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Save Our Right to **VOTE** Vote **NO** on Amendment 1

October 26, 2020

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Weekly **Focus**

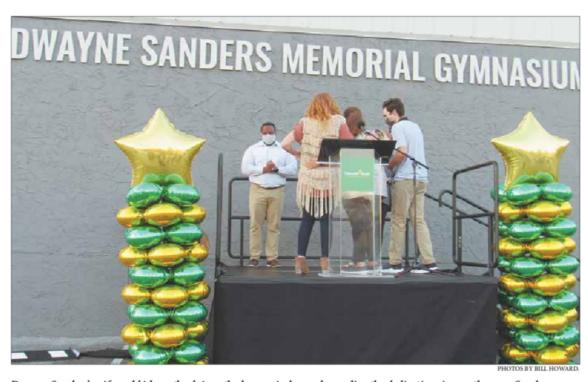
2019 Knox County Total Population1 470,313

Total Confirmed COVID-19 Cases² 12,343

% COVID-19 Cases/ Total Population

Total COVID-19 Deaths²

% COVID-19 Deaths/ Total Population .0002%



Dwayne Sanders's wife and kids on the dais as the banner is dropped revealing the dedication sign on the gym. Sanders was a long-time coach and mentor for Fellowship of Christian Athletes, which joined forces with Emerald Youth Foundation.

Dwayne Sanders - Christian, coach, mentor - honored with gym dedication

If you didn't know Dwayne Sanders, there are at least two things about him you can be sure of. The first is that he died way too young: he was 52 when he died of cancer in April of 2018. The second? He touched many lives, and a whole lot of people thought a whole lot of him.

On Tuesday, Oct. 20, the memory of Sanders - a longtime basketball coach and mentor to inner-city youth - was honored when the gymnasium at the Emerald Youth Foundation on Broadway Avenue was named for him. Some 125 people friends, family, colleagues and mentorees among them attended the ceremony.

One of the many speakers was Cumecus Cates, a Fulton highschool grad currently attending



Dwayne Sanders's wife Lisa poses with Cumecus Cates after the Oct. 20 ceremony at the Emerald Youth Foundation. The gym was named for Sanders, who worked for some 25 years with area youth. Earlier, Cates told the crowd what an enormous influence Sanders had been in his life, as both mentor and basketball coach.

"Dwayne for me was much like a father figure," said Cates. "My around. I've been blessed with

Alice Lloyd College in Kentucky. dad has been in prison most of my life, so I haven't had him

people like Dwayne Sanders and many other coaches who are God-fearing men. I give Dwayne a lot of credit for where I am

In 1992, Sanders went to work for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Knoxville. In 2012, he approached his friend and former Maryville College roommate, Steve Diggs - founder of EYF - with the idea of the two organizations joining forces. Sanders thought the combined effort would result in a broader outreach that could help more kids and do more for the community. Diggs was on board.

"Dwayne wanted to combine his passion for urban youth sports and his commitment to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, so he came up with the

BNA's purchase of AJ Building may not happen

Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com

Building to BNA Associates.

BNA, has altered its plans for close the deal BNA came back the historic building to a point with changes the county can't that the county cannot agree. or won't approve. The 2017 contract agreement to sell the Gay Street building out to Mayor Glenn Jacobs was approved by the commis- office for comments and sought to renegotiate with BNA. The sion. Proceeds from the \$6 mil- information from several other lion sale were destined to go county officials toward relocating the Board of

es to the TVA Towers building. A glaring withdrawal from was approved this past Feb- During that time the company today's Knox County Commis- ruary with BNA talking about would instead create "microsion meeting agenda is the turning the building into a "bouresolution for the approval of tique hotel" with apartments has to do with hotel occupanthe sale of the Andrew Johnson and retail shops. But apparently those plans changed and It appears that the buyer, as the county was preparing to

The Knoxville Focus reached

Education Administration Offic- county and BNA is that BNA, the new deadline the AJ Build wants to hold off for five years ing would be back up for sale The final purchase contract on building a boutique hotel. apartments." The reason given cy being down and COVID-19 creating a slump in travel and lodging.

The Knox County Administration will ask the commission eventual sale of the AJ Building. for closing the sale at December 31, giving the county time company is asking for a 20-year PILOT tax break. Should an The dispute between the agreement not be reached by break

and a Request For Bids issued. A spokesperson for the county told The Focus that the relocation of the school offices is ongoing and will be financed with a budget surplus, issuance of bonds or money from an tonight to set a new deadline The school offices are expected to be in the TVA Tower by the beginning of next school year and some offices may be moved there during spring

Commission, public forums discuss Board of Health

By Mike Steely Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com

During the Knox County Commission Work Session last week newly-elected Commissioner Terry Hill brought up the possibility of abolishing the Board of Health but said she cannot accept such a move. Yet

'We don't like it from an unelected board," Hill told the many anti-board speakers. "I'm listening to you and 90 percent agree. But she went on to mention that many elderly people are afraid of the virus pandemic

"We're sick of it too," she said of the mandates and COVID-19 and added, "When this settles I promise you I will lead the charge but I'm not prepared at this time (to demolish the Board of Health.)

Two motions from Commissioner Kyle Ward will go on to the commission's regular meeting tonight. One of the motions would form a separate health and economic advisory body that could take over when and if the Board of Health is abolished and the other would require the Board

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Mini-Ribbon **Cutting held** in Powell for Collier

Preserve Park

By Mike Steely Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com

There's a new park coming for Knox County next to the Powell Branch Library, Twelve acres were donated to Legacy Parks four years ago by Dr. Bob Collier, whose grandmother. Stella Moore Collier, farmed the land as did her ancestors. The park will, among other things, feature benches donated by the TVA Retirees Association

Legacy Parks Foundation Director Carol Evans spoke recently at the Powell Business and Professional Association meeting. She said that Legacy Parks owns the land and will implement grants to develop the park and turn it over to Knox

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Oak Ridge Police Department **Seized Autos Auction**

Thursday, Oct. 29 at 9:00 a.m.

6729 Pleasant Ridge Road, Knoxville. Everyone can come bid







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ONLINE AUCTION Friday, October 30

See pictures at fountaincityauction.com (865)474-9931