The Knoxville FOCUS

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November 2, 2020

Save Our Right to **VOTE**

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COVID-19 Weekly Focus

BE SAFE - WASH YOUR HANDS - WEAR A MASK - SOCIALLY DISTANCE

2019 Knox County Total Population[1]	Total Confirmed COVID-19 Cases[2]	% COVID-19 Cases/ Total Population	Total COVID-19 Deaths[2]	% COVID-19 Deaths/ Total Population
470,313	13,137	2.8%	105	.0002%

SOURCES 1. U.S. Census Bureau 2. Knox County Health Department data from 10/31/2020

UNSUNG HEROES

Eleven local high school football players receive special recognition

Top row: Jack Adams, Bearden; Andrew Doane, Farragut; Zach Fisher, Karns; Ethan Fogle, CAK; Eli Hamilton, Knoxville Catholic; and Zakeyous Houston, Austin-East. Bottom row: Cedric (CJ) Roach, Fulton; Josh Scarbrough, Halls; Steven Tolliver, Gibbs; Amari Washington, Austin-East; and Colby Wheeler, Powell.

By Steve Williams

He's a player who may or may not be a starter, but gives his all in every practice and every game.

He's a player who is willing to sacrifice and play any position to make his team better.

He's a player all teammates and coaches respect and admire because he's a team guy first and foremost.

Most likely, his name has not been in a headline this season or announced on radio or TV. But he has stood out repeatedly in the background.

We call them Unsung Heroes.

Each season we like to recognize them.

Ten local high school coaches sent in players recently that fit this description.

KARNS

"We have a young man by the name of **Zach Fisher** that would be great for this," said Defensive Coordinator Lee Warren.

"He's a senior middle linebacker. He has great grades and he's always leading by example, staying positive, and is the No. 1 cheerleader when he's not on the field. He does anything he's asked to do, and he's constantly lifting his teammates up."

CATHOLIC

Eli Hamilton, sophomore outside linebacker and running back. "He's a great teammate, who works hard every day in practice," said Head Coach Steve Matthews.

CAK

"We have a senior offensive lineman, **Ethan Fogle**, who fits the description of 'Unsung Hero' perfectly," said Head Coach Travis Mozingo.

"Ethan embodies what we are trying to build in the young men of CAK. Two seasons ago, we asked Ethan to switch from offense to defense, and to also switch jersey numbers.

"We asked that he move from defensive end, a position that he was familiar with and excelled at, to offensive line, a position that he was unfamiliar with.

"If you know football, you know that playing on the offensive line is a unique skill set and not as 'easy as it looks.'

"Not only did Ethan accept this role change, he embraced it and dedicated himself to mastering it.

"While Ethan's position change has been a significant contributor to our recent success (just ask running back JD Dunn),

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Crowd size regulation dropped

Masks and curfew remain

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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"November is going to be a rough month," said Dr. James Shamayeh during the Board of Health meeting Wednesday evening.

"The pure public health professional in me says we need to be shutting things down," said Knox County Health Department Director Dr. Martha Buchanan, adding, "the public is upset, there's lots of tension and fatigue."

She said that COVID-19 has "got to impact a lot more people's lives" before they realize that the pandemic is real. Buchanan went on to say that the local health metrics are not getting better and urged the board to look at the continuing mask mandate and "keep it as it is."

She reported 27 positive cases each day per 100,000 population in Knox County. Of those tested she said 9.9 percent were positive, down from 12 percent two weeks ago.

The board did just that and the requirement for the people to wear masks inside public and private buildings will remain in effect indefinitely until the numbers of COVID-19 cases come down. Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs was the only "No" vote on the curfew vote. The mask mandate has no expiration date and a vote was not needed to continue the regulation.

The 11 p.m. curfew for restaurants and bars selling alcohol was extended to November 12 by the board. Yet the board allowed the crowd size regulation to expire. One board member said that decision would be the headline in the news media.

Dr. Buchanan said the change might make the mandates "more palatable to the community" but said easing up on crowd size could mean the board may have to "back up again." She also noted that Governor Bill Lee has said he may extend the state emergency order through the end of the year.

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Open house discusses new Lonsdale Elementary

By Ken Lay

Lonsdale Elementary School will soon have a new campus. Last Thursday evening Knox County Schools officials, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and community members attended an open house to see schematic designs for the new school.

The meeting was held in the existing Lonsdale School Building at 1317 Louisiana Avenue and hosted by Knox County Schools.

At the meeting, community members were invited to discuss the design process with architects and school officials and view presentation boards.

KCS Superintendent Bob Thomas said that the school will likely be open in the fall of 2022 and is set to serve current students of Lonsdale as well as students currently attending Sam E. Hill Primary School.

The Knox County Board of Education approved a Memorandum of Understanding to transfer Lonsdale Park property, which is adjacent to the school's current location from the city to Knox County for the purpose of building a new campus for the school.

Construction is set to begin on the new campus this spring and Thursday night, school and county leaders heard from the members of the Lonsdale Community.

PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Knox County Schools Superintendent Bob Thomas addresses the media at a community meeting to discuss plans for a new Lonsdale Elementary School campus. The campus is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2022.

"We're going to listen to all suggestions from the community," Thomas said.

"This is a great day for the Lonsdale Community and this is a great day for Knox County Schools. I would like to thank Mayor Jacobs, who is here tonight, and the county commission for seeing this plan through for a new school at Lonsdale."

Thomas added that the new campus in Lonsdale is overdue.

"When I first became superintendent, one of the first things people from Lonsdale said is 'we need a new school, and they ask me to come over and take a look at it.' Thomas said. "This building has served its purpose and its usefulness and I wish we could open (the new building) tomorrow, but we all know that it takes time."

The superintendent also noted that the new building will be safe and aesthetically pleasing to the students and the community.

"We will have a beautiful and safe campus where we will give the students the tools that they will need to be successful after they leave Knox County Schools," Thomas said.

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