

Rep. Tim Burchett tours 2nd District fire stations with Girl Scout cookies



Congressman Tim Burchett visited the Knoxville Fire Station # 20 Friday morning to present the first responders boxes of Girl Scout cookies. He spent much of the day delivering the cookies around his congressional district. Photo Courtesy of Andrew Davis.

By Mike Steely
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Congressman Tim Burchett was a busy guy Friday visiting several fire stations in his district and delivering 21 cases of Girl Scout cookies.

The Second District Congressman wrote a check for \$1,000 for the cookies

and he and Lynne Fugate, who heads the Girl Scout Council of Southern Appalachians, met with each other before Burchett set out.

The first place he stopped was Knoxville Fire Station # 20 at 200 Portsmouth Road. He then proceeded to the Old Clinton Pike station, a Maryville, Alcoa, Lenoir City and Loudon fire hall

The last station on his schedule was Rural Metro Fire Station # 41 on Campbell Station Road.

Burchett chose not to wear a face mask and his staff said that face masks are designated for first responders. He also didn't wear gloves but kept "a safe distance" from the fire fighters.



Interested in history? Dr. Jim Tumblin was inspired to follow and write about local history as a child. He was to be honored last week but the event has been postponed due to the pandemic.

What sparked Dr. Tumblin's interest in history?

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Dr. J.C. (Jim) Tumblin is one of most valuable historians in the region and the first person everyone turns to especially for knowledge of Fountain City's earlier days. This past Thursday Tumblin was to be honored by the Knoxville History Project.

Unfortunately the event has been postponed until the coronavirus pandemic passes. Paul James, the History Projects

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Verbiage of human resources ordinance to be changed

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A City Council Work Session on Zoom took almost three hours with one discussion item. The mayor's proposal to create a Human Resources Department. One of the main concerns by callers and council members centered on appeals by city employees about changing their classification.

Currently employees may request an upgrade of their employment to their department head. The department director passes a recommendation on to the Civil Service Merit Board where Executive Director Vickie Hatfield and her staff of eleven review it and issue a decision. Hatfield told the Zoom meeting she shield the position for 21 years.

Employees may then appeal the decision to the Civil Service Merit Board.

The proposal to establish a Human Resources Department removes the executive director from the process

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David and Kathy Keck played Mr. and Mrs. Claus each December in their community. The Island Home Baptist Church member died last week.

David Keck, Island Home's Santa, passes away

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He was Santa during the holidays and is, Kathy, was Mrs. Claus. He was ideal for the part with his long white hair and beard. Last week David Keck fell going down the stairs of his house and was rushed to the hospital. He seemed to recover a bit after a few days but died suddenly.

Because of the hospital's coronavirus safety precautions, Kathy was not

allowed to see him and finally talked with him by phone when someone held the phone for him because he couldn't raise his hands.

Keck's death was a huge loss for Island Home Baptist Church, where he was very active. He also worked ballgames at UT during football and basketball season.

Kathy and David met at the Tennessee Country Dancers Club while they were dancing on the Boots Belts and Beaus Dance Team. They were regulars on

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KAT announces temporary service reductions

Effective Monday, April 20, 2020, Knoxville Area Transit will be reducing weekday service on some routes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to maintain the transit service needed to get essential workers to their jobs and for people to make life-necessary trips for supplies, KAT will be making the changes listed below to KAT routes. Please note that additional buses will be dispatched as needed and available to allow for proper distancing on board. The routes are listed below, and this change will be in effect until further notice.

Weekday service reductions:
Route 11 - Kingston Pike - service every 30 minutes
Route 17 - Sutherland - service once an hour
Route 20 - Central - service once an hour
Route 22 - Broadway - service every 30 minutes
Route 31 - Magnolia - service every 30 minutes

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