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DAVID

Take One! Jugust 3, 2020

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Early voting totals higher than expected

aturday and Knox County residents have turned out in large numbers despite the COVID-19 pandemic. "Overall, turnout has been much higher than anticipated," Chris Davis, Administrator of the Knox County Election Commission told The Focus Friday He added 'We're

taken advantage of Early As of Friday m Davis reported that 29,729

people have voted early in person and that 7,183 voted by absentee ballot The total, with Friday and Saturday turnout not yet

counted, brings the total number of early voters to 36,912. The Republican voters and the Democratic

n the Knox County General Election only numbered north Knoxville, has been ом. Downtown West

accounted for the heaviest votes at 7:132, followed by Farragut and New Harvest Market

is reminding voters that

As the county prepares for the General Election voting this Thursday Davis

Primarysaw 13.151 people changes. Precinct 56, cast ballots. People voting formerly at the Heiskell United Methodist Church in moved to Copper Ridge Elementary School at 2502 East Brushy Valley Road. Fountain City voters at

Precinct 34 will not be voting at the Fountain City Library. The voting has been moved to Central High School at 5321 Jacksboro there are two precinct Pike



with political signs on both sides of the narrow entrance. Turnout for Early Voting across Knox County has been higher than expected despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

'There's a train wreck heading our way

of Health's ruling Wednesday to close all bars for two weeks, which took effect Sunday at midnight, was discussed at length during neir meeting but only after the board successfully by Mayor Glenn Jacobs. In mandating the closure

Major Jacobs was the sole Jacobs offered a motion

to postpone the meeting to a week and hold a public meeting in the City-County Building with a public forum. He read the proposal which laimed the Board of Health is more powerful than the the Knoxville City Council and any other body that governs our community board but said the body is "virtually unaccountable to its actions" and "does not currently allow for in-person input during its meetings.

The mayor's proposal came at the beginning of the board's meeting and he noted the group was "unelected" and has no due process for public input. He said that emails to members "is not the same" as public input and are "unac-Dr. Buchanan respond-

ed that the main assem bly room in the City-County building does not offer enforced distancing Although the board voted to consider the Jacobs motion the physicians on the board responded with their disap-Dr. Patrick O'Brien said

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Jo Anne Lavender of the TVA Retirees Ass project is expected to be completed this fall.

Solway Veterans Memorial announced

many people, organizations and businesses. The Solway Veterans Memori-

erans. Memorial was announced all will consist of a wall with all six Thursday morning at the Solway military emblems emblaced on it. Baptist Church and the long-sought. When the new Space Force emblem

benches and a plaque with contribu-Construction may be completed



new columnist

n is a Knoxville-bas

Former narcotics chief under investigation granted retirement

The Knox County Retirement and Pen-

ion Board voted unanimously Monday afternoon to approve retirement benefits for a Knox County assistant ch although the former head of the Narcotics Division is under FBI investigation Attorney John Owings told the board

that he had consulted Knox County Law Director Richard (Bud) Armstrong and, at this time, there is no cause to deny the David Henderson served 26 years with

e sheriff's department. He was relieved of his duties with the negotics unit in January of 2019 and reassigned to the Special Services Unit. He served under three that the FBI investigation began before he, Spangler, became chie

making about \$113,000 per year and applied for retirement one day after the FBI investigation became public. Owings said that a hold on Henderson's

tirement benefits is not justified "at this time" and that was echoed by attorney Bill Mason. Owings said the board could stop pension payments in the future and the are other actions available should the FRI westigation result in a verdict

Owings gave no update to the pension board on the Etters vs Knox County case in Chancery Court although arguments are now scheduled for Thursday at 9:30 a.m. The board authorized Owings to intervene in the case where a group of citizens are suing the Knox County Mayor and Commission over actions taken to stop the law director's suit against the

Closed meeting to discuss KCHD lawsuit today

of Health and Knox County Health Department will meet with the Knox County executive session today to hear a lawsuit filed by two Knox County plastic surgeons. Maior Glenn Jacobs notified the Board of Health of the closed meeting with county attorneys during the Wednesday meeting.

The closed-door session begins at 5 p.m. in room 640 of the City-County Building. The two physicians,

Steven Smith and Jason iall, are suing Dr. Martha

Health Department, and Dr. Jack Gotcher, chairman of the Board of Health mandates imposed by the board are "arbitrary and capricious," the mask manand the rights of the doctors are being infringed

July 24 by Attorney Daniel Herrera and mentions the board using "false positive" test results as posi-

of the Board of Health, was the only member to vote



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