



Early voting totals higher than expected

The driveway to the Karns Senior Citizens Center is lined 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.

We would like to welcome **Tom Mattingly** to The Knoxville Focus. Tom is a Knoxville-based freelance writer who has written six books about the University of Tennessee's athletic programs. He has also written more than 100 newspaper and magazine stories about the people and events that have shaped the university's history. Please look for Tom's column in the Sports section of the paper every Monday.



What is perjury?

Tennessee Code Annotated section 39-16-792 defines perjury as occurring when,

(a) A person commits an offense who, with intent to deceive:

(1) Makes a false statement, under oath;

(2) Makes a statement, under oath, that confirms the truth of a false statement previously made and the statement is required or authorized by law to be made under oath; or

(3) Makes a false statement, not under oath, but on an official document required or authorized by law to be made under oath and stating on its face that a false statement is subject to the penalties of perjury.

Except for a few rare instances when perjury is a Class E felony, committing perjury is a Class A misdemeanor crime in Tennessee.

When most people think of perjury, they usually think of someone lying under oath while on the witness stand in a courtroom. While I wish I could tell you this is something that rarely happens, however, in my experience, it happens to some degree in almost every single case.

People regularly get up on the witness stand and do not come close to telling the truth. It is hard for me



By Jedidiah McKeehan
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to believe that people, "swearing to tell the truth," before testifying meant that they were not going to lie, but I have not found that to be the case and I do not believe that it has ever been the case. What

about the innate morality of people to tell the truth? Well, that just does not exist unfortunately. It is usually the exception, rather than the norm for people to testify truthfully on the stand when that testimony is potentially detrimental to their case.

Do the judges call out people for lying on the witness stand? Not always, but sometimes they do so. Sometimes the judge will lay in to someone for "not being credible (aka lying)." Even in those circumstances, the person accused of lying by the judge is unlikely to face perjury charges. Their side may not win the case, but the judge hears so many lies during a normal day, they all start to run together.

By the way, I have never actually seen someone charged with perjury.

Jedidiah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knoxville County and surrounding counties. Visit attorney-knoxville.com for more information about this and other legal issues.

Law director amendment moves toward voters on split vote

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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It took three hours of sometimes heated debate but it appears a majority of Knox County Charter Review Committee members favor placing a question on November's ballot. The question is "Do you agree that the Knox County Mayor should appoint the Law Director and that the School Board and Knox County Commission should have their own attorneys?"

The motion came up in an earlier meeting and was voted down. Then, two meetings later, was brought back up and basically passed. While some committee members thought it passed on first reading the motion went to the current law director, Richard "Bud" Armstrong, for a legal opinion. He presented a multi-page report Thursday detailing how such a change would impact the Knox County Charter.

Committee member Scott Davis disputed Armstrong and said the matter passed first reading but Armstrong rebutted and read the rules of procedure the committee adopted, stating the change must go to the law office and come back to the committee for a first reading. Davis eventually accepted the idea and moved to adopt the multi-page report including all

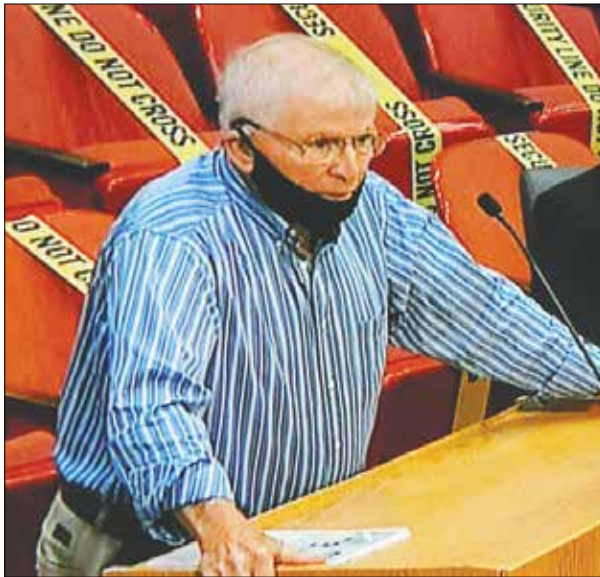


PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY VIA CTV.

Former District 9 Commissioner Mike Brown spoke in favor of an elected law director during Thursday's meeting of the Knox County Charter Review Committee. He was one of several citizens who shared their opinions during public forum.

the effects such a ballot question would have on the county charter.

Several votes were held on the matter including two attempts to adjourn the meeting with no decision but the committee must take action, or not, prior to the end of the month in order to have anything on the November ballot.

As it stands now the committee passed, on first reading, the ballot question which will be go back to the law office after a second reading to be submitted to the Knox County Election Commission. But before that, two public hearings and a final second reading

are required.

The vote was 16-8 after hours of debate with "No" votes coming from Evelyn Gill, John Schoonmaker, William Johns, Charles Busler, Susan Sexton, Lisa Starbuck, Carson Dailey and Barry Neal.

The meeting began with Johns wanting to put the law director's comments in the minutes from the last meeting dealing with the previous "Yes" vote. Sam McKenzie and John Valliant objected and the motion failed. Johns then called on Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs to speak and Jacobs said, "I need to work with someone I trust," favoring an appointed law director.

Johns replied that an elected law director offers a "check and balance" and added that how a law

director is selected is "one of the biggest issues to face Knox County in some time." Valliant counters that being a check is not part of the job and said the law director serves in an "advisory capacity."

Armstrong later disputed Valliant's statement and the law director said the office handles "all the legal affairs of Knox County."

Several citizens spoke in during Public Forum on both sides of the issue including former Knox County Commissioner Mike Brown who said that an appointed law director is "not something the people want." He added, "It's useless to put this on (the ballot) and tempt the people."

Following public forum committee member Mike Arms attacked the letter Johns submitted to the members and the press, calling it "convoluted, inaccurate and slanderous." Gill replied that Arms was on a rant and should respect others during the public process.

Chairman Brad Anders tentatively selected August 7 or 10 for the first hearing and possibly August 16 for the deciding vote.

At least 14 of the 27 members must be present at the public hearings. The second public hearing could take place on the same day as the final vote. It was noted that the voters have chosen an elected law director on three previous occasions, the last time by about 80% of the electorate.



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,
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First District Congressman

Tennessee voters will likely be electing a new congressman from Tennessee's First Congressional District in a matter of days. The First District is upper East Tennessee, running basically from Sevier County all the way to Mountain City. To be sure I had everything straight in my head, I checked with the Focus's resident historian, Ray Hill, and congressional seats in the First District don't come open very often. From 1923-63, Carroll Reece was the congressman from the First District for all but six out of forty years. Reece died in 1961 and his widow, Louise, was elected to serve the remainder of his term. Reece took time out to serve as Chairman of the GOP National Committee in 1946 and run for the U. S. Senate in 1948

before running against and beating his successor in 1950. Following the death of B. Carroll Reece, Jimmy Quillen was elected and served until his retirement in 1997. Quillen was succeeded by Bill Jenkins. Jenkins was in office for ten years and Republicans held another multi-candidate primary with David Davis the winner. Davis managed only one term in the House before losing to Dr. Phil Roe. Roe's retirement announcement surprised a lot of folks. Considering how rarely an open seat becomes available in the First District, just about everybody with a sliver of political ambition jumped into the race. There are a host of candidates fighting it out for the GOP nomination, which is still likely tantamount to election in the highly Republican district. From what I hear, the favorite to win is likely state Senator Rusty Crowe. Crowe has been in Nashville since 1990 and is 73 years old, so if he is elected, he probably won't be serving 30 years in office.

Peaceful Protesters? Not So Much...

Protesters in Madison, Wisconsin were having a grand old time near the state capitol on one fine June evening. The protesters promptly issued an edict no one, and they meant no one, could

photograph or video their doings. I reckon they didn't want to bore anyone with all their peacefulness.

Then along wanders state Senator Tim Carpenter, a liberal Democrat, who apparently hadn't heard about the ban on recording the antics of the protesters. Carpenter lifted his phone to start recording and that's when perhaps as many as ten protesters proceeded to peacefully beat the crap out of him, according to a member of the media who witnessed the attack. According to one Wisconsin news report, Carpenter was almost immediately accosted by three protesters who said something about his phone. In short order, Carpenter's phone was knocked from his hand and the senator said he was sucker punched. Carpenter was knocked to the ground, being punched and kicked with gusto by the otherwise peaceful protesters.

As he was being beaten, Carpenter yelled he was an "ally" to the protesters who were no longer so peaceful. When the beating stopped, Carpenter tried to tell protesters who he was, asking for his phone and glasses to be returned to him. One observer said she was a nurse and tried to treat the dazed senator. At the time, Carpenter refused to go to the hospital, although he later required surgery to fix his broken nose.

Two women have turned

themselves in for the brutal assault on Senator Carpenter. Samantha Hamer, 26, and Kerida O'Reilly, 33, turned themselves into police. Hamer is evidently employed as a social worker with a local school system. Ordinarily, Hamer would be one of those charged with restorative practices, which is supposedly favoring a dialogue as opposed to harsher punishments like suspensions. After beating the crap out of Senator Carpenter during a "peaceful" protest, Samantha may be in need of a restorative dialogue. Talk about the pipeline to prison...

Another Protest Here

There was another protest in front of the Andrew Johnson Building which houses the administrative offices of the Knox County School system. A handful of protesters from Indivisible and Black Coffee Justice were apparently horrified with the idea of reopening the schools. One of the members was quoted by a press outlet as saying as the teachers didn't have a voice even though they were there to protest on behalf of educators. Evidently, they support the idea of keeping the schools pretty much closed until "14 days after the last case" of the COVID-19 virus has been recorded in Knox County. As to

not having a voice, there are more members of the Knox County Board of Education interested in representing teachers than taxpayers and citizens.

Regular readers will remember board members receiving a smattering of emails from a small, but persistent and vocal group of teachers—who do not come close to representing a majority of the hardworking educators in our county and community—who were hysterical in urging board members to "redo" the vote to reopen the schools. Some accused board members of murder, cheerfully willing to kill teachers and students. According to one board member, at least one correspondent urged board members not to reopen schools until or unless teacher safety could be guaranteed. One wonders just how that is possible? Is anyone's personal safety guaranteed every day of the world? Of course not. And what about the safety of those folks who provide services for the rest of us? What about the safety of the KAT bus drivers and workers who work hard every day of the world to transport people to and from their destinations? What about the safety of those who keep our lights and air conditioning systems working during this terribly hot and humid summer? What about the law enforcement

professionals who help to keep us safe daily? What about the folks stocking the shelves of supermarkets and those running the cash registers? There are folks, yes, some young people, who are going to beaches this summer and gathering together. Virtually nobody, especially in the mainstream media, will issue a warning or note of caution, much less condemn those gathering in packs and herds to protest. Goodness knows they claim any other group activity should be outlawed as it certainly spreads the virus.

Acknowledge the work being done in the face of the virus by so many brave people who are keeping our economy running. Thank the person who delivers your groceries if you're too afraid to poke your head outside. Thank the person running the cash register or the person standing behind the meat counter.

The fact is, for this country to continue to exist, the economy has to keep chugging along. Those people are showing up for work every day and not uttering a single word of complaint. Everyday, hard-working Americans don't claim to be heroes and sure as heck don't want to be martyrs. Those are the folks who pay the bills and make this country great.

'There's a train wreck heading our way'

Cont. from page 1

the board is a professional group and gets input from the public in emails and in person. "We operate from evidence, not from emotion." He later added that it would be inappropriate for the board to hold a public meeting "when we're trying to keep people apart."

"It is irresponsible to delay," Dr. James Shamiyeh said, speaking of postponing the meeting.

Deputy Law Director Myers Morton said that the only reason the board has been meeting via the internet is the governor's order permitting it but added the board is still "subject to open meetings."

Jacobs suggested various alternatives for a main assembly room meeting but eventually agreed that the Board of Health should continue their virtual meetings if the public is allowed to appear and submit comments.

After that agreement the board continued its scheduled meeting and heard the enforcement reports from the city and county and Dr. Buchanan's report on benchmarks. She noted that the number of positive cases is increasing and that testing results are better but still slow in returning. Hospital capacity is in the caution area, contract tracing is better but the number of COVID-19 case deaths are still rising.

Jacobs questioned the health department's counting of "false positive" cases.

Dr. Buchanan also warned that many people being tested are not isolating themselves until they receive their test results. She also noted that some doctors are not reporting test results to the health department.

The subject then moved to a proposal by Dr. Hurt to close bars with 50% of their profits or more from the sale of alcohol. Attorney Morton spoke up and said that part of the proposal was illegal. Jacobs said that closing bars would not stop public gatherings or parties.

The board voiced concerns about the pandemic and returning UT students. Morton said the board has no jurisdiction or power to enforce the regulation.

"It's a good starting place," Hurt said.

"We have a train wreck coming our way and we have to do something," she said. Dr. Patrick O'Brien suggested the board adopt a mandate like the one used in Nashville for closing bars. After the vote, in which Mayor Jacobs voted "No," the board decided to review the closings in two weeks and decided whether or not to continue the closings.

Following the board meeting Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon, who has urged bar closings, applauded the board's action in an email and online post.

Twins Celebrate 96th Birthdays



Friends and family members gathered outside of Morning Pointe of Knoxville, Tennessee to celebrate twin brothers AD and JD McGhee on their 96th birthday. A line of cars arrayed with balloons and banners proceeded through the assisted living community's portico as part of a parade organized by AD's daughter, Elaine Archer, which allowed visitors to wish the McGhee brothers a happy birthday while the twins watched from a safe distance behind a Plexiglass booth.

Morning Pointe of Knoxville residents and twin brothers AD and JD McGhee watch their friends and family drive by in celebration of their 96th birthday.

★

I am asking for your support for my long time family friend, Republican **David Buuck**, who is running for Knox County Law Director. David has the integrity, experience and qualifications to serve us all and I humbly ask for your vote on August 6, 2020!

Susan Royster

★

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Commission candidates asked:

What is the largest problem in your district?

By Mike Steely
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The Focus has been asking questions of the eight candidates for Knox County Commission who are in competitive races. The election is Thursday, August 6.

What is the largest problem in your district?

District One

Dasha Lundy: The largest problem is the lack of equity in District 1 compared to the rest of the county. The District 1 is where most African Americans in Knox County resides. There is 42% poverty rate among African Americans in Knox County. District 1 has the most Title 1 schools. District 1 has a blighted Historically Black College named Knoxville College. District 1 is where Urban Renewal took place. District 1 is suffering from the fear of gentrification. The median income for District 1 is approximately \$23,000 compared to the rest of the county which is ~\$50,000+. District 1 has a developed Downtown but the development has not expanded to the rest of District 1.

Reginald Jackson: There are many challenges that District 1 faces. Through talking with the community, I find that my district wants their voices heard and this needs to change.

District Two

Grant Rosenberg: The North Knoxville and Fountain City area has experienced tremendous neighborhood and business

revitalization over the past several years. This growth must continue, but we need to be sure we stay focused on an "inside out" approach to growth; investing in our public schools (and Community Schools program); and finding solutions to chronic homelessness through expanded mental health services, jail diversion and permanent supportive housing.

Courtney Durrett: Aside from budgetary deficiencies due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the most pressing issue facing Knox County is development with minimal regard for its effect on residents. Our infrastructure has not kept pace with growth. There have been too many situations where residents have had to fight the loss of homes for new development or experienced flooding because of insufficient storm water construction due to development. Traffic saturation in residential areas is also becoming a problem. For example, the growth of the Broadway corridor, while great for business, has inadvertently caused neighborhood streets to be used as cut-throughs and decreased the safety of those neighborhoods. As County Commissioner, I would insist that development plans include complete studies that go beyond addressing the obvious effects and that include forethought regarding bordering neighborhoods, roads, schools and businesses.

District Four

Kyle Ward: My team and I have knocked on over 10,000 doors already and the biggest concern we've heard is flooding. I am

also very concerned about the flooding we have seen in my district during the past two years. I would like to see infrastructure improvements to prevent that from happening again; particularly a pump station at Bluegrass Lake.

Todd Frommeyer: I think the biggest problem we face in Knox County is the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. Tax revenues were affected in the short term and, likely, the long term, which will affect the schools and other government services that Knox County residents depend upon. Unemployment is very high and the country is in a recession, so there is a chance that this is not going to turn around quickly. One of the reasons I decided to run for office this year was because I felt the 2020 election might be the most consequential election of my lifetime. I felt that I needed to do something more than just vote this year. I fear the worst is yet to come. Knox County needs leaders, not ideologues, to help it navigate the next couple of years. I believe my combination of experience and expertise make me the best choice to be the Commissioner from District 4.

District Five

John Schoonmaker: School overcrowding, road congestion and lack of public infrastructure such as sidewalks. New Residential construction is setting a pace not equaled in other areas of the county. With new developments this brings additional stress on our schools, roads, parks and public infrastructure. Currently Knox County can't

keep up with the demand. As an example, it takes 10 - 12 years to get a road project started. Our district has been waiting since 2018 for a new safety improvement road project to begin - the upgrade of Canton Hollow Road. I will be another year before the County Master Transportation Plan is updated.

Kimberly Peterson: Even with current challenges of a global pandemic and its economic fallout, my constituents continue to be concerned about what they view as unbridled development with a lack of adequate infrastructure. I have spoken with members of neighborhood associations and also have participated in district specific social media groups and most of the conversations show their increased frustration with high density development without regard to the impact on new subdivisions and apartments on traffic and the zoned school systems. Flooding continues to plague my district as well as Knox County as a whole. The people of Knox County overwhelmingly want smart growth and long term plans that take into consideration the impact of development on their day to day life. Residents do not feel heard and do not feel that developers are being held accountable on many broken promises. As County Commissioner, I would encourage a new approach to future growth and development which includes community benefits agreements between the community and developers so that residents are informed and a part of the development process.

Solway Veterans Memorial announced

Continued from page 1

in late fall and, when it's safe for people to gather there, a military dedication ceremony will be held.

Jo Anne Lavender, president of the TVA Retirees Association Knoxville Chapter, spoke in the church parking lot just across Solway Ferry Road from where the monument will be located. Just beyond the road in the field was a small flag marking the spot, between the road and Oak Ridge Highway.

Lavender recognized many people who were involved in the effort and began with Reny McClain Lee, who became project manager after hatching the idea. Lee sought the help of State Representative Justin Lafferty, who attended the event. She also recognized Vickie Ellis, President of the TVA Retirement Association, Debbie and Mike Rutherford, Barbara Martocci, and Jay Armbruster.

Pastor Logan Parton of the Solway Church spoke briefly and said the church is proud to have donated the property, support the monument and manage the property.

"It's a great honor to be part of the project, to give back to our community," Parton said.

Reverend Doctor Pat Pollis spoke on behalf of the Vietnam Veterans of America and contributors of memorial were mentioned. They include All Phase Construction, Allen Sign Company, Earthadelic, General Shell, Harrison Construction Company, Kirby Plants, Lee Heights Monument, Lloyd's Electric Services, McGrew Engineering and Surveying, Rogers Group, Solway Baptist Church, Tennessee Valley Authority and TVA Retirees Association.



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Gibbs Ruritan Club Announces 2020 Scholarship Winners



The Gibbs Ruritan Club announced the winners of its annual scholarships to graduating seniors at Gibbs High School. Scholarships are for \$1000 each and are awarded annually to deserving graduates. Pictured left to right are: Front row: Ethan Humphries, Scholarship Committee Chair Rebecca Longmire, Carter Graven. Back row: Arlis Dominguez, Annie (Nisi) Powers.

Historic marker to honor Frankie Housley

By Mike Steely
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Mary Francis Housley, known to her family and friends as “Frankie,” will be getting a Tennessee Historical Commission marker soon.

Christopher Hammond, one of the proponents of honoring the Central High School graduate who died tragically as a flight attendant in a crash in Philadelphia in 1951, told The Focus Wednesday that the marker has been approved.

“We have sent the payment for it and it will probably be produced and installed within the next couple of months, depending on the time it takes the company to make it. Her name now is honored along Holbrook Drive below Gresham Middle School, which was Central High School when the lady graduated there.

The Tennessee Historical Commission voted to approve the historical marker on July 10th according to Hammond. He said the marker will

“Frankie” Housley saved 10 people after a plane crash in 1951 and went back into the plane to save an infant. The Central High School graduate’s heroic efforts will be honored with a Tennessee Historical Marker soon, thanks to local efforts. Photo courtesy of Chris Hammond.

be placed “at the corner of Forestal Drive and Tazewell Pike in Fountain City (the Smithwood area). She lived at 300 Forest Avenue (Forestal Drive’s old name) when she attended CHS. It will be placed on the city of Knoxville’s right of way, so it won’t be on private property.”

Council nixes KUB charter change, opts for mayor’s resolution

By Mike Steely
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Changes are coming for the city’s role with the Knoxville Utility Board but it took a six-hour meeting of city council to decide between a mayoral resolution and placing an amendment to the city charter on the ballot.

Council members Seema Singh and Amelia Parker proposed a charter amendment that would have changed how KUB operates by shortening board terms, filling vacated seats, setting fees, and regulating monthly and basic charges to customers. The debate started at about 6 p.m. and ended at midnight with the council voting to kill the proposed charter amendment, 7-2.

The council voted 9-0 initially to approve Mayor Indya Kincannon’s resolution of executive actions to

“promote greater collaboration, transparency and community engagement in KUB policies and procedures.” The resolution includes Kincannon’s proposals for creating a Community Advisory Board, freezing basic service charges for five years, requiring studies before any rate increase and diversifying appointments to the KUB Board.

The marathon Zoom session actually began before 5 p.m. with a beer board meeting and stretched through about 28 agenda items with most of the meeting focusing on whether to change the city’s hand in KUB by resolution or put it on the ballot.

Board members, KUB president Gabriel Bolas and others spoke in support of Kincannon’s executive action. The Sierra Club’s Kent Minault and others spoke on behalf of

the charter amendment.

City Attorney Charles Swanson warned against changing the charter, saying the change could affect the utility’s bond ratings.

Councilwoman Lauren Rider summed up the debate between a resolution and a charter change by saying, “A lot of people don’t understand their billing. The main concern of people is the rates and fixed fees.”

Swanson said supporting the resolution would still give the council an opportunity to change the charter if needed in two years.

Vice Mayor Gwen McKenzie commented that the resolution will give the council “more input and provides a framework.” The mayor said she is committed to not reappoint any current KUB board members.

Police Cameras, Mental Health workers and Old Broadway sidewalks

By Mike Steely
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Almost lost amid the long debate over KUB’s policies were several important items on the Knoxville City Council agenda Tuesday, including a vote to purchase 350 police car and body cameras.

The \$4,923,125 approval sets up a contract with Axon Enterprise Inc. over five years and includes equipment, instruction, maintenance and storage of video footage. One council member questioned why the final contract is \$1.5 million more than proposed in the new city budget. The addition of the new in-car cameras added to the cost.

Body cameras would be activated if a pistol is removed from the officer’s holster. The cameras may ready to go in about four months.

Councilman Charles Thomas stated that adding the in-car cameras is necessary because the current cameras need to be replaced and they will actually save the city

money because images will immediately be uploaded to a cloud server. The vote was unanimous.

The council also voted to allot \$95,000 for the hiring of a full time and part time ride-along mental health specialist for the city police. The pilot program with Helen Ross McNabb was described as a “first step” in an alternative strategy to deal with encounters with mentally ill or addicted citizens. One suggestion was to have the police officer accompanying a mental health worker wear civilian clothes and drive an unmarked car to help in specific incidents.

Councilman Thomas successfully moved to authorize a contract boost of \$27,400 for a sidewalk project along Old Broadway. The project will cost about \$337,700 and extend new walks all along the street, up over the railroad tracks, and back down to Mineral Springs Road. Eventually the walk will also be part of the First Creek Greenway, connecting Inskip and Fountain City to the downtown route for walking and biking.



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KCHD urges parents to ensure kids' vaccinations are up to date

With just a few weeks left before school starts, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is reminding parents that now is the time to make sure their child's vaccinations are up to date. Regardless of whether a student will attend in-person or virtually, all students entering preschool, kindergarten or seventh grade, and those entering a Tennessee school for the first time should receive state-required immunizations. Before the first day of school, parents must provide their child's school with a state immunization certificate, which documents receipt of the vaccinations.

"Childhood immunizations remain one of the most effective ways to safeguard the health of our children and our community," said KCHD Senior Director Dr. Martha Buchanan. "This is especially true during the COVID-19 pandemic. We can't afford to have another disease outbreak in the middle of a pandemic, especially if there is a vaccine that can prevent it."

Parents are encouraged to call their child's provider to get the necessary immunizations. Children are also encouraged to get a yearly physical, which can be done at the same appointment.

If children are not able to visit their primary care provider, KCHD is offering back to school immunizations (by appointment only) for children entering kindergarten and the seventh grade. KCHD will hold its 'back-to-school' immunization opportunity at all three clinic locations from August 11 through 18, including Saturday, August 15. The hours will be 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On August 14 and 17, KCHD will be open until 5 p.m. Please contact the clinic at which you would like to make an appointment:

- Main Location: 140 Dameron Ave.; 865-215-5070
- Teague Clinic: 405 Dante Rd.; 865-215-5500
- West Clinic: 1028

Old Cedar Bluff Rd.; 865-215-5950

At the appointment, parents should have their photo ID, insurance card if applicable, and their child's vaccination record if they have it. We encourage only one parent to accompany the child/children at the appointment in order to maintain physical distancing.

If you believe your child is up to date on vaccines and only needs the immunization certificate, contact your primary care provider to see if they have it available. If they don't and/or the child has recently moved to Tennessee and needs their records transferred, call KCHD's Immunization Program at 865-215-5150.

More information, including a list of the state-required vaccinations by grade level, is available on KCHD's website. Tennessee's vaccine requirements follow recommendations from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Additionally, for those in need of birth certificates, requests are to be made by mail only. Please use the following steps for mail requests:

- 1) Fill out the birth certificate request form here;
- 2) Place completed form, a copy of your State ID or driver's license, and \$15 fee (per each certificate request) in an envelope; and
- 3) Mail to Knox County Health Depart Attn: Vital Records, 140 Dameron Ave, Knoxville, TN 37917.

Once Vital Records receives the mail request, a certificate will be mailed out within 1-2 business days.

Please note, the mother, father, legal guardian (with a copy of custody paper included), spouse, or person themselves can request birth certificates, and the address stated on the request is the address the certificate will be mailed. For questions, please call 865-215-5100.

By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

It is one of Knoxville's gems. Located on South Gay Street, the Tennessee Theater has become one of the city's most recognized landmarks. Walking through the doors into the lobby transports visitors to a grand, majestic place. How fortunate we are to have in our midst such an awesome venue for movies, concerts, and other events.

I remember going there as a child to see Disney movies. As a college student, I worked for the late Zane Daniel and John J. Duncan, Jr. in the Daniel & Duncan Law Firm. The law office was located above the Tennessee Theater in the Burwell Building.

Many years ago, the public was given an opportunity to tour this historic building after a major renovation. It was an awesome experience and gave great insight into the architectural design of the structure that was built in the 1920s. I recall walking up the stairs from the lobby and turning to look back at the beautiful chandeliers. I remember sitting in the huge theater and looking all around at how spectacular it was. Truly a show place! Even now, I can almost hear the crisp tones of the mighty Wurlitzer organ!

Words of Faith: As news of the pandemic predicts the worst is yet to come for Tennessee, scripture



Picture of the Tennessee Theater on Gay Street in Knoxville, Tennessee.

from the book of Psalms brings inspiration. "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him,

the son of man that you care for him?" (Psalm 8:3-4, NIV)

I am guilty

I'm guilty. I plead that to many things in my life. Some aren't especially attractive, while others are just a bit goofy. Still, all of this time spent avoiding most people and places in order to stay healthy

has found me looking a bit deeper at who I am. If confession is good for the soul, then I ought to feel wonderful by the end of this piece.

I suppose some folks might call me a racist. Yes, I've had Black friends and taught Black students. Still, I don't understand their lives, struggles, and



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

demands. I am a white man who has never outwardly attacked physically or verbally a person of another race. However, I have expressed frustrations at their anger that is so pointedly aimed at white folks. I suppose that makes me a racist.

Yes, racial equality must be achieved now. Every person, regardless of race or gender, should have the opportunities to succeed. What others will describe as racist are my proposals for achieving that. I believe that all families must insist that children

stay in school, apply themselves, and graduate from high school. No child, regardless of color, should be allowed to drop out. In addition, all must continue their educations to develop skills in an academic discipline or a trade that provides a good income and choices in life. Last, I don't believe in reparations for a certain group. Instead, I support pouring money into schools to make them places of excellence that offer choices for every student. That will help minorities achieve the equality that they want.

I further believe that most white folks aren't racist. A minority is disgusting in its hate and attacks of Black Americans. At

the same time, a minority of Blacks are in favor of more violent means to achieve their goals. Most of us believe that the time is now for equal opportunity and an equal playing field. We would all do well to ignore the few extremists in favor of the many like-minded individuals. Joining forces doubles our strength.

I further plead guilty to being intolerant. Another way of saying this is to describe me as someone who is "righteously indignant."

I live based on a set of principles, and I hold others accountable to these general rules, things such as telling the truth, obeying traffic rules, and treating others as they would like to be treated. My wife and son declare that I am Larry David's double, only with a little more hair. Like him, if I see a wrong, I attempt to right it. The worst arguments I have are over principle.

Finally, I plead guilty to

Continue on page 4

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- HB- 1609 - Financial Help for Relative Care Givers
- HB- 0402 - establish ACEs training for L.E.A.s
- HB- 1931 - require DCS to reimburse certain expenses for Relative Care Givers
- HB- 1471 - established the "JaJuan Latham Act" protection for youth against Gun Violence
- HB- 0631 - Established mechanism for testing Lead levels in the cooking and drinking water within Schools

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- HB- 0919 - Establishing a magistrate for domestic abuse
- HB- 1679 - redirects 10% of booking and processing fees directed to annual diversity training
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- HB- 1552 - TAX rebate up to \$2500 for homeowners or residents with disabilities for home improvement
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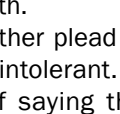
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The 1964 Senate Races In Tennessee,II

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Both of Tennessee's seats in the United States Senate were up for election in 1964, just as they had been thirty years earlier in 1934. Thirty years later, Tennesseans would go to the polls to elect two U. S. senators yet again in 1994. Senator Estes Kefauver had died suddenly on August 10, 1963 when his aorta ruptured. Governor Frank Clement appointed Herbert S. "Hub" Walters of Morristown to fill the vacancy. Walters was a logical choice to fill a Senate vacancy from the standpoint of service to Tennessee's Democratic Party. "Mr. Hub" had been a member of the Tennessee State Democratic Executive Committee, as well as Chairman of the state party. A wealthy businessman, Walters had been an active fundraiser for state and national campaigns, including those of Governor Clement and Vice President Lyndon Johnson. Herbert Walters had survived throat cancer, which left his voice somewhat impaired and he was almost seventy-two when first appointed to succeed Estes Kefauver. It seemed unlikely Senator Walters would be a candidate to run for election in the 1964 special election, which felt was precisely the reason Frank Clement had appointed him in the first place.

Clement's appointment of Walters had given rise to strong rumors in Nashville the governor wanted the Senate seat for himself. Reelected to a four-year term after having been out of office from 1959 - 1963, Clement could not succeed himself as governor in 1966. A seat in the United States Senate would extend Frank Clement's political life, perhaps for decades. As expected, Frank Clement had announced his candidacy for the U. S. Senate, but met fierce opposition in Congressman Ross Bass of Pulaski, Tennessee. Bass was generally thought to be more liberal than Clement and rallied many of Kefauver's old supporters to his cause. Once one of the most attractive and compelling candidates in the Volunteer State, Frank Clement lost the Democratic primary badly. Clement polled just under 36% of the primary vote while Ross Bass won almost 51% of the vote. A third candidate, Colonel M. M. Bullard, drew less than 14% of the ballots cast inside the Democratic primary. The scope of Clement's defeat were staggering to the governor, who was doubtless embarrassed to have lost his own native Dickson County, albeit very narrowly, to Ross Bass. Bass fared much better in his own home county of Giles, where he won quite nearly 70% of the vote. Congressman Bass also

won the four big urban counties - - - Davidson, Shelby, Hamilton and Knox. If Frank Clement's loss in the Democratic primary was not a surprise to many Tennesseans, the margin was a shock, especially to the governor. The scope of Ross Bass's victory gave his campaign momentum, although the congressman knew the general election would be hard fought.

Howard H. Baker had been the congressman from Tennessee's Second Congressional district since he defeated incumbent John Jennings, Jr. in the GOP primary in 1950. Baker's personal popularity was demonstrated by his margin of victory over Judge Jennings in the Republican primary; Baker won every county in the district. Baker routinely dispatched his Democratic opposition in the general elections and the congressman had some say in patronage affairs with the election of Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952. In a paid political advertisement appearing in the Knoxville Journal, long-time city councilman and millionaire grocer Cas Walker insisted, "There is no doubt that more Democrats bragged about Howard Baker being their friend than any other Congressman that ever served from this district." Congressman Howard Baker had died of a sudden heart attack while shaving on January 7, 1964, according to the Journal.

Howard Baker, Jr. was pressed to run to succeed his father in the House of Representatives, but the young attorney had his sights set on the United States Senate. The younger Baker urged his stepmother, Irene, to run in the special election to succeed her late husband. Mrs. Baker was an ideal candidate to keep peace inside the Republican Party, as there would be a hotly contested primary to replace the late congressman. On May 5, 1964, the Knoxville Journal published an article that Howard Baker, Jr. was pondering a bid for the Senate seat held by Herbert S. Walters. Baker admitted he was "seriously considering" running for the United States Senate. "I have learned that some of my friends are circulating qualifying petitions in all nine districts of the state," Baker said. "I am grateful for this show of confidence."

Howard Baker, Jr., who along with Bill Brock, certainly deserves the lion's share of the credit for ushering in the age of a two-party state in Tennessee, told the Journal, "I am also genuinely interested in the opportunity to contribute to the two-party movement in Tennessee." Frankly, before Howard Baker, there was little "movement" for a vibrant two-party state in Tennessee.

Baker stressed the



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Frank Goad Clement, governor of Tennessee, circa, 1964-66.

importance a genuine two-party system to voters in the Volunteer State. "The voters should have a choice of candidates and issues."

Dr. Charles Moffett of Knoxville, a former member of the Tennessee General Assembly, had announced he would be a candidate for the GOP nomination for the U. S. Senate seat in the special election. On May 26, 1964, Howard H. Baker, Jr. officially declared he would be a candidate for the United States Senate once held by Estes Kefauver at a news conference at the Farragut Hotel in Knoxville. Baker said one reason he had opted to run for the Senate rather than Congress was to eliminate the criticism he was seeking to win election on his late father's name. Baker said one of his primary goals if elected to the Senate was to improve Tennessee's economy "without sacrificing our pride and our stature on the altar of political expediency." Baker stated his belief governments at every level are responsible "to do for the people those things they cannot better do for themselves." Baker qualified his statement, adding "this must be done within the limits of financial and moral responsibility."

"I believe that an overall effort must be made to gradually return substantial segments of the government to the local level in order to provide more responsive and more economical administration," Baker said.

The thirty-eight year-old candidate said the Tennessee Republican Party had not only a responsibility, but a duty "to rise to full maturity and offer to the people of this state the choice of candidates, principles and issues to which they are entitled in the concept of the two-party system."

"The growth of the Republican Party in Tennessee over the past 14 years dictates that the time is at hand to elect Republicans to represent this state in the US Senate," Baker said.

The Baker campaign began having been

meticulously well-organized. As Baker announced his candidacy, a brief biographical sketch and form letter was sent to every newspaper, radio and television in the state. For good measure, a tape recording of Baker's announcement was sent to every radio station. The medium of television was relatively new in campaigns and Howard Baker would prove to be masterful in appearing on TV. Speaking in smooth and modulated tones, Baker would later win national recognition from the televised Watergate hearings, as did future Republican U. S. senator and Baker protégé Fred Thompson.

The day of those spellbinding orators who could hold the interest and attention of large audiences for hours was coming to an end. It would be replaced by the thirty-second campaign commercial.

Dr. Moffet persisted in his bid to win the Republican nomination for the U. S. Senate, but he lost badly. Even in his own Knox County, Dr. Moffet won only 1,711 votes to 19,005 for Howard Baker. Against two primary opponents, Howard Baker won 93,301 votes to 10,596 for Charles Moffet and 5,947 for Hubert Patty, a Maryville attorney who was well on his way to becoming a perennial candidate for public office. Baker won 20,000 more votes statewide in the GOP primary than Dan Kuykendall who was unopposed. Many counties in Tennessee did not even have a Republican primary on the ballot in 1964.

Lyndon Johnson had succeeded John F. Kennedy as President of the United States following Kennedy's murder in Dallas, Texas. Johnson embarked upon passing his "Great Society" in Congress, which provided a stark contrast in the Texan's belief in the scope of government responsibility as opposed to that of his opponent, Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona. Senator Albert Gore, seeking reelection to a third term, was a New Deal Democrat who enthusiastically supported the social legislation

sought by President Johnson, although Gore was increasingly skeptical about America's involvement in Vietnam. Congressman Ross Bass, the Democratic nominee for the special election to determine the winner of the seat once held by Estes Kefauver, was also a strong supporter of Johnson's Great Society.

Howard Baker and Dan Kuykendall may not have presented such a black and white contrast to their opponents as Goldwater did with Lyndon Johnson, but there were certainly profound differences as to how they viewed the role of government in the lives of the people they sought to represent. Baker, somewhat more moderate than Kuykendall, still presented a choice to voters who had concerns about Ross Bass and the congressman's supposed liberalism. Baker sought to appeal to many conservative and moderate Democrats, especially those rural Democrats, many of whom had supported Governor Frank Clement in the Democratic primary.

The Knoxville Journal quoted prominent local attorney Foster Arnett as saying the Republican ticket of Barry Goldwater, Howard Baker and Dan Kuykendall was the "first clear-cut choice of liberal vs. conservative philosophies."

Dan Kuykendall proved to be a colorful choice for the GOP standard-bearer in the general election against Albert Gore. Later, Kuykendall would be elected as the first Republican to represent Shelby County in the U. S. House of Representative for eight years. A garrulous man, Kuykendall was often referred to by enemies and friends alike as the "Tennessee Talking Horse." As Kuykendall and Howard Baker attended the opening of the Republican headquarters in Madison County, local Democrats were astonished to observe some 500 people gathered to support Barry Goldwater and the GOP nominees for the U. S. Senate. Baker urged the audience to vote

to end "a 35-year drift toward socialism" as well as return America to "a sound basis of conservatism and Godliness." Dan Kuykendall predicted 1964 would be the year Tennessee and the South "finally settles down to a two-party system - - - one for conservative Republicans and socialistic Democrats." Even in Madison County, once a Democratic bastion, there were GOP candidates for the General Assembly who moved through the throng of people shaking hands. Earlier that same day, Dan Kuykendall had told a press conference he was quite pleased with the progress of his own campaign against the wily Albert Gore, later known as the "Old Gray Fox" of Tennessee politics. Kuykendall had officially launched his campaign for the general election in Covington, Tennessee, near Kuykendall's Shelby County base. Kuykendall reminded newsmen he had already traveled 78,000 miles throughout Tennessee and made more than 500 speeches before winning the GOP nomination. Kuykendall claimed he had found unexpected support for his candidacy in Somerville amongst Democratic officeholders in the local courthouse. Dan Kuykendall flatly opposed President Johnson's civil rights bill (which Albert Gore voted against), as well as Medicare, which was first proposed by LBJ. Kuykendall was also opposed to certain provisions of Johnson's anti-poverty program. One federal agency that had Kuykendall's firm and full support was the Tennessee Valley Authority. When pressed about receiving support from what some news outlets thought to be "extremist" groups, Kuykendall snapped, "To disown them is to admit prior ownership. No one runs Dan Kuykendall . . . not even the Republican National Committee."

One thing was quite clear: in a state which had never elected a Republican to the United States Senate, the GOP had nominated viable candidates for both of Tennessee's Senate seats.

Don't overlook Panther Creek State Park

If you're looking for a surprising park and a great overlook you might think of the Great Smoky Mountains but there's a 1,444-acre state park near Morristown that's not as crowded and a nice place to visit within an hour's drive.

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

Center you may want to say "Hello" to Teddy Roosevelt, an old owl in a large cage outside. The injured owl was found on the side of Interstate 40 near Crossville

and, because of being blind in one eye and other injuries, was relocated to Panther Creek Park.

The Recycling Trail is a self-guided walk with signs teaching about conservation located along the trail with the cooperation of the Morristown-Hamblen Chapter of Keep America Beautiful Chapter. This trail was awarded the Governor's Greenway and Trail Stewardship Award.

The easiest way to reach Panther Creek State Park is to follow Andrew Johnson Highway, Highway 11E, east through Jefferson City to west Morristown. Watch for Panther Creek Road on the left. Unfortunately there's no state park sign there. Follow the road to the park entrance.

The address is 2010 Panther Creek Road and you can find the park on the internet or call the park office at (423) 587-7046.

While you're in the area you may want to drive through Morristown's unique downtown area where the "Skymart" second story walkway exists or you may want to visit Crockett Tavern, a log cabin built where Davy Crockett's father operated an inn and tavern.

You could loop back to Knoxville via Bean Station and Rutledge or drive south to Interstate 81 and then west to Interstate 40.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

A wonderful overlook of Cherokee Lake is just one of the features in Panther Creek State Park. The Morristown state park also has several walking, biking and horse trails.

Thanks to everyone who early voted. We enjoyed meeting you. If you haven't voted yet, VOTE BOUNDS August 6.



I am guilty

Cont. from page 1
being a hopeless romantic. During my entire life, I've always looked for the ideal. The problem, however, is the "perfect" rarely is achieved. The "real" is much less exciting. Whether the topic has been a job, a car, a relationship, or home, my thoughts leaned toward over-the-top perfection, something that doesn't exist and could never be obtained. Over the years, I learned that most things become better based only on the amount

of work I was willing to put in. Luckily, my wife and family know my romantic leanings and put up with me until my feet touch the firm ground of reality. If I've offended anyone with my admissions of guilt, I asked for your forgiveness. Even at my age, I am a work in progress. If some are unable to get passed my confessions of guilt, I will understand. Perhaps at some point, I'll get all these things right.

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PHOTOS BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Left, Central Head Coach Nick Craney urges more explosiveness from the Bobcats in practice-ending wind sprints at Joel Helton Field July 27. Right, Nathan Simbeck, Central's new offensive coordinator, talks to Bobby Long (7) during a morning practice session last week.

Together again, but in bigger roles at Central

By Steve Williams

Six years ago, Nick Craney was a budding defensive coach on Bryson Rosser's first Central team and former McMinn County High quarterback Nathan Simbeck was assisting the Bobcats as a volunteer coach while finishing his undergraduate studies at UT.

Simbeck was only at Central that 2014 season, returning home to coach quarterbacks at his alma mater. But he made an impression on Craney that lasted.

Today, Craney is the new head coach at CHS, which has won back-to-back Class 5A state championships, and Simbeck is his offensive coordinator.

"I knew after that first year, if

I ever became the head coach, he was going to be one of the first calls I would make to try and get him on board," said Craney last week after a morning practice session.

The two think alike when it comes to offense, Craney pointed out, and Simbeck also has seen firsthand how the Central program puts an emphasis on growing young men.

"I knew all of those things were in alignment and I knew he was somebody I wanted to go after," said Craney. "When I got the head job, it worked out perfectly that he could come here and be the OC."

Craney said he will remain defensive coordinator on the staff, plus he has someone he feels comfortable with on the

offensive side of the ball, which was Rosser's forte.

Simbeck looked impressive during the July 27 practice, communicating with the players and appearing to have a good grasp of the offense.

"He's done a good job of coming in and teaching immediately on the fly," said Craney. "And he's done a good job of being creative."

A couple of times in June, to fulfill social distancing requirements in the pandemic, the Central staff rolled a 55-inch TV screen under the stadium, where the offensive players could watch film and clips of the playbook on Huddle.

Craney said this season's offense will operate more with two backs and three receivers,

compared to last year's one back and four receivers.

"The other big difference is the quarterback is making reads and decisions a lot more in this offense and making plays with his legs," added Craney.

"There are a lot of similarities in what plays we'll be calling, but the approach to it and system is a little different."

Late in the practice session, something triggered Simbeck to abruptly get the Bobcats' attention with a pep talk.

"You all are two-time state champions," he told the players. "That's not good enough. We've got to raise the bar again."

The 6-foot-4 Simbeck also played basketball at McMinn County and graduated in 2012.

Continue on page 2

Light turns 'green' for contact sports

By Steve Williams

High school football and girls' soccer teams received the news around 6 o'clock Friday evening. Governor Bill Lee had signed Executive Order 55, lifting restrictions on the two TSSAA contact sports.

Football and girls' soccer had not been allowed to have contact due to the existing pandemic and a previous order issued by the governor.

"They (the Knox County Athletic Council) said earlier (Friday) if it was signed we could start," stated Central High Head Football Coach Nick Craney in an email to The Knoxville Focus. "Gov. Lee has signed, so we will have contact Monday (Aug. 3)."

Teams still must follow the requirements of the TSSAA. Non-TSSAA schools must follow equivalent guidelines, and non-school-sponsored athletics should follow the Tennessee Pledge guidelines.

"We appreciate being able to work with Gov. Lee and his staff on this," said Bernard Childress, Executive Director of the TSSAA. "I am pleased that we were able to develop some very specific guidelines for every sport that will allow our kids to get out on their fields and fully participate in football and girls' soccer this fall."

Schools are still subject to decisions made by their local governments and superintendents.

Knox County Schools said in a statement: "Our hope is ... to create a plan that is consistent across all our schools and that puts safety first."

Don't sleep on the Gibbs Eagles

By Mark Nagi

High school football fans know that class 5A is an absolute monster in East Tennessee. Central, West, Powell, South-Doyle, Fulton... each of these teams has either won a state title in the past couple of decades or been in the mix to win the gold ball.

But don't sleep on the Gibbs Eagles, a team that

GIBBS FOOTBALL 2020

has made the postseason in ten of the last eleven years.

"That's Gibbs in general," said Gibbs head coach Brad Turner. "Being out in Corryton, not a lot of people are out that way. You hear about Gibbs softball and

baseball because they won. I feel like we are on the right path. I feel like we are moving in the right direction, but you won't get respect until you win the whole thing. I feel like we are underrated."

Gibbs went 7-3 a year ago, including a victory over top seed Tennessee High in the first round of the playoffs. But it was a

victory over defending (and future) state champion Central that changed the perception of the Eagles from within. "That was a big step for our program," said Turner. "It gave us the confidence that we don't want to just go to the playoffs, we can win the whole thing. That's the goal now for Gibbs football is to win the state championship

because we beat the team that won state. Now, did they (Central) play great? I don't know. But in our kid's minds, they gained confidence. We can compete at the highest level. Our goal is to win the district, get in the playoffs and to win the whole thing. We are wanting to take the next step, make the quarterfinals and have a chance to play for a title."

Looking ahead to the upcoming season, the Eagles will feature a senior class of eighteen players and a lot of experience. "Most of them (seniors) have played a lot of football on both sides of the football for us," said Turner. "We also have a big junior class. We had a lot of sophomores

Continued on page 3

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 2020 PREVIEWS

New football coach brings high expectations to Carter

By Ken Lay

For the third consecutive season, Carter High School will have a new head football coach.

But this time, you get the feeling that Justin Pressley is going to be sticking around Strawberry Plains for quite some time.

Pressley replaces Scott Meadows, who left the Hornets to return to Pigeon Forge following the 2019 season. He has some lofty expectations for the upcoming season.

Before Meadows landed in East Knox County, Vic Wharton was Carter's coach in 2018.

"Last year, we lost a lot of close ballgames and we were

CARTER
FOOTBALL 2020

competitive against every team in our region," said Pressley, who came to Knox County after being the head coach at Volunteer High School. "We had three or four close ballgames that we lost, but we really feel like we should've and could've won those."

"So our expectation is to win the region and that's going to be the expectation every year. Our goal is always going to be to win the region and that's never going to change."

The Hornets compete in Region 2-5A, the league that features

two-time defending champion Central, along with Halls, Gibbs, South-Doyle, Seymour and Sevier County.

So the Hornets, who went 3-7 last year, will have their work cut out for them.

Like all teams across Tennessee, the Hornets were robbed of spring practice and the majority of their off-season conditioning workouts but Pressley isn't overly concerned.

"We got going in June and I came over before that and I met the players because I had them in class," he said. "We're going to run a different style offense this year and we have our quarterback back."

"Any time you have your starting quarterback returning, it's an advantage for you. The guys are catching on as we install the new offense. The one thing that hurt us about not having spring practice was that we didn't get the chance to go live."

Defensively, the Hornets probably won't have too many changes.

"We'll have our defensive coordinator back and that will obviously help us."

Pressley said that his team's major strength lies in having depth on both the offensive and defensive fronts.

"Our strength will be with our interior linemen," he said. "Our interior line is very deep."

Top returners for the Hornets, according to the coach, include: Tim Flack (senior, offensive lineman/defensive lineman); Sam Watson (senior, safety); Richard Melton (senior, offensive lineman); Chandler Wilson (sophomore, quarterback); Christian Wallace (senior, defensive lineman); Anthony Stocker (senior, running back/linebacker); Maurice Sylvia (senior, offensive lineman); Asante Burton (junior, defensive back); and JaQuan Daniels (senior, linebacker).

Key newcomers are: Colby Reynolds (senior, tight end); Tyrone Partridge (senior, wide receiver); Kaleb Harper (senior, wide receiver); and Brody Blankenship

Bobcats in Fountain City still have sharp claws

By Steve Williams

Central has big holes to fill on both sides of the line in 2020, but don't feel sorry for the Bobcats. There is plenty of the ferocious Fountain City feline still around that know the path to Cookeville.

Quarterback Dakota Fawver, who guided Central to back-to-back Class 5A state crowns, was certainly a big loss.

"In high school football, if you've got a good quarterback, you're going to be pretty good," said Nick Craney, who was promoted from defensive coordinator to head coach after Bryson Rosser resigned for family reasons a month after last season ended. "And we had a great high school quarterback in Dakota Fawver."

"After last year, it's going to be interesting to replace Dakota. But we've got a couple of guys that are working and they are going to do a great job."

Replacing veteran inside linebackers Tyler Bost and Malik Robinson, says Craney, presents the team's "biggest question mark and challenge."

Bost and Robinson were



Kalib Fortner (29) comes off the line and Liam Fortner (17) streaks to the right as Jaidin Horton drops back to pass during practice at Dan Y. Boring Stadium July 27. The Fortner brothers recently committed to sign with Army.

the "Mike and Will" linebackers that started some games as sophomores and held down those two posts in the middle the past three seasons.

Good news is Central has four or five players on offense that played significantly last season and also five or six on defense.

"A lot of the offensive production in terms of stats graduated," said Craney.

"Our skill position players are young and talented. We're going to be leaning on the guys who have been there and done it to really show these young guys what it takes."

The two Fortner brothers – Liam and Kalib – have done a great job of challenging these guys.

"Liam played a lot and he's the one offensive guy that has some pretty good stats from last year that's coming back," added Craney. "From a production standpoint, he's our top receiver and is looking really good so far this summer."

"And then (All-State outside linebacker) Kalib on the defensive side of the ball is phenomenal. I just can't say enough good things about him on the field and also off the field as a leader."

"They both have gained about 25 pounds and it's been all muscle."

Craney says the Fortner

brothers, who both recently committed to Army, and Jaidin Horton are the team's three best players.

Horton played exclusively on defense last season, earning All-State honors at free safety. That won't be the case this year as Craney also plans to use Horton on offense as a Wildcat quarterback, slot receiver and running back.

"We're going to move him around a lot," said Craney. "As a playmaker, he is going to give us some electricity on offense."

Ryan Bolton, a junior who backed up Fawver last season, was wearing the green jersey at the quarterback position in practice last week.

"Ryan is really working hard and we're excited about his abilities," said Craney. "He can make the throws and the biggest thing with what we're doing offensively is making the right decisions. He's going to have the ability to make reads and decisions pre- and post-snap."

Other Bobcats returning with experience include defensive end Mark Adams Jr. and cornerback Conner Williamson.

Isaiah Huff, who started at guard last season, is making the transition to defense and is expected

to fill one of the inside linebacker vacancies.

Adams also is learning the ILB position and there are two or three other guys, says Craney, who are competing and trying to "cement" a spot in the middle.

Senior Gabe Neubert returns as the starter at nose tackle. Ian Miller and Brandon Ridner are back after seeing some action on the D-line and will play tackle.

Senior Deon'tae White will play on both sides of the ball at cornerback and receiver.

Several backup running backs return, including Abraham Dudley Jr., Shannon Mills and Dakota Mitchell and a couple more to make the RB position deep.

The offensive line returns starter Brady Cash. Thomas Pratt also started a game or two last year. "We'll be pretty young, but there is some size in there plus talent and ability," said



Central's Trey Lyons, a sophomore free safety and wide receiver, hydrates during a water break on July 27. All individuals must drink from their own personal containers, one of the safety requirements in the pandemic.

Craney.

Bolton returns as the punter and All-State place-kicker Jared Swislowky also is back for his senior season.

The strength of the team?

"I think we're going to be pretty good on defense again, hopefully," said Coach Craney. "I think offensively we're going to be able to run the ball pretty effectively."

"I look for us to be able to run the ball, control and possess the ball and play good defense and good special teams. If we do that, we're going to be in every game and win a lot of games."

And maybe even get back to Cookeville.



Central junior quarterback Ryan Bolton throws a pass into the flat during offensive drills.



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Together again

Cont. from page 1

The following fall Simbeck was involved in a tragic car accident but made a miraculous recovery, which included 26 days in ICU and Molly Martin, his girl friend at the time, by his side.

After the 2015 season, Simbeck coached receivers at Anderson University in Indiana. He returned to Athens once again and was defensive backs coach for two seasons.

In 2019 Simbeck became

McMinn County's offensive coordinator and was named the Region 2-6A Assistant Coach of the Year.

Nathan and Molly are now married and were expecting their first child this month.

"But baby boy came early! Cooper James Simbeck. He was born (the week of July 20th)," emailed Coach Craney.

Bo Cagle, Simbeck's head football coach in high school, believes McMinn County's loss will be

Central's gain.

"He will have a lot of changes going on, changing schools and with a baby on the way. But his work ethic will take care of that," Cagle told Scott Power of the Daily Post Athenian.com after Central hired Simbeck in May.

"He has a great rapport with the players and he's just a good, knowledgeable coach and I'm sure he will build on that. It's hard to lose good coaches."

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS NOTEBOOK

Halama pleased with showing in talent-loaded AJGA event

By Steve Williams

Lexanne Halama made a nice showing in the American Junior Golf Association tournament at the Sevierville Golf Club – River Course last week.

The Farragut High senior shot a one-over-par 72-73-145 to tie for eighth place in the event that attracted junior golfers from all over the country.

“I was very pleased with the way I played,” said Lexanne, one of the state’s top prep golfers. “I was definitely able to see my progress, which was very uplifting.”

Sara Im, a sophomore from Duluth, Ga., won the girls’ division when she birdied the first playoff hole. She scored 73-67-140 in regulation play.

Senior Trey Mixon of Macon, Ga., was the boys’ champion, shooting 71-68-139.

Strawberry Plains’ Cooper Hayes, a senior at Berean Christian and a Lipscomb University commit, led local participants in the boys’ division with a 73-75-148 to tie for 25th.

PREP MASTERS: First Baptist Academy freshman Ethan Whitaker defeated Jeremy Ellis, a Lenoir City senior, on the second playoff hole to capture the boys’ title Tuesday at Oak Ridge Country Club.

Whitaker shot a one-over 71-72-143 in regulation play.

Meanwhile, Catholic senior Kennedy Anne Noe took the lead in the first round and held it to capture the girls’ crown with a 9-over 76-77-153.

After taking the lead at the halfway point, Noe told The Focus: “Time to go out and drop a low score! I have to stay mentally strong and not get ahead of myself. Shake off things that don’t go my way and control what I can control. Have to stay positive and trust my preparation.”

Boys’ and girls’ golf were the first TSSAA sports to play since the coronavirus pandemic halted spring sports play in March.

LOCAL DIVERS SIGN: Dillon Richardson, Jake Reasor and Nick Cassell are part of UT’s 2020 signing class.

Richardson captured state title for the Smoky Mountain Flyers in 1-meter diving this year.

Reason, a Clinton graduate, placed third in the 1-meter event at the state meet in 2019 and 2020.

Cassell won the 1-meter title at the 2019 Tennessee State Diving Meet. He’s a Berean Christian graduate.

SUMMER BASEBALL: Sevier County swept past Seymour in the best-of-three Western Division playoffs at Smokies Stadium.

The Cavaliers advanced to the league championship series against Eastern Division champion Tennessee High of Bristol.

The league series was tied at 1-1 when Thursday’s game in upper East Tennessee was rained out.

The postponement forced a noon game Saturday in a winner take all Game 3.

It was supposed to have been a best-of-five series, but with the rainout coupled with the fact that the tournament had to be completed by Saturday, it had to be

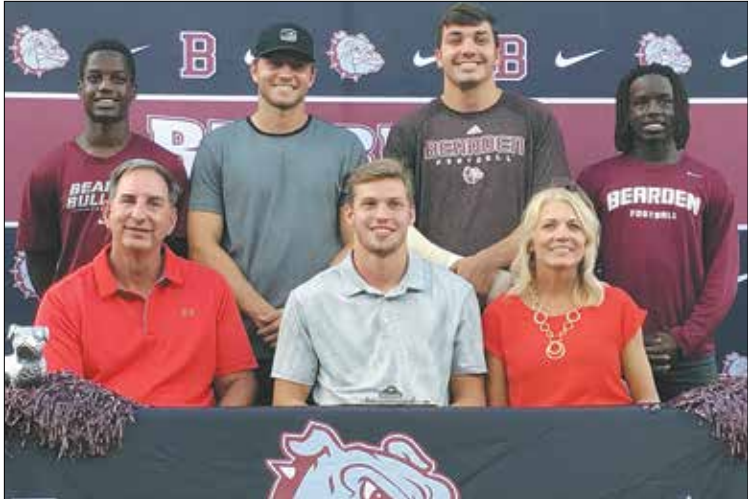


PHOTO BY JACK TATE

A signing ceremony was held for Bearden graduate and former quarterback Collin Ironside Wednesday night on the field where he set several school passing records in his high school career. Ironside signed with Virginia Military Institute in July. In addition to family members: front row (from left): father Kevin, Collin and mother Pamela; and back row (from left): brothers Kai, Blake, Addison and Mugisha, Bearden coaches and former Bulldog teammates attended the ceremony.

reduced to a best-of-three series, said Chris Allen, President/COO of Boyd Sports.

OFFER FROM VOLS: Oak Ridge running back Kendall Jackson

recently became the third Knoxville area player to receive an offer from UT, joining Tommy Winton and Kaden Martin of Knoxville Catholic.

30 years of rivals and three special friends

By Tom Heck

In my thirty years of coaching I coached against many men who influenced the direction I tried to go. There were very few coaches that did not earn my respect, but I would like to mention the men who stood out as my competitors. The men listed below stood out as winners, but most importantly as men who put their players first.

I often told Maryville coach George Quarrels that I wish I could hate him. I never was on the winning side against a team coached by George, but he was always gracious and respectful. I told George that he managed the perfect storm of Maryville football – great head coach, perfect staff, unmatched tradition, incredible support and talent. The Rebels have always had success, but George led the program to a new level. Coach Quarrels would leave Maryville to explore the college coaching world at Furman. I called George and thanked him for going to college coaching for I explained to him that I was always tempted to come out of retirement to try beat him. He laughed and we talked about the new challenges he faced in the world of college football. George’s legacy at Maryville High continues with his former player and assistant coach Derick Hunt leading the football program to continued success.

Sam Anderson is a true coaching legend at Austin East and in Tennessee high school football. I have talked to people who said Sam had great talent and questioned his coaching ability. I am always amazed at coaches who think that coaches just win with talent, my reply is always who wins without talent? Sam more than anyone I ever competed against knew how to take talent and keep it focused on the goals of the team and that is why he was so successful. Sam’s son Anthony and my oldest son Aaron played AAU basketball together. Sam and I were sitting in the stands when an opposing player crashed into a wall, we both jumped up and started to the floor. We stopped in unison and looked at each other and Sam said, ‘It’s hard not to be a coach.’ It was so hard for Sam that he has now returned to Austin East to coach the track team. East Knoxville is fortunate to once again have its young people being influenced by Sam Anderson.

I coached on Joel Helton’s staff at Central for several years, but before that we coached against each other. The first year I coached at Rule we played Central and were fortunate to beat them and then for years my head coach Don Ward would scrimmage Central in the spring and the fall. Joel and I would go at each

other during the scrimmages and talk after comparing what we had learned. Every year from 1985 to 2001 Joel would offer me a job and finally in 2002 I joined the Bobcat staff. One of my first years we had senior night. We were standing in the end zone with senior players and parents. There also was one large lineman whose parents had not shown up. When the sobbing young man’s name was announced Joel walked over and put his arm around the young man’s shoulder and walked with him to the



Sam Anderson



Joel Helton



George Quarrels

center of the field. Joel treated all of his players like his family.

The men described above understood that coaching

is relationships with young people. It is not about how smart you are as a coach or about you as an individual; it is about building a system

of trust and understanding among a group. George, Sam and Joel were able to do that better than any other men I competed against.

Gibbs Eagles

Cont. from page 1

starting for us last year. We are good on experience. Obviously trying to fill the roles of Troy Davis and Ethan Humphries, who rushed for over 4000 yards, is going to be a challenge for us. But we usually have that every year, with quarterback and running back that graduate and we have to fill their shoes.”

Turner added, “We return most of our (offensive) line, which is good. We lost only two linemen last year. Defensively, I think our whole secondary is back and all our linebackers are back. We’re just trying to fill in upfront. We are blessed with some experience.”

Gibbs is a great place to spend a football Friday. The community rallies around this team, which always

features homegrown talent.

“The thing about Gibbs is that we play with Gibbs kids,” said Turner. “We don’t get a lot of transfers or kids out of zone playing for us. We play with kids that grew up here and went to Gibbs Elementary and Gibbs Middle School, and we play with those guys. A lot of other schools don’t do that for whatever reason. Our guys buy into that and play with a chip on their shoulder, and we know going into every game we will be the underdog, no matter who we play. For our guys, it is a motivating tool. That’s just the way it is. If we win three state championships in a row, we will probably get a little more respect but until we do that that’s just where we are at.”

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Remembering the First Tennessee Football Game

Does anybody in the reading audience remember the first time they went to a game at Shields-Watkins Field or, after the 1962 Alabama game, Neyland Stadium?

For me, the day was Oct. 5, 1957, when the Vols squared off against Mississippi State. Kickoff time was 2 p.m. The game started an 8-year run in which the Vols and State squared off the first Saturday in October.

Frank “Red” Bailes wrote the game story for the Knoxville News-Sentinel. You may find this hard to believe, but Red’s game story pegged the attendance at 25,000, in a stadium with a seating capacity of 46,390.

Bowden Wyatt was in his third year as Vol head coach, with an SEC title in his pocket from the 10-1 1956 season. The former Vol captain, 1938 All-American, and 1997 College Football Hall of Fame honoree had previously won league titles at Wyoming and Arkansas, making him one of a handful of coaches winning conference titles in three leagues.

The Vols had lost to eventual national champ Auburn 7-0 the week before, so fans were very interested in how the team might bounce back.

Offensive guard Bill Johnson and wingback Bill Anderson were the Vol captains. Blocking back



A legendary Tennessee football player, Bowden Wyatt, was Gen. Robert Neyland’s choice to be head football coach at Tennessee in early 1955.

Stockton Adkins would win the Jacobs Trophy as the SEC’s best blocker for a second consecutive season.

I remember sitting in Section V and being awed by the ambience of the stadium, John Ward on the public address, the green grass, the numbers on the field, Tennessee on the east side, Mississippi State on the west. The Vols wore the orange shirts, with Mississippi State in white. George Mooney and Bob Foxx covered the game on

the Vol Network.

There was no upper deck, just the horseshoe at the south end and bleachers at the north end.

The facts of the game are simple. Tennessee trailed 9-7 late in the game, with Vol fans starting to stream to the exits, trying to rationalize an 0-2 start the year after winning a conference title.

Vol defenders forced a punt with fewer than two minutes remaining. The single-wing was not really known as a comeback

offense, but there was enough time remaining to have some semblance of hope.

Bobby Gordon, the Pulas-ki senior who would go down in Vol history as part of a titanic collision with Texas A&M’s John David Crow in the 1957 Gator Bowl, was back to return the punt.

He fielded the ball at the Vol 45, headed toward the east sideline, and found the express lane to the north end. Vol fans rushed back from the exits as the

crowd noise swelled.

The News-Sentinel coverage the next morning had six pictures of Gordon’s run from start to finish atop p. 1 of the sports section.

The Vols were 7-3 in the regular season and capped the campaign with a 3-0 win over Bear Bryant’s last Texas Aggie team. The final AP ranking was No. 13.

After a 6-3-1 season in his first year, an 18-4 mark in 1956 and 1957 was Wyatt’s high point in his Tennessee coaching career.

There was a 4-6 record in 1958, a 5-4-1 slate in 1959 that included major upsets over No. 3 Auburn (3-0) and No. 1 LSU (14-13), a 6-2-2 mark in 1960 that somehow did not merit a bowl game, a 6-4 worksheet in 1961 again without a bowl game, and a 4-6 mark in 1962.

The times in college football they were a-changing, as Bob Dylan wrote in 1963. Wyatt was let go in June that year after pushing a sportswriter into a hotel swimming pool at the SEC meetings. Jim McDona-ld bridged the gap for one season before Bob Woodruff brought in Doug Dickey from Arkansas in December 1963 to right the ship.

Dickey had played for Woodruff at Florida in the early 1950s and had quarterbacked the Gators in a 27-12 loss to the Vols in 1952.

Dickey’s hiring put the single-wing in mothballs. The Vols won big in his second year in 1965 and the Vols would be consistent winners from that point on, with occasional bumps in the road along the way. But there were more good moments than bad by a long shot.

For a youngster in Knoxville, however, experiencing the game that day was akin to giving a wolf his first taste of sheep.

Throughout the years, Tennessee football has been replete with great moments, moments that define a storied tradition that is still evolving. These are stories that are worth retelling.





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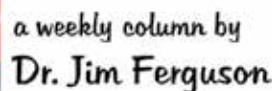
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I'm always in search of an essay, and recently, my CHE and Focus thoughts were occasioned by Becky's painting project. Our home has a large wrap around porch floor which needed painting and I was pressed into service. I imagined myself as a deck swab-bie with a paint roller. As I swept and prepped before rolling, I found it amazing that pieces of grit suddenly

In common usage fallout is a consequence of a nuclear explosion. In more general terms, fallout can be a result of poor choices, modern liberalism, governmental malfeasance in the management of COVID-19,

COVID-19 fear has become irrational with politicization, especially in millennials. I remain wary of crowds, practice social distancing, wear a mask when I can't social distance and use hand sanitizers liberally as I did when I worked in the ER and hospitals. However, if we stay locked in our homes in fear, we're already dead. Our country, our economy, our freedom and our churches are under attack. We must stand up and resist paralyzing fear. Paraphrasing the proverbial Borg collective chant,

In 410 AD Augustine of Hippo (Saint Augustine) learned that Rome,

It is my daily prayer that the lost will be driven upon their knees, not in homage to a Marxist Black Lives Matter, but to the Creator and Sustainer of the universe and the Savior of our souls and, hopefully, America.

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

May God help us men honor and treat women with dignity and value the way Jesus did. May we not objectify women for sexual gratification. May we love, cherish and hold up their rights seeking their input, counsel, and wisdom.

