

Knox Health Board mandates masks

By Mike Steely
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Wednesday's meeting of the Knox County Board of Health saw masks being required in most indoor businesses to flatten the surge of COVID-19 but the effort saw some resistance.

The board's involvement goes back to orders issued by Dr. Martha Buchanan in March instituting Phase One and then

Phase Two for the county. She seemed the only one in charge until June when the Knox County Law Department forced her to seek approval of the Board of Health.

The board then paused Buchanan's efforts and accepted Governor Bill Lee's "Tennessee Pledge" campaign. Last week the number of COVID-19 cases surged and, in an emergency meeting, the Knox

County Board of Health voted to require mask wearing in most public places, exempting state-financed schools and churches.

All of the board members, led by Dr. Patrick O'Brien and Dr. James E. Shamiyeh, voted to approve the mask requirements except Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, who voted "No."

The board's action was strongly opposed at the meeting by

Deputy Law Director Myers Morton who called the action "unconstitutional, vague and unenforceable."

Not wearing a mask inside a public building could result in a misdemeanor charge and a \$50 fine or even jail time. Dr. O'Brien told the meeting he didn't want anyone to be charged and suggested issuing a warning. The ruling applies to business

owners, employees and customers.

The day before the board's ruling Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon issued a mask requirement for any city-owned or leased buildings.

The order took effect Friday but just hours after Wednesday's ruling, Knox County Sheriff

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KCS Task Force meets again to discuss students' return in fall

By Ken Lay

The Knox County Schools Community Task Force had one final public meeting to discuss options for reopening schools on Monday, June 29.

It was the second meeting and a follow-up to the initial meeting held on June 24 at the Sarah Simpson Professional Training Center.

In the first meeting members of the task force, which is chaired by Dr. Jerry Askew of Alliance for Better Nonprofits, mulled through data collected from an online community survey on the Knox County Schools website. The task force members were ask to come up with questions based on 150 pages of information. The survey had 30,000 participants.

The questions presented by members of the task force resulted in creating even more questions about reopening Knox County Schools, which were closed in March, in the midst of the spring semester.

"We were asked to react to and study the data," Askew said. "We were asked to come up with questions, and those questions have led to more questions."



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Knox County Schools Executive Director of Student Supports Jason Myers addresses the district's Community Task Force at a meeting in South Knoxville last week. He discussed a multitude of issues including how to serve students with disabilities and health protocols as the schools prepare to reopen in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Askew will present the task force's findings to the Knox County Board of Education at its work session meeting on Wednesday, July 8. That meeting will be held at 5 p.m. at the Andrew Johnson Building.

Attendance will be limited due to physical distancing protocols. The meeting will, however, be streamed on the KCS website.

Knox County Schools Superintendent Bob Thomas will then make the decision on how

to reopen the district schools at the board's regular session meeting on July 15.

A wide array of topics was covered in last week's meeting.

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Masks, cameras, appointments at City Council

By Mike Steely
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Tuesday's City Council meeting, following an hour-long discussion on KUB's future, saw Mayor Indya Kincannon address her recent order requiring anyone in a city building to wear a mask.

The mayor noted that over the past two weeks cases of COVID-19 have doubled in the county and called that a "big uptick." The order applies to all city-owned or leased buildings and she said it applies not only to employees but anyone entering the buildings.

"I don't have the explicit authority but everyone one should wear a mask as a common courtesy," Kincannon said, adding, "I want to lead by example." The mayor added that anyone entering a city building without a mask will be given one to wear.

The order does not apply to children under 12 years old or people with a qualifying medical condition. She said the city would be putting signs up.

Later last week, Mayor Kincannon extended the mask order to all city buses and trolleys. If riders don't have one they will be given a mask.

She also said that a provider has been selected in the search for body cameras for the police department.

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Filling in the GAP

Grandparents As Parents take care of kids when Mom or Dad can't

By Bill Howard

Probably few would disagree that, while there are many different circumstances in which a child can grow up and do well, the best environment to be raised in is with two responsible and involved parents.

Of course, not every child has the luxury of living in such an arrangement. A number of events or circumstances can limit, or outright prevent, a parent from being involved in the child's upbringing. Some children wind up in foster care. It's well known

that the foster care system has a wide array of outcomes, ranging from being a God-send to a nightmare.

Other kids wind up with various family members, including, increasingly, grandparents. In Knox County, as in other places, such caregivers have a valuable resource to help them. The program - Grandparents As Parents - is a part of the Community Action Committee's Office on Aging. GAP's program manager is Tracy Van de Vate.

"Grandparents As Parents

started 20 years ago, and the purpose of it is to support grandparents and other relatives raising a family member as their child," said Van de Vate. "It also could be an aunt, uncle, or sibling that is raising a younger sibling because of all sorts of reasons."

"We connect people to resources and services," Van de Vate said. "Before Covid-19 we had actual in-person support group meetings. Now we're doing a weekly conference call meeting so that they can connect with

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Ms. Ermal Stanley on her porch June 24. Ms. Stanley — or "Oogie," a nickname her father gave her — has been a GAP client for five years. She's been raising her 14-year-old granddaughter for about ten years. "The meetings they have are so beautiful," she said. "You're there with other people who are in the same situation." Photo by Bill Howard.

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Does KUB need to change?

By Mike Steely
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City of Knoxville voters may see charter amendments on their November ballot regarding several proposed changes for the Knoxville Utilities Board. A special called meeting Tuesday began the process and saw city Law Director Charles Swanson, city council members, KUB officials and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy discuss possible changes.

Swanson said there isn't enough time to get a question or several questions on the August ballot, which would ask city voters "Yes or No" questions. He said he had a very short time to review the process. He said placing it on the ballot would take a two-thirds vote by the council.

Dr. Stephen Smith, executive director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, explained that his organization looks at utilities in various jurisdictions and said it is time to "put the public back into a publically owned utility." He cited several local groups who want to see changes including SOCM, the Sierra Club, Appalachian Voices, One Knox Legacy, and Community Voices.

Smith cited KUB's \$87 monthly service fee, its association with TVA for power purchases and a high-cost public relations contract with a local firm. He asked the council to look at shortening board terms and suggested the council should appoint two members to the board. Currently potential board members are recommended by KUB's board members for the mayor's approval.

He also suggested moving KUB's

board meeting around the area rather than only meeting on the top floor of the Miller's Building downtown.

Smith said KUB should not be allowed to raise fees without a public hearing.

"Citizens want a chance to vote," he said.

KUB President and CEO Gabriel Bolas and Board Chair Kathy Hamilton responded.

"This is a big deal," Bolas to the council. He said KUB serves 450,000 customers in Knox and surrounding counties and that changing the charter is not the right way to make changes.

Hamilton said she was "a little bit surprised" with little notice of the called meeting and went into explaining how KUB responds to public input. She said KUB is committed to a solar project and needs to be independent from city government and politics. She also said that running KUB is "very complex" and the board oversees "nearly a billion dollar business."

Regarding naming new members to the board, Hamilton said, "You have the right to reject the nominee and send it back to us." She said changing the charter would hamper KUB and asked the council to "talk with us."

Councilwoman Seema Singh said that KUB has an 80-year history but is a municipal utility and that it "cannot be looked at in a business model."

Vice Mayor Gwen McKenzie suggested a follow up meeting, calling any change "a big decision." She asked that a date be set to meet again and added "some changes need to be made."

Knox County Museum of Education needs your help



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Benna van Vuuren looks through items to include in the Knox County Museum of Education, which has been hit hard this year because of the virus pandemic. The museum, with collections from current and past schools, is looking to the public and former county school students, to help out with finances and to volunteer.

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If you are a graduate of any Knox County school you may be interested in the Knox County Museum of Education, next to Old South High School. The volunteer-operated, non-profit museum has just about everything, from high schools annuals to letter sweaters, from current and former county schools.

Until this year, the

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Can I Get My DUI Expunged?

Driving Under the Influence (DUI) is one of the most common criminal charges in the United States. Individuals cannot seem to resist consuming alcohol and then operating a motor vehicle.

Being convicted of a DUI has very serious implications. Not only will you have to serve jail time, you will also lose your license for a period of time, be on probation, and pay thousands of dollars in court costs and fees. There are other things you will have to do as well, related to a DUI conviction, but those are the big ones.

When you are charged with a DUI, that does necessarily mean that you will be convicted of a DUI. It is critical that you hire an attorney to help you obtain the best result that you possibly can in regard to your DUI charge.

You may have heard that a DUI charge can get reduced to the lesser charge of reckless driving. When a charge is reduced, that means that



By Jedidiah McKeenan
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the District Attorney (DA) who is prosecuting the case has agreed to allow the Defendant, the person charged with the crime, to plead guilty to a less serious charge than the charge on which they were originally arrested. This happens in lots and lots of cases.

However, DUI charges are not often reduced. Usually, if someone is charged with a DUI charge, they will need to show the DA a really good reason why the charge should be reduced, or perhaps even dismissed.

If the DUI charge is reduced to a reckless driving charge, and the Defendant completes all of the terms of their probation after they plead guilty, then a reckless driving charge is able to be expunged. When a charge is expunged, that means the state and court system completely wipes away the charge and conviction from its records. In the eyes of the law, once a charge is

expunged, that charge never happened.

However, if you are, in fact, convicted of a DUI, that charge is non-expungable. It will stay on your record forever. There is no way to expunge a DUI conviction.

A charge that is often a companion charge to a DUI is an Implied Consent charge. Implied Consent means that when you were arrested and charged with DUI, the officer asked whether you would voluntarily give a blood draw to determine your blood alcohol level and you refused to give that blood draw. If you do refuse the request to voluntarily give blood, you will be charged with an Implied Consent charge.

If you are later convicted of Implied Consent, that is a charge that can be later expunged.

Jedidiah McKeenan 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 for more information.

Filling in the GAP

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each other and connect with us. We have the monthly newsletter; sometimes that's all people want. Additionally this summer we're doing a summer activities newsletter."

GAP also enlists attorneys to give talks that provide helpful information on such things as custody, adoption, and estate planning.

The reasons a child could wind up with grandparents or others run a wide range. The addiction scourge is prominent, but others include one or both parents being deployed, sick, or incarcerated. Sadly, death also plays a role.

"We have a lot of cases where people have an illness," said Van de Vate, who was a math instructor

at Pellissippi State before joining CAC. She also taught high school and at UT.

"They have cancer, they have died... they're incarcerated and it might have nothing to do with substance abuse. We have a lot of cases where the parents find themselves in a health crisis. It's a demographic that has been growing because of substance

abuse. When I've talked to grandparents, over 50% have told us it's some kind of substance abuse. If you're in a deployment area, that's gonna be a big reason."

GAP came about in 2000 because that year's census data indicated a noticeable number of people raising children not their own. According to Van de Vate, Knox Co. has some 5000 grandparents raising about 7500 grandchildren. The numbers her program serves are roughly 500 and 750.

"They just give us a call and we can enroll them on the phone," Van de Vate said. "It's free, there are no age or income restrictions. We try to serve everybody. We don't ask them (to verify that they're raising grandkids). GAP typically doesn't have money to give people so we take people at their word."

Some situations require case management services, in which a case manager will go into the home to meet with the client and try to help them meet the challenges they're facing. According to Van de Vate, a common need in such situations involves housing. Suddenly taking on one or more children can obviously change one's need for living space. But it can be tricky.

"There's very limited housing in Knoxville," said Van de Vate. "They might get two or three kids and they're living in a one-bedroom apartment. But grandparents, especially older ones, are not going to accept housing that they think would be inappropriate for their grandchildren. Sometimes they'll hold out to get a place, or a school they want their grandchildren to go to... they're very protective of their

grandchildren."

As with virtually any government program, funding for GAP is an ongoing concern. The well-known "beg, borrow, or steal" approach applies, as it does to most any public entity. GAP's funding sources, according to Van de Vate, come from a little bit here, a little bit there.

"Funding for GAP is always an issue," she said. "We do have to write grants for things. Sometimes those are hard to find. Sometimes it's hard to find sponsors to continue some of the GAP programs. We don't get direct funds from the state. We get little things from here or there, all different places. People do donate to us; sometimes we ask for donations."

For anyone wishing to help or donate, the phone number is 524-2786. The website is www.knoxseniors.org.



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Publisher's Positions

Odds & Ends of This & That vol. 10



By Steve Hunley,
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REVIVING GOV. LEE'S ESSA PLAN?

In May of this year, a Nashville judge ruled Governor Bill Lee's educational savings account legislation, approved by the Tennessee General Assembly, unconstitutional. A collective "hurrah" went up from teachers' unions, but the celebration might have been somewhat premature. Last week, the U. S. Supreme Court has handed down a decision that may well affect education spending for decades to come, not to mention reviving Governor Lee's ESSA legislation. The decision is a big win for those parents who want to direct the education of their children. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the opinion in the 5-4 decision. *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue* involved three families in the Big Sky State who sought protection for a parent's constitutional right to determine their child's education. It also expands the options for parents in choosing schools for their children. The high court ruled that excluding religious schools from state approved student aid programs is unconstitutional. White House spokesperson Kayleigh McEnany said it was a victory for parents and students, while

referring to how the decision removed the ability of state governments to hide behind rules promulgated "motivated by insidious bias against Catholics."

At the heart of *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue* was the issue of whether or not the Montana Supreme Court was in violation of the Constitution of the United States when it overturned a program which provided tax-credit scholarships that allowed students to attend private schools, including religious schools.

The Montana Supreme Court held that the program, approved by the state legislature, violated the "No-Aid" provision of the law which prevents the legislature from appropriating taxpayer dollars for students to attend religious schools.

These provisions preventing public money to go to religious schools are known as "Blaine Amendments." I checked with our resident historian at The Knoxville Focus, Ray Hill, who told me the author was James G. Blaine of Maine, a Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives, U. S. senator, Secretary of State and presidential candidate. The Blaine amendments are rooted in anti-Catholic bigotry. Some 37 states in our country have a variation of Blaine amendments on the law books.

The Supreme Court upheld the "no aid provision" by the Montana court discriminated against families, students and religious schools. Chief Justice Roberts, writing for the majority of the high court, cited the Montana decision was a violation of the Free Exercise Clause of the Constitution.

As might be expected, teachers' unions bemoaned the Supreme Court decision. Randi

Weingarten wailed the ruling is a "seismic shock that threatens both education and religious liberty." Weingarten said the decision means private schools may take money from public schools.

Attorney General William Barr said the decision by the Supreme Court means "a state may no longer disqualify religious schools from scholarships or other programs 'solely because they are religious'."

The fight will certainly be carried over into this year's elections. The ESSA legislation was sponsored in the Tennessee House of Representatives by veteran legislator Bill Dunn, who has always been a vocal proponent of school choice for students and parents. The approval of the ESSA legislation prompted a challenge inside the Republican primary against Dunn by Knox County Board of Education member Patti Bounds, who sides with the teachers' unions on the issue. Dunn had intended to retire in any event and County Commissioner Michele Carringer entered the race for the GOP nomination. The Democrats have a candidate in Elizabeth Rowland, daughter of the late attorney and state legislator Mike Rowland. Carringer likely will receive support, financial and otherwise, from those who back school choice and Governor Bill Lee. Carringer should also receive support from the extensive network of supporters built up by Bill Dunn through decades of service in the legislature. Bounds can expect support from teachers, if they choose to vote inside the Republican primary and already some are grumbling they would prefer to vote inside the Democratic primaries. The fight between Carringer and Bounds should go down to the wire. It very well may

be Patti Bounds and Elizabeth Rowland both oppose the ESSA legislation and the recent decision of the Supreme Court.

ELECTION SURPRISES

There is always at least one big surprise in most every election. For instance, last week Congressman Scott Tipton of Colorado who lost to Lauren Boebert, a gun-toting bar owner. Apparently, nobody saw Tipton's loss coming. Boebert is reminiscent of Tea Party candidates running against GOP incumbents just a few years ago.

There are some hotly contested races here in Knox County on the August primary ballots. I have already referenced the fight between Michele Carringer and Patti Bounds inside the Republican primary for the GOP nomination to serve the 16th District in the Tennessee House of Representatives.

Nobody can forecast how any election will turn out this summer. Voting in the age of the COVID-19 virus is, like so many things now, completely new. Republicans will choose between Bill Hagerty and Dr. Manny Sethi for the U. S. Senate. Democrats will pick between James Mackler and several less well known candidates. Mackler had started out as a candidate for the Senate in the last election cycle, but withdrew when former governor Phil Bredesen decided he was going to run. Rene Hoyos is running again for Congress from the 2nd Congressional District to face Congressman Tim Burchett in the fall. Not that it matters much, I think there is even a primary fight for the Democratic nomination to lose to Burchett in the general election. Hoyos sure

has tried to get as much mileage out of losing with around 34% of the vote as any candidate in the country.

Former mayoral candidate Eddie Mannis is competing for the GOP nomination to succeed retiring state Representative Martin Daniel. Gina Oster, who lost a bid for the Knox County Board of Education some years ago, is also running to face Democrat Virginia Couch. Mannis is the target of an outside expenditure campaign, which accuses him of not being a Republican, while Oster polishes her GOP bonafides. Expect that race to heat up considerably as we approach August.

State Representative Rick Staples is being challenged by former County Commissioner Sam McKenzie and newcomer Matthew Park. According to those following the campaign for the Democratic nomination in the 15th House District, Matthew Park is working hard and going door-to-door. Just how voters actually feel about candidates showing up on their doorsteps asking for votes in the age of the coronavirus is likely anybody's guess and may depend entirely upon the voter. McKenzie, the husband of City Councilman and Vice Mayor Gwen McKenzie, seems to be convinced of his inevitability as the Democratic nominee. Neither McKenzie is going to set the house on fire as a whiz-bang campaigner. Staples will likely run on his record and has been able to get some things accomplished in Nashville as a member of the minority party, something few other Democrats can boast about. McKenzie, who did little for his district while on the county commission, seems content to ride out the primary election on the

basis of his name recognition inside the district and hope for the best. Parts of South Knoxville are in the 15th House District and the areas where students live will likely be scarcely populated with the university virtually shut down. That won't help Matthew Park any, as he is campaigning as an unabashed ultra-liberal, which would be popular with young white liberals who supported David Hayes and Amelia Parker for city council. That kind of loud liberal politics hasn't been as popular in the Black community as it has with white liberals. One thing every observer seems to agree upon is the voter turnout in the 15th District will be low. It is possible the race for the Democratic nomination for the 15th House District will be decided by a handful of votes. Let's hope folks surprise us.

Time will tell just what election surprise there will be here in Knox County on Election Night.

I STAND CORRECTED...

Evidently in last week's column, I inverted the numbers as to the costs of the recent graduation ceremonies in Knox County. The graduations this year cost a little more than \$100,000, while the graduation ceremonies at Thompson-Boling Arena cost around \$25,000. The graduation exercises this year, at a time when everything is more difficult, were a complete success. Students, parents, faculty and staff were delighted by the simplicity and as most graduates were in their home communities. I am glad to offer a correction and, in my opinion, it was well worth it.

Knox Health Board mandates masks

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Tom Spangler issued a statement that his deputies will not enforce the board's order. He questioned the constitutionality of the order and said, "My Deputies are sworn to support and defend the constitution. We will rely on the citizens of this community to protect themselves and others in the manner they find appropriate."

Mayor Jacobs issued a statement noting the decision came from the board and not him. He also questioned whether the decision is constitutional.

Dr. Buchanan announced 271 active cases in the county, an increase of 30 cases in one day and a 55% increase over a one week period. She said the number of cases is outpacing the number of tests.

While Mayor Jacobs questioned the number of cases reflecting the number of tests, Dr. Shamiyeh said the number of hospitalized patients is rising and called the increase a "surge." The doctor said that during the

initial shut-down he saw a decrease in cases but said the current increase shows "all that is back now."

Dr. O'Brien said Knox County is now on the state's "radar" due to the increase in cases and cited 225 emails from the public about the increase.

"We have the ability to layer on," he said of adding local requirements beyond the state order.

Morton strongly disagreed and said the board can not vary from the governor's order and said action can only be taken if there is a "rational basis" such as "the hospitals being strangled" with cases.

Dr. O'Brien than moved to impose the order.

"I look at science. Let's do what's right for the people and make sure we don't get to the worst. Right now we've got to tamp down," O'Brien said.

"Something needs to change," Dr. Buchanan said, adding, "This board needs to act swiftly."

KCS Task Force meets again to discuss students' return in fall

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They ranged from temperature checks and other health-related issues, to remote learning to transportation. The meeting was held just after Governor Bill Lee extended Tennessee's State of Emergency to Aug. 29. Thomas, as he has throughout the reopening process, maintained that he hopes to have schools open as scheduled on Aug. 10.

"We are planning on having students back in school on Aug. 10 and unless we are told otherwise by a higher entity, we plan on having schools open on Aug. 10," Thomas said.

The district is considering three options for reopening. One model would have all students returning to their respective campuses when school opens. Another would be a hybrid model, with possible alternating days with schools being open at partial capacity and other students attending online classes.

A third option would have all students participating in remote learning and now that KCS is a 1-on-1 district, that option will become more feasible according to assistant superintendent Jon Rysewyk.

"Some of our schools became 1-on-1 schools seven years ago," Rysewyk said. "Those schools previously had devices and some teachers have been trained to use (online programs)."

Students would utilize Canvas Learning and Microsoft Teams for remote learning, he noted. All students will be provided with laptops and Chief Technology Officer Gail Byard said that those families in the inner city could apply for discount internet service.

"We have a group working to form partnerships with service providers to make service available for \$10 a month," Byard said. "Those families would have to apply for discount services and we would have people



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Knox County Schools Chief Operating Officer Russ Oaks discussed the issues of transportation and sanitation as the schools prepare to reopen as the community continues in the coronavirus pandemic.

available to help them apply."

Should schools reopen, all entering the campuses, including students, will have temperature checks before entering the building.

"Daily temperature checks will be made possible and the thermometers will be about one thermometer for 40 students," said Jason Myers, KCS Director of Student Supports.

Other topics discussed included transportation, sanitation and helping students with disabilities and health issues.

Since more questions arose, Askew encouraged task force members to submit concerns before he makes his presentation to the school board.



**Rosie's
World**

A wide, sweeping grace

I like these thoughts I read one day in my little booklet, "Our Daily Thoughts." They seemed so apropos to this time. Let me share them with you.

"Alexa, Amazon's voice-controlled device, has an interesting feature. It can erase everything you say. Whatever you've asked Alexa to do, whatever information you've asked Alexa to retrieve, one simple sentence, ("Delete everything I said today") sweeps it all clean, as if it never happened. It's too bad that the rest of our life doesn't have this capability. Every misspoken word, every disgraceful act, every moment we wish we could erase—we'd just speak the command, and the entire mess would disappear.

"There's good news.

though. God does offer each of us a clean heart. Only, He goes so far deeper than merely deleting our mistakes or bad behavior. God provides redemption, a deep healing that transforms us and makes us new. 'Return to me', He says. : I have redeemed you.' Even though Israel rebelled and disobeyed, God reached out to them with lavish mercy. He swept away their offenses like a cloud, their sins like the morning mist. He gathered all their shame and failures and washed them away with His wide, sweeping grace."

What beautiful words, some of them from the book of Isaiah. Take them to your heart.

Thought for the day:
Do all the good you can
In all the ways you can
To all the souls you can
In every place you can
At all the times you can
With all the zeal you can
As long as ever you can.

Send comments to: rose-merrie@att.net. Thank you.

Remembering a Special Man of God Rev. James McCulla

He came to our church in the mid-sixties. Rev. James "Preacher Jim" McCulla was called to pastor Fairview Baptist Church in Corryton, Tennessee. Back then, Fairview was a small church with an active membership around two hundred plus. Rev. McCulla accepted the call from a packed congregation to lead our church.

With his wife, Dottie, and their five children, Becky, Mary, Carol, Jimmy and John, the McCulla family became an important part of our church family. For several years, they ministered with their love and talents. McCulla was



By **Ralphine Major**
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pastor when the Billy Graham Crusade came to Knoxville in the early seventies. For nearly every service, our church provided bus transportation for church members. I remember Preacher McCulla saying that Rev. Graham would probably not be back in Knoxville to hold another crusade which took years to plan. It was an incredible event in Knoxville's history.

A Knoxville native, James McCulla was president of his senior class at Central High School where he graduated as valedictorian in 1944. McCulla served in the United States

Army in the South Pacific where he was a "south paw" pitcher for the Army baseball team.

Later, he attended The University of Tennessee where he pitched ball before transferring to Carson-Newman College. James McCulla graduated from Carson-Newman in Jefferson City, Tennessee, and from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

He embarked on a life journey of ministry to mankind that would take him far from his Knoxville roots, pastoring churches in Texas, Montana, and California before returning to East Tennessee as pastor of Fairview in Knox County and later pastoring in Blount County.

Rev. James McCulla passed away June 20, 2020, at the age of 93,



Picture of Rev. James McCulla, provided by the McCulla family.

nearly a month shy of his 94th birthday.

Words of Faith:

A favorite verse of Preacher Jim's that he quoted often is Philippians 4:13 (KJV): "I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me."

(To be continued)

Knox County Museum of Education

Cont. from page 2

15-year-old institution relied on donations and their annual Sock Hop for funding. No one danced this year due to the event being cancelled because of the pandemic. That leaves Director Benna van Vuuren, the volunteers and the museum in a financial bind. It reopened June 5 and is open four days a week with a regular schedule of normal business hours starting August 1.

"Now, more than ever, we need your donations," Ms. van Vuuren said, adding, "be it a one-time gift or continuous annual or monthly amount.

"We are desperate

for volunteers, there is so much to do. We have received a plethora of new donations and are eager to get them on display."

The museum lost three loved ones over the past year, Beecher Clapp, D. M. Miller and Max Ramsey.

van Vuuren said that although the museum space is furnished by the county school system, which also does maintenance, overhead, phones, etc., the monetary contributions are needed to operate, order supplies, purchase equipment, build new displays and pay salaries.

"You can become a Friend of the Museum,

adopt a display case, and join us this fall in a podcast 'Old School.'

"Please come by and see us for yourself, pick up our newsletter, sign our guest book, check out our Book and Gift Shop, make a donation, bring in your school memorabilia to donate to the collection," she said.

Donations can be mailed to Knox County Museum of Education, 801 Tipton Avenue, Knoxville, Tn. 37920. People can go online to the museum's Facebook page and donate directly there. You may contact the museum at (865)579-8264 or museum@knoxschools.org.

Masks, cameras, appointments

Cont. from page 1

The city began in January and Kincannon said it was a "complicated process." The mayor said she hopes to have the contract before council in July for approval and the cameras "up and operating as soon as possible."

Councilman Charles Thomas noted a "flurry of fireworks" around town and Fire Chief Stan Sharp reminded everyone about the danger of injury and fires from fireworks. Shooting fireworks inside the city is illegal. Thomas also

commended Councilwoman Lauren Rider for her "overhaul" of the Public Property

Naming Committee. Mayor Kincannon likewise praised Rider's leadership of that committee. She leaves as chair of that committee and a new head will probably be selected in the council's July Committee for The Property Naming Committee.

The council then moved to accept Rider's proposals by amending the city charter. New appointments to the Public Property Naming Committee include Jeff Branham, Andrea Kupfer, Jack Neely and Rev. L. Sam Brown.

David Gillette was approved for membership on the Neighborhood Advisory Council in a 6-2-1 vote

with Councilwoman Amelia Parker voting "No" and Thomas and Councilwoman Seema Singh abstaining.

Robin V. Thomas was reappointed to the Design Review Board and Jarrod Arellano and Matthew DeBardelaben were named to the same board.

In other action the council unanimously denied an appeal by Bill Clark to overturn a denial of eight variances for property at 3308 Barton Street. Two firms were hired for a design study of the Broadway Bus Acceleration Corridor and design services for the Papermill Drive Corridor study.

The Best Hour of the Week

This coronavirus has kicked us for half a year, and most folks are losing patience with it and the restraints that it demands of us. Some people handle things better than the rest

of us. I feel for young people the most. They've lost graduations, birthday parties, and sports. We who are older struggle as well, but maybe not quite so much. A hidden nugget sometimes appears in the pile of bad.

One thing that bugs me is television. I have cable; in addition, we subscribe to Netflix, Prime, and Hulu. That is mind-blowing when I remember that only three channels aired on television when I was a boy. Most days, I can't find anything to watch. My list of favorite shows completed their seasons not long ago, and the replacement programs fail to capture my attention. As a side-note, I'd like to know why people are so interested in reality shows and game shows. Don't they realize that not much "reality" is involved with them?

Most of my viewing time is dedicated to news. No, that's not a good thing. By the end of the day, I'm thoroughly disgusted with conservatives and liberals, and I long for



By **Joe Rector**
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moderations. At the same time, I see that the objectivity that once was a mainstay of journalism is slipping away. Too much injection of opinion creeps into stories. Emotionally charged words are included in stories so that the slant, either liberal or conservative, is achieved.

Movies aren't much better. Too many of them are more concerned with promoting a social cause than entertaining. Searches for good comedy or action movies come up with short lists. I'm a fan of "Dead Pool" and "Avengers." The plots are mindless, the dialogues are funny or limited, and the characters are far from believable. That's why I watch them; I've had enough real-life shows.

I enjoy reading when I can find a good book, and I like "The Atlantic." My old eyes hold out for just so long before they strain to see the text. Music can soothe the soul, but the same playlist can become boring.

A couple of those nuggets I mentioned have become a part of life. One is sitting on the front porch in a white rocker and watching cars go by or storms roll in. The rhythmic movement of the rocker acts as a

sedative. Sadie lies next to my chair and waits for an occasional pat on the head or treat from the chip bag. We are also fortunate to have a pool, and everyday my son Dallas and I find some time to jump in and just soak. We talk about plenty of topics, most of which have no earth-shaking value. Just hanging out is good.

On Saturday evening at 8:00 p.m., Amy and I are parked on the couch with the television turned on. We watch the latest installment of "Opry." The Circle Network airs the show live from the stage of the Grand Old Opry. Two or three artists fill an hour with their songs. Some entertainers return for second appearances, but new talents, like Keb Mo, have performed and gained new fans.

The increase in cases of the virus might signal a setback for the country. We're in real trouble due to a lack of leadership at the top levels. So, all of us will have to hunker down and socially distance and wear masks to save ourselves. It's not an ideal situation, but we have to do it to protect everyone. Amy and I will continue to stay around the house as much as possible, and we'll watch the Opry every Saturday night. It's the best hour of the week for us.



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The Farmer's Friend

James G. Polk of Ohio

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

When the Founding Fathers came up with the House of Representatives as a legislative instrument meant to reflect the will of the people, they succeeded perhaps better than they could possibly have known. The body has endured remarkably well since the birth of our nation and it has always interested me to learn about the people who have comprised the Congress at one time or another. Our own congressman, Tim Burchett, is someone I have known for the majority of his life and his parents were good friends of mine. Congressman Burchett is quite accessible to constituents of all walks of life. I have told Tim he reminds me somewhat of the late J. Will Taylor who represented the Second Congressional District of Tennessee from 1919 until his death in 1939.

Congressmen have come to Washington, D. C. from every imaginable corner of the country and from just about every occupation one could imagine. Still, after a while, all of us are forgotten, even by our families, as the years pass. Indeed, to be able to publish a photograph of Congressman James G. Polk for this column proved to be quite nearly impossible. The Library of Congress had no photo of Congressman Polk, nor did I find any at an Ohio institution. I got lucky in finding the picture published with this column and added it to my own collection. Everything seems to dim with the passage of time and reminders of the past bring history alive to those discerning people who still like to read. Many of those same forgotten figures oftentimes have a compelling or interesting story to tell.

James Gould Polk had a name that might have helped him politically in Tennessee, but Polk's political success came in largely Republican Ohio. Like Tennessee's James K. Polk, the Polk of Ohio was also a Democrat. While there were many in Congress during James G. Polk's time in the House of Representatives who engaged in farming, only James Gould Polk farmed for a living. The others might practice law and have cattle, hogs, chickens and plant tobacco, wheat, or other crops, they were usually more "gentleman farmers" and one was not likely to see them behind a horse and a plow. James G. Polk spent twenty years in Congress, yet unlike many of his colleagues, it was not his career. Polk actually retired from Congress after having served for a decade and spent eight years out of

the House before running once again for his old seat.

James G. Polk lived in the rural community of Highland in Ohio. According to census figures, in 2010 there were 254 people living in Highland. Polk's parents and three of his grandparents were born in Highland County, Ohio. James Polk's father, William, was "for many years one of the most extensive cattle feeders in Highland County and president of the New Vienna Bank." The younger Polk graduated from college and spent a few years as principal and later superintendent of New Vienna schools. After 1928, Jim Polk's sole occupation was farming.

James Polk appeared to be an unlikely candidate for Congress when he first ran in 1930. The incumbent was Charles Cyrus Kearns, a Republican who had been in office since 1915. Congressman Kearns won renomination in the GOP primary over two opponents by a better than two-to-one margin. Polk, only thirty-four years old at the time, defeated his opponent in the Democratic primary, a former mayor of Portsmouth, Ohio. Like the rest of the country, Ohio's Sixth Congressional district was feeling the effects of the Great Depression. The Cincinnati Enquirer reported sensing a "Democratic trend" in September of 1930. The once powerful Anti-Saloon League supported Congressman Kearns because it could not "get a line on" Jim Polk. The Marion Star, a newspaper once owned by Warren G. Harding, wrote shortly before the 1930 election Republicans were confident of beating James G. Polk even in his home county. The Republicans controlled every office in the Highland County courthouse but two. The Cincinnati Enquirer acknowledged Polk had "made a personal canvass and has been vigorous" but thought it would take "a severe quake" to dislodge Congressman Kearns. That quake occurred on Election Day with Polk beating Congressman C. C. Kearns by almost 4,000 votes and winning quite nearly 53% of the ballots cast.

Congressman James G. Polk was assigned to the House Agriculture Committee and did yeoman service for his rural district, which still had strong Republican leanings. Jim Polk carefully tended to his home folks and as our own congressman Tim Burchett once said, the most important thing he and his staff could do was answer the telephone. Jim Polk answered his mail and telephone calls. One letter dated August 24, 1951 to Mrs. Martha V. Bogert will



Senator Frank Lausche of Ohio (left) and Congressman James Gould Polk of Ohio (right) in Washington, D. C. circa 1957.

give the reader an idea of Congressman Polk's diligence in serving his constituents:

"Dear Mrs. Bogert:

I have not forgotten your card which was addressed to me at Highland and which was forwarded to Washington, D. C., announcing the Afton Methodist Church Bazaar. Because of the rush of work here in the office I did not find time to mail you a package for your parcel post sale, however, enclosed is my personal check for \$2.00 which you may add to your funds.

I hope the bazaar was a complete success."

That same attention to detail in taking care of the home folks made James G. Polk unbeatable. Congressman Polk defeated his GOP challenger with 56% of the vote in 1932. In the more Republican year of 1938, Polk was hard pressed by GOP candidate Emory F. Smith and won by 799 votes. Jim Polk was probably the only Democrat in the district who could have won that year. Polk opted to retire in 1940 when he had every reason to believe his district would continue to send him to Washington every two years. Jim Polk surprised just about everyone when he announced he was quitting Congress to return to his farm. "That," the congressman wryly said, "is my field." Polk said he thought it was time for the district to have new representation and he believed he should go home like any ordinary citizen. Polk stressed he needed to get his farm into shape again and said he might consider going back to teaching once he was satisfied with his farming operation. Polk, only forty-four years old when he announced his retirement from Congress, said he thought his three children

would be happier back home in Ohio. "Mrs. Polk might miss Washington activities," Polk admitted, "women always do once they have experienced them. But she is satisfied wherever home is."

Judge Jacob Davis, a Democrat, was elected to succeed Congressman Polk in 1940 with President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the top of the ticket. Congressman Davis was promptly defeated by Edward O. McCowen.

Initially, James G. Polk didn't go home to Highland. The former congressman was offered a job in the Department of Agriculture, which he accepted. An announcement in the Hillsboro Press Gazette informed readers the former congressman "who has been residing in Washington, D. C." was bringing his family home to Highland around October 15, 1947. As it turned out, James G. Polk returned to Ohio just in time to run for Congress once again in 1948. Like Harry Truman, Jim Polk was not at all impressed with what the President derisively referred to as "the do-nothing Congress" and its Republican majority. Incumbent Edward O. McCowen had defeated Democrat Jacob Davis in 1942 and been reelected in 1944 and 1946. Congressman McCowen had won reelection in 1946 with almost 55% of the vote. Virtually nobody expected Harry Truman to win the 1948 election and most political prognosticators were convinced it would be a solidly Republican year. Most observers believed the GOP would increase its majority in both houses of Congress. It is quite likely local Democrats began urging Jim Polk to run for his old seat in the House of Representatives even before he returned to Ohio. Polk filed to run for the

Democratic nomination for Congress on February 3, 1948. One of the words that any researcher would discover about James G. Polk was "kindly." Mack Sauer, who had run for Congress against Polk and lost, wrote in an editorial published in the Leesburg Citizen that while the former congressman had remained in Washington, he was not out of touch with the people of the district. Sauer wrote that Polk, as a former educator and farmer, got strong support from both teachers and farmers. The Press Gazette did not wait, but immediately endorsed Polk's election to Congress as soon as he declared his candidacy.

As popular as James G. Polk had been inside the Sixth Congressional District, he had serious opposition inside the Democratic primary. Franklin Smith of Portsmouth had been the Democratic nominee for Congress in 1946, losing to incumbent Edward O. McCowen. Smith carried two of the six counties comprising the district.

The Republican incumbent, Congressman McCowen, was past seventy and not as vigorous as the fifty-two year-old Polk, who conducted yet another of his whirlwind campaigns. McCowen, like many Republicans in 1948, may have relaxed because he thought his district was ordinarily Republican and believed it would be a great year for GOP candidates. Organized labor was incensed because the Republican dominated Congress had passed the Taft - Hartley Act and Congressman Edward O. McCowen had strongly supported it. The Cincinnati Enquirer reported the CIO was after McCowen's scalp, but the effort of organized labor was largely confined to Scioto County, as the

laborites did not wish to hurt former congressman Polk's candidacy in the rural counties where he ran strongly.

The Cincinnati Enquirer, while acknowledging Congressman McCowen's majority would be "pared down" from 1946, still thought the incumbent had the advantage going into the general election. As it happened, 1948 was not at all a Republican year. The presumed winner of the presidential race, New York governor Thomas E. Dewey, lost Ohio to Harry Truman. Former congressman James G. Polk beat GOP incumbent Edward O. McCowen with 53% of the vote. After an absence of eight years, James G. Polk had reclaimed a seat in the House of Representatives.

Edward O. McCowen was once again the Republican nominee for Congress against James G. Polk in 1950. Seventy-three years old, McCowen made a real race of it, but lost by 1,339 votes. Polk was reelected in 1952 when hugely popular General Dwight D. Eisenhower was at the head of the GOP ticket, along with Senator John W. Bricker. Polk won by only 324 votes. It would be the closest election of his long career. Congressman Polk won by bigger margins in 1954 and 1956, but his health began to suffer. In 1957, Jim Polk was being treated for cancer.

Still, Polk won reelection in 1958 with the biggest majority of his tenure in office, garnering 62% of the vote against the Republican nominee. Polk's congressional staff sent out a press release saying the congressman expected to spend "several weeks" at Walter Reed Hospital for "a glandular ailment." Two days later, James Gould Polk died.

Cathy Long, the widow of Congressman Gillis Long of Louisiana and a congresswoman, worked as a staff member for James G. Polk. She recalled how very ill Polk was before he died. As is traditional when an incumbent congressman dies in office, Polk's colleagues paid tribute to him on the floor of the House. Unknown outside his district and the halls of Congress, ordinary citizens lent their own voices to tributes acknowledging Jim Polk's service to his country. A friendly, kindly, thoughtful hardworking man, James Gould Polk was one of those congressmen who truly represented those people who sent him to Congress. Jim Polk really was the farmer's friend.



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In search of former Knox County leaders

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

On the fifth floor of the City-County Building is a gallery of past Knoxville mayors. The city dates back to 1791 and assembled on that wall stretch as many past mayors' names and portraits as could be found. At the other end of the building is the Knox County Mayor's offices but there's no large collection of past county chief executives anywhere. The county adopted a "county executive" title for its chief executive in 1980. Recent mayors and county executives include Dwight Kessel, Tommy Schumpert, Mike Ragsdale, Tim Burchett, and Glenn Jacobs. Kessel became the first "County Executive" and that office soon became called "County Mayor" with Ragsdale being the first. Portraits of those last four chief executives are displayed in the hallway leading to the mayor's office.

Before the Knox County Executive role existed, a long line of former chief executives, called "County Judges," preceded Kessel stretching back until at least 1856. Those included, in order of service, Columbus W. Jones, John L. Moses, W.A.A. Conner, Thomas W. Kearns, A.T. Cottrell, E. C. Skaggs, J.M. King, R. A. Sterling, G. L. Malone, A. D. Collier, J.W. Drummond, R. A. Brown, G.M. Trotter, S.O. Houston, J. W. Elmore, Jr., Joe C. Strong, C. Howard Bozeman and L.D. Word.

Word served from 1966

until he died in office in 1974. Bozeman, who preceded Word from 1948 until 1966, was elected again as Knox County Judge and served until 1980. He became the longest serving chief executive in the history of Knox County.

Who are the Knox County Judges that served as chief executive between the founding of the county in 1792 and 1856? A Google search won't find them.

Would you consider James White, builder of James White Fort and the founder of Knoxville, a Knox County executive? Would William Blount, governor of the Southwest Territory as Tennessee became a state, be considered a chief executive? How about John Sevier, who was the one and only chief executive of the state of Franklin and head of the state militia?

According to "The French Broad-Holston Country," published in 1945 by the East Tennessee Historical Society, James White was named "chairman" of the first court in 1792. He was followed in later years by John Adair. Charles McClung may have also served. Those who served as chief executive of our county in those lost years may yet someday be found. Until then there's a long gap of unknown leadership.

Special thanks to Eric Head of the Knox County Library Archives, who supplied lots of information on past county office holders, and Jack Neely of the Knoxville History Project.

Commission candidates asked: *Defund the Knox County Sheriff's Department?*

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The Knoxville Focus continues to quiz eight candidates for the four disputed District races on the Knox County Commission ballot. This week we asked:

Will you ever vote to defund the Knox County Sheriff's Department?

District One

Dasha Lundy: I will support restructuring and reimagining how we do policing. We are at a pivotal point in our society that we have to be more innovative and aggressive in changing a system that has devalued people and have literally felt comfortable at murdering people for no reason. Several changes must be made. It will be imperative that we listen to the communities to come up with an answer.

Reginald Jackson: I wouldn't vote to defund the department. I think Sheriff department has changes that could be made. So, I would look at the budget to see where changes are needed and go forward that way.

District Two

Grant Rosenberg: I'm not aware of any proposals to defund the Sheriff's Department and if elected, I am committed to working with Sheriff Spangler to ensure we are recruiting, training and retaining highly qualified uniformed officers. With that said, I wholeheartedly believe that investments in public education, workforce development, public health and mental health services have a big impact on preventing crime, which is better and more

cost-effective than enforcing crime.

Courtney Durrett: "Ever" is a loaded word, one that requires a crystal ball or magic or Doc Brown's Delorean Time Machine. I'm interpreting the question to be "under what circumstances would I defund the Knox County Sheriff's Department?" Such a drastic action implies the Sheriff's Department is completely failing in its mission to "protect and serve" Knox Countians. If such drastic circumstances exist, then the whole of Knox County Government has failed. That said, I cannot imagine not having a Sheriff's Department, nor do I think the Sheriff's Department is close to the need to be "defunded." I prefer to use the term "reallocate". I would like to reallocate excessive or unnecessary spending within the department to mental health, homelessness and domestic dispute support organizations to shift those burdens away from the Sheriff's department. I also support reallocating funds for continuing education programs and cultural equality training. I am required as a teacher to complete a certain number of hours of professional development every year to ensure my methods include the latest strategies and standards for success in education. Our law enforcement departments should also strive to be informed and implement the latest strategies and technology to de-escalate situations.

District Four

Kyle Ward: Our police force is indispensable to the protection of our life and property. They need the resources necessary to fulfill that duty, and it is our job to give those resources to them.

Todd Frommeyer: I would not vote for the complete abolition of the Knox County Sheriff's Department either literally or figuratively. But I

also think that opponents of the protestors have taken the term "defund" and are trying to use it as a political wedge to distract from the actual issues. Instead, I think it's time for a little listening. Police reform is clearly needed and I am open to many of the ideas that I've been hearing. These include: more transparency; emphasis on de-escalation rather than use of force; body cameras; and an oversight board similar to Knoxville's Police Advisory and Review Committee.

District Five

John Schoonmaker: Absolutely not!

Kimberly Peterson: I believe this question stems from the current climate in which nationally, as well as on a state and local level, people are questioning how we approach policing and public safety. I believe that systemic restructuring for community safety and protection is any governing body's mandate at this time, including Knox County Commission. I do not endorse defunding as an immediate solution but I do believe a close examination of the KCSO budget and whether or not we can reallocate money to other social service agencies who may be better equipped to answer calls related to mental health emergencies, homelessness, and domestic violence is in order. We should also evaluate funding for continuing education, cultural competency training, and training to improve de-escalation tactics over the use of force. Sheriff Spangler has appeared resistant to a dialogue with the community about ways that the Sheriff's Department can improve community relations which is disappointing. Every agency within our community can benefit from periodic review with community input to see where improvements can be made.

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Living it up during the TSSAA Dead Period



The Mzingo family floating in the Bighorn Canyon on the Crow Reservation in Montana. From left, Beth, Maddox, Mackenna, Madeline and Travis.

By Steve Williams

Travis Mzingo, CAK head football coach, checked in last Tuesday morning (June 30) from Billings, Montana as he and his family were on an old fashioned “road trip” out West during the second week of the TSSAA Dead Period.

“Someone asked me why I’d do all that driving,” reported Mzingo. “I told him that I want to see America for myself - not in pictures that someone else took.”

The Mzingos had already been to the Badlands and captured a picture of a storm brewing over and they had a family photo taken at the farm/field from the movie Field of Dreams in Dyersville, Iowa.

On Wednesday, they were headed to the Battlefield of The Little Bighorn / Custer’s Last Stand in Montana.

Thursday’s destination was scheduled to be a visit to the famous Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.

Meanwhile, Bearden football coach Morgan Shin-lever has been out of town and “disconnected” from the world as he and his family were isolated at their annual Dead Period vacation spot on Sunset Beach, N.C.

Continue on page 2



The Mzingo family at the Field of Dreams movie set in Dyersville, Iowa during the TSSAA Dead Period last week. Clockwise from top: Travis, Beth, Mackenna, Madeline and Maddox.

FALL PREP SPORTS PUSHED BACK

**COVID-19 State of
Emergency extended
to August 29**

By Bill Howard



Wednesday, July 1 was a disappointing day for players, coaches, and fans of high-school football, and other prep sports.

TSSAA Executive Director Bernard Childress announced that, because of Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee’s extension of the state’s COVID-19 State of Emergency to Aug. 29, member schools will have “limitations and restrictions on contact sporting events and activities.” The sports affected will be football, 7-on-7 football, girls soccer, wrestling, basketball, and competitive cheer.

The announcement was made in light of a resurgence of coronavirus cases in the state since it began reopening. The vote by the TSSAA’s Board of Control was unanimous.

What this means is that at until Aug. 29 at the earliest, participants in those sports “cannot have any competition or scrimmage with other schools and cannot have close contact activities during their fundamental practice.”

Players can still physically train and work out (run, lift weights, etc.), but any games or matches, among themselves or against others, are out.

Brad Turner, head football coach at Gibbs, regrets the decision, but believes lessons can be learned from it.

“It’s all about the kids,” Turner said. “I hate it for them. However, they’re learning how to deal with adversity that will help them as they go through life. Also makes you not take things for granted.”

Turner vowed to be ready when the green light is given. “We are going to stay focused and work hard everyday,” he said. “Whenever we get to play we will be ready. As coaches we are used to dealing with change and making plans every week. We will continue to support our players and help them through this process.”

The season was originally scheduled to start Aug. 21. Now, the earliest it could start is Sept. 18, (practice starting on Aug. 30) and that’s only if the executive order isn’t continued. Presumably, the entire season could be lost, depending on the virus infection rate.

Brad Taylor, head football coach at Karns, believes he can live with the decision pretty

Continued on page 3

Football this Fall?

You Could Help Make it Happen

By Mark Nagi

I don’t like it.
I know you don’t like it.

But for now, living without sports is a reality that we have all had to accept.

We are seeing sports make a bit of a comeback. NASCAR has been racing a couple of times a week, and they are hoping to have up to thirty thousand fans at Bristol Motor Speedway for the upcoming all star race. Soccer has been underway for

a few weeks overseas, played in front of empty stadiums that normally are filled to the hilt with fans. Major League Baseball’s owners and players finally came to an agreement, and we’ve seen players begin to report for what I guess you could say is spring training... even if it is summertime.

The NBA and the NHL have plans to finish the rest of their seasons. The NBA will reportedly have their teams

quarantined in a bubble in Orlando, while the NHL will reportedly restart in Edmonton and Toronto. The NHL should be what we really pay attention to here. Even though most NHL teams reside in the United States, the games will be played north of the border due in large part to the COVID-19 rebound in recent weeks in many parts of our country.

And that is a huge problem for sports.

If we can’t get a handle on dealing with this virus soon, then it’s quite possible that the leagues that are trying to restart will be shut down again, likely until 2021.

And that would mean no football... and that’s what most sports fans are worried about.

What would have happened had the impact of COVID-19 started a few months earlier. Losing the NCAA tournament

Continued on page 3



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Living it up

Cont. from page 1

Tennessee School for the Deaf football coach Jordan Cooper said he and his family are “still on the fence” about our trip next week due to the increase in (coronavirus) cases along the coast, but we have really enjoyed our time together this summer.

“We have had many ‘staycations’ to our family property in Citico, Tn. This has included kayaking, grilling out and my 3-year old daughter’s (Arianna) first time camping.

“My wife, Megan, and I were able to get away for a

week to Tybee Island, Ga. It was a wonderful time to just decompress from a stressful spring and reset myself for the upcoming school year.”

Antonio Mays, Austin-East’s new football coach, said: “We’ll be praying and practicing social distancing” during his family’s ‘staycation’ this year.

“My wife (LaToiya) and I usually go on vacation on our anniversary (June 29). Now we won’t be doing that this year out of precaution. We’re going to try to do something around the house. We actually were

going to go to the mountains, which are very pretty. But we’ll probably just be staying at home to try to stay healthy.”

Mays’ 10-year-old daughter Kyndall is a talented basketball player and he’s been “spending a lot of time practicing with her.”

His son Jordan Snipes is home from college and will be a junior walk-on running back at Tennessee State this season.

“Jordan has been trying to work on some business endeavors, so we just talk and I give him some advice.”



Above, TSD Coach Jordan Cooper and wife Megan at Tybee Island, Ga.

Right, Arianna, 3-year old daughter of TSD football coach Jordan Cooper, with mom Megan on a beautiful day.



Pressley plans to bring ‘positive and energetic culture’ to Carter

By Steve Williams

There’s a new excitement in the air for Carter High football.

“Communication with my players and culture really are the main things I harp on,” said Justin Pressley, the school’s new head coach, last Wednesday. “One of the reasons I think I got the job at Carter was I’m going to bring a positive and energetic culture to Carter, something they have wanted for a while.”

Pressley, 32, is Carter’s sixth different head coach since 2013 when Heath Woods resigned.

“My biggest thing is we just want to brand Carter to be an exciting football experience for high schoolers,” added Pressley, who previously was head coach at Volunteer High in Church Hill (2018-19) and at Lindblom Academy in Chicago (2015-17). “That’s kind of what I’ve done everywhere I’ve been. That’s definitely something that you get unique out of me as a head coach – bringing a culture that’s going to get all the kids excited. I’m going to get more kids out for the football team than ever before. That’s going to be our goal.

“We’re going to give the kids a college-like atmosphere on the field and off the field as much as



New Carter High football coach Justin Pressley with wife Jessica and son Duke share time together during the recent TSSAA dead period.

we possibly can.”

Pressley also wants his coaches and players to understand that football is just a game.

“We want our families to be our No. 1 priority, then our academics

and football,” he said.

Pressley has been impressed with the Carter players’ resiliency.

“Taking to a new coach I thought was going to be the biggest challenge with this bunch,

but they took to me right away and they welcomed me right away. Everything we’re doing as a staff and trying to form a culture at Carter, they all bought into it. To me that shows a major

resiliency with those kids that they can adapt and change and evolve quicker than anyone.”

It also appears to show that the seniors and veteran players on the team have good attitudes and leadership qualities to bounce back like they have.

Pressley called it “incredible” how the players have responded.

“It’s helped me a lot in the transition,” he said. “I did feel that would be a challenge coming in – getting the kids to believe and buy in to what I’m selling and they did that right away. No problems.”

Pressley, who played high school football at Midway High in Roane County, took the Carter job in January. He made the move to Knoxville with his family in February.

“I really only got about 30 days with the players before this (coronavirus pandemic) happened,” he said. “We couldn’t have spring practice. When we got back (for preseason workouts) our goal was just to get to know the kids.

“I felt we made good strides ... I think our kids and our staff have a great relationship. We picked up a lot of momentum going into the dead period. We’re real excited to get back with them on Monday.”

These sports rules need to change

By Bill Howard

If you’re a sports fan, then you’re aware that any sport has dozens – maybe hundreds – of rules that govern it, enforced by officials, referees, and umpires. Of course, enforced rules by an outsider are necessary. Imagine how long a baseball game would last if the batter decided if the pitch were a ball or strike.

Most sports rules are reasonable enough, but as with any system, some rules need to change. One of the best examples of that applies to baseball pitchers, especially concerning what is arguably the most important pitcher statistic, the ERA.

ERA stands for earned run average, a number that represents how many earned runs – runs scored

by hits, not errors – a pitcher gives up per nine innings. If on opening day a pitcher pitches six innings of a game and gives up two earned runs, his ERA is three: two runs for six innings equates to three for nine. Zero is a perfect ERA.

Imagine the following scenario. The first two batters come up and get out. The third batter hits a

double, and then the manager changes pitchers. The new pitcher then gives up a double to his first batter; the guy who was on second scores. The next batter gets out, inning over.

By rule, the first pitcher has the earned run charged to him; the second pitcher none. This is unfair because both pitchers are culpable. The run scored because of two hits given up, one by each pitcher, so therefore each should share in the blame. But by rule, the first pitcher’s ERA suffers, the second does not.

What should change? Each should get half an earned run charged against him. “What? Half an earned run? That’s crazy!” Really? If two guys on defense hit and sack the quarterback at the same time, each is credited with half a sack, by football rules. Earned runs can and should be similarly divided. Onto...

Pitchers again. (Oh, I pitched a little in Little League and Babe Ruth ball, but other than that, no). If a pitcher has three-up, three-down for all nine innings – 27 up, 27 down – that’s called a perfect game. It’s every pitcher’s ultimate fantasy and they’re extremely rare. A perfect game is ruined if

even a single batter gets on base, by hit, by walk, by hit batsman, or by error. The first three reasons are obviously valid; the fourth is not.

If a pitcher, say, has to face 28 batters rather than 27 because a guy got on base because the shortstop let a ball go through his legs, that’s not the pitcher’s fault. As long as he gives up no hits or walks, and doesn’t hit a batter, he should still get credit for a perfect game. Onto...

Basketball assists. It’s one of the major statistics of the sport. An assist occurs when a player throws the ball to a teammate, and that teammate then scores without dribbling. The score was enabled by the good pass, goes the reasoning, thus an assist is credited to the passer. It’s a highly valued statistic.

A fairly common example occurs when a player drifts over to the corner of the court, right next to the sideline and the baseline. He’s unguarded, and a teammate spots him and fires him the ball. The corner guy catches the ball, shoots and hits, and the passer then gets an assist.

The problem is that for the passer to get an assist,

the shooter has to make the basket. No matter how brilliantly the passer reads the floor and makes the pass, if the guy doesn’t hit the shot, the passer doesn’t get an assist.

So two guys could make the identical brilliant pass, but one gets an assist, because his teammate hit the shot, and the other doesn’t, because his teammate misses. How should it change? Frankly, I’m not sure. Onto...

How a quarterback’s passing yards are determined. As it stands now, a quarterback gets credit for the total yards covered by a completed pass. So if a QB throws the ball 10 yards downfield, and his receiver catches it and then runs 20 more, the QB gets credit for 30 yards passing. Passing-yards are an enormous statistic for a QB.

Similarly, if a team is on its own one-yard line, and the QB throws it five yards forward, and the receiver then breaks 11 tackles and goes 94 yards for a touchdown, the QB gets 99 yards credited to his passing-yards statistics. Man, not bad for a five-yard pass.

The change, obviously, should be to give the QB credit only for the yards his pass covered through the air.

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Hudson gets one last opportunity to play baseball in Knoxville

By Ken Lay

When the COVID-19 pandemic brought an end to the 2019-2020 school year and the spring sports season in March, Gibbs High School baseball player Spencer Hudson was one of many area seniors to lose his final season.

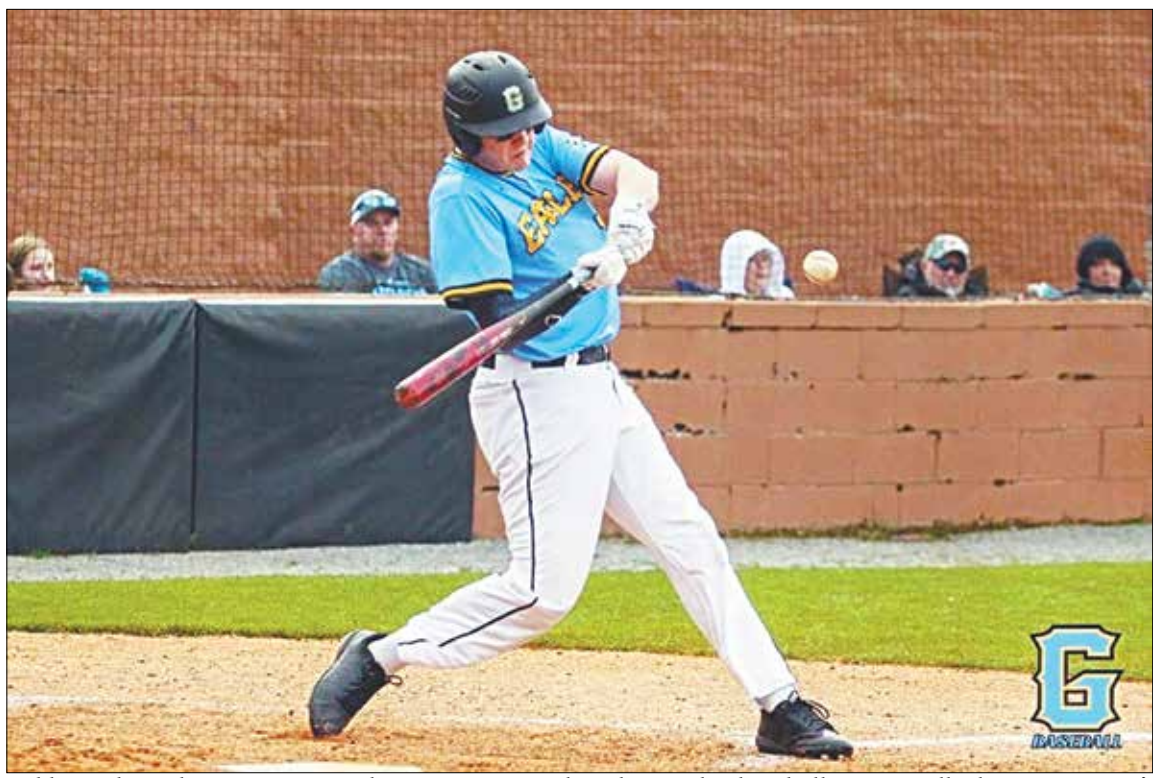
Baseball wasn't over for Hudson as he had already finalized plans to attend the University of the Cumberlands, which lies just over the state line in Williamsburg, Kentucky.

But he still lost his senior season and that was obviously hard to take for a player who has so much passion for the game of baseball. Not to mention the fact that he and the Eagles had high hopes for the 2020 season.

"We had some great young players and we had some great young pitchers and we really thought we were going to state," Hudson said. "We had some of the best players and some of the best young pitchers that I've ever seen."

Gibbs coach Geff Davis has built one of the top Class AA baseball programs in Tennessee. But a state tournament bid just wasn't in the cards for anybody as the Coronavirus defeated every team in high school baseball this season. So the season was scrapped and the chance to capitalize on big plans never came to the Eagles.

Players did have to remain in playing shape because it wasn't until April that schools were shut



Gibbs High graduate Spencer Hudson is getting one last shot to play baseball in Knoxville this summer. He's playing in a summer league at Knoxville Christian School for the Knights. He'll head to University of the Cumberlands this fall. Photo submitted.

down for the rest of the academic year.

Like other players, Hudson was relegated to individual workouts but he missed not having his teammates around.

"We really missed each other," Hudson said of the Gibbs baseball team.

But fate would give the recent Gibbs graduate a chance to take the field again in 2020, but it would be during the summer with a new set of players.

Hudson is playing for the Knoxville Christian School Knights in a summer league devised by KCS coach John Barry.

Hudson wasn't planning to play. He did, however, show up to see Gibbs rising sophomore Wyatt Davis, his good friend, play.

"I went to see my friend, Wyatt Davis play and I decided that I wanted to play," Hudson recalled. "I asked Coach John if I could play and he told me that if I brought my stuff, he would let me play."

"I didn't play in my first game, but I played in the next game and I was just happy to be back on the field again. I was just happy to be back on the dirt."

KCS is hosting one of two high school summer leagues in East Tennessee. The other is being hosted by the Tennessee Smokies and being contested in Kodak and Elizabethton.

Many area teams opted not to play due to the TSSAA not recognizing summer leagues and the sanctioning body's bylaws that prohibit graduated players from playing.

TSSAA teams playing in these leagues may not be coached by their high school coaches.

But KCS is independent and Barry can coach his team. He also reached out to players from other programs and that gave Hudson and Wyatt Davis a chance to play for the Knights.

"I'm happy to be playing with these new guys," Hudson said. "They're young but if they stick with it, they'll really go places. I've known some of these guys for a few years and I really enjoy watching them get better."

One KCS player, Carpenter Ford, is a rising eighth grader. He's learning to become a catcher and he's playing against bigger players.

That's a chance Hudson never had. But we would have relished it.

"These young guys are getting to see high school pitching and I would've loved to have had that chance when I was in eighth grade," he said.

Hudson is always keeping things loose in the KCS dugout but he's also enjoying the task of helping many younger players.

In college, he's majoring in special education and hopes to someday be a high school coach.

"I want to play in (Major League Baseball) one day, but if that doesn't work out, I want to be a teacher and a coach," Hudson said. "My mom has been a teacher for over 30 years and the teachers at Gibbs were my friends."

FALL PREP SPORTS PUSHED BACK

Cont. from page 1

well.

"I kind of like the idea of being conservative," he said "I didn't mind the announcement that we can start practice Aug. 30. "We might change up a little of what our focus is. We might not be worried as much about conditioning in July, maybe a little more strength training without the 7 on 7 and scrimmages, we might focus more on special teams. Going forward you might adjust the pace of it, the preparedness."

So what will the season look like? If the executive order expires on Aug. 29, one of four plans will be implemented. All have practice starting on Aug. 30 with the first game on Sept. 18. The first plan calls for a seven-week regional

schedule, playoffs as usual, and teams not making the playoffs allowed to play two more games after the regular season

The second plan has an eight-week regional slate of games. Only regional champs and runners-up would make the playoffs, and non-playoff teams could play the extra two games.

In normal circumstances, Sept. 18 would be the fifth game. Plan three starts the season with that game. The original Week 3 opponent would be played in Week 12; the original Week 4 opponent in Week 13. Only regional champs would make the playoffs; the other teams could play one extra game.

The fourth plan has no postseason. Teams start

with their Week 5 opponent and play to the regular end, then play Weeks 1-4 opponents after that.

The board will meet on July 8 to decide which plan will be used. Again, all this assumes that the shutdown is lifted on Aug. 29.

"A happy medium in my opinion is the second one with an eight-game regular season," said Taylor.

"I feel like we have a couple of pretty good options in place, once we have all the details we will then go to work on how to best prepare safely for the season," said Steve Matthews, head football coach at Catholic.

Girls' soccer practice can start Aug. 30 as well. Exactly how the season and postseason will play out is still being determined.

Football this Fall?

Cont. from page 1

was bad enough. Can you imagine an American sports scene without the College Football Playoff? Without the Super Bowl? Because if we were seeing the kind of widespread infection rate back in December that we see today, those games would not have been played.

I know that a lot of people don't like wearing masks. They feel like they are healthy, and don't believe that they'll catch COVID, so why wear a mask? But they should be thinking about those of us that are more susceptible to disease. Those that are immune deficient. Those that are older. If more of us wore masks, that would help keep those folks from being ill, and slow the infection rate like we've seen in other countries.

But even if you aren't concerned about them, be concerned about your own

chance to watch football this Fall. High school football, college football and pro football... we are at risk not only of not being able to watch those games in person... but it's very possible that there will be no football at all in the weeks to come.

For the past four months, we have all had our daily lives turned upside down. Every day it feels like there are new guidelines, new warnings, new plans... it's a major bummer.

But if you knew that wearing a mask meant you'd have football come September, you'd wear it, wouldn't you?

It could make a difference...

Mark Nagi is the author of "Decade of Dysfunction," which takes an up-close look at Tennessee's crazy coaching search in 2017. The book is available on Amazon.

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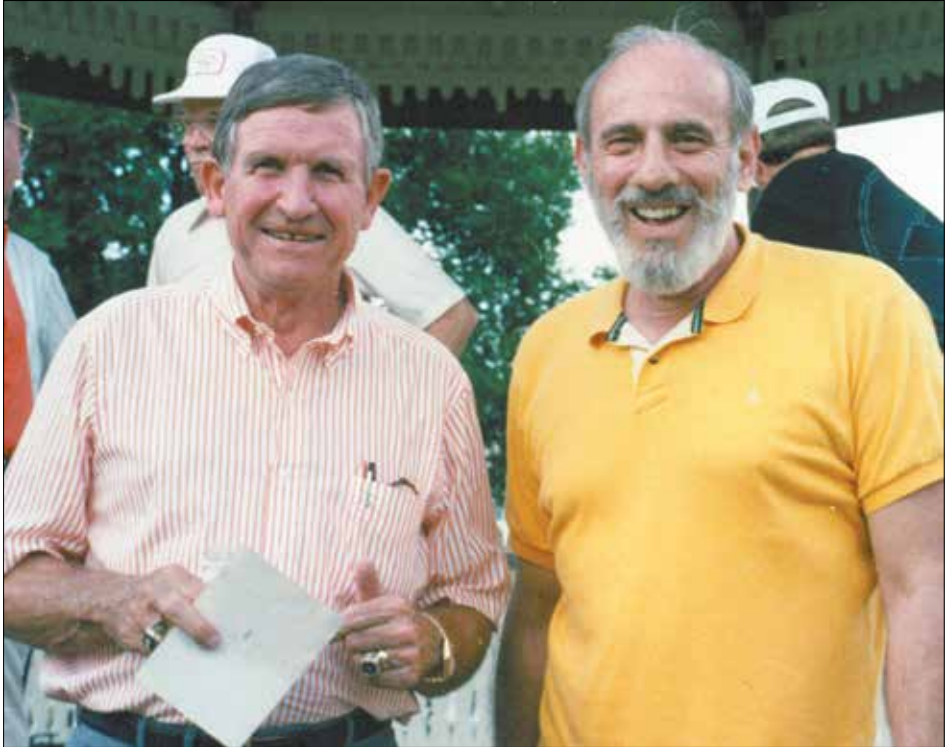
John Majors ‘upset’ his dad to kick off a long rivalry

I was looking online for more information on Huntland High School, where Johnny Majors was the state scoring leader for three straight years in earning a UT football scholarship, when I came across an interesting sports column by Charles Rogers that ran in The Moore County News in 2019.



By Steve Williams

The title of Rogers' column was "The genesis of the MCHS-Huntland rivalry." It was a rivalry between Moore County High in Lynchburg and Huntland that began in 1949 when Majors and Rogers were freshmen at Moore County. Huntland hadn't had a football team in over 20 years and hired Shirley Majors, John's dad, in the summer of 1949 to be its coach and build the program. Shirley, who had previously coached at Moore County for three years, left his family in Lynchburg and commuted back and forth to Huntland, a 22-mile drive, during the season. When the two teams met that year, the Huntland Hornets led by two touchdowns in the fourth quarter. A desperate Moore County coach replaced his senior tailback with freshman tailback (John Majors). What happened was shocking!



ABOVE: Lifelong friends Johnny Majors (left) and Charles Rogers on the square in Lynchburg 10 to 12 years ago. Majors died June 3 at the age of 85. Rogers will be 85 on Sept. 4.

RIGHT: Charles Rogers (left) and John Terrill Majors pose for a photo at the old high school building when both were 14 years old and freshmen at MCHS in Lynchburg.



Majors scored on three spectacular runs on the Raiders' next three possessions to lift Moore County to the victory. "It was evident a superstar was born," wrote Rogers, who didn't play because of a broken leg he suffered before the start of the season, but he watched the game from the sidelines. On the other side of the field, an upset Shirley Majors was heard to say, "This will be the last time a son of mine beats me." And he moved his entire family to Huntland the next summer.

"This upset the diehard MCHS supporters, since the Majors family had been Moore County residents for generations," wrote Rogers in his column. "Many considered Shirley Majors a traitor to his hometown and county." Now a Huntland Hornet, sophomore John Majors "ran all over us" in the 1950 season, recalled Rogers, who was healthy again and played right end and defensive end for Moore County. As time was running out in the 1951 game, Majors scored Huntland's winning touchdown on a long run.

Rogers and the Raiders were undefeated and highly motivated going into the Huntland game in their senior season of 1952. With such a huge crowd expected for the game in Lynchburg, the decision was made to give up the home field advantage and play the game in Shelbyville. "From memory, I believe John Majors wound up with minus 15 yards rushing," wrote Rogers. "MCHS won the game 13-0." Later on, Rogers added that he played every play both on offense (tight end) and defense (right end) in

the 1952 game. "Without sounding as if I am blowing my own horn," said Charles, "I tackled John several times for losses. He wound up with minus yardage for the game. "Shirley Majors sought me out after the game and told me, 'You played one heck of a game.' "Shirley Majors and my dad (Glendon) grew up as neighbors and friends in the same Beech Hill community in Moore County." And so did their fathers. After the 1949 season loss to Moore County, Huntland won 70 of its next 71

games – mostly with John or one of his three brothers (Joe, Bill or Larry) leading the way (the only loss being to Moore County in 1952). Majors and Rogers turned out to be lifelong friends, even after Majors played against Rogers his last three seasons at Huntland. "John would come back to Lynchburg a lot during the summer," recalled Charles. Thanks to Rogers, I learned about that rivalry-igniting 1949 game and much more about Majors' early years.





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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Showing Up

When your children invite you to dinner or to travel with them, you show up. I'm not a beach person. I prefer a mountain stream "far from the madding crowd." But, since it's more about the journey than the destination, Becky and I will spend The Fourth at the beach with family.

I've been a teacher since medical school, and I've previously noted the word doctor comes from docere, the Latin verb meaning to teach. I teach patients, colleagues, medical students, nurses, my readers, those who will listen and now my grandchildren.

One of my observations is you cannot teach curiosity; it's either something you have or you don't. However, curiosity might exist as a spectrum, and you may be able to encourage nascent curiosity. Stimulating curiosity is certainly an aspect of this column.

We Methodists do not have a pope or archbishops, but we do have bishops, bureaucracy and bureaucrats. The Bishop of our Holston Conference has just "deemed" it safe for the hoi pilloi to show up and resume church worship services as long as we practice social distancing, hygiene and wear face masks. In other words, exercise common sense. I'll hold my tongue regarding this pendant who has no medical training and seems more attuned to politics than my safety. Historically, free men have had choice and were expected to accept the consequences of those choices. Apparently, the "little children" must be protected from their choices.

I believe you don't really appreciate something until it has been lost. I have missed corporate worship in God's house. I miss not

being able to greet someone with a smile because my face is covered with a d*** mask. I feel isolated behind a "mask of fear." We're also unable to greet others with a southern hug or touch. I am especially resentful of social isolation when protesters and looters are not held to the same standard. But then, Washington's elite are not held to the same standard of law as John Q. Public.

When I showed up for church on June 28, I reflected on how effective our minister is when delivering a live sermon in comparison to one online. Similarly, our music minister's formidable skills are best experienced in a live worship service. I assure you, First Methodist Church at 3316 Kingston Pike is where the "difference is worth the distance."

I'm curious to know what air travel will be like during the pandemic. This is my first excursion since the shut-down. By the time you read this I will have hopefully flown "the friendly skies" and returned from South Florida. We will comply with mandatory masks, use hand sanitizers and common-sense hygiene. We will be as safe as we can, but every endeavor has risk. "I prefer to die with my boots on rather than parked under the bed" (a Fergism).

We find ourselves in a civil war, "Testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived or so dedicated can long endure." Perhaps I should seek permission from anarchists like Antifa and Marxist BLM (Black Lives Matter) to quote Abraham Lincoln from the Gettysburg Address. (After all, Abraham Lincoln is also under assault by the anarchists.) I'd hate to trigger some "pajama boy" or miseducated millennial woman. Actually, I'm showing up to call them out!

I like to read multiple books at the same time because my mood changes. One of the most interesting books of late is "Cold Case Christianity" by J. Warner Wallace. He's a former detective whose expertise was investigating cold case murders. This book has a wealth of information and should be required reading for anyone serving on a jury.

As an atheist, Wallace challenged himself to apply his investigative skills to Christianity and he became a follower of The Way.

Wallace challenged me with a new definition of tolerance. Classical tolerance is agreeing to disagree with someone who sees the world differently than you do. "New tolerance" is actually intolerance of those who have

different opinions. If you disagree with collegiate "snowflakes" you may be considered racist, sexist or be guilty of hate speech, as defined by the politically correct elite, progressives and leftists.

Recently, I read a poll by the respected Pew Research Group. Surprisingly, Pew found that only 16% of recent protesters were black and only a tiny fraction Hispanic and Asian. The majority were young whites, and 80% of these identified themselves as Democrats or "leaning" Democrat. Especially revealing was the video of a disgusting millennial white woman screaming obscenities into the face of black police officers.

I read widely and believe the education process should never cease. Education should teach the skills for a lifetime of learning. In fact, you may be lost if you are no longer capable of learning due to intolerance. Arguably, indoctrination has become the focus in much of modern education.

I've been out of formal education for forty-five years. Recently, I learned another new concept which has become fundamental in education. "Critical race theory identifies individuals as oppressed or

oppressors based on their skin color." This is totally alien to me, but is the chant of BLM. I begin to understand why so many college graduates now see Marxist class struggle and racism in everything. How disturbing that this verbiage has now found its way into the general lexicon. And even challenging the theory is deemed racist and intolerant.

Like never before, we need patriots to show up. It's time for the "silent majority" to speak up. The Greatest Generation confronted Nazis. It's time for us to take risks and push back against the anarchists. It takes courage to confront evil and those who masquerade as tolerant. You can imagine the things I've been called, but feelings are inconsequential when considering the battle for the soul of America.

Stand up for your country! Defeat the mob, murder and mayhem crowd. Tell the anarchists and leftists no more banning and burning! Demand that Congress apply the rule of law. Call your Congressman and tell them you're listening and watching. And remind them the election is just four months away.

You may email Dr. Ferguson at fergusonj@knoxfocus.com

Go to Jail, Go Directly to Jail...

If you've played Monopoly you know that card well. Drawing it sends you to jail in the game and you sit there and miss two turns unless you roll doubles or have a "Get Out of Jail" card.

If you're a law or history buff you might like to take a drive and visit some of East Tennessee's most interesting former calaboooses, clinks, hoosegows, slamers or prisons. By far the best known and now open to the public is the former Brushy Mountain Prison in Petros, Tennessee.

James Earl Ray escaped that isolated big house

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

briefly only to be captured in the rough mountains behind the prison that is now Frozen Head State Park. The abandoned prison is a tourist attraction and distillery now.

But you don't have to drive very far in our area to see other abandoned or repurposed jailhouses. We've got several worth a visit although most are locked up tight and you can't go inside. The architecture of most is very basic and austere.

In Rogersville all that remains of the old jail there are a few steps along the street behind the Hawkins

County Courthouse. I know those steps well because, in the 1970s, I was actually thrown out of jail and across the taller steps because of a story I wrote. I've often said that I may be the only journalist tossed out of jail instead of being tossed into jail but that's another story.

On a recent trip to a state park, my wife and I drove over to Huntsville, Tn., the hometown of the late Senator Howard Baker. The small town has a huge old jailhouse that is striking and interesting.

The Scott County Jail may be the oldest standing jail in our state, built in 1907 and replaced in 1963 only to be reopened and operating until 2008. The huge three-story rock building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Huntsville's Scott County High School has an entire museum complex which, each September, hosts the Heritage Festival. The museum grounds has a frontier village with a one-room schoolhouse, artifacts, and a museum that is interactive and features items from the U. S. S. Tennessee battleship.

If you find yourself in the Rutledge area you may want to take a right just before the courthouse and take a look at the outside of the old Grainger County Jail. Back at the courthouse is a replica of Andrew Johnson's tailor shop. Did you know President Johnson was a tailor?

Maynardville has a repurposed slammer along Highway 81. On the west side of that main route stands the former Union County Jail.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Scott County's old jail in Huntsville operated on and off from 1907 until 2008. The huge old building is only one of several former jails in our area.

Built in 1954 by Knoxville architect James E. McDonald it was used until 1974 when the main jail was moved into the courthouse complex.

Other nearby counties also have buildings that were once jails including the ones Claiborne County

built in 1816, Jamestown in 1860, Greene County in 1882, and the Bledsoe County Jail in Pikeville. Many of the old jailhouses serve or have served as Chamber of Commerce or County Historical Society headquarters.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JO ANN CAUDLE MILLER DOCKET NUMBER 83148-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 29TH day of JUNE 2020, letters administration in respect of the Estate of JO ANN CAUDLE MILLER who died May 27, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred.

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 29TH day of JUNE, 2020.

ESTATE OF JO ANN CAUDLE MILLER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JEFFERY L. MILLER; ADMINISTRATOR
5509 LANCE DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37909

DUSTIN S. CROUSE
ATTORNEY AT LAW
9111 CROSS PARK DR., STE. D200
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37923/6 & 7/13/20

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF GENEVA C MITCHELL DOCKET NUMBER 83128-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 24 day of JUNE 2020, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of GENEVA C MITCHELL who died Apr 21, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 24 day of JUNE, 2020

ESTATE OF GENEVA C MITCHELL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ALAN H MITCHELL; EXECUTOR
1048 PADDINGTON ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37922

KELLY GUYTON FRERE ATTORNEY
AT LAW 1001 E BROADWAY
LENOIR CITY, TN. 37771

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF GRACE JOHNSON NANCE DOCKET NUMBER 83121-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 23RD day of JUNE 2020, letters administration in respect of the Estate of GRACE JOHNSON NANCE who died Feb 28, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred.

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death This the 23RD day of JUNE, 2020.

ESTATE OF GRACE JOHNSON NANCE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CELESTE N. MCSPADEN;
ADMINISTRATRIX 1415
GREYTOWN WAY, APT. 305
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37932

J. ERIC BUTLER ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 2425 KNOXVILLE, TN. 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARIE EHREN PEEK DOCKET NUMBER 83016-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 26TH day of JUNE 2020, letters of administration c.t.a in respect of the Estate of MARIE EHREN PEEK who died Feb 29, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 26TH day of JUNE, 2020.

ESTATE OF MARIE EHREN PEEK

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KAREN PEEK REAGOR;
ADMINISTRATRIX CTA
440 WALNUT ST., UNIT 206
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LINDA KAY BROWN SHARNA DOCKET NUMBER 83116-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 26TH day of JUNE 2020, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of LINDA KAY BROWN SHARNA who died May 17, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death This the 26TH day of JUNE, 2020.

ESTATE OF LINDA KAY BROWN SHARNA

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ROGER GLENN BROWN; EXECUTOR
100 SCENIC HWY., APT. 1
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, TN. 37350

P. ANDREW SNEED ATTORNEY AT LAW
217 E. BROADWAY AVENUE
MARYVILLE, TN. 37804

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF KENNARD THACKER DOCKET NUMBER 83025-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 30TH day of

JUNE 2020, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of KENNARD THACKER who died May 12, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death This the 30TH day of JUNE, 2020.

ESTATE OF KENNARD THACKER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ROY R. THACKER; EXECUTOR
1901 TRENT VALLEY LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37938

ROGER D HYMAN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
PO BOX 26072
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912-9672

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF VESTER WEAVER DOCKET NUMBER 82724-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 30TH day of JUNE 2020, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of VESTER WEAVER who died Jan 12, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death This the 30TH day of JUNE, 2020.

ESTATE OF VESTER WEAVER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) JAMES
C. MIDDLEBROOK; EXECUTOR 10400 LAUREL
POINTE LANE KNOXVILLE, TN. 37931

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF VERNA CHRISTINE HIGGINS WOOD DOCKET NUMBER 83135-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 25TH day of JUNE 2020, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of VERNA CHRISTINE HIGGINS WOOD who died May 28, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death This the 25TH day of JUNE, 2020.

ESTATE OF VERNA CHRISTINE HIGGINS WOOD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) JOE
KENNETH WOOD; EXECUTOR 5620 EVERGREEN
FARMS LANE GREENBACK, TN. 37742

DAVID D. NOEL ATTORNEY AT
LAW 1816 CLINCH AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37916

MISC. NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization Executive Board Meeting, July 22, 2020

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board will meet on **Wednesday, July 22nd at 9 a.m.** in the Community Room of the Public Works Complex, 3131 Morris Avenue Knoxville, TN. Due to the circumstances of the COVID-19 virus, this meeting may be conducted by electronic means. Please visit the Knoxville Regional TPO website frequently for updates on this public meeting. The full Agenda will be available on the TPO website 5-7 days prior to the meeting and can be found here: <https://knoxtpo.org/boards-and-committees>. If you would like a copy of the final Agenda please contact the TPO. If you need assistance or accommodation for a disability please notify the TPO three business days in advance of the meeting and we will be glad to work with you in obliging any reasonable request.

865-215-2506 or laura.edmonds@knoxplanning.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The TDEC Division of Water Resources (DWR) proposes to issue a water quality National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit:

Applicant: City of Gatlinburg
Gatlinburg STP
Permit Number: TN0020117
Permit Writer: Maybelle T. Sparks, P.E.
Rating: Major
County Sevier
EFO Name: Knoxville
Location: 1025 Banner Road
City: Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Activity Description:
Treatment of municipal wastewater. Allows increase from 3 to 6 MGD to exceptional waters per antidegradation demonstration in 2012.

Effluent Description: treated municipal wastewater from Outfall 001

Receiving Stream: West Prong of the Little Pigeon River Mile 16.4

The proposed permit contains limitations on

the amounts of pollutants to be discharged, in accordance with Federal and State standards and regulations. Permit conditions are tentative and subject to public comment.

For more information, or to review and/or copy documents from the permit file (there is a nominal charge for photocopies), contact Maybelle T. Sparks, P.E. at (615) 532-0651 or the Knoxville Environmental Field Office at (865) 594-6035. To comment on this permit issuance or proposed conditions submit written comments to TDEC-DWR, William R. Snodgrass - Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 11th Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243. Comments should be received within 30 days from the Legal Notice and should include the applicant name and NPDES Number.

Interested persons may request a public hearing on any application. The request must be filed within the comment period and must indicate the interest of the filing party and reasons for request. If there is significant interest, a hearing will be held pursuant to Rule 0400-40-5-06(9)(a), and the Director will make determinations regarding permit issuance.

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

The owners and/or lien holders of the following vehicles are hereby notified of their rights to pay all charges and reclaim said vehicles being held at the storage lot of A-1 Express Tires & Wrecker Service. Failure to reclaim these vehicles will be deemed a waiver of all rights and titles along with consent to dispose of said vehicles at public auction held on (MONDAY JULY 27TH 2020) at 11941 Chapman Hwy Seymour TN 37865

1994 CHEVY	2G1WN54T2R9127681
1997 CHEVY	2G1WW12M3V925081
2006 HUMM	56RGN23U16H11420
2004 FORD	1FAPF55U84A141676

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

THE OWNERSAND/OR LIEN HOLDERS OF THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES ARE HERBY NOTIFIED OF THEIR RIGHTS TO PAY ALL CHARGES AND RECLAIM SAID VEHICLES BEING HELD AT THE STORAGE LOT OF RICK'S AUTOMOTIVE. FAILURE TO RECLAIM THESE VEHICLES WILL BE DEEMED A WAIVEROF ALL RIGHTS, TITLE AND CONSENT TO DISPOSE OF SAID VEHICLE AT PUBLIC AUCTION ON JULY 6th at 9AM 5601 NORTH BROADWAY ST

99 Chevrolet 1GCCE14V1X2153078.
97 Dodge 1B7FL26X4VS120610

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

DRY CLEANING

SMOKEY MOUNTAIN
DRY
CLEANERS &
LAUNDRY
7052 Maynardville Pike
Knoxville, TN 37918
865-922-6677

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POWELL FLORIST AND
GIFTS 865-947-6105
POWELLFLORISTKNOXVILLE.
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936-5907

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ruthie@knoxfocus.com
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INDOOR YARD SALE-5319
RONDO RD, FOUNTAIN CITY
JULY 17 & 18 9:00 TO 3:00
LOTS OF MISCELLANEOUS
ITEMS, LAMPS, SOME
FURNITURE, CLOTHES, BOOKS.
CALL 237-1582

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THRIFT STORE
6119 Chapman Hwy
Furniture, glassware, clothing & more
Variety of clothing \$1 ea, incl. Childrens
Friday Special: Adult clothes \$2 a bag
Proceeds help feed homeless.
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DRIVING RECORD, MUST PASS
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CITY AUCTION AT
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Building
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booth; new car lift; new
air compressor. \$1500
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Charles Swann at
865-384-3270 or
865-219-5959

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