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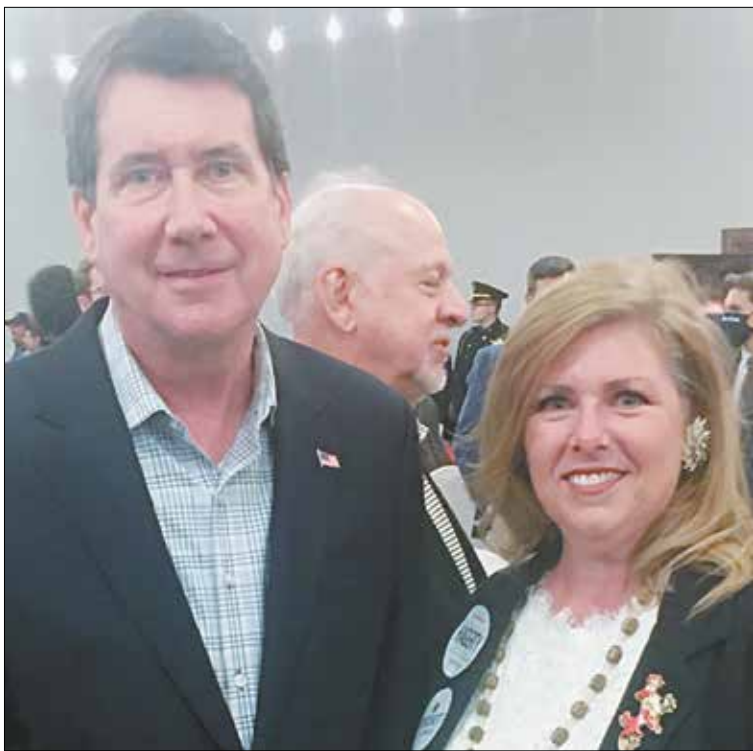
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Senate candidate Bill Hagerty addresses Republicans at Lincoln Day Dinner



U.S. Senate candidate Bill Hagerty and State House District 13 candidate Elaine Davis stand for a picture for The Focus at the annual Lincoln Day dinner last Monday evening.

By Ken Lay

United States Senate candidate Bill Hagerty is on the campaign trail as the 2020 election cycle enters its home stretch.

The former ambassador to Japan was in Knoxville early last week and was the keynote speaker at the Knox County Republican Party's Lincoln Day Dinner on Monday, Oct. 12 at the Rothchild Catering and Conference Center.

Hagerty addressed the importance of the upcoming election two days before early voting began in Tennessee.

"We need to take away the Democrats' biggest argument and that's that the president didn't win the popular vote," Hagerty said. "So, I encourage you to get out and vote.

"If the Democrats win, they will stack the (Supreme) Court with judges. They wanted to go from nine to 14 judges and they

will nominate activist judges who will legislate from the bench with no accountability to us. They've even talked about eliminating the Electoral College, meaning that states like New York and California will determine who becomes president. They've started a movement to make the District of Columbia a State and they'll probably make Puerto Rico a state. You know what that means, more Democrat senators."

Hagerty addressed issues such as standing with the military and the police.

"When I'm elected I will stand behind our military and I'll stand behind law enforcement," Hagerty said. "If you don't stand behind your law enforcement officers, you'll have chaos, burning and looting."

He also promised to help President Donald Trump revitalize the

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COVID-19 mandates may get more restrictive

By Mike Steely
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The Knox County Board of Health met following a two week break and one member said he was shocked at the increase in coronavirus cases. The board also discussed the two resolutions before the Knox County Commission involving public board meetings, public forums and the creation of a separate body to deal with emergency health events.

Dr. James Shamiyeh told fellow board members that the growing number of hospital admissions in the region is concerning. He said the current increase is the sign of a coming surge of COVID-19 cases. Health Department Director Dr. Martha Buchanan reported the number of new cases is up and hospital capacity is in the "cautious" level in an upward trend.

"I was surprised how the situation changed since we met two weeks ago. We could walk into a big surprise, a data and case county shift. We're entering a new phase," Shamiyeh said.

If the increase continued Shamiyeh said, "We may not be able to supply all the regular services. If you need medical care come to the hospital. We're watching the growth closely."

The board's almost three hour meeting saw three citizens speak in public forum during the virtual gathering, two very critical of the board's policies.

The Board of Health members discussed changing the metrics used in determining their actions, raising the percentage of cases prior to setting regulations. It may now look at a 5% positive or less rate before easing restrictions or 10% before increasing restrictions. They discussed possible new safety restrictions should the expected surge continue.

Requiring the wearing of masks inside public and private has no expiration date and continues to be mandated. The board voted to continue for two weeks, until their next meeting, the 11 p.m. curfew of bars and restaurants with alcohol service. Also continued for two weeks is the 25% customer capacity at bars.

Dr. Buchanan reported 12 complaints about curfew violations and said that one business continues to violate the regulations. She also said that

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Two Jacobs officials on paid leave in theft investigation

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs confirmed last week that two top employees have been placed on paid leave during an investigation into their activities.

Chief of Staff Bryan Hair and Parks and Recreation Senior Director Paul White are the subjects of an inquiry being conducted by auditors Pugh CPA in an investigation that could stretch over a few weeks. Charges apparently involve something to do with expenditures involving golf carts and shoes according to a reliable source.

One Jacobs associate confirmed the charge of theft is involved. It is likely the investigation will see the termination of White but the future of Hair is

uncertain. Finance Director Chris Caldwell reportedly is contacting the state comptroller to help in the investigation.

Jacobs announced both men being placed on paid "administrative leave" last Tuesday after he said he was informed of potential wrongdoing. Hair, a long time associate of White when they were both executives with the Tennessee State Bank, replied, "I appreciate the mayor launching this investigation and I will fully cooperate. I'm looking forward to getting back to work."

Caldwell and Dwight Van de Vate, director of Community Development, are filling in for the two suspended employees. Hair was active in the Jacobs campaign and served as the transition director before being appointed chief of staff.

Employees within the county mayor's office have been instructed not to talk about the possible charges until the investigation is completed. Jacobs is promising a full release of details and possible charges.

On Thursday Hair released the following statement:

"Towards the end of May, my wife broke her foot and I reached out to Parks & Rec to see if they had a cart I could borrow that was not being used. I was aware they had recently purchased carts for both Recreation and to use at the Festival of Lights to allow constituents that were unable to walk the paths, the ability to ride. I was told that they were not being used at the time since recreation was shut down due to Covid so I borrowed the cart and used it through the

summer until her foot healed and then returned it to Parks & Rec. This was not only a mistake on my part, but a lapse in judgment. It was not wise for me to borrow something that belongs to the citizens of Knox County, and for that, I'm deeply sorry."

Rumors about the misuse of county credit cards and the former Hospitality Fund were dismissed by off-the-record comments although a charge of potential theft is definitely involved. Initial public information on the suspensions was released by the Jacobs Communication Department's Abbey Harris and Mike Donila.

"All County officials found to have acted inappropriately should be held accountable. There's nothing more important

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Troy Jones challenges Sam McKenzie for Staples House seat

By Mike Steely
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You might think that former Commissioner Sam McKenzie, husband of Knoxville Vice Mayor Gwen McKenzie, has a walk in the park for election to replace Rick Staples as the District 15 Tennessee Representative.

But McKenzie is not unopposed in the November 3rd General Election.

Independent candidate Troy Jones, a Knoxville attorney, stands in his way. You may think that the heavily Democratic area would automatically go for McKenzie but

Jones is echoing many of the Democratic Party positions. His platform includes his support for automatic voter registration, raising teacher pay, repealing vouchers, enacting a Green New Deal climate change policy, expanding Medicare, fighting against anti-LGBTQIA policies, care for veterans, and redirecting fossil fuel funds to renewable energy and conservation.

The Focus talked with Jones and asked several questions. Here are his replies.

Tell me a bit about you and your family. Are you a Knox County native?

I am a Knoxville native. I

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Independent Troy Jones is opposing Democrat Sam McKenzie for District 15's state House Seat. Jones, a Knoxville attorney, has a progressive platform that may appeal to some of the heavily Democratic district voters.

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Don't let hate win

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.
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As almost all readers of The Focus know, I grew up in a political family.

I went to the Knoxville airport for a rally for the Nixon-Lodge ticket a week before the 1960 Presidential election and followed that campaign closely.

In 1963, when I was 16,

I worked in my father's last race for mayor and also started following the campaign for the 1964 election for president.

In July of '64, I rode a train for 77 hours and got to be an Honorary Assistant Sergeant at Arms at the Republican Convention in San Francisco.

I guess you can't get any lower than being an honorary assistant, but it got me into the convention and I was really excited.

I tell you all this to say that in 60 years of following politics and campaigns all over the country, I have never seen or heard of anything even close to all the hatred there is for

President Trump.

Two national networks – CNN and MSNBC – are on 24 hours a day with attack, attack, attack against the president.

The three so-called mainstream networks, while not on fulltime attacking Trump, they certainly are using their news and morning programs to blast the President in almost every way.

I didn't vote for President Clinton or President Obama, but I didn't hate either one of them and they were nice to me.

This bitterness and meanness really started shortly after the 2016 election when left-wing

billionaire George Soros financed a hate group called Indivisible.

This group and its local affiliates were so extreme and so hateful that Republican members of Congress started having to get police escorts to get out of town hall meetings.

Conservative speakers were threatened with violence if they tried to speak on college campuses and conservative students had their meetings disrupted, recruiting tables overturned, and members harassed or even slugged or spit on.

Conservative students were not doing similar hateful things to liberal or

left-wing speakers or student groups.

When President Trump came down with COVID, a former Hilary Clinton spokeswoman and former Obama staffer, Zara Rahim, at 1:42 a.m. on October 2 wrote in a now deleted tweet, "I hope he dies."

Comedian Chris Rock said on Saturday Night Live when Trump was in the hospital, "My heart goes out to COVID."

Liberals have for years charged that the right was dominated by hate groups that never amounted to even one percent of American conservatives.

But there is almost no enthusiasm for Joe Biden

even among the staunchest Democrats. They seem to realize that he probably has some form of early dementia.

Democrats and other Biden supporters today seem to be obsessed with and motivated almost entirely by hatred for President Trump.

Those who are filled with such hatred need to seek serious psychiatric treatment or, if they believe in God, seek his forgiveness.

I hope that hate does not win this election and that this nation will continue on a path toward peace, freedom and prosperity.

COVID-19 mandates

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the Knoxville Police Department has been responding to complaints with "educational" visits with no violations being written. She urged citizens with complaints to call the city's 311 number.

The citizen member, Ani Roma, asked how long restrictions will be needed. Dr. Buchanan replied "As long as needed." Roma, appointed by the Knox County Commission, voted "Yes" with the other board members on extending the restrictions. Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs voted "No" on both extensions.

The board also discussed two proposals before the county commission, one to form an "advisory" board that could oversee the Board of Health. A second resolution, promoted by Commissioner Kyle Ward, would require the board to hold public meetings anytime the commission does and require a public forum at each meeting.

Dr. Martha Souza said Governor Bill Lee's emergency order allows the Board of Health to meet virtually during the pandemic. Dr. Dianna Drake said she is confused about why the board would have to follow the commission's rules and regulations. Attorney David Sanders responded that the board has set its own regulations above and beyond county commission procedures.

"I really don't know what to expect these next two weeks. I'm concerned about what we are seeing, it's getting dicier pretty fast," Dr. Shamiyeh said, adding, "There's only a finite (number of) things that can be done and it's not a desirable thing to think about."

Options should the COVID-19 benchmarks continue to get worse could include a business and public shutdown and a "stay at home" order. The next Board of Health meeting takes place October 28.

Governor Bill Lee announced last week that he and his family are self quarantining because of exposure to the virus. His current emergency order, which empowers the Knox County Board of Health's actions, expires October 31.

Sheriff's merit board to be reviewed

By Mike Steely
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Given some disagreement between the Knox County Sheriff and the sheriff's Merit System Council, Knox County Commission Chairman Larsen Jay has created a special committee for the purpose of putting all the parties together and creating a set of reforms.

The first meeting of the committee is Tuesday at 5 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building and Jay told The Focus that the law director has confirmed that the commission has a governing role and responsibilities in the dispute.

In recent months the sheriff and the board have had some disagreements including whether or not applicants should undergo a psychological test before or after

officially applying to the force. The sheriff maintains that testing them before accepting them as future employees speeds up the process.

The merit system was created by a private act in 1970 and remained in effect until September of 1990, at which time the commission passed the same act. The act may be amended over time. Larsen said the county and commission are not constrained by the Sheriff Civil Service Act of 1974.

"The county commission can alter or amend the present Merit System Ordinance as it deems fit and proper," he told The Focus.

The special committee will be meeting with the sheriff and merit system to evaluate and make decisions about amending the ordinance. It could include changes to the

makeup and structure of the merit board.

"I formed a special committee that I will chair," Jay said, adding, "with the express purpose of putting all parties together over the next three months in a series of collaborative meetings."

Jay said the committee will search for working solutions that all parties can agree to, gather the results into a comprehensive set of reforms and bring the report to the county commission.

Tuesday is the first of four meetings for the special committee. The other meetings are on November 10 and December 1 and 15.

Appointed by Jay to the body are Commissioner Courtney Durrett and one unannounced commissioner, Mike Ruble and Lysette Aviles of the sheriff's administration,

Merit System Council member Gina Oster, Merit System Council administrator Paula Taylor, sheriff officers Lt. Krystal Gibson and Lt. Gabe Mullinax, and Scott Broyles who is the Citizen Representative.

"How the working relationship between the merit council and the sheriff's office administration can be improved and how the functional operations of this system that represents the employees can be enhanced," Jay said is the object of the special committee meetings.

The current Merit System Council members include Chairman Jim Jennings, Jim Wright Jr., Gina Oster and Lashchinski Emerson as the alternate member. Also serving are Lt. Krystal Gibson, Captain Jeff Smith and Debbie Moore of the Civilian Division.

Two Jacobs officials on paid leave in theft investigation

Continued from page 1

than earning and maintaining the public's trust," Knox County Commission Chairman Larsen Jay said.

The Knox County Code of Ethics states, "All Knox County employees have a professional, legal, ethical and fiduciary duty to protect those public monies entrusted to them specifically and to Knox County Government in general. Knox County has a "zero-tolerance" policy regarding the theft, misappropriation, and/or mismanagement of funds entrusted to its employees. Knox County employees who steal, misappropriate, and/or mismanage funds or who aid and/or abet others to do so will be subject to criminal prosecution and/or dismissal from their employment with Knox County. Those County employees who fail to report

those employees who steal, misappropriate, and/or mismanage funds shall be subject to criminal prosecution and/or dismissal from their employment with Knox County. Theft, misappropriation, and mismanagement of county funds are to be reported to the Knox County Fraud Hotline as provided under state law and are criminal offenses and shall not be under the jurisdiction of the Ethics Committee."

The Ethics Committee meets next month and one of the non-voting members is Mayor Jacob's appointment, Bryan Hair. Without a current chair, Michael Covington, the vice chair, will apparently head the meeting.

Whether the initial information about a violation involves park policy, theft, etc. is now yet known. It is also not known if the investigation started as a complaint

of an ethics violation, which goes to the law director's office before going to the Ethics Committee, or was initiated by the county's outside auditor when a problem was found.

One source hinted that a true investigation will reveal even more about the Parks and Recreation Department's activities and may reach further than that and into the Jacobs administration. Law Director David Buuck was on vacation last week but, on his return, may ask the county mayor about referring the investigation to the attorney general or take the case to the attorney general without the mayor's agreement.

Buuck told The Focus that getting the state comptroller involved is a good idea. He said his office is curious why it has not been consulted.

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Senate candidate Bill Hagerty

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economy.

"I look forward to working with the president to grow the economy," Hagerty said. "The big issue that everyone is asking about is the economy and you need a leader who is a business man, a leader that's signed the front of a paycheck and not just the back of one.

"I helped revitalize the

economy in Tennessee during the last recession. Our plan worked in Tennessee and it can work in Washington and that's why President Trump appointed me to the White House Economic Recovery Task Force.

"As ambassador to Japan, you had North Korea, Russia and China all right there and China is a big threat to us," he said.

Hagerty also noted that the country must get the COVID-19 pandemic under control.

"We must control this pandemic and, make no mistake about, China is to blame for this," he said. "But we can have this under control by the end of this year or the beginning of next year.

"We have five vaccines in the trial stages and all we

need is FDA approval."

Hagerty will continue to travel throughout the state until Election Day and said he looks forward to serving the people of Tennessee.

"I look forward to working with (Senator) Marsha Blackburn and (Representative) Tim Burchett and I look forward to standing with President Trump," Hagerty said.



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Articles, announcements, photo attachments and cutlines may be submitted by e-mail to staff@knoxfocus.com.

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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,
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Jacobs Chief of Staff Investigated

Bryan Hair, Chief of Staff to Knoxville County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, is under investigation, along with Paul White, Director of the county's Parks & Recreation Department. That is according to a press release issued from the mayor's office. Hair had no experience in running much of anything that I am aware of and from what I can tell made few friends in the City-County Building. As everyone waits for the conclusion of the investigation, the folks rallying around the chief of staff are likely going to be far and few between.

I can't help but think of the similarities developing between the administration of former county mayor Mike Ragsdale and current mayor Glenn Jacobs. Ragsdale had dreams of seeking the

governor's office, oblivious to the fact Knoxville City Mayor Bill Haslam intended to run. Ragsdale's chief of staff was none other than Mike Arms, who was to good government to what Colonel Sanders was to the welfare of chickens.

The Ragsdale administration was mired in a purchasing card scandal that got uglier, as well as questionable use of funds. By the expiration of his term, nobody was sorry to see Ragsdale leave office, nor did anybody shed a tear with the departure of Mike Arms.

Tim Burchett was wildly popular in his own right and didn't need Ragsdale, Arms and the usual suspects surrounding him. Unfortunately, Glenn Jacobs seemed all-too-willing to allow himself to be charmed by Arms and the gang. There have been persistent rumors Jacobs sees himself, as did Mike Ragsdale, as gubernatorial timber. Arms and company helped, if not instigated Jacobs' effort to change the county charter to appoint the county law director, which appears to be headed for defeat in the November referendum. That will be yet another black eye for Jacobs while leftists in Knox County who are angry about the mayor's disputes with the Board of Health place

signs in their yards reading "The County Mayor is a Moron."

Bryan Hair cites having worked in the 2006 campaign of former U. S. senator Bob Corker, but if true and he is currently 34 years old, that would mean he was a 20-year-old low ranking staffer. Perhaps the Jacobs folks looked to Mike Arms for political counsel and experience Hair didn't have himself; if so, that has been a colossal mistake.

Whatever alleged transgressions were supposedly made by Bryan Hair and Paul White will trickle out to the news media over a period of time and will likely do nothing to help enhance Glenn Jacobs' administration or popularity.

Knoxville & Seattle

What do Knoxville, Tennessee and Seattle, Washington have in common with one another? Both cities have at least two socialists on the City Council. Yet Seattle seems to be well on its way to economic ruin. Socialist legislators are reliably anti-business and almost always in favor of hiking taxes. Seattle's local economy, like many others across the country, has taken a hit during the COVID-19 crisis. When corporate colossus Amazon declared its 60,000

employees in Seattle could work remotely, small businesses started founder-ing and many have closed as a result. Restaurants were particularly hard hit without the steady stream of customers coming in for lunch. What did the City Council in Seattle do to help? Well, they pushed a program called "JumpStart Seattle." How did the City Council propose to jump start Seattle? Why, by funding more housing and some vaguely-worded policies about communities of color. Does that sound familiar? The Council legislation is funded by a payroll tax aimed at as many as 800 businesses in Seattle. One Councilwoman, Kshama Sawant brazenly bragged it was an "Amazon tax." The majority of council-people dismissed concerns about increasing taxes during a pandemic, airily saying the businesses subject to the tax could well afford it, even during a pandemic crisis.

Amazon reacted by announcing it was moving 10,000 jobs from Seattle to Bellevue, Washington. Amazon also refused to renew a lease on a 180,000 square foot facility in downtown Seattle. An even bigger tax problem is looming over Seattle and Washington State as the legislature struggles to refresh a depleted

unemployment fund. It is possible businesses may face a 700% increase in unemployment taxes in 2021. The latest unemployment tax doesn't apply to those employees who work at home at least half the time and don't reside inside the city of Seattle. Facebook, Amazon and Starbucks (which is based in Seattle) have all increased the number of their employees working remotely. Homelessness and crime are increasing concerns in Seattle, causing many to look to the suburbs. Yet Seattle's City Council keeps taxing and spending and all they have to show for it is a city in serious decline. Imagine that.

Senator Ted Cruz of Texas has introduced legislation in Congress that might give some relief to folks in Seattle and elsewhere. Cruz is sponsoring the RECLAIM Act - - the Restitution for Economic Losses Caused by Leaders Who Allow Insurrection and Mayhem. The Cruz bill would "hold state and local officials liable when rioters establish lawless 'autonomous zones' and officials abdicate their duties to protect their citizens."

Social Media Censorship

The New York Post has

broken a story about a laptop left at a Delaware computer repair shop, which appears to have email correspondence, videos, and pictures from Hunter Biden, son of Democratic nominee Joe Biden. The revelations are staggering and seem to refute Biden's assertion he never discussed his son's questionable overseas business dealings which even the Obama administration thought were at the very least problematic. Now Twitter and Facebook, social media giants, are locking down accounts linking to the story appearing in the Post. The reason they are doing so is purely because they don't like the story, so they are exercising censorship.

The mainstream media has let Joe Biden skate through most of the election cycle and even Axios acknowledges, "Biden is the luckiest, least scrutinized frontrunner" in modern presidential election history.

Joe Biden has been testy, to say the least, when questioned about the shady business dealings of his son, Hunter. Biden has proudly detailed his insistence upon firing a Ukrainian prosecutor who was looking into Hunter's payments from Burisma by threatening to withhold \$1 billion in American aid.

Johnson and Davis answer Focus Questions

By Mike Steely
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The race for Tennessee State Representative in the 13th District is getting interesting. Incumbent Gloria Johnson is being challenged by Elaine Davis, a former Knox County Commissioner and Ethics Committee chairwoman.

Johnson is a retired special education teacher with the Knox County School System and has created a formidable volunteer force. She first won the seat in 2013 but was defeated in 2015 in her bid for re-election. She was elected again in 2018 in a rematch with Republican Eddie Smith.

The district stretches from East Knoxville through downtown and the UT campus to South Knox County between Chapman Highway and Alcoa Highway.

The Knoxville Focus asked both Davis and Johnson a series of questions. The answers are listed in the order they were received.

Make a statement on Gov. Lee's abortion policy.

Johnson: Governor Lee's "heartbeat bill" is unconstitutional and we told him and the GOP that was the case. The amendment on the bill can cause serious harm to women's health and the GOP voted overwhelmingly to force doctors to promote an unproven procedure that caused women to hemorrhage. The medical trial on the procedure had to be stopped as multiple women in the study began hemorrhaging and ended up in the emergency room-the supermajority voted for the bill knowing this.

Davis: The voters in this race are interested in my

positions and my opponent's positions. I am pro-life, have been married for over 24 years, and proud of my three amazing children. My opponent is endorsed by organizations that advocate for abortion in the last 3 months of a pregnancy.

What is the largest problem for your district?

Johnson: People in my district feel like they are falling behind. They feel like their pay isn't keeping up with the cost of living. Over the last 10 years, the GOP supermajority has enacted policies that benefit millionaires and corporations. They have shifted the bulk of the tax burden to working families while giving massive tax breaks to corporations, Wall Street, and stock brokers. We need to bring policies that benefit the hard working families in HD13. Policies like Medicaid expansion, paid family leave, adequately funding schools, raising the wage, medical cannabis, and criminal justice reform.

Davis: With the government mandated restrictions on businesses, the economy and unemployment is a problem in my district. I want to make Tennessee the best place in America to do business. We need to keep a low tax environment that encourages job creation and brings more high paying jobs to our community. We need to continue educating our workforce on technical skills at the secondary and post-secondary education levels so Tennesseans can earn better paying jobs. Working families need tax relief and that is why I will not vote to increase the sales tax on any goods or services and I will work to remove the sales tax on groceries. For the last two

years, my opponent has advocated for a large new tax on working employees and I disagree that workers should receive less of the money they earn.

What's the first thing you will do in Nashville?

Johnson: Advocate for teacher raises and adequate education funding. Compared to the states in our southeast region, we are spending \$1.5 billion less than the average of the states in our region. In the toughest year for teachers in modern history, they are making less today than

they did 20 years ago when taking cost of living into account.

Davis: After I take my oath to the Constitution of our great state and nation, which is very important to me, I will introduce legislation to eliminate the state sales tax on groceries, either immediately eliminating the tax or through a phased out plan. My priorities will be to make sure we are supporting our first responders to help make our communities safer, help businesses get back open and create jobs, take on the special interests to make sure Tennesseans have access to quality,

affordable healthcare, and increase support for our public education system.

Should protesters on state property be criminalized?

Johnson: No, I believe in our 1st Amendment right to protest. I don't believe that 1st Amendment right starts at 7:00 a.m. and ends at 10:00 p.m. The protesters who stayed at the capitol for 63 days were peaceful the entire time.

Davis: I fully support the right of individuals to peacefully protest. That is a right of all Americans, as long as they are not

How is Gov. Lee handling the COVID-10 pandemic?

Johnson: The Governor wasted the time we were shut down. He should have used that time to set up a rapid testing strategy for reopen, started a robust contract tracing program, boosted the computer at the Dept. of Labor, and hired plenty of workers early to process unemployment insurance. He failed at all of this. He

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Growing Up in Logan County, WV

(Part 3 in series on Dwight Kessel)

Like many in his generation, Wallace Dwight Kessel faced hard times during his growing up years. “During the depression, a lot of people came

up with ideas on how to make money. I remember wash board bands performing on the store porch from time to time and they would have a cup or bowl for people to throw coins in,” he shared. “When school was out for the summer, almost without fail, someone would come to town with a pony and camera and walk through neighborhoods and take pictures of children on the pony. If you paid for one, it would be developed and mailed back to you. One of my friends would go around with the camera man looking after the pony and would always get his picture made free.”

Kessel recalls making visits to his Grandfather Kessel’s farm three or four hours away and to his



By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

other Grandparents’ (Sumates) farm, where his granddad was a country school teacher and principal of a three-room school; seeing movies (a big deal) on Friday night, Saturday afternoon, or Saturday night which included westerns

starring Hop-along Cassidy, Randolph Scott, and others; keeping the coal buckets filled from the “coal house” in the front yard and splitting the big chunks of coal to get fossils to take to school for “show and tell;” and getting his first bicycle—a birthday present in 1936—a full-sized black Elgin that his Dad ordered from Sears and Roebuck. Kessel remembers with clarity and detail another childhood story.

“As we got older, and the weather was good, we hiked to the top of the mountain to play in the wind caves and rocks. We would take with us some crackers, raisins, a jar of water, and peanut butter sandwiches for snacking. We picked huckleberries



Picture of Wallace Dwight Kessel with his first bicycle, courtesy of Dwight Kessel.

(blueberries), blackberries, and raspberries to eat and take home. The mountains were covered with a lot of colorful wild flowers. Among flowers I remember were azaleas, jack in the pulpits, sweet williams, trilliums, daisies, black-eyed susans, and violets. We earned some spending money by digging

sassafras roots and selling them on the store porch for a nickel a bundle.” (To be continued)

Kessel shares Words of Faith from John 3:16 (KJV): “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Troy Jones challenges Sam McKenzie for Staples House seat

Cont. from page 1

attended school in Knoxville briefly and also attended school in North Carolina and Washington, D.C. My family is mostly from Knoxville. My parents died when I was a minor and my uncles in Knoxville, and aunts in Washington, D.C. and North Carolina raised me.

Where did you go to school?

I graduated from Holston High School in Knoxville, college at UT Knoxville and Tusculum College. Law School in Washington, D.C.’s District of Columbia School of Law. Marine Corp I was Honorable Discharge serving total of six years. MOS was admin clerk for combat engineers. Loved every day of my service

Your platform is very familiar to a Liberal Democratic one.

Why? Were you a Democrat?

I am a Democrat, but I have also voted for the RNC candidate in the primary.

What prompted you to get into the race as an Independent?

I got into the race as an Independent because the Democratic primary ticket was so crowded, and I did not want my voice overshadowed by too many candidates. I want to help the citizens of Tennessee to move our state forward by drafting laws that will improve everyone’s lives in Tennessee. What is the biggest problem in your district that the state can help with?

The state can help the 15th district in two main areas. Economically and Crime Prevention with a strong education base.

Economically we need better paying jobs and training in the district and east Tennessee. We have a great population that wants to work and we as politicians need to persuade companies to move to our area of the state.

Crime Prevention through education and training. If we promote a strong work culture in early schooling and show the youth their potential, they have to become great citizens instead of turning to the streets. We will save not only young lives but also save taxpayers money because the youth and young adults will be productive citizens. There is no color in this plan, and it will help everyone in Tennessee. We

will only beat gang violence and street violence through educating of our youth and strong laws written to protect the citizens of Tennessee.

How will being an attorney help in the Tennessee House?

I believe that an attorney is better able to write and pass laws because attorneys are trained to understand the law. My training as an attorney prepared me to better understand how legislation

is going to help or hurt my constituents and the leadership training that I have received in TBALL (Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law) helped strengthen my legal skills and networking throughout the state.

I am also on the Board of Governors and Executive Committee of Tennessee Trial Lawyer. Presently the Treasurer of Tennessee Trial Lawyers and Board of

Governs of Southern Trial Lawyers. I am also locally on the Knoxville Bar Association’s Diversity Committee and Tech Law Committee. I’m the past president of the Blount County Bar Association, an American Association of Justice’s Tennessee’s delegate minority and a member of National Trial Lawyers Association.

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Read banned books

Yes, I admit that my profession for 30 years was spent teaching English to high school students. During that time in the classroom, I enjoyed the students and especially stressed writing and grammar. My strengths were grounded in those areas. I also presented literature and found that the right kind of presentations of pieces can have lasting effects on students. Recently, I came across a picture of a stack of familiar books. To my shock, anger and disgust, I read the caption to discover these books have been banned in some schools. What is wrong with people?

I required some students to read “The Scarlet Letter” by Hawthorne. The book details the life of a woman who had a child out of wedlock. The father was the community minister. Hawthorne’s use of the red letter is one of the best examples of symbolism in literature. In addition, character development is excellently crafted in the book. Hester, Pearl, and Dimmesdale captivate readers and bring on a range of emotions.

This classic presents the weaknesses of humans. It also includes the psychological damages that befall the three main characters as they go through life. The mood of the book is not bright and sunny; no happy ending comes. In too many cases in this world, the events and outcomes mirror those of so many lives today. What objections could people have for this book? Although it was written long ago, its relevance for today can be seen through the hypocrisy of the community, the damage to outcast children, and the results of a religion that fails to forgive. “To Kill a Mockingbird” sits atop the picture of banned books. Most folks of my generation have either read the book or watched the movie that starred Gregory Peck. Set in Alabama during the Depression, the book tells of a Black man’s unjust conviction of the rape of a white woman. He is represented by a white attorney who becomes the target of hate and mistreatment by his community. His children are caught



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

in middle of the hatred, and son Jem is harmed by an extremist as he protects his sister Scout. Their father Atticus loses his case but gains the respect of the Black community for his dedication to his client, Tom Robinson.

Some folks with too little to do find some of the language objectionable. The words “damn” and (the N-word) are used. Some declare the storyline is too far removed from the reality of life in the south during that time. I can only counter that the offensive words are still in use today. That doesn’t make them right, but removing something that accurately describes the reality of the time is essential in changing today’s world. Perhaps having Atticus serving as a hero is not an adequate portrayal of a white man during that time, but it works for the story. By the way, “To Kill a Mockingbird” is a work of fiction but it sure sounds familiar in today’s world.

George Orwell’s “Animal Farm” and “Nineteen Eighty-Four” are books that should be read by every person in this country. Both tells stories of governments that control the citizens through lying, brainwashing, and monitoring. During the divisive times the U.S. is experiencing right now, citizens can become aware of the potential dangers of government by reading the events of the books. Some might be shocked by how similar our situations are to those about which Orwell wrote in 1949.

Special interest groups with complaints should never rule what books are read in schools. Acclaimed classics are deemed excellent literature because they usually teach lessons for an entire society or the world. To say “no” to a book because of a few offensive words or a morally questionable act by characters shows the ignorance of those objectors. Today’s people can learn much about how they should live life by opening their minds to ideas books present. If we don’t, our world will become the one that is the same one that “Fahrenheit 451” describes. Don’t be afraid. Knowledge comes from Reading.

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Congressman Pat Sutton of Tennessee

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Genuine war hero, sheriff, accused counterfeiter, convict and U. S. congressman from Tennessee, Pat Sutton was, if anything, a colorful character. It may be difficult for some readers to imagine today, but the entire country had been unified in winning World War II. White, black and brown; men and women; even Republicans and Democrats were focused upon winning the war and destroying the forces of fascism led by Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini, as well as the imperialist expansionism of the Japanese Empire. Like so many others of "America's greatest generation", Pat Sutton went off to war and came home. Like many other veterans, he ran for office. Pat Sutton set his sights high; he ran against incumbent congressman Wirt Courtney who represented Tennessee's Seventh District. Courtney had won a special election in 1939 to fill the vacancy caused by the sudden death of Congressman Clarence W. Turner of a heart attack. A former judge from Franklin, Tennessee, Wirt Courtney was an old-fashioned New Dealer.

The race between Congressman Wirt Courtney and Pat Sutton was nick and tuck from beginning to end. On Election Day, Tennessee State Troopers were sent to Hohenwald due to threats of violence. Some fifty spectators crowded a courtroom in the Lewis County courthouse to watch as "the canvass was being made." The Seventh Congressional District was comprised of thirteen counties, which ran from Cheatham and Montgomery, just above Nashville, which nestled the Kentucky border, to Wayne and Lawrence counties, which border Alabama. Courtney carried seven of the thirteen counties while Sutton carried six counties in the final vote count and the end result was as close as could be; Pat Sutton nudged out Congressman Wirt Courtney by a mere fifty-eight votes inside the Democratic primary. Both sides complained about voter fraud and election "irregularities." Pat Sutton possessed a flair for the dramatic and had petitioned U. S. Attorney General (and future Justice of the Supreme Court) Tom Clark to order the FBI to investigate the alleged irregularities in the voting inside the Seventh Congressional District. Sutton complained his supporters were "forcibly" prevented from watching the ballots being tabulated and claimed some ballots had been destroyed and others "changed." Sutton insisted there had been dubious goings-on in at least three of the Seventh District's twelve counties. For his part, Congressman Wirt Courtney said he would welcome any investigation and would do

whatever he could to assist the FBI or any other entity. As Sutton was declared the victor, Congressman Courtney remained at his home in Franklin, but refused to concede until completing his own survey of the election returns.

When World War II had started, Pat Sutton volunteered and went off to fight in the Pacific theatre. Sutton saw service with the Sixth Army in the Philippines and New Guinea. When General Douglas MacArthur retook the Philippines, Pat Sutton was amongst the first wave of Americans landing on Leyte Island. After five years in the military, Pat Sutton went home to Lawrence County, but readily admitted he had his eye on a seat in Congress the entire time.

Only thirty-three years old when he won election to Congress in 1948, Pat Sutton had waged what one newspaper labeled a "novel" campaign accusing Wirt Courtney of "absenteeism." Even Courtney's detractors acknowledged he was an able congressman. Both men were veterans; Courtney had fought in the First World War, while Sutton had fought in the Second World War. Sutton had a pretty well funded campaign and spent at least \$4,000 of his own money. He had employed some stars of the Grand Ole Opry to entertain while he spoke to crowds throughout the district. "Uncle Dave" Macon was perhaps the first star of the Grand Ole Opry, a singer and banjo virtuoso who apparently always entertained in a batwing collar. Interviewed by the Chattanooga Times, Sutton bragged, "I knew from the beginning I could win it. What issue did I win it on? Absenteeism." Pat Sutton explained he never used Congressman Courtney's name during the campaign, always referring to "my opponent" and "the incumbent." "I cited the record showing that in the past four years he missed 37 per cent of the roll calls and 87 per cent of the quorum calls," Sutton explained. "In other words, he was absent an average of 62 per cent of the time when members are supposed to be present and answer the roll call." Courtney explained illness had kept him away upon occasion, but Sutton pointed to important votes missed by the congressman, including federal aid to education, the Hill-Burton hospital aid bill, the Fair Employment Practices Commission, and cancer research. Sutton said he was a strong supporter of the Tennessee Valley Authority and veterans. When asked about foreign policy, Sutton barked, "I am against any further appeasement of the Russians - - - I say tighten up on them." The Democratic nominee for Congress in Tennessee's Seventh



UNITED PRESS PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Congressman Pat Sutton of TN (right) walks with his campaign manager, C. V. Butler, in Memphis in 1954. Sutton was running for the US Senate against Estes Kefauver.

District added, "If it takes war to stop them (the Russians) we might as well have it. I will leave my seat in Congress and put on the uniform again if there is a war."

Once the election results were ratified, Congressman Courtney, a scholarly man and himself a soldier of considerable valor, issued a simple, yet eloquent statement thanking his friends for their support in his campaign for reelection. Courtney thanked the people of the Seventh Congressional District for allowing him to serve them in Congress. Wirt Courtney, fifty-eight years old when he was defeated in 1948, went back home to Franklin and resumed his law practice.

The 1948 election was the beginning of Pat Sutton's political career and he proved to be an exceptionally ambitious young man. Pat Sutton faced no Republican opponent in the general election and was assured of winning in the fall. Still, the young candidate astutely continued his energetic canvass of the Seventh Congressional District.

Pat Sutton hurried to Washington, D. C. where he joined Dayton Phillips, the GOP congressman from the First District, and Senator Kenneth McKellar for a meeting with Paul Rudolph, the general manager of the Eastern Dark-Fired Tobacco Growers' Association. Naturally, tobacco was an especially important crop in Tennessee at the time. Sutton hurried back to Tennessee where he was to join Congressman Estes Kefauver, who had defeated Senator Tom Stewart for the Democratic nomination for the U. S. Senate, to campaign in Clarksville with Hammond Fowler, the Democratic nominee for the Public Utilities Commission. Kefauver and Sutton also campaigned together at the Lawrence County

Fair.

Campaigning that fall, Pat Sutton told an audience the "Democratic party has always been against special privileges. It is the part of the common map." Sutton then explained why he was a Democrat. "I am a Democrat because I am a common man," Sutton said. "I have no opposition in this race, but any time there is an opponent against a Democrat I have an opponent."

Tennessee had two new congressmen in 1949 and a new junior U. S. senator. Pat Sutton was joined by James B. Frazier, Jr. as a new congressman. Frazier, son of a former Tennessee governor and U. S. senator, had been the U. S. attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee since 1933. Frazier had been elected to succeed Estes Kefauver in the Third Congressional District. Kefauver had been elected to the United States Senate by defeating former congressman B. Carroll Reece in the general election. Sutton traveled to Knoxville to visit the TVA headquarters along with John Wilmoth, a member of Great Britain's Parliament and Charles TeWater, the Ambassador-At-Large from South Africa. From Knoxville, the three dignitaries went to Chattanooga and Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

Once installed in office, Congressman Pat Sutton tried a novel approach in his office arrangements. Freshmen congressman received two room offices in either the Cannon House Office Building or the Longworth Office Building. The front office housed the congressman's secretaries and assistants, while the back, inner office was reserved for the congressman. Visitors to Sutton's office walked through the front door and came face-to-face with the congressman. Sutton decided to give the back office to his staff members, telling a

reporter, "They are doing all the hard work and I don't want visitors bothering them." Throughout his 1948 campaign for Congress, Sutton told audiences to write him in Washington and they would receive a courteous and prompt reply to their inquiries. Shortly after the inauguration of President Harry S. Truman in 1949, Congressman Sutton informed a reporter he was receiving 150 letters daily, which was about three times as many letters as most Tennessee congressmen. Sutton missed a dinner for Tennesseans in the nation's Capitol, explaining he had gone down to Virginia to kill hogs. "Just because I am in Washington doesn't mean I'm not going to eat," Sutton said.

Pat Sutton hired Todd Elrod as his administrative assistant. Elrod had held the same position under Congressman J. Ridley Mitchell, who had served in Congress from Tennessee's Fourth District from 1931-39. Mitchell had run for the U. S. Senate in the 1938 special election and lost. Mitchell made another attempt at a political comeback running for governor in 1942 and made a surprisingly strong showing against incumbent Prentice Cooper. Ridley Mitchell had then accepted a position to work as an attorney in the U. S. Attorney General's office, as did his former assistant, Todd Elrod. Elrod had been a special assistant in the lands division of the Department of Justice, while Mitchell worked in the anti-trust division of the Justice Department. Sutton, needing someone who knew and understood Washington, wisely hired Elrod away from the Department of Justice. Sutton found himself a house in Alexandria, Virginia on Tennessee Avenue.

Sutton very much wanted a place on the House Agriculture Committee and

constantly seeking publicity for his efforts, the freshman congressman naturally notified the news media of his desire. Congressman Sutton claimed he had the support of "a number of his colleagues" for a spot on the Agriculture Committee. No Tennessean had sat on the House Agriculture Committee since Harold Earthman, who had been defeated for reelection in 1946. "My district embraces the largest dark-fired tobacco market in the world," Sutton said. "and I'm hopeful I will be permitted to speak for the tobacco folks in the committee." Sutton had a powerful ally in Jere Cooper, a Tennessee congressman and the second ranking member of the House Ways & Means Committee, which made committee assignments. The new congressman and his wife began enjoying Washington social life with a dinner held at the Shoreham Hotel by the Tennessee Society for the Tennessee Congressional delegation, led by Senator McKellar. Finis Garrett, a former longtime member of Congress and judge of the United States Court of Appeals, served as the toastmaster for the evening.

Sutton's desire to serve on the House Agriculture Committee was granted and Tennessee's other freshman congressman, James B. Frazier, Jr., landed a spot on the Judiciary Committee.

Pat Sutton kept his name before the public and the people of his district throughout his first term in Congress. Still, he faced opposition inside the Democratic primary in his 1950 campaign for reelection from Dave Alexander, a state representative from Franklin, Tennessee, which was also home to Sutton's predecessor in Congress. Alexander kicked off his campaign with a blast at the Brannan Plan, named for Secretary of Agriculture, Charles Brannan. "I am against the Brannan plan," Alexander thundered. "Congressman Sutton voted for it. That is the issue between us and on it I am willing to stand or fall in this campaign." Alexander had been the House floor leader for Governor Gordon Browning during the 1949 session of the legislature. Unfortunately for Dave Alexander, he fell on the issue of the Brannan plan. Alexander lost every county in the Seventh Congressional District, save for one: Lewis. Dave Alexander even narrowly lost his own Williamson County to Congressman Sutton.

Sutton's victory and his natural ambition caused him to look to move up to the United States Senate.


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Johnson and Davis answer Focus Questions

Cont. from page 3

ushed essential workers and schools to reopen and instead of opening based on data, he used politics in his decision. It seems it was more important to give the appearance everything was back to normal before the election than to do his job and contain the virus and keep Tennesseans safe. He never developed a comprehensive plan to contain the virus, our economy will struggle to come back until the virus is contained.

Davis: Governor Lee was put in a difficult situation that very few people have had to deal with. At the beginning many people were unsure of what would happen and we had to better prepare our communities to respond to COVID. Considering the circumstances Governor Lee has done a good job minimizing the harm to life and our communities. I support Lee safely reopening our economy so workers can get back to work and businesses owners can start creating more jobs.

Make a statement on absentee and vote-by mail.

Johnson: Mail in voting is safe and efficient, we have been doing it for years in TN. Other states have been doing mail in voting for decades. Our President voted by mail, the military votes by mail, seniors vote by mail, and we should all be allowed to vote by mail—especially during a pandemic!

Davis: Tennessee does not have unsolicited vote-by mail and we should not. Our current absentee laws work and provide accountability to help avoid election fraud. The Knox County election commission has done a great job of making sure it is safe to vote in person, whether early voting or on election day.

Should businesses be held exempt from lawsuits during the pandemic?

Johnson: The liability law the legislature passed in special session was not necessary. We already have laws on the books to protect the vast majority of businesses who followed the guidelines and tried to keep their businesses safe. The bill that passed in the special session protected bad actors that did nothing to protect people—places like private prisons and meat processing plants. They put profits before workers yet again. 99% of our businesses are playing by the rules and this bill puts the small-business portion, who are bad actors, on a level playing field. It actually disincentivizes playing by the rules.

Davis: We do not hold a business accountable



Gloria Johnson



Elaine Davis

for damage caused by a flood, earthquake, or tornado and it would make no sense to hold that same business accountable for a biological virus. Without more specifics to the question, unless a business is actually and knowingly causing harm to an individual without their consent, I don't see a scenario where a business should be liable for a circumstance outside of their control.

Make a statement about charter schools.

Johnson: Public funding Charter Schools and vouchers should not be funded with public tax dollars, they pick and choose who they accept and are able to discriminate in their choices, they do not have the same expectation for transparency, and answer to unelected boards that may not even be in our state. We need to be funding schools equitably and creating Community Schools that actually show progress by addressing the reasons students do poorly. Charter and Voucher schools rarely show significant progress and have no positive effect on the community as they typically take students out of their community and address none of the reasons students struggle.

Davis: I fully support public education and do not support public money being diverted away from public education. I am a graduate of Knox County public schools, I have two sons who are graduates of Knox County public schools, and a daughter that is currently attending a Knox County public school. Charter schools are public schools operated by independent, non-profit governing bodies and they already exist in Tennessee. Through responsible budgeting we can prioritize public education to make sure students are prepared and improve opportunities for students seeking to work in technology or the trades. Responsible budgeting includes making sure that teacher compensation stays competitive so local school districts can recruit and retain quality teachers who put students first.

City details process for traffic calming in neighborhoods

By Ken Lay

The Neighborhood Advisory Council met late Wednesday afternoon and the topic was highway safety and how neighborhoods and residents could get involved in making roads safer.

In the meeting, Knoxville City Assistant Neighborhoods Coordinator Eden Slater detailed the process utilized for neighborhoods to calm speeding and traffic problems through the city's Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program.

The traffic program is the city's only program authorized to make changes to the neighborhood roads and traffic patterns. It was initiated in 2016 by the Department

of Neighborhoods and the Department of Engineering.

The programs stakeholders are neighborhoods, public administration and emergency services, including the Knoxville Police Department and the Knoxville Fire Department,

In 2019, the City designated a budget of \$200,000 for the traffic program. This year the program has no budget.

"Last year, we had a budget of \$200,000, but this year, due to (COVID-19), we have a budget of zero," Slater said.

She did, however, say that neighborhoods could continue to apply for road calming implements.

The traffic safety program also encourages

education and enforcement. Slater said that it offers anti-speeding signs through its Slow Down in K-Town campaign. The city offers six free signs and additional signs for \$10.

Neighborhood roads and minor connectors are eligible for traffic calming measures, according to Slater.

"Eligibility for calming is for neighborhood roads and minor connectors to those roads," Slater said. "We will not consider Broadway or Kingston Pike."

The process: Neighborhoods may submit an application for road calming implements, including speed humps.

Then neighborhoods can circulate petitions and the majority of residents

(including homeowners, renters and landlords) must sign the petition. Slater said 51 percent of residents must sign petitions but that only one signature per household will be counted.

A determination by an internal committee will be made on whether or not alternations should be made, this process includes a speed study.

The application will be vetted by KPD, KFD, Traffic Engineering, Public Service and Knoxville Area Transit.

The next step is a kick-off meeting, which will give a discussion opportunity.

Following that meeting, if the project is approved, the neighborhood will be put on a waiting list.

Pre-school being added as a special use at Ijams Nature Center

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Ijams Nature Center in South Knoxville is well-known locally as a place to hike, explore, swim and enjoy the outdoors. It has a museum, gift shop, dining facility, etc. and is a great nearby place to learn about native plants and animals.

But you didn't know that Ijams also has a Nature Pre-School there for children 3 to 5 years old. About half of the daily care there is spent outdoors and the indoor sessions are nature related. Parents pay about \$7,000 each year for their

child to attend the 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. classes which have a low child to teacher ratio. The fee is all inclusive including meals, supplies, etc.

In order to bring the Ijams Nature Center into compliance with Knoxville's zoning regulations the city council is considering, on a second and final reading, amending the zoning code to add pre-schools and kindergartens as a "special use" in a Parks and Open Space Zoning District.

The change passed easily on first reading recently and was passed

by a 14-0 vote by Knoxville-Knox County Planning.

The council may also give a final approval to banning smoking on city owned playgrounds and consider zoning changes on three properties on Nickle Road, Crouch Drive and North Gallaher View Road.

They will also discuss issuing \$130 million in general obligation bonds for capital projects and refinancing certain outstanding bonds.

Mayor Indya Kincannon may be approved to apply for \$3.4 million from the state transportation

department to help fund the Knoxville Area Transit's urban transit. A management agreement may be restated with Lakeshore Park Conservancy for its 2020 master plan for that park.

The Knoxville Police Department may benefit from a \$30,000 grant reward for which the mayor may be approved to apply.

The council will also discuss maximum sign size for Office Park Districts, internal illuminated signs in Industrial Districts, and standards for signs in those industrial areas.

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Resilient Red Devils upset Central and eye playoffs

By Steve Williams

Halls' football team had disappeared from the scene for a month due to COVID-19 reasons. But the Red Devils are clearly in the playoff picture now.

Halls upset Central 20-16 in the Battle of Black Oak Ridge on Joel Helton Field Thursday night, signaling to all in Region 2-5A it is back and for real.

The Red Devils shook off the rust in a 21-14 loss to South-Doyle, the region's frontrunner, in Week 8 and appeared to be close to 100 percent against the Bobcats.

Coach Scott Cummings said the key to the win was "just resiliency. When you're the two-time defending state champs, you're gonna have confidence and a swagger. We're trying to get some of that."

Halls, now 5-2 overall and 2-2 in the region, will host Sevier County Friday and play at Seymour in Week 11 to finish up region play.

Central, which has won back-to-back Class 5A state titles, slips to 3-1 in the region and 6-2 overall. The Bobcats will host South-Doyle in a Rivalry Thursday TV game this week before concluding region play against Gibbs.

Halls has several playmakers with breakaway speed in the passing game and sophomore wide receiver Nolan Faust topped the



PHOTO BY ELLA WILDS

Central running back Abraham Dudley Jr. and Halls linebacker Sawyer Adams collide Friday night in The Battle of Black Oak Ridge. The Red Devils won, 20-16.

list against Central with scoring plays of 81 and 73 yards. falls on me," said Nick Craney, Central's first-year head coach. "I made a defensive call in the fourth

quarter that gave them an opportunity to make a big play. It was a risky and dumb decision by me. Give Halls credit. They took advantage of it."

Craney was referring to Faust's go-ahead touchdown play. "We sent a blitz with no safeties on the field. It was a call I got greedy on and wanted to send more pressure than I should have."

After outside linebacker Kalib Fortner partially blocked a Halls punt to set up a short field, Isaiah Huff's 7-yard touchdown run up the gut and Kole Hughes' PAT kick gave Central a 7-0 lead.

Following an interception by Central's Brody Cranford, Jaiden Horton, playing in his first game of the season, wiggled through traffic to get in the end zone from nine yards out, but the TD was nullified by a penalty. Central settled for Hughes' 25-yard field goal and it was 10-0.

The complexion of the game changed in the second quarter as the Bobcats' offensive execution turned what Craney called "sloppy."

Conner Williamson blocked a Halls punt and the Bobcats set up shop at the Red Devils' 27. But Central followed with its worst offensive possession of the game,

Continued on page 2

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL AT A GLANCE

WEEK 9 SCORES

Baylor 20, Catholic 17
Farragut 45, Bearden 17
HVA 14, Jefferson Co. 13
Karns 40, Heritage 30
Fulton 33, Campbell Co. 26
Halls 20, Central 16
Webb 42, Silverdale 24
Pigeon Forge 35, A-E 0
Sevier Co. 42, Seymour 35
DCA 49, TKA 17

WEEK 10 SCHEDULE

(Games start at 7:30 unless noted)

Thursday
South-Doyle at Central, 7

Friday
GCA at CAK
TKA at Chatt. Grace
HVA at Farragut
Gibbs at Carter
Sevier Co. at Halls
Chatt. Christian at Webb
Fulton at West
Seymour at Lenoir City
Bearden at Morris. West
Powell at Oak Ridge
Karns at Rhea Co.

Wilson and Warriors sweep Division II-A state golf titles

By Steve Williams

The 2020 high school golf season couldn't have ended any better for Kaleb Wilson of Christian Academy of Knoxville.

The CAK junior took individual medalist honors in leading the Warriors to their fourth TSSAA Division II-A state team championship in a row and seventh overall last week at WillowBrook Golf Club in Manchester.

Wilson carded a two-under-par 142 in the 36-hole event, with rounds of 70 and 72. Luke Sienkiewicz of Evangelical Christian School was runner-up with a 71-74-145.

CAK posted a 602 team total, finishing 23 strokes ahead of ECS.

The sweep had been Wilson's mission all along this year.

"It's awesome because it was a goal of mine headed into the season," he said. "It just makes me proud to say that I got the job done and did what I worked for this whole season."

Reece Britt of Webb School placed third with a 71-75-146 and the Spartans as a team also took third in the six-team field.



CAK junior Kaleb Wilson took individual honors in the TSSAA Division II-A boys state golf tourney last week in Manchester.

CAK's Jackson Hughey, who was only one shot back after the first round, tied for fourth with a 71-77-148.

Other Warriors contributing to the championship were John Meadows (76-79-155) and Benjamin Johnston (76-86-162).

The weather conditions made second round play challenging.

"It was wet, cold and windy, and we had to play the ball down everywhere," said Wilson. "I really just tried to stay in myself and focus on the next shot and not dwell in the past."

"Everyone was going to get bad breaks and I knew that as long as I capitalized on the good chances, then I should come out on top."

The boys played the back nine first.

Coming in on the final round, Wilson had a bogey on No. 5 and a double bogey on No. 6, but finished strong with birdies on No. 7 and 8 and a par on the last hole. He shot 36 on the front and back side.

As for other local players, Cooper Hayes of Berean Christian School tied for ninth place with a 74-78-152.

In addition to Britt, Webb got an 81-78-159 from Sam King, a 77-84-161 from Eli Mayes and an 84-80-164 from Tate Woodruff.

In the Division II-A girls tourney, Emily Wilson of Franklin Road Academy fired a one-over-par 74-71-145 to take medalist honors and lead FRA to the team crown with a 302 total.

CAK placed fourth at 341, getting an 84-84-168 from freshman Malerie Taylor and an 84-89-173 from Allie Cooper.

Palmer Sykes (98-96-194) led Webb, which placed sixth in the team scoring.

DIVISION II-AA: Harrison Thompson of Knoxville Catholic, competing as an individual qualifier, placed third with a 74-72-146.

Sheldon McKnight of Baylor (72-70-142) made a birdie on the first playoff hole against Father Ryan's Riley Grindstaff to take the boys' title.

Baylor captured the girls' crown with a 302. Catholic (323) came in fourth.

Pope John Paul's Kynadie Adams was medalist with a 71-70-141.

Catholic's Kennedy Noe (75-83-158) finished sixth and teammate Amelia Rhechter (83-82-165) was 11th.



Players Jackson Hughey (left) and Kaleb Wilson jump in the pond near the 18th hole at WillowBrook Golf Club last week to continue a tradition started by former CAK golf coach Hank Fennell in 2010.

CAK tradition upheld at Hank's pond

By Steve Williams

After leading Christian Academy of Knoxville to its fourth straight Division II-A boys' state golf title and seventh overall last week, Kaleb Wilson and Jackson Hughey had something else to do.

They wanted to continue

a longtime tradition of their former coach, Hank Fennell, who retired after last season.

Fennell coached boys' golf at CAK for 15 years and had guided the Warriors to their first six state crowns, with the first coming in

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Farragut pulls away from tie to roll over Bearden 45-17

By Bill Howard

When Bearden High School's sophomore quarterback John Carlevato scored on a two-yard run with 8:15 left in the third quarter against Farragut Friday night, it tied the game at 17. The contest had every indication of being a down-to-the-wire classic between the Region 1-6A west Knoxville rivals. It would be anything but. Behind its strong run game and opportunistic defense, the Admirals would then run off 28 straight points to win going away, 45-17 at Bill Young Field. With the win, Farragut improved to 6-3 overall, 3-1 in the region. Bearden fell to 2-5 (2-2). "We talked more about us getting better this week,"

said Admirals' head coach Eddie Courtney. "I felt like we got much better after the Dobyys Bennett loss (by 21, the week before) so that's what we had to do. We needed to come out in the second half and establish some things. A lot of guys stepped up and made plays."

Said Bulldogs' coach Morgan Shinlever: "Our Achilles heel this year has been finishing. Playing four quarters. And that definitely caught us again tonight. We got to be able to play four quarters; we got a lot of kids going both ways. At the 6-A level that wears on you, especially when you're going against good ball teams."

After an exchange of field goals to open the game, Farragut took a 9-3 lead

when Dion Williams scored on a four-yard run early in the second period. The extra point was no good.

Bearden came back and took the lead 10-9 when Carlevato scored on 55-yard gallop up the middle on a keeper with 6:18 left in the half. For the game, Carlevato had 117 yards and two scores on 13 carries.

"He's young, he's learning ... made some real big plays for us and made some that weren't so great," said Shinlever. "We've got to continue to grow him and build him."

Farragut answered immediately on the ensuing drive when, on second and nine from their own 34, quarterback Dawson Moore hit Matt White, who had gotten behind the secondary, for

a 66-yard touchdown. The 17-10 lead held til half.

After Carlevato tied it in the third, it was all Farragut. First, Moore hit Jake Wallace for an 18-yard score with six minutes left in the period to make it 24-17. After forcing a Bulldog punt, the Admirals then took over on their 42. Six plays later Schumann Xie ran it in from the 16 for a 31-17 lead that would be more than enough.

For the game, the Admirals rushed 44 times for 319 yards. They also had two second-half interceptions. "Our offensive line, those guys have gotten better and we got four or five running backs all getting snaps and going in there and getting it done," said Courtney.

A pair of touchdown

passes by Moore – 11 yards to Mason Collins and 22 to Alex Taylor – finished the scoring. For the game, Moore completed 11 passes on 17 attempts for 178 yards and four touchdowns.

"I just told the offense (at 17-all) we gotta go execute our offense that we have all year, and obviously we did and we went up 21, and that really put the nail in the coffin," said Moore. "We saw that our rushing was able to pound it down their throats, and that's what we just kept doing."

With the playoffs looming, Farragut is second in the region and a virtual lock to make the post-season. A loss in either of their remaining games – against Hardin Valley or Jefferson County – would be huge

upsets. "We're second, so we gotta hold on to that and get homefield advantage," said Courtney.

The Bulldogs, currently in fourth place, have a less certain path.

"We're 2-2 in the region, so we're very much alive in the playoffs," Shinlever said. "We got two region games left (Morristown West, Science Hill). We've got to make sure we go back to work. You know, I was very encouraged because some of my kids at the end said 'hey, we got to get back in here and get ready for next week.'"

Farragut will likely be without linebacker Trey Nesbitt, who left the game with a leg injury. Courtney said he's likely lost for the season.

A GLANCE BACK AND A LOOK AHEAD

West (8-0) is rated No. 7 among state's 347 teams

By Steve Williams

Undefeated West High has climbed to No. 7 in the state in Sonny Moore's Power Ratings.

That puts Coach Lamar Brown's Rebels (8-0) in some elite company. West was off last week but returns to action this Friday against Fulton at Bill Wilson Field.

Moore rates each team in the state from Bluff City High in Memphis, which is No. 347, to No. 2 Kingsport Dobyys-Bennett in upper East Tennessee.

Maryville remained No. 1 with a 159.80 rating through Week 8 games, but the Rebels will be facing a stern test this Friday when they travel to Athens to play McMinn County, which also is 8-0 and has a 146.21 rating.

Counting home field advantage, which Moore figures is worth two points, McMinn County is a 14-point underdog. Keep an eye on that score.

Oakland, McCallie and Lipscomb Academy round out the Top 5 in Moore's computer. Alcoa is No. 6.

West's rating is 150.92. Powell is No. 18 with a 141.07 rating and Farragut is No. 23 with a 139.27 rating.

Christian Academy of Knoxville (8-0), the only other unbeaten team in Knoxville County, is No. 41 in the state with a 134.12 rating. This includes all classifications and both



PHOTOS BY ELLA WILDS

Above, Captains Jaidin Horton of Central (left) and Halls' Ty Hurst shake hands at midfield before Friday night's kickoff of the the Battle of Black Oak Ridge. The Red Devils notched their first win

over the Bobcats since 2017. Inset, The winner of the Battle of Black Oak Ridge gets to keep the trophy for a year.

Division I and Division II.

The Warriors host once-beaten Grace Christian Academy Friday in one of Week 10's top attractions.

Other headliners include South-Doyle at Central in the Rivalry Thursday TV game, Powell at Oak Ridge and Gibbs at Carter.

HAPPY HAWKS: Hardin Valley Academy posted its first win of the season in

Week 9, edging Jefferson County 14-13 in a battle of two winless teams that have seen much better times through the years.

BACK IN TOWN: Elijah Howard, who played for Webb School early in his prep career before transferring to Baylor, led the Red Raiders to a 20-17 win at Knoxville Catholic Thursday.

Howard, a Tennessee commit, was a workhorse, carrying the ball 37 times for 257 yards and one TD.

TROPHY'S HISTORY: Did you know the history of the "Battle of Black Oak Ridge" trophy goes back to its first year when host Central defeated Halls 26-14 on Sept. 2, 2005?

It is the same trophy that was hoisted by the Halls Red Devils Thursday night at Dan Y. Boring Stadium after their 20-16 win over the Bobcats and taken back over the ridge to keep at their high school for a year.

"If Halls wins, the score is posted on the Halls' side of the trophy and if Central wins, the score is posted on Central's side," said Central Athletic Director J.D. Lambert Saturday, as he shared some history about the 15-year-old trophy.

Lambert said the trophy was built by Mike McMillian, a teacher at Central.

The engraving is done by Coleman's on Broadway (near Shoney's).

"The idea was thought of when Jon Miller was the CHS athletic director and Steve Killian was the HHS AD," added Lambert.

"Jeff Thomas (then the CHS AD) helped execute the plan."

Resilient Red Devils upset Central

Cont. from page 1

losing a combined 14 yards on first and second downs on an errant snap and a fumble in the backfield.

Later in the quarter, Horton gave Central good field position with a punt return to the 49. An 11-yard sack, however, by Halls linebacker Hayden Woods ended the threat.

Faust ignited Halls with an 81-yard touchdown catch and sprint three minutes before halftime. Jake Marcantel's kick split the uprights and suddenly it was 10-7.

Central self-destructed again, losing a fumble on a handoff exchange. Defensive end Xander Allen found it at the Bobcats' 16. Quarterback Ty Humphrey's 3-yard keeper behind left guard gave Halls a 13-10 halftime lead.

Central put the ball in Liam Fortner's hands at the start of the third quarter. Running out of the Wildcat position, he carried the ball eight consecutive plays and his 13-yard run to the short side of the field set up fourth and one at the Halls 15.

The Bobcats tried to get the Red Devils to jump off sides with a long count, but the Halls D-line held its ground and Central had to take a timeout. When play resumed, Fortner ran up the middle but was stopped short by 6-1, 240-pound Trevor Linderman. It was the tackle of

the game.

Horton intercepted a pass at midfield to get the ball back for Central, but the Bobcats couldn't pick up a first down.

A huge fumble recovery by Central's Brandon Ridner at the Halls 19 early in the fourth quarter set up a go-ahead TD. Fortner scored from the 2. Hughes' extra-point try was wide right, but the Red and Black led 16-13 with 10:13 remaining.

Three plays later, Faust burned the Bobcats, making a fingertip catch in stride as he sped 73 yards to score. Marcantel's kick made it a four-point game (20-16) with 8:21 left.

Plenty of time remained for the home team, but Seth Simpson picked off a Bolton pass on second down. It was Simpson vs. Liam Fortner on the play and Seth won this time.

Halls picked up one first down and drained the clock before punting the ball away.

Central had one more chance, starting at its 38. Bolton hit Fortner for two first downs and Shannon Mills gained seven yards to move the chains again.

But on second and four at the Halls 23, Bolton's pass into the end zone for Fortner ended up in Halls senior Ty Hurst's hands.

Game over.

But a season delayed and cut short may just be beginning for the Red Devils.

CAK tradition upheld

Cont. from page 1

2009 at the Old Fort Golf Course in Murfreesboro.

After the TSSAA made Willowbrook Golf Club in Manchester its state tourney site in 2010, Fennell started his tradition of celebrating state championships by jumping into the pond next to the 18th green.

His Warriors also won state titles in 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2019, and each time Hank did his thing.

So, with the school's seventh title having been captured Tuesday, Wilson and Hughey headed to the pond to make another splash.

"Hank was an amazing coach for us the previous two years and Jackson and I felt like we needed to carry on his tradition, so

that is why we jumped into the pond," said Wilson.

The following day, Fennell, who has a realty business in Knoxville, was asked if he had heard about Kaleb and Jackson jumping in the pond.

"I did," he said with a laugh. "The others should have too!"

Maybe next season, more will. Wilson and Hughey are juniors this year, along with Benjamin Johnston, another member of the team.

But first the Warriors will have to get to Manchester again and then they have to win.

Getting to make a splash in Hank's pond doesn't come easily, which makes it that much more worthwhile.



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'Hello, Everybody, I'm Lindsey Nelson'

How did it happen that Lindsey Nelson, a product of Columbia, Tennessee, became one of the best sports-casters of his era?

It was all very simple, with the humblest of humble beginnings, with Lindsey pulling out all the stops. He was totally committed to Bob Neyland's axiom, "Play for and make the breaks, and when one comes your way – SCORE!" That's exactly what he did.

For those of you who might have lived on or near Valley View Road, you were a part of history and probably didn't realize it.

Sometime in the summer of 1947, Lindsey was in search of gainful employment and needed to assemble an audition record (an actual acetate disk, not a tape, in those days) for an assignment broadcasting sports for Knoxville radio station WKGN.

"The recorder inscribed a voice on the record, all right, but it wasn't too clear," Lindsey wrote in his autobiography, "Hello Everybody, I'm Lindsey Nelson." "Perhaps that was just what I wanted. Maybe a thin reproduction, a suggestion of performance, would serve my purpose best."

One afternoon at home, with no one else around and a trusty recorder in hand, Lindsey began doing



In 1950, Lindsey Nelson, pictured here with Gen. Robert R. Neyland, was in his third season broadcasting Tennessee football and was about a year away from his first national sports gig with the Liberty Broadcasting System. Picture courtesy of the University of Tennessee Sports Information Office.

play-by-play of an imaginary scrimmage at Shields-Watkins Field some distance away. He didn't tell anyone it was imaginary, saying only he was far enough away from the field "in order not to intrude" on the festivities.

With the tape completed, Lindsey delivered the finished product in a plain brown wrapper to station manager Charlie DeVois on a street corner downtown, much the way spies did in the movies. It was a cloak-and-dagger operation.

Or that's the way it appeared.

With that little exchange, a career was born. He got a

nightly 15-minute sports gig and a chance to broadcast high school football.

His first game was from the old Evans-Collins Field, just off Magnolia Avenue, near Winona Street. Lindsey did not recall the combatants, but that omission didn't seem to matter. He was in the broadcast business... to stay.

"I had tried to put together all I had ever learned from the afternoons with Bill Stern at the Rose Bowl [as Stern's spotter in 1940], with Fort Pearson at the Sugar Bowl [as Pearson's spotter at the 1941 contest in New Orleans], and with

the writers in the press box at the Orange Bowl. I tried to draw on Stern's sense of drama and Pearson's professionalism. I had studied the teams, and I tried to be exciting and accurate."

After that first broadcast, DeVois grabbed Lindsey, excitedly, and asked him what he had just done.

It was just a football game, Lindsey said, matter-of-factly.

"No, no," said DeVois, "You have just done the best football broadcast ever heard in this town. The very best."

Lindsey probably couldn't believe what he was

hearing.

Preparation had become well acquainted with opportunity. Everything Lindsey had done to that time was suddenly a prologue to glory. It was akin to giving Picasso a paintbrush, Heifetz a violin, or Barney Fife a pistol.

Exciting things were about to happen.

"I went home," Lindsey wrote, "and patted my spotter's boards gently. They had been to the Rose Bowl. Maybe I could someday work in the Rose Bowl. Wouldn't that be something?"

Then he added this

comment.

"If you don't have a dream, how are you going to have a dream come true?"

Lindsey did make it to the Rose Bowl, finally, calling the 1964 contest between Illinois and Washington (Illinois 17, Washington 7) for NBC. That dream, as well as many others, had come to fruition.

That happened because of an audition record prepared one afternoon in Northeast Knoxville. Lindsey didn't give the venue's street address, but the McClung Collection at the Knox County Public Library did: 1606 Valley View Road. That's where the first tentative steps leading to a storied broadcast career took place.

Since then, history has taken a number of twists and turns with the road being renamed (Valley View Drive) and street number 1606 being consigned to history.

Lindsey led an exciting life in sports communication, doing major league baseball for the Mets, Giants, and Reds, the videotaped Notre Dame replay, and pro football on both Sunday afternoon and Monday night.

His sports coats were legendary. His broadcast intro, "Hello, Everybody, I'm Lindsey Nelson," was likewise well known to sports fans of his era. When fans heard that mellow baritone, they knew very quickly whose it was.

Here's an important lesson. Never discount the power of a dream.

Fulton overcomes adversity to secure playoff berth

By David Klein

Friday night at Fulton felt like a playoff game. Both the Fulton Falcons and Campbell County Cougars were at 3-4 and trying to secure a playoff spot in Region 3-5A. Fulton was down 11 players due to COVID-19, injuries, and disciplinary issues. However, Fulton was able to shake that off as well as an ineffective start to defeat Campbell County 33-26. With the win, the Falcons secured a playoff berth and a 3-way tie for second place in Region 3-5A.

The Falcons struggled early on offense and started drives in their own territory. A scoreless first quarter gave way to an early Cougar touchdown in the second quarter as Cougar running back C.J. Allen ran straight up the middle for a 17-yard touchdown to put Campbell County up 7-0 with 9:56 left in the second quarter.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Cougars surprised Fulton with an onside kick. The football bounced off a Falcon player and Campbell Co. recovered. However, the Cougars suffered a holding penalty and had to punt the ball back to Fulton.

Despite getting the ball back, Fulton could not move the football. The Falcons were not able to get the punt off as punter Jayden Jenkins fumbled the snap and the Cougars tackled him at the 2-yard line. Four plays later after going backwards on a holding penalty, Cougar quarterback Hunter White threw a 15-yard touchdown pass on 4th-and-goal to Cahron Williams. The touchdown put the Cougars up 14-0.

However, the Falcons were able to end the first half with a bang as quarterback Tommy Sweat heaved a prayer at the gun and wide receiver Raysean Jackson leapt in the air and caught the ball at the 2-yard

line and dove into the end zone. The desperation touchdown cut Campbell County's lead to 14-7 at halftime.

"All the drama in the second half, I kinda forgot about that play," Sweat said. "That gave us all the momentum going into halftime. The pocket kinda broke down on that last play. Raysean Jackson, he did a good job of going up and getting the football. 14-7, going into the locker room when we were just dead in the water (before the touchdown), if you will. I think that was the play of the game," Sweat emphasized.

The second half was a different story for Fulton and would be a dogfight for both teams. Shaking off an interception on its first drive, Fulton came right back with an interception of its own. Jerrison Gibson intercepted a White pass and ran it back 45 yards for a touchdown. The Falcons missed the extra point but drew within one, 14-13 with 8:02 left in the third quarter.

Moments later, Falcons' defensive end Bill Anderson intercepted White for Fulton's second interception of the game. Fulton took advantage of the turnover as Mac McCovery rumbled for a 16-yard touchdown run with 6:50 left in the third quarter to put Fulton up for the first time 20-14.

Campbell County came right back. Allen ran for his second touchdown of the night, 31 yards with 5:05 left in the third quarter. Fulton was able to tip the extra point, so the score stayed tied at 20.

The seesaw nature of the game continued. Campbell County went ahead on a 34-yard touchdown pass from White to Makyle Shepard. The Cougars missed the extra point again but led 26-20 with 11:50 left in the fourth

quarter.

Fulton refused to quit and took the lead right back on Sweat's 9-yard touchdown run with 5:06 left in the game. Joseph Mojica kicked the extra point and Fulton took a 27-26 lead.

Campbell County got the ball back and moved into Falcon territory. The Cougars were winding the clock down and it looked like they were going to score and seal the win. However, DeRondre Peebles made a diving interception off White with 1:20 left to record Fulton's third interception of the second half. The turnover gave the Falcons a 1st-and-10 on their own 1-yard line.

"Peebles does a good job," Fulton head coach Rob Black said. "He's a coachable kid. He did what he was asked to do right there and broke on a route like he knew it was coming and made the pick and that was a huge play for us."

With Fulton backed up, the Falcons were just looking to make a first down and run out the clock. But Campbell County packed in extra defensive players to stuff a quarterback sneak. On second down from the 3, McCovery ran off-tackle, spotted a hole, and dashed 97 yards for the game-sealing touchdown with 55 seconds left. Fulton missed the extra point but led 33-26.

Fittingly, the Fulton defense ended the game on Seth Vaughn's sack. Fulton travels to undefeated West on Friday and Campbell County plays Clinton at home.

"We were still just off tonight with a lot of things," Black said. "Penalties hurt us in a lot of ways. Special teams cost us 14 points tonight. Luckily we competed like you're supposed to compete and found a way to win."

A Tennessee/Alabama Game Unlike Any Other

By Mark Nagi

The Tennessee/Alabama rivalry will be renewed on Saturday at Neyland Stadium.

It is always one of the most anticipated games on the schedule for the Vols, despite the fact that they haven't beaten the Crimson Tide since 2006, and have rarely been competitive during this recent victory drought.

I've covered my share of these games over the years, and while there is a mutual respect between the programs, the pure, unadulterated hatred among fans is truly special. To this day, Bama fans call Phillip Fulmer a snitch for telling the NCAA what he knew about the infamous recruiting of Albert Means in 1999/2000.

But everything this time around just feels... different.

Don't get me wrong. I'm pleased as punch to be able to watch any college football this season. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we are still seeing games played across the country. The Big 10 and PAC 12 have done an about face and will begin their seasons this weekend as well. (This is the point in the article in which I'd normally make a joke about the excitement of a Rutgers/Michigan State game in Lansing, but I'm not going to do that. Nope. Not gonna do it.)

The SEC has had to adjust like everyone else, and recently the Missouri/Vanderbilt and LSU/Florida games were postponed because of COVID outbreaks around the Commodores and Gators programs.

But the biggest news came on Wednesday, October 14, when it was announced that Alabama head coach Nick Saban head coach had tested positive for COVID-19. Saban has done public service announcements imploring fans to wear masks and practice social distancing. During games this season, Saban could be seen on the sidelines wearing a mask in the proper form, something that a lot of college football coaches are failing to do.

So the fact that Saban can get it, someone that seemingly was taking all the proper precautions, shows how

easily this can spread.

At the time I was writing this article, Saban said that he had no symptoms. That is obviously great news for him, especially since he is 68 years old. He was scheduled to miss the Georgia/Alabama game on October 17.

According to CDC guidelines, Saban should self isolate for 10 days, which would mean that in theory, he'd have the ok to be on the sidelines for the Tennessee/Alabama game this Saturday. Keep in mind, I'm not a doctor or a scientist or an epidemiologist (and the odds are you aren't either), but with those numbers in place, I'd imagine you'd see Saban back with his team this weekend in Knoxville, barring any setback or new revelations.

This is a traditional southern rivalry. Tickets are available (last check going to \$154 a piece on Stubhub). Fans will get together and enjoy camaraderie and beverages across the South.

But it just feels... different.

Look, sports matters. I was a sportscaster for more than 15 years and cringed whenever I was told that sports is the candy store of a newscast. Sure, it might not be as important as a Supreme Court ruling, but you can't tell me that it doesn't matter.

And these days... it matters more than ever.

Imagine going through this Fall without football. We've already missed out on so much in our daily lives. There are loved ones that we can't visit for fear or getting them sick. There are vacations we can't take because of border closures. Our favorite bars and restaurants have had enough starts and stops to fill up the end of a NASCAR race at Daytona.

But football is there. In a weird, uneven form... but it is there.

So on Saturday... whether Nick Saban is on the field or not, whether the Vols pull the upset or get blown out, in the grand scheme of things it's just good to have the game there for us on our televisions.

I hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy.

Lady Bulldogs down West to win District 2-AAA Championship

By Ken Lay

Bearden High School girls soccer coach Ryan Radcliffe was happy to see his team win the District 2-AAA Tournament Championship last week. But he made it clear while the Lady Bulldogs were celebrating that the squad's work had just begun.

"It's great to win a district championship and it's nice but we don't play to win the district championship," Radcliffe said after Bearden defeated West High 2-0 to claim the title Thursday night at Turner-Allender Field. "But it's only part of the process. You want to win it because it guarantees you home field advantage on Tuesday (in the Region 1-AAA semifinal elimination match), we have to get through Tuesday and win Thursday, so we can have a good draw for the sectional and be at home. Now is when the work really starts."

The Lady Bulldogs (17-1) will host Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett (13-5) Tuesday in West Knoxville. Science



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

The Bearden Lady Bulldogs soccer team celebrate their District 2-AAA Championship. Bearden won its fourth consecutive title with a 2-0 win over rival West High Thursday night at Turner-Allender Field.

Hill beat the Lady Indians 4-0 in the District 1-AAA Championship match Thursday.

The Lady Rebels (11-5-2) will travel to Johnson City Tuesday to play the Lady Hilltoppers (12-2-1).

The Lady Bulldogs earned their fourth consecutive district title thanks to goals by Brinley Murphy and Zneyah McLaughlin.

Murphy gave Bearden a 1-0 lead in the 22nd minute when she headed in a corner kick by Becca Roth.

The Lady Bulldogs outshot the Lady Rebels 9-0 over the first 40 minutes of the match.

Bearden continued to dominate play as it applied constant pressure against the Lady Rebels all night long.

The Lady Bulldogs mustered nine more shots after halftime while West managed just one shot on frame in the entire game as Bearden goalkeepers Peyton Huber and Anna Wyatt combined to record a clean sheet.

McLaughlin extended the Lady Bulldogs' advantage to 2-0 when she tallied a marker off an assist from Jordan Hellman in the 71st minute.

Radcliffe said that he was pleased with the way his side battled against its longtime rivals, the Lady Rebels.

"I was really happy with the way we fought through some adversity like we always do, like we've done all year," he said.

McLaughlin said that she and the Lady Bulldogs approached Thursday night's match the same way they've approached every other match during the 2020 campaign.

"Nobody knew what this season was going to have for us, with the (COVID-19) and everything else going on in the world," McLaughlin said. "I know that if we don't have our best game that my teammates and I will find a way to win."

"All we want to do is win and we've played every game this year like it was going to be our last."

Soccer:

Notes from the scorecard

By Ken Lay

The 2020 Division I district champions have all been crowned and the regional tournament pairings have been set following an eventful championship Thursday.

In Class AA, Central High claimed a second consecutive District 4-AA Tournament Title when they topped South-Doyle 3-1 at Billy K. Nicely Field in South Knoxville.

The Lady Bobcats, the tournament's No. 2 seed, got a pair of goals from Edie Wilds. Dani Macres also scored for Central, which made its first-ever trip to Murfreesboro and the Class AA State Tournament in 2019.

Maris Morton tallied for the Lady Cherokees.

In District 3, Gibbs claimed the district championship with a 3-1 victory over Grainger Thursday night in Corryton.

Allie Gore, Carolina Pittman and McKinzie Braden scored for the Lady Eagles.

The Region 2-AA Semifinals will be Tuesday night with the Lady Bobcats hosting the Lady Grizzlies at Dan Y. Boring Stadium in Fountain City. Gibbs, meanwhile, will collide with the Lady Cherokees at Ernest Whited Stadium.

Seymour claimed the District 2-AA crown when it notched a 5-0 victory over Sevier County Friday afternoon.

The Lady Eagles will play host to Sullivan Central Tuesday while Sevier County will travel to Greeneville.

The region semifinals are elimination matches and kickoff times were not set at press time.

In Class AAA: Powell won the District 3 Championship with a 2-1 victory over Oak Ridge.

In District 4-AAA: Maryville outlasted Farragut 3-0 in Blount County.

The Lady Rebels will host the Lady Wildcats Tuesday while the Lady Admirals travel to the East side of Emory Road to face the Lady Panthers.

Bearden blanked West High 2-0 Tuesday night at Turner-Allender Field.

The Lady Bulldogs will host Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett while the Lady Rebels will travel to Johnson City to tangle with Region 1-AAA Champion Science Hill.

Kickoff for both Region 1 semifinals is tentatively set for 7 p.m.

The Hearty Half-Dozen put TKA in state volleyball tourney

By Steve Williams

The Dirty Dozen was the name of an award-winning 1967 war film.

Over 50 years later, The King's Academy volleyball team could be called The Hearty Half-Dozen. It has only six players, but it has qualified for the semifinal round of the TSSAA Division II-A state tournament this week in Murfreesboro.

A volleyball team with only six players is unique, and even unheard of for most.

To be completely accurate, the TKA team also has its best junior varsity player on the squad for "emergency reasons," says Coach Kelly Peterson.

"If somebody gets injured, we need to have a reserve to fill in. We don't want to have to forfeit a match."

So freshman Tia Carter plays that role for now. She also keeps Peterson company on the bench. Without Tia there, Kelly would only have Assistant Coach Danielle Quisinberry beside her.

The Hearty Half-Dozen are Kolbie Greene, senior setter; Alexa Austin, senior middle hitter; Lauren Collins, senior middle hitter; Maggie Olson, senior right-side hitter; Bianca Hood, senior outside hitter; and Valeriya Varnakova, junior outside hitter.

Varnakova is from Russia and played at TKA last season. Coach Peterson said she did not return to her homeland after the school year ended last spring because she thought she might not be able to return to the United States because of the pandemic. She's living in a dorm on the TKA campus.

The King's Academy team secured its state tourney berth by defeating Franklin Road Academy 25-18, 25-20, 25-22 in a state quarterfinal match Friday on its home floor in Seymour. It will be TKA's third trip to the state tourney, which starts Tuesday.

TKA is 21-7 overall and will play



PHOTO BY TRACI GREENE

The thrill of victory can be seen as The King's Academy volleyball team celebrates after the winning point against Notre Dame in the region finals. From left to right: Alexa Austin, Bianca Hood, Valerie Varnakova, Lauren Collins, Maggie Olson and Kolbie Greene.

the winner of Tipton-Rosemark vs. Goodpasture in the state semifinal round.

The Lady Lions won their first regular season district championship and first district tourney title this year and also took top honors in the region tournament for the second year in a row.

"I am going to brag on my six girls," said Coach Peterson. "We are undefeated in post-season with only six girls playing! They all deserve an award for being all-around players."

In the region finals, TKA rolled past Notre Dame in Chattanooga 25-17, 25-14, 25-19. Greene had 38 assists, 10 digs and five kills and Austin had 16 kills and three blocks. Austin was selected MVP of the tournament with Greene and Collins also making the all-tournament team.

In the region semifinal match at The King's Academy, the Lady Lions beat Grace Christian Academy 25-8, 25-19, 25-22. Austin had 14 kills and nine digs in that match and Varnakova contributed eight kills and nine digs.

The few number of players on the team has its advantages and disadvantages, said Coach Peterson, who also is a college volleyball replay official.

The girls play all the positions in

the rotation and learn the different skill sets for each position, despite their size.

Playing full time has gotten them in top physical condition, but their number of matches has had to be reduced some too.

With only six players, Peterson said "we also have to be creative in our practice sessions."

Catholic going back to state again

Knoxville Catholic will be going back to the TSSAA Division II-AA state volleyball tournament this week.

The host Lady Irish rolled past Chattanooga Christian 25-20, 25-15, 25-22 in a state quarterfinal match Saturday.

"Offensively, we had a pretty good day and defensively, we were very, very good," said Catholic Coach Brent Carter. "Our defense keeps us in a lot of points."

"Chattanooga Christian did a good job serving to the right space on the court, but we passed very well today and that kept us in every single point."

"I'm very proud of the girls for having such a long layoff and coming out and playing clean. This is our sixth straight trip to the state championships."

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Prosperity or Revolution?

“Liberals claim to want to give you a hearing to other points of view and are then shocked and offended when they discover there are other points of view.”
William F. Buckley

I find myself confused in these troublesome times and worry about my children and grandchildren. I ask myself how can people see the same things so differently? How can “Make America Great” be offensive to some people?

This conundrum of an altered world view is artfully depicted in the movie A Beautiful Mind. Russell Crowe portrays John Nash, a Princeton professor and Nobel laureate, who becomes schizophrenic and sees things vastly different than those in the sane world.

In a sermon series on politics, my minister recently asked, “How can we listen to each other?” It’s a good question and I think it can only be done when there is mutual respect. Early in his

career, the now discredited Chris Matthews was aghast when his boss, Tip O’Neill, warmly received Ronald Reagan. Though their ideologies were fundamentally different, O’Neill explained to Matthews that Reagan was his friend. Respect is what is missing in our hyper-partisan culture. Pence respectfully disagreed with the condescending and contemptuous Kamala Harris during their debate. Like William F. Buckley, I see the world differently than my liberal friends, but I will make my case with facts; I will not hate or act like a jerk.

I have carefully listened to the progressive Democrat socialists and find their policies dangerous and destructive. And their hatred of President Trump is un-Christian and un-American. I will vote for policy and accomplishments, not personality. I will vote from reason, not hatred.

So, since voting has begun, I offer the reasons

I plan to vote for President Trump:

1. President Trump loves America, unabashedly and unequivocally.
2. Joe Biden is controlled by revolutionaries who think America is bad.
3. Trump has kept his campaign promises including building the wall, which has stemmed the tide of illegal immigration.
4. Trump orchestrated the most robust pre-Covid economy in decades, and, despite opposition from Democrats, his policies are leading to a post-Covid recovery.
5. Prior to Covid, Trump’s policies produced the lowest unemployment in decades with historic employment for Blacks, Asians, Women and Latinos.
6. Under President Trump America has become energy independent.
7. Trump rebuilt the military which is necessary in a hostile world, and reformed the deplorable Veterans Administration with the VA Choice and VA Accountability Act.
8. Trump organized Operation Warp Speed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. It is an abject lie that his response was inadequate, delayed or not responsive to the science at that time and the dire predictions of the modelers.
9. Trump destroyed the murderous ISIS Caliphate and killed its leader

al-Baghdadi as well as the infamous Iranian general and terrorist, Soleimani.

10. Trump brokered an elusive Middle East peace deal and another in the Balkans between Muslim Kosovo and Christian Serbia.

11. Trump signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. (Biden/Harris plan to raise taxes.)

12. The President eliminated onerous government regulations, facilitating innovation and development.

13. Trump made trade deals with South Korea, the European Union and Japan and brokered the USMCA. He withdrew America from the job-killing TPP deal.

14. Trump withdrew from the Paris Climate Accord which favored China by allowing them to continue polluting.

15. Trump signed the Save Our Seas Act to remove plastic and garbage (China is a huge polluter) from the ocean, and also signed the biggest wildlife protection and conservation bill in a decade, designating 375,000 acres as protected land.

16. The President’s Executive Order mandates that doctors and hospitals appraise patients of the cost of their services.

17. He signed the Right To Try legislation for people with terminal illness and provided substantial additional funding to fight the opioid epidemic.

18. Trump signed historic human anti-trafficking initiatives.

19. The President signed the First Step Act legislation reforming criminal justice and sentencing that disenfranchised Blacks.

20. Trump’s tax cut legislation included provisions for new opportunity Zone Incentives in impoverished neighborhoods.

21. Trump signed legislation for school choice for kids to escape failing schools.

22. Trump “persuaded” NATO members to pay their share of largely their own defense.

23. Trump has put two judges on the Supreme Court and probably a third with Amy Coney Barrett to replace RBG. And he has appointed 300 appellate judges.

24. Finally, Trump opposes the Green New Deal, reparations, abolishing the Electoral College, anarchists and Democrat-socialists. So, do I.

I could go on, but you get the point. These accomplishments and positions are easily verified on Internet searches, and unfortunately largely ignored by the media. All this despite unprecedented, profane, and defamatory attacks by Hollywood, academia, the Deep State, Intelligence agencies, the media, Democrats and ruling class elites because he challenges the corrupt establishment.

Even now the tech lords of Silicon Valley are suppressing the New York Post revelations of the corrupt Hunter Biden and Joe’s family business. The media is likewise suppressing the Great Barrington Declaration of doctors and scientists proclaiming lockdowns are harmful. Even the World Health Organization now has the same opinion.

What are Joe Biden’s accomplishments in forty-seven years in Washington? Well, he has extended his wealth and that of his family. It actually looks worse than Hillary Clinton’s pay-for-play racket. By comparison, Trump, who donates his Presidential salary, has lost a fortune serving America as President.

I don’t know what will happen in November. I do know that the current polls are designed to shape opinion rather than report people’s attitudes. I’m opposed to the unknown puppeteers of Joe Biden. And we should all be afraid of Kamala Harris.

It appears we are heading for a record turnout if early voting in Knoxville is any clue. The pundits believe this is a turnout election which will hinge more on feeling than policy. Will we choose the Democrat’s revolution or will we choose American prosperity?

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

Overcoming Discouragement in Your Life

Discouragement is a real obstacle that rears its ugly head in our lives. There are innumerable ways you can become discouraged: a broken friendship, the death of a child, a wrecked marriage, a job loss, an incurable

illness, a stroke, a church split, a loved one dealing with mental illness, a concern about the world.

The New Testament has three Greek words to carry the idea of being disheartened, dispirited, or discouraged. They are typically translated as “to faint,” “to



By Mark Brackney,
Minister of the
Arlington Church
of Christ

lose heart” or “to grow weary.” Here are some examples: “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged” (Colossians 3:21). “Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not

lose heart” (2 Corinthians 4:1). “Do not lose heart at my tribulations for you” (Ephesians 3:13). “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up” (Luke 18:1).

Why all these words of

encouragement? Because God knows we will deal with discouragement. Think back to the Old Testament when the Babylonians destroyed the city of Jerusalem. They looted the city and carried many of the people away into captivity to a distant land. They appeared to lose it all – their land, their pride, and their identity as a nation set apart by God for a special purpose. These were sad days. These were days of lamenting. This makes me think about all the lamenting in our country right now. There is discouragement about social justice issues, the upcoming election, COVID, the economy,

and the culture of violence just to name a few.

Here is the good news: there is hope. Hope did come for the Jewish exiles. A king named Cyrus of Persia came to power and gave permission for the Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem. The temple started to be rebuilt and a priest named Ezra and an administrator named Nehemiah, who was the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia, came on the scene. Nehemiah helped guide the Jewish remnant in the rebuilding of the walls around Jerusalem. This was critical for the survival of the nation to help thwart off enemy attacks.

Was the building process easy? No way. Nehemiah chapter four shows all the different ways the Jews were being discouraged from completing the rebuilding project. But Nehemiah kept reminding the people that they could do it. They needed to cry out to God for help. They needed to continue in the work God had given them to do. They needed perspective, that the part of the wall they were rebuilding was part of something much bigger, a completion of the entire wall and thus the security of the entire city. They also needed to remember the Lord. We need to remember the Lord

as well and a big reason why we need to daily read the Word of God. People often say, “I don’t have time to be in the Bible.” Honestly, you don’t have time not to be in the Bible. You might think, “My heart is just not into reading the Bible right now.” That is precisely why you need to read the Bible, to give your heart a boost of hope and power. Encouragement is available for the taking if we seek it from God, gain it from having positive people in our lives, and help carry the burdens of others. When you help others, you begin to forget your own worries.

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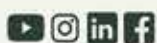
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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ORTHIE ETHEL MCCOY DOCKET NUMBER 83574-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 8 day of OCTOBER 2020, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ORTHIE ETHEL MCCOY who died Aug 23, 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 8 day of OCTOBER, 2020.

ESTATE OF ORTHIE ETHEL MCCOY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHARLOTTE EWSEYCHIK; EXECUTRIX
210 ALBRIGHTON COURT
LONGWOOD, FL 32779

MICHAEL DEBUSK
ATTORNEY AT LAW
5344 N BROADWAY SUITE 101
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DORIS INEZ NEAL DOCKET NUMBER 83509-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 23 day of SEPTEMBER 2020, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of DORIS INEZ NEAL who died Aug 16, 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

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(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

This the 23 day of SEPTEMBER, 2020

ESTATE OF DORIS INEZ NEAL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) RANDY NEAL; EXECUTOR
1529 ABERDEEN DRIVE
ALCOA, TN. 37701

JACKSON KRAMER ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 629 KNOXVILLE, TN. 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF TONY LEE NORWOOD DOCKET NUMBER 83410-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 7 day of OCTOBER 2020, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of TONY LEE NORWOOD who died Jul 8, 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:

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(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 7 day of OCTOBER, 2020.

ESTATE OF TONY LEE NORWOOD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
APRIL MICHELLE SWEENEY; EXECUTRIX
60 MONARCH WAY
NORTH OAKS, MINNESOTA 55127

T MICHAEL CRAIG GRUBBS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1810 AILOR AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DELZIE MARIE ROLLINS DOCKET NUMBER 83370-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 12 day of OCTOBER 2020, letters administration in respect of the Estate of DELZIE MARIE ROLLINS who died Apr 2, 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:

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(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

This the 12 day of OCTOBER, 2020.

ESTATE OF DELZIE MARIE ROLLINS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ASHLEY LANE; ADMINISTRATRIX
132 WALE DRIVE
PARROTTSVILLE, TN. 37843

J DERRECK WHITSON ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 1230
NEWPORT, TN. 37822

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARTHA BERRIETTA THOMAS DOCKET NUMBER 83504-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 9 day of OCTOBER 2020, letters administration in respect of the Estate of MARTHA BERRIETTA THOMAS who died May 20, 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 9 day of OCTOBER, 2020.

ESTATE OF MARTHA BERRIETTA THOMAS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE (S) KARLS THOMAS; CO-ADMINISTRATOR 3703 RIVER TRACE LANE KNOXVILLE, TN. 37920

ERIC S THOMAS; CO-ADMINISTRATOR 7705 W OGG ROAD KNOXVILLE, TN. 37938

JOHN W ROUTH ATTORNEY AT LAW 3232 TAZEWELL PIKE KNOXVILLE, TN. 37918

MISC. NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization
Executive Board Meeting, October 28, 2020

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board will meet on **Wednesday, October 28th at 9 a.m.** in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main Street, 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/executive-board/>. 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.

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