



# The Knoxville Focus

www.knoxfocus.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE - \$88.88/YEAR

**ADVERTISEMENT  
AUCTION**

**JANUARY 4TH at NOON**

**DOORS OPEN at 8 AM**

**Fountain City Auction**

**(865)474-9931**

**FREE  
Take One!**

**December 16, 2019**

Phone: 865-686-9970 | PO Box 18377, Knoxville, TN 37928 | Located at 4109 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912

## Emerald Youth cuts ribbon on community center in Lonsdale



*The Emerald Youth Foundation opened the Haslam-Sansom Ministry Complex Thursday. This is one of two turf soccer fields at the new sports and community facility located on Texas Avenue.*

**By Ken Lay**

The Emerald Youth Foundation opened a community center in Lonsdale last week. The new Haslam-Sansom Ministry Complex officially opened Thursday. It's located on Texas Avenue between Stonewall and Sherman Streets.

It features a pair of outdoor soccer fields, a gymnasium with four courts, a workout room, a café, which doubles as the concession stand for sporting events, an arts ministry room and a community room.

The 30,000 square foot facility is home to educational facilities and a health center, which is a joint venture run by Cherokee Health Systems and UT Medical Center.

The facility cost approximately \$8 million and was funded by Dee and Jimmy Haslam and Elisabeth and Bill Sansom. The center will be leased to Emerald Youth Foundation for \$1 per year.

The new complex required approval from multiple legislative bodies including Knoxville City Council, Knox County Commission, the Knox County Board of Education, as well as the board of Knoxville



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

*Emerald Youth Foundation Director of Lonsdale Area Ministries Kevin DuBose conducts a tour of the new Haslam-Sansom Ministry Complex, which opened last week. Pictured with DuBose is longtime Lonsdale resident Joey Kyle.*

Community Development Corporation.

The City of Knoxville had a hand in the construction of the facility as it upgraded the infrastructure around the perimeter of the complex. The city added sidewalks, street-light and other amenities.

Emerald Youth Foundation and Chief Executive Officer Steve Diggs was extremely grateful for all the people who made the new complex, which will serve both the youth and adults of the Lonsdale Community, a reality.

"My message as we open this facility is very simply one of gratitude," Diggs said. "I am grateful to the owners who are not only contributing their resources to this project but believing with us that Knoxville is a city where every child, in every neighborhood, can have the opportunity for a full life.

"I am also grateful for the leadership of the Lonsdale neighborhood who had the initial vision for this project and worked all along the way to insure that it would become

a reality."

The facility celebrated its official grand opening in a ceremony Thursday afternoon, but members of the media were given a tour of the complex earlier in the day.

The tour was guided by Kevin DuBose, the director of Lonsdale Area Ministries for the Emerald Foundation.

"We have a Career and Calling Room where we offer educational opportunities for students until they finish college," DuBose said. "We have ACT

**Continued on page 4**

## Mayor Rogero agrees to save Caswell Park parcels, relocate homeless housing

**By Mike Steely**  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

In a letter to Parkridge residents Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero is proposing a compromise. She is suggesting closing a portion of Myrtle Street and allowing Volunteer Ministry Center to expand a homeless housing unit there.

The location is near the three parcels on Fifth Avenue adjoining Caswell Park and would save those as open space and part of the park. Rogero plans to ask the city council to withdraw a zoning change request for those three properties in January and to approve the closure of Myrtle Street when they meet in February.

She is asking the director of parks to then include the three city-owned parcels into the programming of Caswell Park. Many Parkridge residents had no objection to housing for the homeless but wanted to save the three pieces of property. Mayor Rogero says the compromise will reflect the city's support of housing and benefit the residents as well.

## TVA Tower move hits snag

**By Mike Steely**  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When the Knox County Commission meets today in regular session the proposed easement agreement with TVA to move the school administration offices to the East Tower may see difficulty in passing.

During the commission work session last week Knox County Law Director Richard (Bud) Armstrong pointed out that the agreement is "very complex" and has too many blank spaces.

"I'm not happy with what you have before you tonight," Armstrong told the commissioners. He said he prefers a lease instead of an easement. He also said that the commission "does not have the right to pick school property. He said picking a site for the school offices is the duty of the school board and superintendent.

"We have enticed the school system," he said of the only proposal presented, to relocate the offices to the TVA Tower. "This body does not have the power to dictate over the schools," he said.

**Continued on page 3**

## Religious Release Time Policy Opposed with 5-4 Vote at BOE

**By Amy Box Fellhoelter**

In the midst of holiday hustle and bustle, the main assembly room of the City-County Building was found to be full again last Wednesday night as the vote for policy J-171 "Released Time Religious Instruction" was scheduled to take place.

Once the consent agenda was approved, a public forum time allowed for 22 people residing within and outside of Knox County to speak about the policy. Many individuals

gave responses in regard to what board members and forum participants said the previous week during the work session.

Many of the parents and grandparents who came to show their support for policy J-171 spoke out as Christians wanting Biblical instruction for students, yet just as many Christians disagreed with the policy, such as Charles VanBeak of Knoxville. He is a grandfather of five grandchildren in the Knox County School system. VanBeak quoted

the "Fruit of the Spirit" passage from Galatians 5:22-23 but disagreed with the policy because it could be amended, and disruptions would hinder the learning of students. He stated the school classroom is for instruction by the teachers and not for moral teaching.

A fourth-grade student's perspective was expressed by Cloe Bryant who attends Sterchi Elementary School and the release program. She explained that program participants, "Sing and dance to worship

songs" hear a Bible story, pray, play a Bible story game, and eat a snack. "It's really fun ... I want to have a good relationship with God," she added.

First Lieutenant Ashley Rickles of the Army National Guard reminded listeners, "We have to devote religious time for our soldiers because of the importance of their religious freedoms and what it means to them. I don't see why our children should be any different."

"There is no legal

impediment to this at all, and it's good for kids academically," declared Clayton Wood who runs an after-school program through SOAR Youth Ministries. He claimed the policy to be completely legal, and informed the crowd that once-a-month large group settings are not conducive with grooming for child abuse. He said if the policy does not pass, "Parents will say the school did not accommodate me, and in Tennessee the most hostile school to the Bible

has been Knox County Schools."

Knox County parent Ginger Reese gave a parental decree in support of children learning about God during the release time. The decree began, "Today on Dec. 11, 2019, the parents of Knox County decree that we welcome Jesus Christ into our schools."

New topics addressed by community members were: parental rights not being usurped because parent

**Continued on page 2**

**ROBBINS CLEANERS**  
Comforters, Drapes, Quilts & More  
In Fountain City  
Full Service Dry Cleaner & Laundry  
**688-2191** [www.hallscleaners.net](http://www.hallscleaners.net)

COME JOIN US IN WORSHIP!  
**CHRISTUS VICTOR**  
9:30 AM- TRADITIONAL SERVICE  
6:00 PM- MODERN SERVICE  
4110 Central Avenue Pike  
Knoxville, TN 37912  
865-687-6622 [www.cvlcknox.org](http://www.cvlcknox.org)

**Historic Wedding Venue**  
Built in 1886, Shannondale Presbyterian Church offers a traditional wedding setting with stained glass windows and a center aisle. Contact Wedding Coordinator, Sarah Weber at 865-456-6923.



# Sue Atchley, ‘First Lady of South Knoxville,’ Passes Away

By Ray Hill

Sue King Atchley was the First Lady of South Knoxville. “Miss Sue” passed away on Wednesday of last week. Married for sixty-eight years to Ben Atchley, the long-time state senator who died last year around this time. I have known Sue and Ben Atchley since 1976, the year Ben defeated Fred Berry, the incumbent state senator in the Republican primary. Benny had served in the House of Representatives for two terms and the promotion was logical. While Ben was quite an accomplished vote-getter, he would have readily admitted the real politician in the family was Sue.

Miss Sue hailed from a politically prominent South Knoxville family. For those who have no idea about where I.C. King Park got its name, I.C. King was a local Republican official who served in appointive posts in the administration of three GOP presidents: Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover. As far back as 1909, I.C. King was on

the old County Court and later served as U. S. Marshall. At various times, I.C. King was a member of the local school board, Property Tax Assessor, Welfare Commissioner, and Register of Deeds. King also operated a successful South Knoxville grocery store. Squire King and his wife had twelve children: six sons and six daughters.

Sue King Atchley had the personality for politics; warm and generous, she was also plain spoken and a woman of strong convictions. For decades, Sue Atchley was a fixture on the Mount Olive Republican Executive Committee. Miss Sue gave of herself liberally and her friends numbered in the thousands.

When Benny died, I was unable to attend his funeral because I was recovering from triple bypass surgery. Miss Sue knew I loved Ben and sent me one of the funeral programs. It was typically thoughtful of her and she radiated both the charm and hospitality that made Tennessee famous. I did write a piece for The Focus about Benny which

my friend Steve Hunley printed. Miss Sue called to thank me for it.

A dynamo of human energy, Sue Atchley was one of the most active people in whatever organization or enterprise she lent her time to, whether it was the schools of her children, the Republican party, or her husband’s campaigns.

Miss Sue was astute in the art of politics and realized better than most, it all came down to people. Sue Atchley also was a shrewd judge of people and character; she had few peers in that regard. Although she and Ben mixed with the high and the mighty, they were always themselves, never pretentious, never anything but what they were, good, decent Americans who loved their family, country, Lord, and community.

When Ben Atchley was challenged from the far right, some political observers thought the long-serving senator might be vulnerable. They reckoned without Ben’s ability to raise a hefty campaign war

chest and Miss Sue.

Sue King Atchley served a brief interval in the Tennessee State Senate herself. When Jamie Woodson, who had succeeded Ben Atchley in office, resigned, Sue Atchley was appointed to succeed her. Woodson resigned following the legislative session of 2011 and served until a successor was elected. The appointment of Sue Atchley to the state senate seat once occupied by her husband was hailed by virtually everyone; it was palatable to the public and was a recognition of Miss Sue’s political partnership with Ben. Certainly, nobody knew the senatorial district better than Sue Atchley. It was a recognition she thoroughly deserved.

For those of us who knew them, Ben and Sue Atchley very well may have been the perfect couple. Each had his or her strengths and they truly complimented one another. In their later years, as Ben began to ail, one might see them having lunch at Wright’s cafeteria and Sue’s devotion to Benny was something



Sue Atchley

to behold. Never ostentatious, it was simple and pure and one could feel it like the warm sunshine of a summer’s day.

If anyone lived a good and productive life, it was Sue King Atchley. Sue and Ben lived in the same subdivision the entire time I knew them. Miss Sue and her Ben were representative of that “greatest generation” of Americans than may well be near extinction. Yet the lives of Ben and Sue Atchley will never

be forgotten by their family and their friends.

I still have the lovely Christmas card Miss Sue sent me last year with a sweet note. When I heard Miss Sue had passed away at age eighty-six, I held that Christmas card for a few minutes and thought about many of the moments we had shared for I loved Miss Sue and still do. Everybody who truly knew Sue King Atchley loved her. Sue Atchley really was the First Lady of South Knoxville.

## Religious Release Time Policy Opposed with 5-4 Vote at BOE

Cont. from page 1

consent is required; larger cities than Knoxville, such as Columbus, Los Angeles, and Portland, use the release program; the decline of violence because of release program’s use; Union, Claiborne, and Green counties that use the program on the same day and same time allowing for ease to work within the school systems; and required classroom time for students taking art and music.

Board members then gave final comments before voting on the policy. Member Jennifer Owen explained the many questions she asked Law Director Gary Dupler last week were posed to her from the staff and parents of Sterchi.

She admitted that the BOE failed to explain the program is not what was being voted on, but instead it is the policy.

“We have failed to explain what it is that we are actually considering here today. The program isn’t at all what we are supposed to be looking at,” stated Owen.

Member Evetty Satterfield commented that she was troubled by the attitudes of those at the Elgin Foundation and referenced an email from an Elgin Foundation member.

Member Terry Hill stated, “When you have state law that supports Bible release time, and you have a Supreme Court that supports Bible release time ... we can’t put a policy in place because we don’t like the

law. We are a policy-making board, not a law-making board. We have been given an opportunity by developing a policy to do what we can as a board to put some parameters around this, so hopefully those that meet all the other qualifications that the law has laid out, and satisfy, will be respectful of what we have tried to do. The policy in fact does support the law.”

Member Tony Norman commented that the policy is not essential for the programs to exist. Member McMillian called for a stop to further discussion but the motion failed with a 6-3 vote.

Before a vote was taken on the policy, Dupler explained the policy does follow the law. He

commented, “A local BOE may accept the policy or not, so the BOE has a choice,” and that release time without a policy can happen but it will be more difficult.

Chairperson Susan Horn explained that she supported parental rights and board member Kristi Kristy encouraged all parents to exercise their right to take their child out of school for religious release time.

Satterfield commented if the public doesn’t agree with Tennessee code 49-2-130, then it should take a stance against it, and contact their state representatives and state legislature.

A roll-call vote was taken and the motion failed 5-4. Those members voting against a religious release

time policy were Satterfield, Norman, Kristy, Babb and Owen.

Before this vote was taken the MOU regarding the move of KCS to the TVA building was moved to the top of the agenda and discussed. Dupler explained a BOE vote is a required step in moving KCS to another location when Hill asked if the board was required to vote on the item.

Member Patti Bounds requested for the item to be removed from the agenda. Horn asked to defer the item to the January meeting, and Satterfield said she would prefer for the document to be legal when the board would vote on it next. Therefore, board member Virginia Babb made a substitution motion to defer

the item until the MOU will include language that KCS move does not violate state law. The motion also confirmed that KCS is showing interest in moving to the TVA building, which had been unconfirmed until then. Norman favored deferring the item and not the substitution motion. He explained the MOU is 300 pages and many areas of the document are left blank.

A vote was taken to approve the substitute motion 5-4. Those members supporting the motion were Satterfield, Horn, Kristy, Babb and Hill. The motion expressed board interest in moving to the TVA building, or other suitable sites, if the MOU is considered legal.

NEW  
Business!

Reading  
Math  
Writing

Now taking students  
grades K-5 for tutoring  
in our Diagnostic  
Reading Program.  
(865) 247-6754

ADHD Behavioral Medicine Counseling Academics  
EastTennesseeFocusCenter.com

Season's  
Greetings  
from  
THE ORIGINAL  
LOUIS  
DRIVE-IN  
Restaurant  
SINCE 1958  
4661 Old Broadway  
688-4121 • 687-9921

Dining Room, Curb  
or Carry-out Service  
and Banquet Room

Serving Knox and Surrounding Counties.

Proudly independently owned and operated.  
Published by Fountain Printing and Publishing, Inc.

Deadline for ad design is Monday at 5 p.m.  
Deadline for Classified ads is Thursday at noon.  
Deadline for submissions is Thursday by noon.

Articles, announcements, photo attachments and cutlines  
may be submitted by e-mail to [staff@knoxfocus.com](mailto:staff@knoxfocus.com).

Publisher ..... Steve Hunley  
Editor, Art Director ..... Marianne Dedmon  
[editor@knoxfocus.com](mailto:editor@knoxfocus.com), [design@knoxfocus.com](mailto:design@knoxfocus.com)

Managing Editor ..... Lisa DeMarsico  
[managingeditor@knoxfocus.com](mailto:managingeditor@knoxfocus.com)

Mike Steely, Senior Writer ..... [steelym@knoxfocus.com](mailto:steelym@knoxfocus.com)

Sales ..... [sales@knoxfocus.com](mailto:sales@knoxfocus.com)

Pam Poe ..... [phpoe2000@yahoo.com](mailto:phpoe2000@yahoo.com)

Bill Wright ..... [wrightb@knoxfocus.com](mailto:wrightb@knoxfocus.com)

Andrea Owens ..... [owensa@knoxfocus.com](mailto:owensa@knoxfocus.com)

Darrell Keathley ..... [keathleyd@knoxfocus.com](mailto:keathleyd@knoxfocus.com)

Lori Burchett ..... [burchettl@knoxfocus.com](mailto:burchettl@knoxfocus.com)

Legal, Public Notice ads ..... [legals@knoxfocus.com](mailto:legals@knoxfocus.com)

Articles designated as written by Focus Staff are the collaborative efforts of several staff members and are reviewed and approved by the editor and the publisher.

The Focus would like to thank all contributing writers. Submissions from our writers are gratis and are greatly appreciated. While articles are not guaranteed placement, we do strive to place as much as possible. Submissions for the paper are on a space available basis and are subject to publisher and editor approval. We want your news: that is what makes this paper truly a community newspaper.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE - \$88.88/YEAR**

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS EDITION ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND NEITHER THESE NOR ANY MATERIAL PUBLISHED HEREIN REPRESENT ENDORSEMENT BY THE FOCUS.

Advertising: The Focus is not responsible for errors in an advertisement if not corrected by the first week after the ad appears. This newspaper is not responsible or liable whatsoever for any claim made by an ad or for any of the services, products or opportunities offered by our advertisers. We do not endorse or promote the purchase or sale of any product, service, company or individual that chooses to advertise in this newspaper and we reserve the right to refuse any or all advertising we deem inappropriate or unacceptable by our company standards. Political advertising must be pre-paid. The Focus does not accept ads that defame any candidate. All political ad content must be pre-approved prior to its run in the paper.

**865-686-9970 [www.knoxfocus.com](http://www.knoxfocus.com)**



# Publisher's Position

## Has Mayor Jacobs stacked the Charter Review Committee?



By Steve Hunley,  
Publisher  
publisher@knoxfocus.com

In politics, it is hardly unusual when a politician stacks the deck before dealing the cards. Mayor Glenn Jacobs has certainly done that with the announcement of his appointments to serve on the Knox County Charter Review Committee. Every ten years, the county is required to review the charter and make recommendations for changes and/or additions. The charter is the document which is the equivalent of Knox County's Constitution.

With the late announcement of his appointees to this very important body Mayor Jacobs certainly isn't the first mayor to stack a charter review committee and certainly won't be the last. At least four of those appointments have significant conflicts of interest, which should disqualify

them, in my opinion, from serving on a Charter Review Committee.

Amanda Benedict is a county employee, working directly under Mayor Jacobs. Do you imagine for a moment Ms. Benedict will perfectly and accurately reflect the views of Glenn Jacobs? Mike Arms, former county commissioner and chief of staff to former Mayor Mike Ragsdale—and still in business with Ragsdale for that matter—helped to broker a deal involving the TVA Tower for the Jacobs administration. Attorney Mark Mamantov is the lawyer for the TVA Tower interests. John Valiant is the mayor's attorney in the pension dispute/lawsuit that has allowed deputies to retire at pensions in excess of what is currently allowed by the charter according to the Knox County Law Director.

I can only say there is nothing subtle about these appointments. The biggest question to ask is WHAT are these folks, all of whom have special interest ties to the Jacobs administration, being appointed to do? By that I don't mean merely review the charter, but what do they hope to accomplish? My guess is they want to make the county law director an appointed office,

rather than one elected by you, the people. I suspect that very well could be true of the other elected county fee offices. That would concentrate virtually all the political power in the county in one person: the mayor. It would give the mayor a veritable patronage army at his disposal and a powerful voting bloc in county-wide elections. There is little doubt in my mind that this is the mission that Mayor Jacobs wants to accomplish.

The Jacobs administration has also made moving the school system out of the Andrew Johnson Building and into the TVA Tower a priority, no matter what the cost or the loss to the taxpayers.

By offering the school system \$1.5 million annually, they knew certainly knew what bait to use. Mamantov and Arms are both heavily involved in that deal. Mayor Jacobs has also allied himself with the sheriff's deputies, perhaps not realizing the danger to the average taxpayer, but the danger is profoundly real. The charter explicitly states that no one may retire at more than 75% of full salary, but it has been happening. Law Director "Bud" Armstrong has repeatedly proved to be a public servant absolutely committed to the taxpayers

and the letter of the law. A compliant law director who is less the people's lawyer than the mayor's personal and political attorney would be a mighty handy thing if Jacobs can pull off a charter change to appoint the law director. Armstrong has bucked both the mayor and the sheriff's department to follow the law in the pension dispute and the Andrew Johnson Building flap. Armstrong is an honest man, a person of rock solid integrity who cannot be intimidated nor bullied.

Not all of the Charter Review Committee appointments are bad or subject to conflicts of interest. There are several outstanding citizens and elected officials.

For those of us with institutional memory, this fight has been fought once before and the people decided the issue and decisively so. Three-quarters of those voting insisted elected officers remain within the hands of the people, not the politicians.

It remains one of the greatest victories by the public against the politicians and the special interests in Knox County's history. It is time for you, the public, to pay attention once again. We certainly don't need an all-powerful King Mayor.

### 2020 Knox County Charter Review Committee

**Knox County Commissioners**

*Excluding the At-Large seats 10 and 11 commissioners*

1. Evelyn Gill
2. Michele Carringer
3. Randy Smith
4. Hugh Nystrom
5. John Schoonmaker
6. Brad Anders
7. Charles Busler
8. Richie Beeler
9. Carson Dailey

**Mayor's nominations to Charter Review Committee**

1. Sam McKenzie
2. Amanda Benedict
3. Mark Mamantov
4. Scott Davis
5. Mike Arms
6. Daniel Herrera
7. Rachel Sanders
8. John Valiant
9. Nick Pavlis

**County Commissioners' nominations to Charter Review Committee**

1. Gill – Jered Croom
2. Carringer - Dan Davis
3. Smith – James Cocoran
4. Nystrom – John Gill
5. Schoonmaker - Bill Johns
6. Anders – Gary Drinnen
7. Busler – Sandra Sexton
8. Beeler – Lisa Starbuck
9. Dailey – Barry Neal

# TVA Tower move hits snag

Cont. from page 1

"On eve of a vote the contracts are incomplete," Armstrong said, giving an example that under TVA security provisions, Knox County Deputies would have to surrender their weapons to enter the tower. He urged the commission to not reconsider the agreement unless the school system has custody and control of the building.

The proper ID of citizens entering the TVA Tower would be required although proponents point out that a special section of the first floor will be set aside for those who do not have acceptable identification so they can meet with school officials.

Armstrong also said that the school system has not relinquished the Andrew Johnson Building as their headquarters and may not have the power to do so. He said the agreement being proposed to move the school offices to the TVA Tower is "out of

compliance" with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the school system and the county government.

"There are just too many blanks, we don't have anything to vote on," he said.

Commissioner Charles Busler held up a sheet of paper and asked if anyone has seen the list of other sites that are available for the relocation of the school system. Armstrong said the selection of a relocation site is the responsibility of the school system and not the county commission and pointed to the MOU for the "selection of several sites."

Armstrong said he has turned to the state attorney general for an opinion.

Referring to the agenda item, which authorizes Knox County to enter into a contract with TVA granting a term easement the East Tower and permanent easement to the TVA Summer Place building, Commissioner Carson

Dailey asked an important question.

"Are we at this point yet? It has turned very confusing," Dailey asked.

Mayor Glenn Jacobs addressed the board, "My preference is to get a completed contract with all the blanks filled in." He also said if the school offices are not moved to the TVA Tower the county would use it for other purposes and cited the University of Tennessee's interest in part of the building.

Commissioner Larsen Jay said the proposed resolution does not mention the school system as the potential occupant and moved to move the vote to today's regular commission meeting. The motion passed.

In a related discussion Commissioner Charles Busler's motion to explore the possibility of purchasing the Knoxville Center Mall property for the relocation of county offices was also

passed along until today's session. Busler said the county has a "great opportunity" to purchase the 88 acres with 22 acres under roof for a good price.

The discussion gained some traction among the commissioners but several had some questions about the possible cost of a study. Busler said the move of most county offices there would free up county-owned and occupied buildings around the city and county for sale and be added back to the tax rolls.

"Let's do the study," he requested.

Commissioners Brad Anders, Larsen Jay and Randy Smith questioned the idea, citing a possible cost of \$100 million or more to convert the mall.

"I don't think we need to be in the redevelopment business," Anders said.

"It's not worth our effort right now," Jay said.

"It's laid out for retail.

There are no windows or doors and there are security issues," Smith said.

Mayor Jacobs told the commission that the conversion of the mall could take about \$152 million and called that estimate "conservative."

Sheriff Tom Spangler spoke on the suggestion and said that having an intake facility at the mall "would be convenient."

The idea of both the county and city governments moving from the City-County Building came up and both Smith and Jacobs said they doubt the city would agree.

Jacobs said that Knoxville mall "is not designed to be office space" and said it should be kept in the private sector.

Chairman Hugh Nystrom said he agrees but also that the idea is worth considering.

"Let's do a real hard look," Nystrom said, adding the commission "should



not walk away" from the idea.

Busler said during his inquiry he had two corporations call him with a desire to buy the City-County Building.

"We don't know until a study is done. There's nothing wrong with looking at a study, looking at all the options," Commissioner Dailey said.

Finance Director Chris Caldwell, asked to speak to the idea, said such a purchase would probably require a tax increase, no raises for teachers, and cutback to departments.

Anders asked Busler if he could amend the motion to include seeking a cost of the study and Busler agreed. The motion was passed with no recommendation and will appear on today's agenda. Two of the commissioners, Jay and Nystrom, voted against the motion. It passed 8-2 with Commissioner Richard Beeler absent.



**Congratulations to ALL Central High Bobcats on their state championship victory.**

**BILL DUNN**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Christmas is coming!**



**Make their day Merry and Bright.**

**Let us help you with those last minute gifts!**

**Abloom FLORIST**

7007 Kingston Pike  
Knoxville, TN 37919  
(865)588-7384

• Located in the West Hills Shopping Center •

**CHRISTMAS ITEMS 30%-50% OFF NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 24th.**  
Minimal exclusions apply.



## How Do You Get Out of Paying Child Support?

Excuse the crassness and brutal honesty of the question, but one question I get asked often is, "How do I get out of paying child support?"

Well, it's not as easy as you would think. So, let's take the prototypical example. A couple is married, they have a child, and then they get divorced. The child is young, and the mother of the child wants to spend more time with the child. The father works long hours and works out of town, so he is okay with that.

So, the father comes to me and says, "Okay, I'm going to get the child every other weekend and we are going to agree that I get to see our child for dinner whenever I want. Also, we agreed on no child support." Sound great, right? Unfortunately, it does not work like that. The judges typically review the paperwork carefully and do not just let you agree to, "no child support."

When I tell fathers this, and then I run the numbers for them and tell them how much they will be expected to pay, they usually have a mild panic attack right in my office.

After that moment passes, we then dive into the conversation about how to minimize their child support obligation, and what I tell them to do to minimize their child support obligation makes perfect sense from a common-sense perspective.

So, there are only a few different variables that go into the Tennessee Child Support Worksheet that alters the child support required to be paid. By the way, the Child Support Worksheet is free and open to the public. A simple internet search will take you straight to it for downloading.

The first way to minimize the child support you have to pay is to maximize time with your child! You only want to see your child every other weekend and at other times when the mother will allow you to do so? Come on! Figure it out and spend time with your child! The worksheet gives credit to a parent for a day when they spend over 12 hours during a day with their child, however, most, if not all, attorneys I know simplify this calculation and give a parent credit for a day to the parent with whom the child spends the night. So, if a father is seeing their child for dinner, that's great, but they get no credit for that on the Child Support Worksheet when it comes time to calculate what they owe in child support.

The second way to minimize the child support you have to pay is to pay to receive credit for other payments you make on behalf of your child. The only two payments that matter are whether you pay monthly health insurance premiums for your child and whether you pay for work-related childcare expenses (i.e. daycare or babysitting expenses) for your child.

That's it. The other factors that go in the calculation of child support are how much money each parent makes, and whether each parent has other children with someone else whom they care for. However, those factors are not things you can really change to minimize the child support you pay.

It's important to point out, even if parents have equal time with their child, one parent will likely owe the other parent child support if the parents do not make the same amount of money. This is surprising to people, but its true. This is so the parents are on as equal footing as they can be regarding providing for their child while their child is with them.

Jedidiah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knox County and surrounding counties. He works in many areas, including criminal, personal injury, landlord-tenant, probate, and estate planning. Visit [attorney-knoxville.com](http://attorney-knoxville.com) for more information about this legal issue and other legal issues.



By Jedidiah McKeehan  
attorneyknoxville@gmail.com

## Emerald Youth

**Cont. from page 1**

prep.

"We found that when you deal with the high-school aged, it is extremely challenging because those kids sometimes lose interest in education. We will provide services for students until they finish college."

While the complex will provide educational and athletic opportunities for the community's youth, which include volleyball, basketball, wrestling, futsal, soccer, flag football and lacrosse, the complex is also there for the adults and the elderly of the community.

Thursday's tour began in the café, which serves as a concession stand for sporting events, but DuBose said it will mean more for the community.

"If you look, there's no coffee shop around here, so we wanted this to also be a place where people from the community could come and have a meeting or a cup of coffee.

"And the children who came through our program will staff the café and that will give them the chance to get work and career experience and more importantly, a little cash."

The facility's health center will open on Jan. 6.

While Diggs expressed his gratitude, the ones who are really grateful are the longtime Lonsdale residents.

"Man, this is marvelous," said longtime Lonsdale resident Joey Kyle. "I think our community deserved it and it's been a long time coming and it means a lot.

"We've always been promised things but nobody ever delivered anything, and I was skeptical when I heard about Emerald Youth. But my wife was talking to my daughter about college and my daughter said she was through with school, then it was Emerald Youth that encouraged her to go to college, then I said I would get involved because it's great when other people can reach your kid when you can't."



Fountain City has a lot of PRIDE.  
You're continuing our new  
TRADITION:  
STATE CHAMPS!!!  
Central High School Alumni Association





# Tentative plans announced for old Standard Knitting Mill

**By Mike Steely**  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

An overflow crowd pushed into a room at Pellissippi State College on Magnolia Avenue Thursday to hear Peter Davis of WRS talk about what the new owners of Standard Mill hope to do with the old skeleton of a building.

Two concept drawings were presented along with a map of a proposed road to serve the future project. Davis, along with Deputy Mayor Bill Lyons, talked of options for the site including multi-family dwellings, office space, retail stores and public space for events.

Davis said it will cost between \$1.5 and \$2 million just to clean the building up and cannot, yet, set a timeline on that effort or when the old building may be back in use.

A new street is being proposed to link Washington Avenue with East Fifth Avenue, possibly add to the greenway system there, and provide access to Caswell Park. He said that the East Knoxville neighborhood is a “food desert” and maybe a food venue would be included.

Lyons indicated the city will help the plans along with a tax break and assist in the new street.

“We’re excited about the future of Parkridge,” Mayor Madeline Rogero told the meeting.



PHOTOS BY MIKE STEELY.

*Deputy Mayor Bill Lyons and WRS spokesman Peter Davis spoke about the cleaning up and proposed development of the old Standard Knitting Mill.*

*Left, Standard Knitting Mill stands empty now but the new owner is planning a multi-use building there after an expensive clean-up.*

## Thunder Road Theatre takes the stage in Maynardville

Courtesy of Aaron Russell

Theatrics and performing arts will soon take the stage in Maynardville. A local Union County native, Michael Bailey, brings his passion of the arts along with years of experience to the county with the introduction of Thunder Road Theatre.

Bailey, age 22, has many theater productions under his belt with several major fundraisers, such as last year’s T1D: Zombie Edition at Wilson Park for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He began in theater as early as elementary school and it soon became something he loved dearly.

He shares, “I’ve been in thirteen shows, ranging from children’s plays to more serious, adult-oriented plays. I would have to say that the most interesting experience I’ve had is to see how a play can start from nothing and evolve into something great, such as helping build a stage. Not many people realize how much work can actually go into a single play.”

Bailey has an appetite for theater and has put

**Continue on page 2**

# Planning commission approves zoning change to allow Beverly Road development

**By Bill Howard**

To build or not to build. Or, more truthfully, to allow land to be built upon or not. Allowing such development often requires a change in zoning designation, which is a common request of the Knoxville-Knox Co. Planning Commission.

At the commission’s December 12 meeting, such requests made up a big part of the agenda.

One such request came from applicant Randy Guignard/Cafe International, LLC. His goal is to develop land

– 210 dwelling units on 80 acres – on Beverly Road in Commission District 2. To do so, he sought a zoning change from Industrial, General Residential and Floodway to Planned Residential.

Attorney Charles Taylor, who represents both the residents and various adjoining neighborhoods, spoke first in opposition. Taylor, who lives in the area, delineated numerous reasons why the development shouldn’t go through. He started by recalling some planning commission

history.

“To understand why so many residents and neighborhood associations oppose this,” he said, “it’s important to look back at the history of this zoning request, because it’s been around a long time. This rezoning request started back in March 2018. At that time, the MPC (planning commission) staff made a recommendation that the development be limited to one dwelling unit per acre. At that meeting, it’s interesting the comments made by some of

the commissioners.”

Taylor then quoted some of the commissioners’ comments from the meeting he referenced. “This is the worst piece of undeveloped property that has ever come before the MPC,” he read. “Another commissioner said ‘there are severe constraints on this property...flooding, slope.’ A third commissioner said ‘when you talk about rough properties, this is about as rough as any I have ever seen.’”

“Everyone recognized from the beginning that

this was a terrible piece of property to develop,” said Taylor.

According to Taylor, the county commission in June 2018 granted the development of 100 units on the property. But the developer then withdrew his request, and waited 18 months – Dec. 12 last week - to try again.

“He thought with the holidays and everything, maybe there’d be less opposition,” said Taylor.

According to Taylor, area flooding, in-and-out access, and inhospitable soil are all

A photograph of a man with grey hair carrying a young child on his shoulders. They are in a field with tall grass. The photo is framed by a circular graphic with blue and green lines.

coraphysicaltherapy.com

Living your BEST life starts here.

Call TODAY to schedule your complimentary consultation with one of our expert clinicians.

Knoxville

7228 Norris Freeway

Knoxville, TN 37918

P: 865-377-3176 F: 865-377-3187

North Knoxville

3104 South Mall Road NE

Knoxville, TN 37917

P: 865-687-4537 F: 865-687-5367

Seymour

11719 Chapman Hwy., Suite 104

Seymour, TN 37865

P: 865-773-0480 F: 865-773-0479

Four small icons of people in various exercise poses: a person running, a person jumping, a person doing a yoga pose, and a person walking.

4000+ Insurances Accepted  
24-48 Hours Scheduling

The logo for CORA Physical Therapy, featuring a stylized blue and green wave or 'A' shape next to the text 'CORA Physical Therapy'.

Treating Everyone Right



## CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but these were not Christmas

Carols. They were pagan songs, sung at the winter Solstice celebrations as people danced round stone circles. The word Carol actually means dance or song of praise and joy. Carols used to be written and sung during all four seasons, but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas survived.


Early Christians took over the pagan solstice celebrations for Christmas and gave people Christian songs to sing instead of pagan ones. In 129 a Roman Bishop said that a song called "Angel's Hymn" should be sung at a Christmas service in Rome. Another famous early Christmas hymn was written in 780, by Comas of Jerusalem, for the Greek Orthodox Church. Soon after this many composers all over Europe started to write Christmas carols. However, not many people liked them as they were written and sung in Latin, a language that the normal people couldn't understand. By the time of the Middle Ages (the 1200s), most people had lost interest in celebrating Christmas altogether.

This was changed by St. Francis of Assisi when, in 1223, he started his Nativity Plays in Italy. The people in the plays sang songs or "canticles" that told the story during the plays. The new carols spread to France, Spain, Germany and other European countries.

There are many, many beloved Christmas carols, but the most beloved, to me, is "Silent Night". In a small town in Austria, in 1818, before Christmas Eve, Joseph Mohr brought the words to Franz Xaver Gruber and asked him to compose a melody and guitar accompaniment for the Christmas Eve mass, as the flooding damaged the church organ. People loved this rendition and, thus, "Silent Night" became the world's most popular Christmas Carol. When you sing Christmas carols, sing with a joyful heart. After all, it is Christ's birthday.

Thought for the day: You've heard "Keep Christ in Christmas". Maybe we should also say, "Keep Christmas in Christians." Anonymous

Send comments to [rosemerrie@att.net](mailto:rosemerrie@att.net). Thank you.



**LE VIAN®**

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD JEWELER

**FAGAN JEWELERS**

7425 Chapman Highway Knoxville, TN 37920  
(865)579-4003

# The Quietness of Christmas

The timing was perfect! Last Tuesday marked the two-week countdown to Christmas Eve, and Mother Nature gave us a winter wonderland to enjoy. It was truly a Christmas card scene!



By **Ralphine Major**  
[ralphine3@yahoo.com](mailto:ralphine3@yahoo.com)

As I check the calendar, it is unbelievable how quickly the days are passing us by. Christmas traditions are in full swing: Cookies are baking, carolers are singing, cards are arriving, and families are decorating

the tree. With all the fun of the season, the most important tradition is sharing The Christmas Story.

When evening comes, the sounds of "Silent Night" and "Away in the Manger" bring calm to a fast-paced day. The quiet beauty of Christmas tree lights and the lighted star on top remind us of the real star that guided the wise men to the Christ Child. For several years, a simple plaque has adorned our wall reminding us that "Every Day is a Gift." The words cause us to be ever mindful of several lives lost this year.

Christmas is a special time as we celebrate the Saviour born in a manger two



Picture of snow starting to fall in East Tennessee last week, courtesy of Bob Martin, retired principal.

thousand years ago. May your hearts and homes be filled with much peace, great joy, and the immeasurable love that was

born in Bethlehem. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11 (KJV)

## Thunder Road Theatre takes the stage

**Continued from page 1**

years of thought into bringing it to his hometown. He says that this is something he has always wanted to do, and he decided it was time to stop thinking and start doing. Although the planning has only been in action for a few months, an abundance of effort and hours have been invested. The company was announced to the public in October, auditions were held

in early November, and the first showing is scheduled for February.

Bailey says that the performances will adhere to all tastes. The goal is that all types of folks from Union and surrounding counties will be provided with a pleasant venue hosting enjoyable shows for just another taste of local entertainment. Look forward to comedic performances as well as a possibility of some dramas later on.

As for now, three shows are slated for 2020: Barefoot in the Park, Steel Magnolias, and Arsenic and Old Lace.

Currently, Thunder Road Theatre is operating at Miller's Chapel United Methodist Church, across from McDonald's in Maynardville. In the long term, there are some ideas to build a theater building in Union County. Along with Bailey, the founder of the business, the theater operates with a board

consisting of Chantay Collins, Tina Hopkins, Byron Kuehn, Cory Stanford, and Bailey himself. Bailey says overall they want to "reach out to as many people as we possibly can to give them something positive to look forward to. We'd love to be well known in East Tennessee."

For more information, and to stay up to date on the plans and progress of the theater, follow "Thunder Road Theatre Company" on Facebook.

Looking for the **PERFECT GIFT** this holiday season?

VISA gift cards make the **perfect gift** and can be purchased at any CNB location.



Several holiday patterns to choose from.

Visit [CNBTN.com](http://CNBTN.com) for a branch near you!

### SEYMOUR

10641 Chapman Hwy

\*10721 Chapman Hwy Ste 1, beside Kroger

### KNOX COUNTY

813 Huckleberry Lane, Strawberry Plains

\*7420 Chapman Hwy, inside Walmart in South Knoxville

\*Open weekdays 'til 7pm and Saturdays 'til 2pm

**CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK**  
MEMBER FDIC

\*Gift cards can be used anywhere in the United States and its territories where VISA is accepted. \$2.50 purchase fee per card. \$2.95 monthly fee will be assessed after one year of inactivity. Lost/Stolen replacement fee is \$5.00.



**THREE RIDGES**

# Save some green!

Renew your **55+ Program** and keep the low rate of \$75 for the 2020 year.

**Now 55+ Program.**  
Senior discount on anyone 55 years old or

- \$75 now through 12/31/20
- \$23 anytime M-F, includes cart
- \$25 after noon/\$35 before noon, on weekends and holidays, includes cart.

Call 687-4797 for more information or visit [www.threeridges.com](http://www.threeridges.com)



# Tennessee and the League of Nations

## Pages from the Past



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

Tennessee had been staunchly for Woodrow Wilson, both in his 1912 campaign for the presidency and his 1916 reelection campaign. Tennessee's junior United States senator, Kenneth D. McKellar, had been a fervent admirer of President Wilson as a member of the House of Representatives and if anything, his admiration grew as a member of the Senate. McKellar's senior colleague, John Knight Shields, was able to restrain himself when it came to esteem for the President. McKellar had been the first United States senator elected by the people of Tennessee in 1916; Shields was the last to be elected by the state legislature. In 1918, Shields was running for a second term and had to face the voters, both inside the Democratic primary and the general election. Shields' lack of fidelity to Woodrow Wilson was to be a factor in his campaign and he was facing a serious challenge for the Democratic nomination from popular governor Tom C. Rye. Governor Rye had not announced his intentions, but possessed an enviable record of achievement, not the least of which had been to unite Tennessee's Democrats and wrest the governorship away from Republican Ben W. Hooper in 1914.

Rumors seem to have the longest lifespans in politics and churches and Rye had the option of running for a third two-year term for governor or he could run against Senator Shields. By February of 1918, the rumors were circulating that he would forgo an easy reelection race and seek the senatorial nomination. While visiting Knoxville, Governor Rye was queried by a reporter about the Senate race. "I haven't a thing in the world to say at this time," Rye replied. There had been intense speculation Rye would announce his candidacy while in Knoxville. Reporters and supporters were equally disappointed.

In early April Governor Rye traveled to Washington, D. C., ostensibly to attend the Americanization Conference. Rye took the time to "look up a number of old friends" while visiting the Capitol. More than likely, Rye was testing the waters for the coming Senate race. The governor kept a hectic pace, traveling all over the state and associated himself with any number of activities relating to supporting America's soldiers who were fighting in Europe during the First World War. Rye traveled to Huntingdon, Tennessee where the band of John Phillip Souza performed at Thomas' Park.

The governor spoke at the courthouse the same evening on behalf of the Liberty Loan program. By May, Governor Rye was urging Tennesseans to observe "Mother's Day." Rye issued a proclamation proclaiming May 12, 1918 "Mother's Day" in Tennessee. Using the florid language that was popular with the people at the time, Rye reminded Tennesseans, "The tender stroke of a loving mother is more powerful than any scepter, and without her love our armies must be overcome, but en-spirited by its sanctifying memory and influence and emboldened by the thought of defending her from savagery, all things must be and are possible."

While Governor Tom C. Rye traveled across Tennessee promoting the war effort and blessing motherhood, Senator John Knight Shields largely remained in Washington. In vivid contrast to the affable governor, John Knight Shields was acerbic, gruff, and frequently contrary. A distinguished jurist who had served on the Tennessee State Supreme Court, Shields was not an able politician, nor did he pretend to be. Years later in writing a profile of John Knight Shields for his book Tennessee Senators As Seen By One of Their Successors, K. D. McKellar lamented Shields all too often managed to alienate those who should have been his friends. McKellar wrote that patronage was no real benefit to Shields. Senator McKellar readily admitted President Wilson did not like Shields and "did not pay much attention to" those men recommended by Shields for appointment. Shields had a terrific knack for making enemies of people who should have otherwise been grateful to him. Senator Shields, McKellar confessed, was rather "unfortunate" in the way he handled patronage and appointments in Tennessee.

Governor Tom C. Rye, on the other hand, made the most of his own appointive authority, which was plentiful. The governor had numerous jobs and appointments at his disposal and made the most of his opportunities. The rumors he would challenge the curmudgeonly John Knight Shields were still rampant as June approached. The governor was asked while visiting Camden, Tennessee to speak on behalf of the American Red Cross, if "the report" he was off and running for the United States Senate was true.

"The report is absolutely untrue and was unauthorized," Rye snapped.

While Governor Rye's support for the war effort



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

*President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, circa 1920. The illness of the president is clear from the photo. Culver Pictures.*

was undoubtedly good politics, it was also genuine. The governor's only son, Paul Rye, had enlisted and was commissioned as a Lieutenant. A telegram arrived at the governor's mansion at the end of May 1918 informing Governor and Mrs. Rye their son had arrived safely overseas. It was always a matter of concern for anxious parents to know their sons arrived safely in Europe due to the perils of constant German submarine warfare. Paul Rye was to serve on the staff of Brigadier General Spence throughout much of the war.

Governor Rye continued his tour on behalf of the Red Cross and spoke in Selmer, Tennessee where he was greeted by a "monster" crowd of local citizens. The Volunteer State spirit of Tennesseans was amply in evidence as even in a small city like Selmer, residents had surpassed the subscription goals for the Red Cross. Rye was the recipient of two pounds of wool sent to him by President Woodrow Wilson from sheep who grazed on the White House lawn. Governor Rye intended to auction off the wool and donate the proceeds to the Red Cross. Wilson's gift further underscored the President's cordial relations with the governor and reminding Tennesseans of the chill between Wilson and Senator John Knight Shields. Even before the wool went to the auction block, the governor had received bids totaling \$101.

Within days of having denied he was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate, Governor Tom C. Rye announced on May 28, 1918 that he would be a candidate. Declaring he was "yielding to the solicitations of friends and desiring to further serve my people", Tom C. Rye said he would challenge Senator John Knight Shields for the U. S. Senate. The governor said he did not intend for his campaign to interfere with the war effort, nor divert attention from the war

raging in Europe. Governor Rye said he knew "where the heart of Tennessee is, and should be at this time" and stated he would not make any "unseemly canvass." Rye also promised that he would not neglect his duties as governor while he sought the senatorial nomination.

Several other prospective senatorial candidates, gauging how difficult it would be to generate support against an incumbent governor and sitting United States senator, decided not to make the race. The senatorial contest came down to Tom C. Rye and John Knight Shields.

Rye made a quick trip to Memphis, receiving friends and supporters in his rooms at the Peabody Hotel. Likely Rye also wanted to discern the attitude of E. H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County political organization, who did not like Senator John Knight Shields. Interviewed by curious reporters, the governor had little to say other than "the outlook was encouraging."

Advertising himself as "The Win The War Candidate," Rye promised to "stand by our President." Rye immediately received an endorsement from colorful former governor Malcolm R. Patterson. Despite his checkered past and the fact he was a highly polarizing figure in Tennessee politics, Patterson retained a following among Tennessee Democrats and remained a much sought after speaker.

In this age when candidates announce years in advance of an election, it may be difficult for readers to believe the 1918 Democratic primary campaign for the United States Senate lasted a month. Governor Tom C. Rye kicked off his campaign with a speech at the Lyric Theater in Chattanooga on July 8, 1918. Rye bore down on the record of his opponent, Senator Shields. Rye, supported by former Senator Luke Lea who was also owner of the Nashville Tennessean, castigated Shields for exempting

Edward B. Stahlman, a German-American and owner of the rival Nashville Banner, from "the provisions of the enemy alien act." Rye vigorously disputed what he deemed to be the claims of the newspapers supporting Shields for reelection that President Woodrow Wilson's call that "politics is adjourned" for the duration of the war, did not mean the senator should run unopposed. Rye lambasted Shields's attendance record, noting the senior senator had answered 1,652 of 2,070 roll call votes. "Since the beginning of the present session," Governor Rye cried, "the most important in the history of the country, he was absent on 110 times on roll calls, present and voting 220 times..." Rye scoffed Senator Shields had been more "actively engaged in writing letters to the citizens of the state in the interest of his candidacy, and directing the activities of his hired henchmen in their efforts to organize the state for his election."

Although Senator Shields remained confident he would carry his native East Tennessee, Tom C. Rye drew a crowd estimated at 1,500 in Kingsport where he was "caustic" in addressing his opponent's senatorial record. In Lenoir City, the governor filled the high school auditorium and gave an address listeners felt "had the true American ring to it."

Rye moved on to Harriman and received a warm welcome. Governor Rye, asked about his campaign, said he was confident of winning the nomination.

The governor's campaign released a statement comparing his record with that of Senator John Knight Shields, contrasting Shields' opposition to organized labor. Rye complained Shields "has endeavored to pose as the friend of labor."

The Rye campaign expressed astonishment that any laboring man could support the senator, pointing to the record

Shields had compiled while sitting as a Justice of the Tennessee State Supreme Court. While Rye was pounding the hell out of Shields' record, Luke Lea's Tennessean gave its endorsement to the governor. Rye had been strongly supported by Lea when he had first sought the governorship in 1911 while the publisher still sat in the United States Senate. Lea had believed helping to elect Rye governor would bolster his own chances of reelection when he faced the people of Tennessee. Lea's record had been so controversial the State Democratic Committee had called the primary to be held a year before the 1916 election. Lea had been eliminated in the first round of voting, running third behind then-Congressman Kenneth McKellar and former governor Malcolm Patterson. Lea had been bitterly disappointed by Governor Rye's failure to endorse him. Yet the enmity between John Knight Shields and Luke Lea was too deep for the publisher to back the senator.

The editorial in the Tennessean supporting Tom C. Rye for the United States Senate noted the governor was honest and carried out his campaign promises and would do the same if he was sent to Washington by the voters of Tennessee. The Tennessean also stressed Rye would back "carrying out the policies of the Wilson administration in winning the war for democracy and civilization" if elected. Lea's newspaper denounced Senator John Knight Shields' record as a "twisted and insincere performance" which had been "governed by expediency and controlled by self interest as against public interest." The Tennessean thundered Shields had "shamefully and shamelessly perverted a public trust, and this is the only thing he has done consistently since he has been Senator."

The Tennessean snarled Senator Shields "keeps faith with no man or constituency unless it serves his own personal ambition, or selfish interest to do so."

Lea accused Shields of making "an unholy alliance" with Jesse Littleton of Chattanooga, Tennessee's Republican National Committeeman, in order to gain the support of Littleton's political organization inside the Third Congressional District.

It was clear to most, if one supported Woodrow Wilson, one must support Governor Tom C. Rye.

**Come worship with us**

**New Beverly Baptist Church**

3320 New Beverly Church Rd.  
Knoxville, TN 37918  
Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Pastor  
www.newbeverly.org  
856-546-0001

Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship  
11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship  
6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening Prayer  
7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening Youth  
7:00 p.m.  
Bus Ministry -  
For transportation call 546-0001

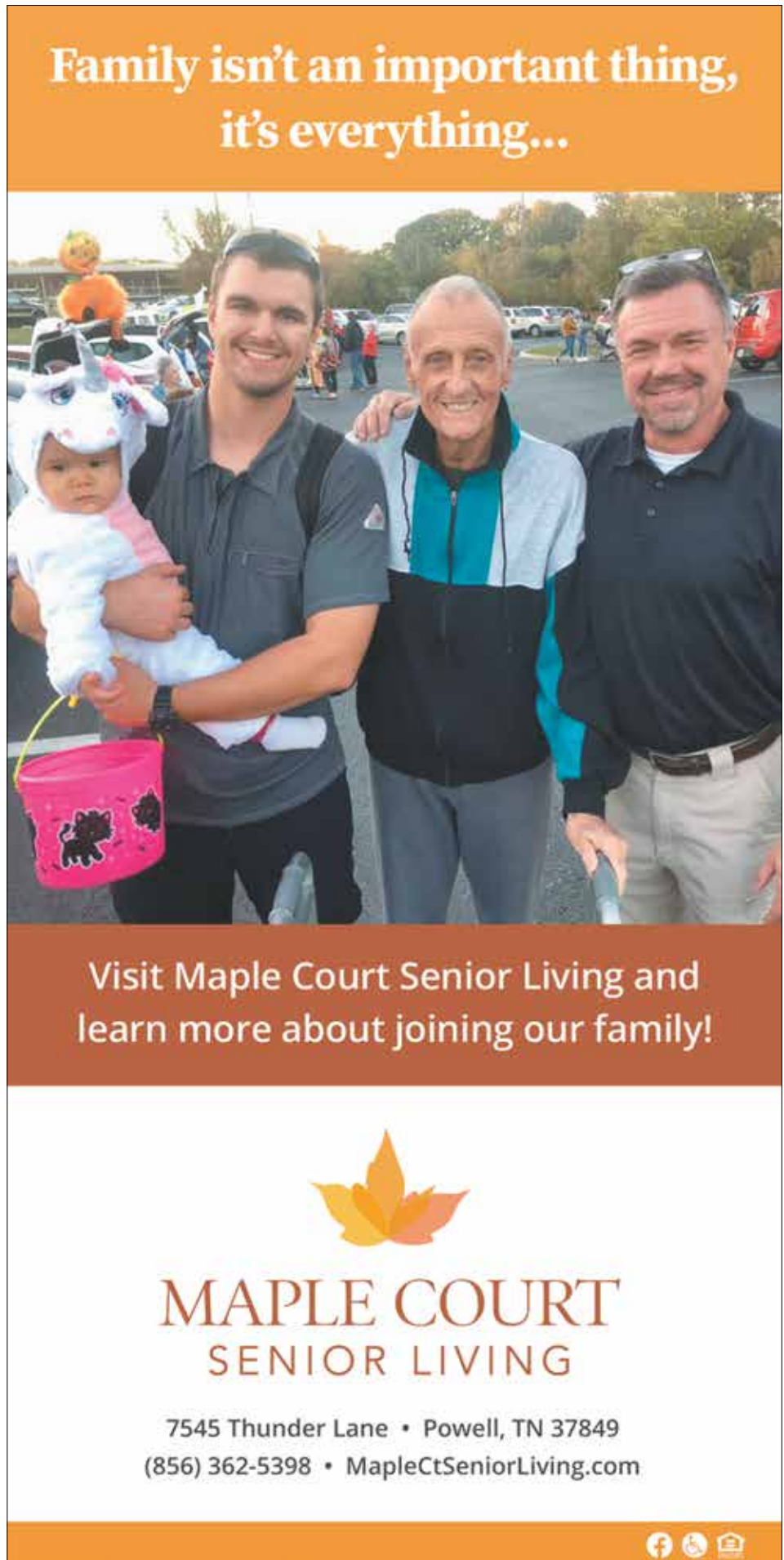


**By Joe Rector**  
joerector@comcast.net

The wine adventure ended my alcohol consumption and lasted throughout my college years. Yes, I know that sounds strange, but I had no desire to ever be that sick again. Today, I might drink a beer with a meal, but I've forever sworn off wine...of any kind. I learned my lessons and have done away with the temptations of smoking and becoming inebriated. I sure don't miss the spinning bed and a hacking cough that came with those cheap temptations.

A year ago Knoxville businessman Tom Boyd announced his plan to develop a fantasy-themed resort, **Ancient Lore Village**, along Sevierville Pike and Nixon Road. Daniel Levy, the project's architect, requested rezoning from the commission last December, but the request has been dormant since February. The request

Dan Crum, an investment partner of Sheila Proffitt, requested the commission rezone a piece of land at **2739 Mineral Springs** Avenue from Office, Medical and Related Services to Office. The commission unanimously denied the request.





# Bearden High contributes to the spirit of the season

By Steve Williams

This is the time of year The Knoxville Focus likes to recognize local high school students with ties to athletics for their community service during the holidays.

They could be members of any athletic team, cheerleaders, dance team or band members.

Their contributions could be painting faces of children at Fantasy of Trees, ringing bells for the Salvation Army, helping with Angel Tree or visiting veterans and the elderly at assisted living facilities to brighten their holidays.

Who better to extend a helping hand or put a smile on a person's face than the youth of our community? They have the energy and the compassion for it.

Bearden High Athletic Director Donald Balcom received a request from The Focus to share the community service being provided from Thanksgiving to New Year's by those in the area he oversees. He relayed the request to coaches and directors, and the response from Bearden was commendable.

Dance team Sponsor Rebecca Nutter sent pictures of its members volunteering at Fantasy of Trees.

"This year, they volunteered on Sunday to help break down the event," emailed Nutter. "They moved trees, tables, chairs, décor, etc., for several hours after having practiced for four hours and performing their state dress rehearsal



Bearden High's dance team worked on the back end of this year's Fantasy of Trees holiday event, coming in on Sunday, Dec. 1, to help break things down and put items away. Earlier that day, they had a rehearsal for the TSSAA Dance Championships, and would go on to win two state titles on Dec. 7. From left to right are Ella Williams, Leah Cho, Olivia Roddy, Ella Klenck, Katherine Newman, Summer Davis, Anna Snyder, Meaghan Chase, Ali Berg, Ruby Fisher and Julie Horn.

all that same day. The BHS dance team went on to win a double state title (Saturday, Dec. 7) at the TSSAA state competition."

Band Director Megan Christian reported: "Our

band students delivered 20-plus Christmas Wreaths to an assisted living facility recently."

The Bearden baseball team was to have volunteered at the Nativity

Pageant at the Civic Coliseum this past weekend, serving as ushers and greeters and providing general help for the non-profit event, according to Coach John Rice.

Bearden's football team was scheduled to take part in "Wreaths Across America" Saturday (Dec. 14) to remember and honor our military veterans.

According to Coach Morgan Shinlever, the Bearden players would help lay Christmas Wreaths on the headstones of our country's fallen heroes at Knoxville National Cemetery at 939 Tyson Street and at East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery at 5901 Lyons View Pike.

**THE FOCUS** hopes to receive jolly good news from other local high schools, so more good cheer can be spread in our Dec. 23rd and Dec. 30th issues.



Bearden dance team members Anna Snyder (left) and Meaghan Chase prepare to put away a Christmas tree at the closing of this year's Fantasy of Trees.

# Whittle Springs boys stay perfect with a pair of impressive wins

Whittle Springs players Travis Turner (10) and Taj Kember give chase to the ball in last week's game against Farragut. The Warriors defeated the Admirals to remain undefeated on the season. Photo by Ken Lay.



By Ken Lay

When Linwood Holloway took the reins of the Whittle Springs Middle School boys basketball team, he had a team largely comprised of six graders --- a rarity in the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference, a league which is usually dominated annually by eighth graders.

Now, those sixth graders, who took more than their share of lumps three years ago, are in eighth grade and setting atop the KCMSBC standings with a perfect 11-0 league record. The Warriors kept their unblemished mark

intact with a 61-34 victory at Bearden Thursday night.

Before its win over the Bruins, Whittle Springs toppled Farragut 66-37 on Monday, Dec. 11.

"I'm really proud of these kids," Holloway said after the Warriors used a big second half to rout the Admirals. "They came in here and they took their lumps for a couple of years."

Whittle Springs and Farragut were locked in a competitive tilt early as the Warriors took some time to find their rhythm against the Admirals, who boast some of the league's

top shooters.

Farragut manufactured enough offense to hang around early. They trailed 12-9 after the first quarter and were down just 29-20 at halftime.

But the Warriors stepped up the defensive pressure and wasted little time putting things away just after the break.

Whittle Springs used some pressure defense to create Farragut turnovers and those miscues turned into points for the Warriors.

"That was the game plan coming in," said Holloway,

**Continued on page 4**



## Confused??

That's because fire protection in Knox County is different from most areas. You don't pay for fire protection through property taxes.

Your fire department, Rural Metro Fire, is funded by people just like you for a low annual fee and there are different methods to pay that fee.

Establishing your support for your fire department is as simple as a phone call.

After all, we depend on you just as much as you depend on us.

Call Member Services now with the coupon code below and save money on your first year's membership.

**ANSWER**

865-560-0230 or [www.ruralmetrofire.com](http://www.ruralmetrofire.com)



**RURAL METRO**



# Nordin scores 31 as Bulldogs fall to Maryville in OT

By Ken Lay

As Bearden High School's boys basketball team defends its Class AAA State Title, the new season has been filled with growing pains.

The Bulldogs, who lost all five starters from last year's squad that won it all in Murfreesboro in March, have battled valiantly but wins have been hard to come by early and Bearden dropped another heartbreaker at home Tuesday night.

Bearden opened the District 4-AAA portion of its schedule at home against preseason favorite Maryville and came up on the short end of a 64-62 overtime decision against the Rebels before a spirited crowd at Bearden High School.

Maryville (6-3 overall, 2-0 of the district) captured the victory when senior guard Joe Anderson knocked down a 10-foot jumper with one second left.

Anderson, a Furman commitment, has been clutch for the Rebels throughout his career.

"He's no stranger to big shots," Bearden coach Jeremy Parrott said after watching his team fall to 3-6 overall and 0-1 in league play. "That was a great shot by him, I wish I'd done something to mix it up there, but I didn't have any timeouts and didn't have



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS.

*Bearden's Tyler Nordin goes for a layup while Maryville's Ashton Maples defends from behind in a District 4-AAA game at Bearden last week. Nordin scored a game-high 31 points but the Bulldogs lost to the Rebels in overtime.*

any way to stop the clock, really.

"So I just kind of had to hope for a miss there and contest the shot."

Bearden did contest the game-winner but Anderson's aim was true and Maryville left Knoxville with a key early-season district victory. He led the Rebels with 20 points.

Ironically, it was Anderson that made the game-winner in 2018-2019 to hand Bearden its only district loss last season.

Jack Brown also scored 14 points for the Rebels.

The biggest star of the night was Bearden's Tyler Nordin. He missed the first four games of the season for the Bulldogs due to injury but has made a huge impact since returning to the Bearden lineup.

And Tuesday night was no exception as he had 31 points to lead all scorers.

"This team has played hard all year," Parrott said. "Tyler had a great game. We've leaned on him since

he's come back. He's done a great job and we've just got to find more ways to get him the ball.

"It was good to have him back and lean on him because he's so strong and he can get it in there. It was the goal, to let him touch it in there late."

The game packed plenty of drama and Anderson's game-winner ended a roller-coaster ride of a contest in which both teams had leads and chances to prevail.

# Lady Bulldogs 'share the basketball' in district victory over Maryville

By Ken Lay

Bearden High School girls basketball coach Justin Underwood has often said that he counts his blessings as head coach of the Lady Bulldogs.

And Tuesday night showed everyone why Underwood is extremely happy with his job in West Knoxville.

"These girls are a blessing to coach. They're unselfish and they love to share the basketball," Underwood said after Bearden notched a 62-45 victory over Maryville Tuesday night at home in its District 4-AAA opener before a spirited crowd. "I love these girls. I'm on them but I love them and if you look at our (bulletin) board (outside the Lady Bulldogs' locker room), you see that we have seven (graduates) playing college basketball.

"And these (current) girls could go to other schools and average more points, but they're unselfish and they share the basketball and they sacrifice and they play their roles. We have a good group that plays hard, and that's a coach's dream."

Bearden, which kept its perfect record intact with the victory over the Lady Rebels (6-2 overall, 1-1 in District 4-AAA), again boasted a balanced scoring attack and had three players post double figures in the scoring column. Jakhiya Davis, an East Tennessee State University signee, scored 17 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in the contest

to lead the Lady Bulldogs (9-0, 1-0).

But Davis, a dominant force in the post for Bearden, who has also proven that she can knock down jumpers from beyond the 3-point arc, received plenty of help from a supporting cast that included Emma Stone, Zneyah McLaughlin, Ja'niya Bussell and Emily Gonzalez.

Stone had 16 points and made four 3-pointers while McLaughlin came up huge in the fourth quarter, scoring all 11 of her points over the final eight minutes.

Bussell scored seven points and Gonzalez finished with six for the Lady Bulldogs, who held a 19-9 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Bearden led throughout the contest between a pair of area heavyweights but McLaughlin helped the Lady Bulldogs, who led 26-19 at halftime and 40-34 heading to the final frame, put the finishing touches on a key early-season district victory. She not only scored in bunches, but she had crucial steals and rebounds down the stretch as the Lady Rebels desperately attempted to hang around.

But big performances are nothing new for McLaughlin.

"She came up huge for us in the fourth quarter, but she's done that before," Underwood said.

Maryville's Denae Fritz and a game-high 18 points and pulled down 12 rebounds.

## Lady Admirals cruise past Whittle Springs in middle school hoops

By Ken Lay

Farragut Middle School's girls basketball team notched an easy victory on Monday, Dec. 9 when it routed Whittle Springs 58-4 in a Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference game in North Knoxville.

The Lady Admirals, one of the top teams in the KCMSBC, darted out to a 20-2 lead by the end of the first quarter against the Lady Warriors.

Farragut's defense shut out Whittle Springs in the second half, and offensively, the Lady Admirals boasted a balanced attack.

Addison Pressley led the way with 17 points and Hannah Enderson added 13 for Farragut, which extended its advantage to 35-4 at halftime.

Brooklyn Dailey came off the bench and had seven points in the fourth quarter.

Sydney English scored six points. While Annie Priest and Malena Maier had four points each. Josie Tarantino finished with three and Kaitlyn Atwell had two for Farragut, which led 48-4 after the third frame.

Jayla Young had all four points for the Lady Warriors.

**Pediatric Consultants**  
North, Halls and Maynardville  
*Comprehensive Primary and Subspecialty Health Care For Infants, Children, and Adolescents*

**NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS AT ALL LOCATIONS**

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 8am-4:30pm  
For an Appointment or Patient Referral, Call Us Today.

[www.pediatricconsultants.net](http://www.pediatricconsultants.net)

**223-6561**  
4005 Fountain Valley HALLS

**687-2000** 100 Tech Center NORTH KNOXVILLE  
**992-9977** 147 Oakland Lane MAYNARDVILLE

Dr. David Eakes Dr. Maria Javier Dr. Lynn Baker

**2006 Ford F-150 Lariat Crewcab 4x4 \$8,995**  
**2017 F-350 Crewcab 4x4 Lariat powerstroke \$52,900**  
**1999 Ford F150 4x4 Supercab \$3,995**  
**2016 Toyota 4Runner S125 Premium 4x4 Loaded! \$31,550**  
**2017 Ford Mustang Shelby GT350 Only 300 miles! \$44,440**

*Also take advantage of our Quicklane Tire and Auto Center - No Appointment Needed!*  
Price includes \$399 dock fee. Plus tax, tag and title. WAC. Dealer retains all rebates. Restrictions may apply. See Dealer for details. Prices good through next week.

**RAY VARNER**

Call Dan or Ray for all your New or Used Car & Truck needs.

2026 N Charles G Seviars Blvd · Clinton, TN  
**865.457.0704**  
[www.rayvarnerford.com](http://www.rayvarnerford.com)

**Congratulations to  
Central High School  
2019 State  
Champions!  
We're so proud of you!!!**

**LOUIS**  
Restaurant  
& Drive In

**466 Old Broadway**

**688-4121 687-9921**



# Blakemore, Georgia State track signee, still has goals at A-E

By Steve Williams

Most kids like to play in the sand. Some even have a sand box in their backyard.

The sand Austin-East High's Blake "Jade" Blakemore remembers playing in, however, was in a "sand pit" where long jumpers and triple jumpers land and where her mother was a Knoxville Track Club coach when she was growing up. Blake played in the sand without a shovel or bucket and said there were "dead bees" in the pit. They were kind of scary too, she recalled.

Blake has grown up to be one of the state's top high school sprinters. As a sophomore in 2018, she was the KIL 100-meter champion and a TSSAA state champion in the 200. She sometimes runs so fast, one might think she is being chased by, well, bees!

Her talent and draw to track is really not surprising considering her mom, Heather Sumpter-Blakemore, was a UT track athlete from California and is now the head girls' track and field coach at Austin-East. Blakemore has one more

outdoor track season to go in high school and then she will be off to Georgia State University to compete and seek a college degree. She signed scholarship papers with the Lady Panthers Dec. 4 in A-E's Performing Arts auditorium as family members, friends and school personnel attended the ceremony.

Georgia State is a NCAA Division 1 school located in Atlanta and a member of the Sun Belt Conference.

"I actually got to go spend a weekend with the team and that pushed me (to signing there)," said Blake. "I love the coach (Kyle Stevenson) and I got to experience one of his practices."

Blakemore also said she loves the Atlanta atmosphere and that it's not that far from home.

She said a couple of other schools were showing interest in her, but she was "mainly focused" on Georgia State throughout the recruiting process.

In addition to her state title, Blakemore has been a state runner-up twice in the 100 and 200 and also anchored the Lady Road-runners' 4x100 relay team to runner-up finishes last spring and in 2018.



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Blake "Jade" Blakemore (second from right) with her parents Marcus and Heather and sister Clarke at her signing ceremony at Austin-East on Dec. 4.

Blakemore was among Knox County athletes who were named on the 2019 Coaches' All-Metro Track and Field girls' team. She also has been nominated twice for the USA Today Knox News Sentinel Sports Awards.

She plans to major in biology and wants to become an Aesthetician.

But before she leaves

Austin-East, her goal is to better two school records held by Jenae Anderson Easterly – 24.41 in the 200 and 11.88 in the 100.

Blake has known Jenae practically her whole life as Anderson was a sophomore when Sumpter-Blakemore started coaching at A-E and Blake was probably 3 or 4 years old.

"She's been like a second

mom to me," said Blake. "She said I'm the only one who can take her name off (the record book)."

Anderson graduated from A-E in 2007 and went on to race as an NCAA Division 1 athlete at Georgia Tech.

Now an attorney in the Knoxville area, Anderson Easterly was a special attendee at the signing.



Blake "Jade" Blakemore, a 2018 TSSAA state champion who recently signed scholarship papers with Georgia State University, would like to put her name in the Austin-East record book next spring.

"I want to beat Jenae Anderson's time (in 200). I run like a 24.7," said Blake. "I think I can beat them both (100 too)."

When told about Blake's goal to top her records, Jenae replied, "If she doesn't, it'll be another 20 years."

Translation: It may be that long before another A-E sprinter as good as Blake comes along to challenge Jenae's record times.

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS NOTEBOOK

# Bearden bowlers leading the way in District 4

By Steve Williams

Bearden High's boys bowling team is still on a roll in regular season play.

The Bulldogs clinched the District 4 championship with a 24½ to 2½ win over South-Doyle Thursday at the Family Bowl and haven't lost a match in the regular season in two years, despite losing five starters to graduation.

Senior Ben Whitaker leads Bearden and the district with a 196 average. Sophomore teammate Tyler Fries ranks second with a 189 average and Central senior Dillon Bunch is right there with him.

The Bulldogs currently are 13-0 in district play and 18-0 overall with their final regular season contest coming up Tuesday on their home lanes at Family Bowl against Career Magnet Academy. Action starts at 4.

Bearden's girls (10-1, 15-1) are doing almost as well and can wrap up the district crown again with a win over CMA. They moved a step closer with their 22½ to 4½ victory over



Bearden High Coach Jennifer Allen with her team's two leading bowlers Friday -- Kristy Dean (left) and Ben Whitaker. Dean and Whitaker have the top averages in District 4 as the regular season winds down before post-season play.

South-Doyle.

Senior Kristy Dean, who has already secured a berth in the TSSAA state tournament for the second year in a row, leads the Lady Bulldogs and the district with a 177 average.

South-Doyle junior Lucy Edwards ranks second with a 165 average and junior Grace Brison of L&N STEM Academy is third with a 153 average.

Both Bearden squads,

which are coached by Jennifer Allen, padded their records by winning the Turkey Tournament at Oak Ridge this season.

District 4 lost Catholic to Division II this year but picked up two new members with Carter and Gibbs coming on board. Carter has boys and girls teams, while Gibbs is competing in the boys division with a coed squad.

Other schools in Knox

County that have bowling teams are Hardin Valley in District 4 and Webb in Division II.

District tournament action will start after teams return to school following the holidays.

**DANCE CHAMPS:** Bearden and Farragut high schools and Farragut Middle School brought home multiple state titles from this year's TSSAA / TMSSA Cheerleading and Dance Championships at MTSU in Murfreesboro on Dec. 7.

Bearden took first place in the Medium Varsity Jazz and Medium Varsity Pom categories.

The 19-member squad is directed by Head Coach Hannah Keathley, Assistant Coach Kathryn Brasfield and Choreographer Katie Fear Lane.

Bearden has captured 11 state titles in all and seven consecutive jazz titles.

Farragut took top honors in Small Varsity Jazz and Small Varsity Pom.

Farragut Middle School took state titles in Jazz and Pom.

**DECISION TIME:** Knoxville Catholic High football standout Tyler Baron will announce his college choice during the National Signing Day (Early Period) Wednesday at 12:30 in the KCHS gymnasium. In all, four student-athletes will sign letters of intent.

In addition to Baron, Chancellor Bright will sign with Marshall, Cooper Mays with Tennessee and Bryn Tucker with Clemson.

**DEFENSE PRAISED:** The defensive unit of Central High's state championship football team received praise from Summit Head Coach Brian Coleman and Spartans quarterback Destin Wade after the Bobcats' 30-7 win in the Class 5A finals Dec. 6 at Tennessee Tech.

Wade said the Central defense ranked among the top two he faced this season and particularly complimented the Bobcats' linebackers.

The sophomore QB said the biggest trouble came from Central "putting extra pressure on the outside and making me step up

in the pocket. They were coming quick too."

Nick Craney is Central's defensive coordinator.

**TREAT FOR CHAMPS:** All nine TSSAA state football championship teams were to be guests of the Tennessee Titans at their home game against the Houston Texans Sunday.

Central Athletic Director J.D. Lambert estimated about "two-thirds" of the players on the school's 2018 title team made the trip to Nashville to see the NFL game.

Central requested 75 tickets for this year's trip.

**TITANS' HONOREE:** Elizabethton High's Shawn Witten was named the 2019 Tennessee Titans High School Coach of the Year. Witten's Cyclones finished with a perfect 15-0 record en route to the Class 4A state title – the school's first in the classification and playoff era.

**CAREACTER STARS:** Basketball honorees will begin being announced on Jan. 6 in The Focus.

# CONGRATULATIONS

## Central High School

## 2019 Football

# State Champs

*We're so proud of you!*



**Ace Electric Service Company, LLC**  
 (865) 688-3003    mogle@aceelecservice.com    Established 1985  
 Follow us on Facebook



## Craftsmanship Since 1921

COLEMAN'S PRINTING & AWARDS LLC

(865) 689-6416 • 4100 NORTH BROADWAY • KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

### CONGRATULATIONS TO COACH ROSSER AND THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM ON YOUR 2019 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!

### GO BOBCATS!!



# The end is not always golden, but can still sparkle

Thirty minutes after the game, maybe longer, South-Doyle High School senior quarterback Mason Brang still had his helmet on and chin strap buckled.

He was on his way to the Cherokees' dressing room after their season-ending 20-16 loss to Central in the TSSAA Class 5A state quarterfinals on Nov. 22.

He was the only player I saw who still had his helmet on that long after the game. The way I figured it, he wasn't ready to see this season and his high school career come to an end.

The agony of defeat sometimes can be so strong it can affect a player that way. I think my assumption was correct.

Brang's senior season was cut far too short. He suffered a broken leg in Week 3 against Gibbs and missed the rest of the regular season and South-Doyle's first-round playoff game.

After weeks of recovery and rehabbing, Mason was able to return and play in the Cherokees' second round win over Daniel Boone. And he played in the quarterfinal loss to the defending state champion Bobcats.

Brang wanted to play in two more games – the semifinals and finals – but said he wouldn't trade the two games he did get to play

after his comeback for anything.

Despite his agony, Mason stopped when he heard me call his name, after we had passed each other between the stadium and the dressing room and I looked back to see it was No. 10.

I know it's an awfully tough loss for you guys, I told him, and the game could have gone either way. It was a great game. Your feelings right now, I asked. Can you comment about how you feel?

"I hurt. I'm sad," he said, his voice slightly quivering. "I know we should have won the game."

About that time, the sound of football cleats on the concrete walkway where we stood could be heard coming closer and a teammate said "I love you Mace," as he passed by. "I love you too man," replied Mason.

"Just sad to see high school being over," Brang continued, still wearing his helmet with the chin strap buckled. "I loved every second of it. I enjoyed playing with this group of seniors since elementary school almost. And just loved playing a part on this team."

You would do it all over, the rehabbing and everything, wouldn't you?

"Yes sir, definitely, a hundred times over," he answered without any hesitation.

I know right now there is a lot of pain and you're feeling very emotional ... just a comment about the

Central team. You all lost to the defending state champions tonight.

"Yes sir. We knew that they were battled tested and so were we. The game could have gone either way. We just came up a little bit short."

What do you think you will remember most about this season and this team?

"Just the relationship I have with this whole team really," answered Brang. "I love everyone on this team. It's just a bond that will never be broken."

I thanked Mason for stopping and talking to me.

A little while later, while sitting next to Clark Duncan and beginning an interview with the South-Doyle head coach, Brang, now in regular clothes, stopped by the coaches' office before leaving.

Coach Duncan quietly asked me to excuse him for a second so he could speak with Mason. The two shared a hug and a few words and I could hear Coach Duncan tell him that in time he would look back on this season and his four years at South-Doyle with pride and great memories.

Not all players and teams are fortunate enough to end their high school careers in a state championship game at the BlueCross Bowl in Cookeville.

But that doesn't mean when they unbuckle that chin strap and take off their helmet for the last time, that they don't have the heart of a champion.

# Tennessee heads to Gator Bowl

By Alex Norman

You'd have won a lot of bets if you laid down a few bucks on the Vols bowl game chances when they say at 1-4 and looked like a team ready to give up on the season. But they persevered, won six of their last seven games, and will face Indiana in the Gator Bowl on January 2nd in Jacksonville.

"I feel like our seniors and our coaching staff did a fantastic job keeping this group together," said Tennessee head coach Jeremy Pruitt. "We have a very young and inexperienced team and they stayed together and showed a lot of resiliency and fight and hung in there and we found a way to win ball games down the stretch. I'm really proud of the opportunity this team has presented itself with and giving these seniors the opportunity to play one more time."

"It (the Gator Bowl) has a great history, great tradition, and is in a great part of the country to come and play," said Tennessee athletics director Philip Fulmer. "I've experienced it as a player way back when, and as a head coach had a fantastic experience with the Gator Bowl. I'm looking forward to being back as the athletic director. It's a great matchup with an outstanding school whose staff has done a super job, and I look forward to it."

How the Vols got there is a point of controversy. It appeared that they were heading to the Music City Bowl with Kentucky on the way to Jacksonville. But following discussions with the SEC, the Vols got the Florida game with Kentucky pushed to the Belk Bowl in Charlotte and Mississippi State in Nashville.

As Fulmer said, Tennessee is no stranger to the Gator Bowl. The Vols have played in this game six times

before, holding a 4-2 mark in those appearances. In their last visit back in January 2015, the Vols torched Iowa 45-28 in a game that wasn't nearly that close. The game is perhaps best remembered for the tens of thousands of Vols fans that packed the place, turning it into a de facto home game. You can expect more of the same this time around.

Indiana is coming off a very good (by Indiana standards) season, finishing 8-4. But that record is somewhat deceptive. The Hoosiers went 0-3 against ranked opponents. They also slumped at the end of the regular season with losses to Penn State and Michigan. In their final game they outlasted a less than mediocre Purdue team in overtime of the Old Oaken Bucket rivalry game.

With a victory over Tennessee, Indiana would have a nine-win season for only the third time in the history of their program.

The Hoosiers are a pass first team, with redshirt junior quarterback Peyton Ramsey at the helm of that offense. He threw for 2,227 yards and 13 touchdowns in ten games this season. Junior wide receiver Whop Philyor is Ramsey's go to guy in the passing game. So far Philyor has 1,001 receiving yards and five touchdowns this season.

If there is a place the Vols might try to exploit, it is with the Hoosiers secondary. Their defensive backs only collected three interceptions all year.

Win or lose, this has been a season of improvement for Tennessee. It is well past time that the Vols make bowl game appearances a regular part of their winter schedule. Maybe this will be the start of making that a reality.

## Whittle Springs boys stay perfect with a pair of impressive wins

Cont. from page 1

who didn't coach last Monday's game due to a prior engagement. "We want to make everybody play our game. We have to make people play our game."

The Warriors game is run and gun.

"We play our best when we play fast," said assistant coach Jadarius Suber, who coached the Farragut game. "We came out and we played too slow (in the first half against the Admirals)."

"But when we play fast, I don't think any middle

school team can beat us."

Farragut certainly couldn't find any answers against the Warriors, who blew things open with a 37-17 surge over the final 12 minutes of the contest.

Whittle Springs boasted a balanced attack early last week and had five players post double figures in the scoring column.

Taj Kimber led the way with 19 points. Ra'Tyler Lee and Travis Ballenger scored 10 points each. Denaj Kember chipped in with seven points while DeShawn Hale had five.

With a perfect record, basketball is fun and a source of pride at Whittle Springs. But with four conference games remaining, there's still plenty of work to be done.

"We've gone from being the hunter to being the hunted," Holloway said. "Everybody wants to beat us and we welcome all comers but we've got to stay focused."

"This is big and exciting for Whittle Springs. We have 500 kids here and they're all excited."

**KNOXVILLE'S MORNING NEWS**  
HOSTED BY ELAINE DAVIS



**WEEKDAY MORNINGS**  
7AM-10AM

**TALK RADIO** **FM 92.3**  
**AM 760**

Download on the  
App Store

GET IT ON  
Google Play

**TALKRADIO923.COM**

## Knoxville Flea Market

The Region's Finest Flea Market for more than a Decade!

Knoxville Expo Center - 5441 Clinton Highway

★ **December 20-21-22** ★

**Fri. 3-7 • Sat. 10-6 • Sun. 10-4**

**FREE ADMISSION & PARKING!**

Over 300 Booths! Quality Dealers from Several States!  
Incredible Bargains on Everything New, Used, & In Between!

Vendor Booth Space Available: 10'x10' - \$120 / 15'x10' - \$180 / 20'x10' - \$240

Visit [www.stewartpromotions.com](http://www.stewartpromotions.com) or call 502-456-2244 for more info

**Support Local Business.**  
**Support The Knoxville Focus.**





### Schism

Recently, a friend and I agreed to disagree. I believe this is possible because we have mutual respect for each other, and we have far more in common than our differences. Unfortunately, the warring factions in Washington have lost sight of this perspective. It seems that power, party, politics and prestige have trumped We The People.

Though my friend and I differ politically, our foundational principles are secure. We are Christians and we are Americans. As a result, we are tolerant of each other's positions.

But, what happens if someone is coerced or forced to change a foundational principle? My wife Becky believes such a fundamental revision requires a change of heart. I agree. No law can force a change of conscience. Sophocles' play "Antigone" teaches that conscience must override legalisms. Martin Luther, on trial for his life in 1521, stated the

same. When confronting an opposing perspective, the classical options are fight, flight (run away) or surrender. Jesus added a fourth option. Agape is the Greek term for his sacrificial love.

Recently, an article appeared in the local "fish wrapper" about the Methodist church's approaching schism. This term is defined as a split between people or parties with strongly opposed differences of opinion or belief. I became a Methodist in 1975 when Becky and I married. I find the perspectives of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, more compelling than any other Christian doctrine. Wesley's Quadrilateral of foundational principles can be imagined as a three legged stool. Like Martin Luther, Wesley believed you "sit" (stand) upon scripture. This foundation is supported by the legs of personal experience, tradition and reason.

Methodism is the second largest Protestant denomination in the United States, but is half as large as Southern Baptists and one tenth as large as Catholicism. George Bush, Elizabeth Warren and Jim Ferguson identify as Methodists. Unfortunately, Methodism, like other mainline doctrines, is dead in Europe and is dying in the Northern hemisphere. Fortunately, Christ's church is growing in the Southern hemisphere. Perhaps affluence breeds the notion of self-reliance or one where God is replaced by government.

The United Methodist Church is a worldwide entity. And that's where the issue of schism has surfaced. Conservative Methodists are opposed to the ordination of openly gay ministers and believe marriage is only between a man and a woman. This has been mischaracterized as homophobia. It is not. I agree with Methodist doctrine which holds that all people are equally loved by God. However, if Becky and I were Catholic, she could not be Pope. And because I'm a man, I can't be a Lady Vol. Paul writes that we all have "gifts differing," but I am bound by my DNA and can't become pregnant.

Since 1972, activists have repeatedly sought foundational changes to Methodism regarding marriage and ministers. And

since the activists have not prevailed, schism is now inevitable. The Methodist church will continue to grow in the conservative Southern Hemisphere, and will be sundered in America.

Most believe irreconcilable differences are justification for marital divorce. I believe church schism is as well. Schism is preferable to a compromise of conscience or perpetual warfare. Jesus once said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am among them." Perhaps He needs to be there to keep the peace, at least until they respectfully agree to disagree.

Apparently, schism of our country is sought by the Democrat leadership. Their refusal to accept the 2016 Presidential election is comparable to a child being told, "No." A tantrum has resulted which has evolved into hatred and irrationality. The Democrat wailing, gnashing of teeth and delusional thinking have produced the apparitions of Russians under every rock, Ukrainians in every White House stocking and the conclusion that Trump must be impeached because they have no candidate or vision for America which can defeat him. Nadler said they can't trust an election to remove Trump!

We pick up our grandchildren from school several times a week and we're always on the

lookout for an after school activity. Because our Cute Ones missed the school influenza prevention, we took them for Flu shots, but told them we were going for "vaccinations." Our ruse was akin to the Gary Larsen's cartoon of a dog barking from the car window to his doggy friend, bragging that he was "going to get tutored."

As we waited for the pharmacist we asked our Cute Ones who wanted to go first. No hands shot up, so we introduced them to the game of coin toss to choose who would go first. Fortunately, the older Oakley won and bravely submitted to the fearful needle, as we sweetened things with an iced lemon cookie from Ham and Goodies. They both were brave enough, though four year old Josie had several tears.

The coin toss game caused me to reflect on Inspector General Horowitz's reported inability to find bias in his investigation of the FBI. Reportedly, Horowitz found seventeen places where the FBI made decisions favoring Hillary Clinton and against Trump. I guess it's possible to flip a coin seventeen times revealing HRC's tail and never Trump's head. My seven year old grandson quickly understood the improbability of never getting heads with a coin toss.

The Democrats have shown a willingness to

destroy confidence in our election process, so long as they can destroy their great white whale (Trump). They have an utter disregard for the 63 million Americans who sent Trump to Washington to fix the mess of weaponized government agencies like the IRS, FBI, CIA and the Justice Department. The schism of America is irrelevant to the likes of Schiff, Nadler and Pelosi. And unless there is accountability for abuses, we are lost as a country and free citizens of a Republic.

As I finish this column, the economy is booming and the Dems are swooning. The Stock Market and wages are up. After nearly a year, Pelosi has finally released from hostage a vote on the USMCA (US-Mexico-Canada Agreement). Unemployment is at a fifty year low. A trade deal with China is imminent. NATO members are paying their dues. Constitutionalist Judges are being appointed at a record pace. The border wall is being built, and Trump lives!

The Democrat leadership and their Presidential candidates are devoid of realistic ideas. All they have is hate, the very thing they accuse others of having. The American people have been watching the Democrat disaster.

It's going to be a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

# No Age Restrictions

We are entering into the holiday season. I have my vehicle's radio station tuned to 93.1 FM to enjoy the non-stop Christmas music. I love this time of year. I love to sing hymns about "Joy to the World" and "Silent Night". But along with these songs comes the stress associated to Christmas: decorating, hosting or attending holiday parties, and navigating through the masses of humanity in stores and malls. In fact, this time of year people are experiencing what is called



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

"holidayze." The urban dictionary defines this as: feelings of confusion and excitement people have between Thanksgiving and Christmas; the blur one feels while shopping for gifts in crowded stores with heavy holiday traffic.

When it comes to shopping, I can't stand it. I often end up with a headache. I would rather give blood than shop (this is not to say giving blood is bad - it is a wonderful gift you are giving someone else, and I personally love to give at

Medic). Shopping is not the only thing that can leave you in a daze. You might be longing for hope. Right now, you might be surviving rather than thriving. Well, if that describes you, there is great hope.

Luke's gospel begins with an introduction of a married couple, Zechariah and Elizabeth, and a single young girl named Mary. Each of these will find themselves in impossible situations along with confusion as to what God is going to do through them. In the case of Elizabeth, a barren woman becomes pregnant in her old age. In the case of Mary, a virgin girl becomes pregnant in

her young age. But what we find is that God does not have age restrictions. Young or old can be used for his purposes and glory.

Before Jesus is born, another baby is born, one that will one day be a fore-runner to Jesus announcing his ministry. That baby was John the Baptist, born to Zechariah and Elizabeth. Zechariah was a priest of God. He offered sacrifices and took care of the temple. One day the lot fell to Zechariah to offer incense and prayers in the temple, a rare and treasured privilege. Zechariah and his wife had prayed in the past that God would bless them with a child, yet she

remain barren. While in the temple, an angel appears and says Elizabeth will have a child. Zechariah doubts and due to that was struck dumb, unable to talk, until the child was born. Waiting can create doubt, but it can also create anticipation and appreciation. God was not done with Zechariah and Elizabeth. They had a child to raise that would introduce Jesus to the world.

Mary had an appearance from an angel as well. She, like Zechariah, stood in disbelief. How could she be with child when she had never been with a man? Nothing is impossible with God. God loves to work

in unexpected ways. So, in about the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, Mary, her relative, makes a visit to her. Mary tells how the angel came to her and Elizabeth shares how an angel came to them as well and that their child will be the one to announce the Messiah that was to be born to Mary. What a moment!

God had more for Mary, Zechariah, and Elizabeth than they could ever imagine. God has more for you as well due to the birth of Jesus, the child who brought hope to our world. In fact, since his birth, the world has never been the same.

we are

Better

TOGETHER

Morning Pointe is Your Alzheimer's Care Partner

Call to Learn More

KNOXVILLE

MorningPointe

Assisted Living & Memory Care

9649 Westland Drive

Knoxville, TN 37922

(865) 223-6422

[morningpointe.com](http://morningpointe.com)

Solutions • Security • Support











**Text SWW to 55678 for special offers**



*Have More Glitz and Glamour in Your Life!*

# SEYMOUR

## Weight & Wellness

**865-573-0101**

**\$25 OFF**

For New Weight Management Patients  
With this coupon.

**Medical Weight • Loss Phentermine  
Lipovite • CBD products**

[seymourweightandwellness.com](http://seymourweightandwellness.com)

**GOD'S PLACE  
THRIFT STORE**  
6119 Chapman Hwy  
Furniture, glassware, clothing & more  
Variety of clothing \$1ea. incl. Childrens  
**Friday Special: Adult clothes \$2 a bag**  
Proceeds help feed homeless.  
M-F 10am-5:30pm Mgr Vicki 604-8077

**PK HOPE IS ALIVE Parkinson's Support Group** is having a CHRISTMAS PARTY for the December meeting! It will be Dec. 17 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Kern Methodist Church's Family Life Center, located at 453 East Tennessee Ave., Oak Ridge, TN. 37830. The Christmas Party will have music, games and a buffet with plenty of food. Bring your favorite dish and join the group. If you don't feel like cooking or

bringing a desert, come anyway!

PK Hope is Alive Parkinson's Support Group meet on the third Tuesday of the month. Family members and care support partners are always welcome.

Come join us Dec. 17 for Christmas fun!

For more information on this party or other meetings please call Jim Brown 865-607-7195.

**TURKEY  
SHOOT FOR  
SHEKINAH #524**

**MASONIC LODGE  
BUILDING FUND**

The Turkey Shoots are being held every Saturday in December.

This is a FACTORY STOCK GUN SHOOT, any choke up to FULL will be allowed.

Come out and have some fun, win some prizes, have time with old friends and make some new friends.

There will be a shootout between winners from all the relays at end of the shoot.

QUESTIONS - CONTACT JIM MARSHALL 865-659-7829

# LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

## MISC. NOTICES

### NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

The following described vehicles impounded/ repaired/towed will be sold at public and/or private auction in compliance with the Tennessee Public Acts 1967, Chapter 240, House Bill 379. The sale will be held at Jim's Garage & Wrecker Service Vehicle Impoundment Lot located at 5906 Walden Street, Knoxville, TN 37919.

These vehicles have been checked through the files of the Commissioner of Revenue, Title Section, Division of Motor Vehicles, Department of Revenue, State of Tennessee. In appropriate cases, the vehicles have been checked in other states, and the owners and/or lienholders have been notified by certified mail. In those instances where no vehicle identification/serial number or license number was available, this Public Notice in the newspaper will comply with the law.

The failure of the owner/lienholder to exercise their rights to reclaim any vehicle listed below not bearing a VIN/serial number shall be deemed a waiver of all rights and title and authorization to sell said vehicle.

1)98 NISSAN FRONTIER 1N6DD26S3WC338510  
2)09 CHEVY EQUINOX 2CNDL13F986244289  
3)98 NISSAN ALTIMA 1N4DL01D8WC158738  
4)15 CHEVY VAN 1GN6G25K3SF124651  
5)02 FORD ESCAPE 1FMYU03102KB23750  
6)04 ACURA MDX 2HNYD18234H521955  
7)01 KIA RIO KNADG123216081312  
8) FORD EXPLORER 1FMDU34E2VUC32785  
9)98 NISSAN ALTIMA 1N4DL01D8WC158738  
10)06 SUBARU FORESTER JF1SG65646H748674  
11)00 BUICK PARK AVE 1G4CW52K2Y4184798  
12)00 FORD TAURUS 1FAP5322YA280273  
13)05 MAZDA 6 1VFP80C955M63337  
14)97 FORD MUSTANG 1FALP404VF174549  
15)08 FORD CALIBER 1B3HB48B58D754088  
16)07 FORD ESCAPE 1FMYU93137KA18714  
17)09 HYUNDAI SONATA 5NPET46C09H514128  
18)14 FORD F150 1FTFX1EFXEKE61744  
19) 05 CHEVY COLORADO 1GCS148558111321

20)14 TOYOTA CAMRY 4T1BF1FK9EU332536  
21)19 NISSAN ALTIMA 1N4BL4BWXXN325310  
22)06 BMW X5 5UXFB53576LV29556  
23)03 CHRYSLER VAN 1C4GJ25333B250674  
24)97 NISSAN JN1CA21D3VT203903  
25)97 SUBARU JF1GF4853VH813108  
26)03 HYUNDAI ELANTRA KMHDN45D13680926  
27) 00 TOYOTA VAN 4T8ZF13C8YU188906  
28)03 HONDA 3HGM56393G706191  
29)01 HONDA VAN 2HKRL18641H512488  
30)97 TOYOTA TOCOMA 4TAVL52NOV2326222

### LEGAL SECTION 94

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

Bid 2924, Promotional Products & Graphic Design Services, due 1/16/20

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](http://www.knoxcounty.org/procurement). To bid on Knox County surplus items, go to [www.govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com).

### NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

PURSUANT TO DEFAULT

Per TN Self Storage Law, contents of the following leased units will be sold to satisfy the owner's lien at Tillery Self Storage, 115 Tillery Rd, Knoxville, TN 37912, January 8, 2020, at 10:00 AM. The Company reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Some units may not be available on the day of sale. Please call 865-687-7308 to confirm the sale.

Shawwna McMillan - 289  
Harold Jordan - 126  
Ramone Dobbins - 340  
Danyell Daniel - 367

# classifieds

### GIFT OF MUSIC

GIFT CERTIFICATE SPECIALS,  
GUITAR, BASS, DRUMS, PIANO,  
VOCAL LESSONS,  
865-456-6797

*The man who  
does not read  
good books has no  
advantage over the  
man who cannot  
read them.  
-Mark Twain*

### REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

**SOUTH KNOXVILLE /  
UT / DOWNTOWN**  
2 BR, 700 SQ FT APARTMENTS  
\$700/ MONTH  
865-573-1000

### WANTED

\*\*\*\*\*WANTED\*\*\*\*\*  
BROKEN PUSH & RIDING MOWERS  
\$10-20 PUSH OR \$40-100 RIDING  
MUST BE COMPLETE  
865-933-9660  
LEAVE PHONE # IF NO ANSWER

# service directory

### ALTERATIONS

JOANNE'S ALTERATIONS  
PANTS HEMMING \$5,  
SPECIALIZING IN JEANS CALL  
JOANNE 579-2254

### CHILD CARE

**MARCIA'S  
LEARNING CENTER**  
1411 Exeter Ave, Knoxville  
(865) 673-8223  
Day Shift 7:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Night Shift 4:30 pm - 12 midnight

### CLEANING SERVICE

KATHY'S HOUSE CLEANING,  
DEPENDABLE, REASONABLE  
RATES, FREE ESTIMATES,  
865-343-1474

**Need Cash?**  
Turn unwanted  
household items  
into money!  
Call Fountain City  
Auction at  
(865) 604-3468.

### ELDER CARE

Elderly Care  
CNA Mature Christian  
Lady Available to  
give loving care to  
sick or elderly or as a  
companion. Many  
years experience.  
Excellent References  
\$12.00 per hour  
Call 865-406-6307

### ELECTRICIAN

RETIRED UNION  
ELECTRICIAN AVAILABLE  
for service calls/small jobs.  
*\*Ceiling Fans a Specialty\**  
Wayne 455-6217

### FLORIST

POWELL FLORIST AND  
GIFTS 865-947-6105  
POWELLFLORISTKNOXVILLE.  
NET

### GUTTER WORK

GUTTER CLEANING,  
INSTALLATION OF 5 INCH AND  
REPAIR OF FASCIA BOARD  
936-5907

### HANDYMAN

**HANDYMAN**  
Carpentry • Plumbing  
Painting • Hedgerows  
Tree trimming & MORE!  
30+ Years Experience  
INSURED! FREE ESTIMATES!  
Call 865-607-2227

### LAWN MAINTENANCE GET IT DONE Property Maintenance

Landscapes & Hardscapes  
Free estimates  
865-296-2548  
Or email [wesleybyrge40@gmail.com](mailto:wesleybyrge40@gmail.com)

### METAL WORK

**GHOST RIDERS  
METAL WORKS**  
865-705-0742  
Mobile Welding  
Fabrication & Repair  
Electrical - Plumbing  
Gas piping & Welding  
State Licensed  
Stick Welding, Mig Welding  
Gas Welding  
[www.ghostridersmetalworks.com](http://www.ghostridersmetalworks.com)

### PAINTING

**Pilgrim  
Painting**  
Repaint Specialist  
Commercial & Residential  
Serving Knoxville 26 years  
• Interior/Exterior  
Painting  
• Pressure Washing  
• Staining  
• Drywall &  
Carpentry  
GOOGLE 5 STAR RATING  
[WWW.PILGRIMPAININGKNOXVILLE.COM](http://WWW.PILGRIMPAININGKNOXVILLE.COM)  
Major Credit Cards Now Accepted  
FOLLOW US & LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
**FREE ESTIMATES  
865-291-8434**  
Licensed • Bonded & Insured  
Background Checks and Drug Testing  
Required for all employees  
Home Improvement License #291843

RELIABLE PAINTING  
865-684-3256  
FREE ESTIMATES  
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR  
20 YRS EXPERIENCE

PAINTING- INTERIOR-  
EXTERIOR  
Lic. & Ins. 30 Yrs. Exp.  
Free Estimates  
865-573-2199  
Professional Painters

### PAINTING

**Randy  
the  
Painter**  
Interior & Exterior Painting  
39 Years in Business  
Licensed and Insured  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
865-522-3222  
**SPECIAL RATES ON  
INTERIOR PAINTING  
OCTOBER - FEBRUARY 2020**

### ROOFING

ROOF REPAIRS,  
METAL:SHINGLE:RUBBER,  
ROOF COATING:FREE  
ESTIMATES, 865-705-7069

**CCW**  
ROOFING / GUTTERING  
and Property Maintenance Service  
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED!  
Proudly serving Knoxville  
and the surrounding area for  
**OVER 50 YEARS!**  
Service you can trust!  
LICENSED & INSURED  
Call for your FREE ESTIMATE!  
865-242-4640

### TREE SERVICE

**ROLEN  
STUMP GRINDING**  
Specializing in  
POWER STUMP GRINDING  
60 Years Experience!  
Call David Rolen  
865-804-1034

**COVENANT  
TREE SERVICE**  
Fully insured Christian  
business  
Specializing in  
hazardous tree removal  
& routine tree trimming  
24 hour storm damage  
30 years experience  
865-297-7858

**Call or email  
Ruthie at 865-  
254-3498  
or [ruthie@knoxfocus.com](mailto:ruthie@knoxfocus.com)  
to place your  
Classified or  
Service Directory  
listing in The  
Knoxville Focus!**