myers of Grace Christian 73.

Advancing to the girls' state as individuals included Taylor Carter of the King's Academy 88.

The District 3-AAA and 4-AAA tournaments will be held Monday (today) at Oak Ridge Country Club and Lambert Acres Golf Club in Maryville, respectively.

**VOLLEYBALL:** Hardin Valley Academy defeated William Blount last week to finish 5-1 in District 3-AAA and earn a share of the regular season title with Heritage. The top seed in the tournament, which starts Oct. 7 at



Karns cheerleaders and fans enjoy the Beavers' 28-20 win over Fulton in Week 5. It was the first victory of the season for Karns, which lost to Fulton last year, 70-14.

William Blount, will be Heritage by virtue of its regular season win over HVA.

**CROSS COUNTRY:** The KIL Championships will be held Saturday morning at Sequoyah Hills Park off Cherokee Boulevard. The girls' run starts at 9 and the boys' run at 9:45. Awards will be presented at 10:45.

# Valiant effort comes up short for Admirals

Cont. from page 1

"killed us," Courtney said. "You're never happy with a loss, but if you learn something from a loss, and take something away, it's a positive."

"We've had great effort in every game this year and our defense just keeps getting better every week and Gavin played like we expect him to play. We're in the region the next five weeks and that kind of gives a chance to reset. We just have to come back, go to work and just keep getting better."

Maryville took a 28-17

lead later in the third quarter and salted things away on Chambers' fourth touchdown pass of the game midway through the final frame.

Wilkinson, who went 22-for-28 for 277 yards through the air, scored on a late touchdown run and his game impressed Maryville coach Derek Hunt.

"I'm telling you, Farragut throws the ball as well as anybody in this area," Hunt said. "That quarterback does a great job. They've got really good receivers and their coaches are good. "They really scheme us up."

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# PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

## WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Go Rebels!

**Jack Eggleston**

11th grade LB/TE at West High School

West beat Oak Ridge 24-7 with help from Eggleston's performance: six tackles, one tackle for loss, one interception and one touchdown catch.

## CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Go Bobcats!

**Kalib Fortner**

11th grade LB at Central High School

In the 29-3 Week 5 victory over Seymour, Fortner made eight tackles, four assists, one sack, two tackles for loss and one interception.

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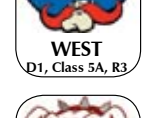






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PREP FOOTBALL											HOME GAMES IN GOLD	CONF. GAME	WVLT RIVALRY THURSDAY GAME
	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6	WEEK 7	WEEK 8	WEEK 9	WEEK 10	WEEK 11		
	Aug. 22-24	Aug. 29-31	Sept. 5-6	Sept. 12-13	Sept. 19-20	Sept. 26-27	Oct. 3-4	Oct. 10-11	Oct. 17-18	Oct. 24-25	Nov. 1		
	OPEN	OPEN	vs. South Haven L, 20-56	vs. South Carolina W, 56-21	vs. Alabama L, 0-38	vs. Mississippi	vs. South Carolina	vs. Florida	vs. TN Heat	OPEN	OPEN		
	vs. Knox Webb L, 0-3	vs. Alcoa L, 0-42	vs. Kingston W, 34-22	vs. Fulton W, 70-36	vs. Greenville L, 22-49	vs. Brainerd W, 46-36	vs. Scott County	vs. Gatlinburg-Pittman	vs. Pigeon Forge	OPEN	vs. Northview Academy		
	vs. Rhea County L, 6-42	vs. Campbell County L, 21-24	vs. Seymour W, 27-7	vs. Lenior City W, 20-7	vs. Halls L, 18-19	vs. South-Doyle L, 0-42	vs. Morristown West	OPEN	vs. Central	vs. Gibbs	vs. Sevier County		
	vs. Cleveland W, 51-20	vs. Fulton W, 13-12	vs. Sevier County W, 55-13	vs. Hardin Valley W, 16-7	vs. Seymour W, 49-3	vs. Knox Central KY W, 43-7	vs. Halls	OPEN	vs. Carter	vs. South-Doyle	vs. Gibbs		
	vs. Halls L, 21-32	vs. Seymour W, 41-23	vs. South-Doyle L, 17-62	vs. Morris-town East W, 31-6	vs. Campbell County W, 42-14	vs. Rhea County L, 0-49	vs. Sevier County	OPEN	vs. Lenior City	vs. Carter	vs. Central		
	vs. Gibbs W, 32-21	vs. Karns W, 45-0	vs. Clinton W, 34-26	vs. Union County W, 35-6	vs. Carter W, 19-18	vs. Powell L, 0-49	vs. Central	OPEN	vs. South-Doyle	vs. Sevier County	vs. Seymour		
	vs. The King's Academy W, 24-17	vs. Gibbs L, 23-41	vs. Carter L, 7-27	vs. Campbell County L, 13-35	vs. Central L, 3-49	vs. Heritage W, 37-14	vs. South-Doyle	OPEN	vs. Sevier County	vs. Lenior City	vs. Halls		
	vs. Fulton W, 42-3	vs. Grace Christian W, 61-7	vs. Gibbs W, 62-17	vs. Anderson County L, 22-31	vs. Sevier County W, 60-20	vs. Carter W, 42-0	vs. Seymour	OPEN	vs. Halls	vs. Central	vs. Powell		
	vs. South-Doyle L, 3-42	vs. Central L, 12-13	vs. Powell L, 0-34	vs. Austin-East L, 36-70	vs. Karns L, 28-20	OPEN	vs. Maryville	vs. Clinton	vs. Campbell County	vs. West	vs. Oak Ridge		
	vs. Walker County L, 40-42	vs. Halls L, 0-45	vs. West L, 0-45	vs. Powell L, 6-49	vs. Fulton W, 20-28	vs. Campbell County L, 20-27	vs. Oak Ridge	OPEN	vs. Heritage	vs. Rhea County	vs. Clinton		
	vs. Greeneville W, 19-17	vs. Anderson County W, 48-36	vs. Fulton W, 34-0	vs. Karns W, 49-6	vs. Clinton W, 48-7	vs. Halls W, 49-0	vs. Campbell County	OPEN	vs. West	vs. Oak Ridge	vs. South-Doyle		
	vs. Bearden W, 34-31 OT	vs. Farragut W, 24-13	vs. Karns w, 45-0	vs. Jefferson County W, 49-22	vs. Oak Ridge W, 49-22	vs. Hardin Valley W, 52-20	vs. Clinton	OPEN	vs. Powell	vs. Fulton	vs. Campbell County		
	vs. West L, 31-34 OT	vs. Maryville L, 14-47	vs. Dobyns-Bennett L, 14-39	vs. Bradley Central L, 21-49	OPEN	vs. McMinn County L, 13-37	vs. Hardin Valley	vs. Jefferson County	vs. Farragut	vs. Morristown West	vs. Science Hill		
	vs. Bradley Central W, 37-30	vs. West L, 13-24	OPEN	vs. Oak Ridge L, 14-21	vs. Morristown West W, 42-14	vs. Maryville L, 24-35	vs. Science Hill	vs. Dobyns-Bennett	vs. Bearden	vs. Hardin Valley	vs. Jefferson County		
	vs. Oak Ridge W, 13-6	vs. Cleveland L, 19-31	vs. Science Hill L, 14-52	vs. Central L, 7-16	vs. Dobyns-Bennett L, 0-42	vs. West L 20-52	vs. Bearden	OPEN	vs. Jefferson County	vs. Farragut	vs. Morristown West		
	vs. Seymour L, 17-24	vs. Gatlinburg Pittman L, 20-55	vs. Grace - Franklin W, 48-7	vs. Mt Juliet Christian W, 65-49	vs. Webb School W, 77-35	vs. Friendship Christian L, 7-42	vs. Mid Tenn Christian	vs. Onieda	vs. DCA	vs. Grace Chattanooga	OPEN		
	vs. Volunteer W, 36-16	vs. Clinton W, 24-14	vs. White County W, 32-29	vs. Stone Memorial W, 59-20	vs. Silverdale Academy W, 28-14	vs. Chattanooga Christian L, 3-14	vs. Notre Dame	OPEN	vs. Boyd Buchanan	vs. GCA	vs. Knoxville Webb		
	vs. Austin-East W, 3-0	vs. McCallie L, 7-42	vs. Boyd Buchanan L, 21-28	vs. David Crockett L, 21-28	OPEN	vs. Notre Dame W, 26-7	vs. GCA	OPEN	vs. Silverdale Academy	vs. Chattanooga Christian	vs. CAK		
	vs. Stone Memorial W, 34-6	vs. South-Doyle L, 7-61	OPEN	vs. York Institute W, 28-7	vs. Notre Dame W, 35-6	vs. Silverdale Academy	vs. Knoxville Webb	vs. Chattanooga Christian	vs. Trinity Academy	vs. CAK	vs. Boyd Buchanan		
	vs. Chucky-Doak W, 48-0	vs. Highlands Corbin, KY W, 31-28	vs. Ensworth L, 28-33	OPEN	vs. McCallie L, 19-56	vs. Science Hill W, 48-17	vs. Brentwood Academy	vs. West Greene	vs. Baylor	vs. Brentwood	vs. Father Ryan		

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FOOTBALL

Week 6

Austin-East - Xavier Jones

Bearden - Dylan Waldbauer

CAK - Josiah Sealey

Carter - Elijah Wright

Catholic - Caden Buckles

Central - Jaylan Campbell

Farragut - Alex Farkas

Fulton - Jame Coleman

Gibbs- Keegan Katz

GCA - Gage Maynard

Halls - Aaron Coley

HVA - Sam Simpson

Karns - Desean Bishop

Powell - Eli Owens

Seymour - Cameron Bozzone

South-Doyle - Mason Brang

TSD - Lorenzo Currie

TKA - Ryan Ballard

Webb - Joseph Moore

West - Baker Dance

University of Tennessee - Brandon Kennedy (UT recipient following Florida game)

# West Rains on Hardin Valley

**Cont. from page 1**

senior defensive end Jaylen Moore. Cam York recovered the football in West's end zone for a touchdown during a mad scramble for the ball after the punt block. Hardin Valley cut the lead to 35-6.

Momentum did not last long for the Hawks, however. West went right back down the field, and running back John Cupp ran for a 2-yard touchdown to make it 38-6 West.


Cupp ran for a second touchdown from one yard out to make it 45-6 West just before halftime.

Hardin Valley would add two touchdowns in the second half to make it a little more respectable, a 12-yard touchdown pass from Jacob smith to York and a 26-yard touchdown pass from Backup quarterback Sam Simpson to Matt Abernathy.

"Our team is really playing with a chip on the shoulder," Brown said. "They feel like a lot of people are overlooking us and they come out every night with that chip on their shoulder. They come to work every day. What we do on Friday nights just shows what we do Monday through Thursday. These kids are unbelievable."

West improved to 6-0 and hosts Clinton Friday in a Region 3-5A district game while Hardin Valley fell to 1-4 and hosts Bearden in a Region 1-6A game.





The Doctor is in

a weekly column by Dr. Jim Ferguson

## The Manchurian Candidates

Will Rogers once said, “I don’t do comedy, I just report the news.” However, in Roger’s time, unlike today, there was at least some semblance of factual reporting. I used to just laugh at the insanity of Democrat-Progressive-Socialists blather, but now they have become a dangerous, delusional and destructive mob.

I first heard of brainwashing in the 1960s movie *The Manchurian Candidate*. The story revolves around the capture of American soldiers during the Korean War who are then taken to Manchuria, an area of North Eastern Asia comprising sections of Russia and China. There they are subjected to indoctrination and one is turned into a sleeper assassin who will later be “activated” and kill the American President.

As I watched last week’s climate hysteria and the United Nations speech of

16-year-old Swede Greta Thunberger, indoctrination and brainwashing came to mind. There is no doubt this teenager with autism spectrum disorder believes what she’s been told. Her shrill condemnation of older generations who “have stolen my dreams” and are responsible for “entire ecosystems collapsing” with “mass extinction,” was painful to watch. She is the current darling and useful prop of leftist environmental justice warriors, but what a bleak and hopeless reality she sees. If Thunberg is right the world will be gone in 10 years and her generation Z is aptly named because it will be the last generation.

A delusion is something that is falsely believed. I find it interesting that Thunberg did not sail to the polluted Far East, but to NY and the United Nations. I hear little or no condemnation of China’s or India’s

severe environmental polluting policies. As I look out my window or out through the Internet’s “Windows” on the world, the real American pollution is seen on the streets of San Francisco and Los Angeles. Objectively, America’s CO2 signature has been reduced to levels in the mid 1980s levels. And unfortunately, “No amount of evidence will ever persuade an idiot” (Mark Twain).

The hate-filled rhetoric and threats of other young climate-crisis activists were similarly disturbing and reminded me of an episode some years ago when a young office worker overheard my nurse and me discussing a patient dilemma. An older lady wanted me to do unnecessary tests and dishonestly bill Medicare for the services. The patient’s insistence was becoming a problem. I was ventilating to my nurse when the young worker said, “Don’t worry, Dr. Ferguson, your time is almost over and it’s my generation’s time to run things. We’ll have no trouble telling older patients, ‘No.’” I heard the same threats in the young environmental activists.

Understand that the word conservative derives from conserving. For me it is inconceivable to throw trash on the ground or be

wasteful. I was recycling before it was cool to do so. It troubles me greatly that glass is no longer being collected and recycled by Knox County. Liberals do not own feelings or compassion for others or concern for the environment. A rational conservative cares for the earth despite what the media say.

These days, climate-warriors are not the only delusional people. I think the media has convinced themselves that Trump is evil and must be destroyed. Their hatred has brainwashed them and apparently others like the craven Adam Schiff, Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. He continues to say he has proof that Trump colluded with the Russians, despite Mueller’s report to the contrary. And Schiff’s recent opening statements in his Committee were not just lies, they were delusional and seditious. The Ukrainian brouhaha is nothing but a recreation of the disproven Russian connection. Actually, Trump is being accused of what Joe Biden, Democrat Senators Dick Durbin, Patrick Leahy, Bob Menendez, Chris Murphy and Hillary Clinton all did. If you doubt me read Biden and the Senators’ threats to Ukraine. And need I remind you of the salacious Steele

document paid for by Hillary Clinton?

Is it possible that one’s hatred clouds perceptions to such an extent that one becomes delusional? People with mental illness experience delusional thinking and hallucinations. The seas are not rising and the Charlton Heston bought an ocean front condo some years ago. In the last hundred years the earth has had several decades of warming and then cooling. The media warned of another Ice Age in a cool period of my youth. Sixty-five million years ago the earth was quite hot and then 65,000 years ago the ice pack at Niagara Falls was a mile thick. Industrial man was not present in either period. We should plant trees, be frugal, use clean coal technology, natural gas and nuclear power, but you can’t fly an airplane with solar power. I refuse to be cold and sit in the dark while doomsayers predict the latest Earth killing disaster.

Some years ago a young lady was in my office for medical care. Apparently, she misconstrued remarks I had made in a Focus column and began extolling the “virtues” of electric cars as she charged her iPhone from my wall electrical outlet.

I asked her where she

thought the electricity flowing into her iPhone and electric cars originates. When she hesitated, I explained to her the electrical power is generated at either a hydroelectric dam, a geothermal source, by nuclear power plants or from the combustion of fossil fuels such as coal, diesel or natural gas. I hope she thought about this explanation after she left, but I fear indoctrinated delusions and Mark Twain’s observations prevailed.

Humans have five senses to collect information from the world around us. Then, that data is sent to the brain for processing, analysis and cross-referencing. I think we also have a sixth sense which I label as intuition. This is certainly true of a woman’s intuition. Guys have “gut-feelings.” This metaphorical rudder, modified by conscience, hopefully steers our ships clear of the shoals and reefs in life and common sense will prevail.

I pray that the American people will be able to wade through the media’s noise and not be deluded by hatred or seditious politics. Because, as the master of the misplaced modifier, Yoda observes, “The path to the Dark Side, it is.”

You may email Dr. Ferguson at [fergusonj@knoxfocus.com](mailto:fergusonj@knoxfocus.com)


# Visiting the forts in our area is historic fun

We are so privileged in East Tennessee and Knox County to have so many historic sites surrounding us, especially the number of early forts. Within an easy day’s drive are fortifications built long before statehood and fort sites built during the Civil War.

In Knoxville there’s Fort Dickerson, overlooking the city just off Chapman Highway. The Civil War fort protected the city during the war. Nearby is Fort Higley, on Cherokee Trail, which was located and the breastwork restored only a few years ago.

The knoll where the Old


A Day Away



By Mike Steely

Knoxville Courthouse sits was originally the site of a federal garrison fort and, within grounds of the fort, are the graves of John Sevier and his first and second wives.

Fort Southwest Point is located in Kingston and overlooks the junction of the Clinch and Tennessee Rivers. It also served as an Indian Agency. Fort Loudoun, south of Vonore, was the first English fort built on the west side of the Appalachian Mountains and, although reconstructed and relocated slightly above the original site, gives visitors a good idea



*The James White Fort in Knoxville is a great place to visit this autumn. It's only one of many historic forts in East Tennessee. Some have been restored and others appear only as Historic Markers.*

of fort life before the American Revolution.

Tellico Blockhouse was a fort across the river from Fort Loudoun and built many years later as an Indian Agency, Trading Post, and military facility. The fort foundations and

well were recovered and restored.

Fort Marr was a Cherokee Removal fort located along the Tennessee and Georgia state line and was moved years ago to Benton, Tn. All that remains is the blockhouse.

There are many fort sites that have been identified but the forts are long gone as civilization plowed over them, businesses, houses and roads now occupying the sites. Those include Breastwork Hill overlooking Tazewell where Union earthworks can still be seen.

Knoxville has several former old fort sites that have vanished under civilization including Fort Sanders, Fort Adair, and various smaller gun placement battery sites. Civil War Fort Huntington Smith was located on the grounds of the Green Magnet Academy. Cavett Station was located on Broome Road and was the site of a Chickamauga attack and massacre of residents there. Campbell’s Station and other pioneer cabins were

fortified during the Cherokee wars and the Mabrey-Hazen House was fortified during the Civil War.

Other “lost” forts include various fort locations within the Cumberland Gap National Park, especially atop the pinnacle overlooking Tennessee, Virginia and Kentucky. Fort Cass is located in Bradley County and Fort Watauga in Carter County. Fort Hiwassee is located near Dayton, Tn., on the Tennessee River and a private grave year there contains graves of the pre-Tennessee soldiers.

John Miller’s Fort was somewhere in Raccoon Valley. Raccoon was Miller’s nickname.



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LEGAL & PUBLIC  
NOTICES

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RUTH LITTLE WHITE  
DOCKET NUMBER 82184-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 18 day of SEPTEMBER 2019, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of RUTH LITTLE WHITE who died Aug 12, 2019, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first date of the publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 18 day of SEPTEMBER, 2019.

ESTATE OF RUTH LITTLE WHITE  
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JONATHAN K WHITE, EXECUTOR  
1404 MANDRELL DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37918

DAVID W TIPTON, ATTORNEY AT LAW  
1401 FIRST TENNESSEE PLAZA  
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37929

MISC.  
NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

In compliance with TCA 66-14-102 thru 66-14-106 the following cars will be sold on October 18, 2019 @ 2:00 PM @ Cedar Bluff Towing, Inc. 623 Simmons Road Knoxville, TN if total bill is not paid by date of sale.

1999 Che Malib 1G1NE52M8X6239025  
1998 For Econo 1F1PE24L2WHA87247  
2009 Vol Tigra WVGBV75N89W529113  
2008 Sub Legac 4S3BL626687220198  
2001 Suz Estee JS2GB41S415205573  
2007 Nis Altim 1N4AL21EX7C129850  
2003 Vol Jetta 3VWSE69M53M024411  
2003 Nis Xterra 5N1ED28T33C698607  
2008 GMC Yukon 1GKFC13J88R102671  
2001 Che Malib 1G1ND52J316130701  
1999 Toy Camry 4T1B622K2XU948005  
2007 For Five 1FAFP24147G106561  
1986 Adu N/A 1YGUS1014GB137260  
2004 For Expro 1FMZU67K74UB23780  
2008 Chr Town 2A8HR44H58R601110  
2002 BMW 3 ser WBABN33492JW53768  
2005 Dod Grand 1D4GP24R25B305545  
2002 Che Caval 1G1JC124027157595  
1996 Acu RL JH4KA9655TC014832  
2008 Fre MT55 4UZAARDU08C259522  
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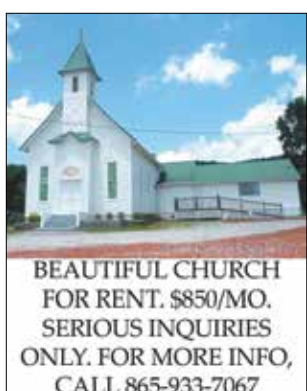
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In compliance with TCA 66-14-102 thru 66-14-106 the following cars will be sold on October 18, 2019 @ 2:00 PM @ Chestnut Street Transport & Recovery, Inc. 2430 Thorngrove Pk Knoxville, TN if total bill is not paid by date of sale.

LEGAL SECTION 94

Knox County will receive bids for the following items & services:

Bid 2889, Portable Toilet Rental Services, due 10/29/19;  
RFP 2895, Emergency Debris Removal, due 10/24/19

For additional information call 865-215-5777, stop by the Procurement Division, 1000 North Central St., Suite 100, Knoxville, TN 37917, or visit our website: www.knoxcounty.org/procurement. To bid on Knox County surplus items, go to www.govdeals.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The owner/ or lienholders of the following vehicles are hereby notified of their rights to pay all charges and claims being held on the storage lot of Ogles Wrecker Service located at 4401 Asheville Hwy. Failure to claim these vehicles will be a waiver of all rights and titles along with consent to sell vehicles.

(White) 05' Hyundai Sonata - VIN# KMHWF35H65A131486  
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By Mark Brackney,  
Arlington Church of  
Christ

Ancient coins were stamped with the image of the king or emperor. One day, some priests tried to trap Jesus with a loaded question: "Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" (Mt. 22:17). If Jesus said, "Pay the taxes," he would appease the Romans but upset the Jews and mark himself as a traitor who supported the regime that oppressed them. If Jesus said, "Don't pay taxes," the Romans would have him arrested and killed.

Jesus responded in an amazing way. "Show me a denarius...whose image is on the coin?" It was Caesar's. In fact, this coin was not even allowed in the Temple, for no graven images were permitted, especially the image of an emperor who demanded that he be worshipped as a god. Jesus then declared "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." We have traditionally interpreted this as: pay your taxes to the government and give to the church. But Jesus is saying more. Jesus recognizes that we have been stamped with an image like the coin. We have God's image. He created us and we serve him and bring glory to him as his representatives on this earth.

Jesus was showing that while Caesar has some claim of dominion and authority, it is limited. God's reign was greater as his image is stamped on all humanity. In a sense, God's coins are humans. We are meant to go

out into this world and proclaim the kingdom of God wherever we go.

This idea of being an image bearer of God goes back to Gen.1:27: "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." What are the implications of this? Paul would say that we are "created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph. 4:24). James says, "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness" (James 3:9). We are made in his very image, so you don't in one breath praise God and the next curse one of his

creations.

Humans have been appointed by God to reign over his creation (Gen. 1:28). We, as God's representatives, are to show his love to his creation. As image bearers, all humans have worth and value. Human life always took priority in the Torah. This was a novel idea in ancient times.

Humans were created to be God's representatives on earth, and instead, we became the source of devastation on earth. This month we remembered the 18th anniversary of 9/11. On that morning, as the twin towers were being consumed by fire, thousands of panicked office workers were making their way down the staircases. As

they fled, something remarkable greeted them – waves of firefighters pouring in. They entered to save those who were perishing by fire.

This earth is going up in flames and Christ is leading the way, pushing the charge in the rescue effort. Christ sacrificed himself to redeem perishing humanity. As disciples of Jesus, we join him in the rescue effort. If is dangerous and may require your life as you follow him into the ashes of our burning world, but it will be worth it and one day you will receive your reward for being his image bearer (Revelation 22:12). "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Mt. 25:21).



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