

COVID-19 Weekly Focus	BE SAFE · WASH YOUR HANDS · WEAR A MASK · SOCIALLY DISTANCE				
	2019 Knox County Total Population <sup>1</sup>	Total Confirmed COVID-19 Cases <sup>2</sup>	% COVID-19 Cases/ Total Population	Total COVID-19 Deaths <sup>2</sup>	% COVID-19 Deaths/ Total Population
	470,313	29,119	6.2%	293	.0006%
SOURCES 1. U.S. Census Bureau 2. Knox County Health Department data from 12/26/2020.					

# Fountain City Auction opens year with Advertisement Auction

*Fountain City Auction co-owner Greg Lawson displays a vintage phone booth available at the company's upcoming auction. It is one of 400 items available at the company's 16th annual Advertising Auction, which will be held virtually on January 2. Photo by Ken Lay.*



**By Ken Lay**

Fountain City Auction will soon begin the New Year with its biggest event of 2021. On Saturday, January 2, it will host its 16th annual Advertisement Auction.

But COVID-19 has made things a little different. The event will be completely virtual this time around due to COVID-19 and social distancing protocols. The auction has previously been held in a hybrid live-and-online model.

Bidding is currently live and bidders can preview each item and its current bidding price online. Shoppers may bid through HiBid.com, which can be linked through www.fountaincityauction.com and the AuctionZip App.

"This year will be completely online," Fountain City Auction co-owner Greg Lawson said. "And I'll take phone bids from older customers who don't have computers."

Items available at the upcoming event include a vintage Royal Crown Cola Machine, a vintage National cash register, a multitude of vintage signs including an original Interstate 40 sign, vintage beer and gas and petroleum signs, cap guns, arcade games and other items

"We have some arcade games and a lot of gas and petroleum signs," Lawson said. "We have cap guns and pedal cars and people can register to bid with their credit card at www.fountaincityauction.com."

"We'll have 500 lots to bid on." Fountain City Auction is located at 4109 Central Avenue Pike off the Merchants Drive Exit off of Interstate 75. A preview for the annual auction will be held Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For questions, call Lawson at (865) 603-3468 or email auctioninfo@fountaincityauction.com.

# HONORING THE FALLEN



PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA DEMARSICO

Local citizens turned out at Knox County's three veterans cemeteries Saturday, December 19 to place Christmas wreaths on thousands of graves. Shown above is the National Cemetery but the veteran graves on Lyons View and on Governor John Sevier Highway were also decorated. The annual event is part of the Wreaths Across America salute to the veterans of all the military services.

Right, Trace Nystrom and Weiler Powell of Boy Scout Troop 757 prepare to lay wreaths at Lyons View Veteran Cemetery. Hundreds of people turned out in our area to help lay wreaths.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HUGH NYSTROM

# Commission splits on first vote to dissolve Board of Health

**By Mike Steely**  
Senior Writer  
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"Let me write the national headline for you. You will read, 'Local government moves to gut the public health system as COVID numbers soar to the highest in the world,'" Chairman Larsen Jay warned his fellow Knox County Commissioners last week.

Despite numerous pleas from health professionals speaking in public forum in support of the Board of Health and Health Director Dr. Martha Buchanan saying she relies on the Board of Health, the commission passed, on first reading, to dissolve the Board of Health and lay all pandemic response on Buchanan. A second reading in January is required before the board is removed from the COVID-19 response.

Tennessee led the nation in the number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents with 20% plus positive results among those tested. Knox County was the highest and had more Covid-19 cases than any other place in the world last week. The UT football team was sidelined from a bowl game because of the virus. Schools were closed a week early and the county has a mask mandate from the Board of Health but outside the city it isn't being enforced. Regulations issued by the Board of Health infuriated some citizens who see such safety restrictions as infringing on their individual rights.

Jay moved to delay a first vote for 120 days but the idea failed.

The vote came just before 12:45 during a more

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# AJ Building, sports authority approved

**By Mike Steely**  
Senior Writer  
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Almost lost in the Knox County Commission's long, long meeting last week were two items of importance unrelated to the Board of Health vote.

The commission approved the "redevelopment" of the historic Andrew Johnson Building and approved the creation of a sports authority. There are catches to both but the commissioners gave thumbs up.

The deal with BNA Associates LLC to purchase the AJ Building, paying \$6 million for a building appraised at more than \$11 million, had been postponed a few times earlier this year. BNA demanded it be permitted to build hotel rooms but use them as apartments for five years, meaning the city and county will get no hotel-motel occupancy taxes from the building. The purchasing company also wants an in lieu of taxes break meaning they will only pay taxes on the purchase price.

Commissioner John Schoonmaker brought up the original deal which had promised 100 new jobs, hotel-motel taxes and local taxes to the city and county of over \$1 million per year. Between now and September 2021, when the deal apparently will finally close, the Knox County School administrative offices will be moving out of the AJ Building to relocate to the TVA Towers.

Schoonmaker was the lone "No" vote on the motion and Commissioner Charles Busler passed without voting.

Commissioners Richie Beeler and Terry Hill moved to discuss the creation of a sports authority to oversee the financing of a semi-pro baseball stadium near downtown. Such an authority would be created by the city and county and have the power to issue bonds to finance construction. Businessman Randy Boyd, owner of the Tennessee Smokies, wants the local government to finance a stadium with surrounding apartments and retail stores, then lease the property back to him.

Revenue from the rent and ticket sales would only account for 25 to 30 percent of the debt payments. Commissioner Randy Smith questioned what would happen if the city or the county pulled out of a joint authority and if either one could continue with their own sports authority.

The county is being promised that no county taxpayer funds would be used in the project. Although Smith said he is skeptical, the sports authority is "the first step" for a stadium with lots of information still needed. The creation of the sports authority passed unanimously.

In other business the commission applauded the Knox County Election Commission and Administrator of Elections Chris Davis. Davis told the body it has been a "tough year" with the new paper ballot system, the pandemic and keeping voters safe, early voting and a huge turnout but it was handled well with hundreds of hours of planning and a "fantastic team."

The board also discussed the funding of the non-profit rescue and fire departments in the county with one rescue squad leader begging the commission to budget next year for a full year of financing and not just six months. One commissioner said one of the fire departments is supported by subscriptions and would not qualify for funding.

Honoring the late Wanda Moody was moved to the January meeting. The commission did give a final vote to prohibit smoking on the grounds of county-owned playgrounds with Commissioner Charles Busler noting that "vaping" was left out of the motion.

At least half of the seven plus hour meeting was taken up by citizens speaking in public forum, many in favor of a continued Board of Health. The 5 p.m. meeting ran until 12:45 a.m. and included a zoning meeting between public forums and agenda items.



# Radical Labels

## From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.  
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George Will, the longtime conservative columnist, once wrote the neo-conservatives were the “magnificently misnamed” and were really the “most radical people in this city,” meaning Washington.

The most “magnificently

misnamed” people today are the so-called “progressives.”

The people who now call themselves “progressives” are those who more honestly and accurately should be called liberals, radicals, socialists, leftists, or left-wing extremists.

However, they figured out sometime ago that those labels were politically disastrous, so they latched on to the very false description as progressives.

Actually, if Democrats win the two Senate run-offs in Georgia, and we end up following this false “progressive” agenda, we will have less progress than probably any time since

the Great Depression or at least since the last big recession.

Countries make the most progress and have the highest standards of living when they follow free market, free enterprise, capitalist, small government agendas.

It has been proven time and time again, all over this world, that socialism is bad for everyone except the elitists who control the government.

The only thing big government socialism is good at is in wiping out the middle class.

A small federal government, where most money remains in the private

sector, means very few at the top, very few at the bottom, and a huge middle class like the U.S. of the 1950s and 60s.

It is frustrating that we have so many low-information voters who do not realize that every city and state in this country, and every country around the world, that has had liberal, left-wing leadership over the last 40 or 50 years is in terrible economic shape and social trouble.

People are moving out of the high tax states in this country about as fast as they can get out.

Several years ago, the Congress voted to send \$250 million extra monies

to Flint, Michigan to fix their water infrastructure. The city has lost about half its population since the 1970s and did not have enough money to take care of its water system.

I pointed out in a speech on the House floor that the low-tax states where the economy was strong, like Tennessee, were being called on to bail out high-tax states like Michigan.

Today, the same thing is happening again. The holier-than-thou, pious, blue state mayors and governors who felt so proud of themselves when they shutdown their economies, are now calling on the low tax cities and states, the

so-called red states, to bail them out financially.

The people of Georgia should be told that if they elect two more left-wing radicals to the Senate and give almost total control to the Biden administration, they will be sending most of their tax money to California and New York and poorly-run big cities around the country.

One of the Democratic nominees for the Senate in Georgia, Jon Ossoff, is clearly a very arrogant elitist. The other Democratic nominee, Raphael Warnock, is apparently a hate-filled minister. We don't need either one in our nation's capitol.

## When Do Kids Get to Pick What Parent They Want to Live With?

The quick answer is, never. As you might imagine, this question comes up a great deal. Someone is talking to me and they say, “well, when my kid turns 12, he gets to pick where he wants to live.”

Unfortunately, I have to tell them, that they are incorrect.

At this point I launch into an explanation of the factors that the court uses to decide where a child will live. The first thing I tell them is, “look, I do not know any judge who is going to do what a 12 year old tells them to do.”

Then I explain to them that Tennessee Code Annotated section 36-6-106, lists the factors the court is to use in deciding child custody. There are fifteen factors. Only one of those fifteen factors involves a child's preference. The specific factor involving a child's preference states, “the reasonable preference of the child if twelve (12) years of age or older. The court may hear the preference of a younger child upon request. The preference of older children should normally be given greater weight than those of younger children.”

What I then tell people is that I have had the experience of having clients tell me that their child will say they do not want to see one of their parents. The problem with that, is that the child actually has to testify in front of both of their parents and it is understandably uncomfortable for them to say they do not want to live with one



By Jedidiah McKeenan  
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of their parents in front of that parent. Typically, the child testifies that they like both parents.

Because of that, I usually recommend that people keep their kids from having to testify however, sometimes its

unavoidable.

Further, I usually tell people that once kids reach 16 and have a driver's license and a car, and most definitely when they reach 17, that most judges will let the children go wherever they please because they will do so anyway since they have their own vehicle. I recall doing one divorce case where a wayward 17 year old was already living with her boyfriend and both parents agreed to simply leave her completely off of their custody paperwork.

Some judges, however, will insist that children go where the court documents say they go until the day they turn 18.

To circle back to our original question, I cannot totally discount a child's preference as to where they want to live as a factor in determining child custody, but it is not nearly the controlling factor that people think that it is.

*Jedidiah McKeenan is an attorney practicing in Knox County and surrounding counties. He works in many areas, including divorce, custody, criminal, personal injury, and estate planning. Visit attorney-knoxville.com for more information about this legal issue and other legal issues.*

## Goodbye 2020! Hello 2021!

Another forgotten photo surfaced during my pandemic purging of files. It shows my brother and me in the seventies during our college days, the orange hats sporting our college colors.



By Ralphine Major  
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Horseback riding became one of my favorite stress relievers after spending a day on campus at The University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Wayne had told me that riding was great exercise. I laughed--until I spent a day in the saddle. The farm girl in me could not wait to get home from school after walking around all day on paved streets and concrete sidewalks. Wayne always rode Penny, his beloved saddle mare he bought in Grainger County. He kept her more than 20 years until she had to be euthanized.

Old photos that spark thoughts of pre-pandemic life often bring a sense of joy, even comfort, in trying times. As 2020 ends and we look toward a new year, there is much to hope for in 2021: an end to COVID-19; a return to normal life even though it may be a new normal; fewer deaths from the virus; less demand on front-line workers; peace in our nation and around the world; less violence on our streets; a return to in-person school for students; and sharing special times with family and friends.

As we deal with these days of pandemic, I often think back to those long-ago familiar times. In my mind, I mount up to the smell of leather from the saddle; we



Picture of Wayne and Ralphine Major on horses, by Juanita Major

ride on the trail in the woods or in the pasture lined with evergreen trees; and I enjoy the moment from the back of a horse, forgetting all the problems of a pandemic. Be safe! Happy New Year! In 2021, may you be blessed with good health and joyful times with loved ones.

Words of Faith: “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.” Psalm 91:1 (NIV)

## Faith and Hope in a New Year

In a short time, two of the biggest days of the year are arriving. Christmas and New Years are times for many of us to realize again just how lucky we are to have a base of faith



By Joe Rector  
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on which we can depend during the tough times. For the year 2020, our faith has been tested, and many have drawn on it as they have faced the serious effects of Covid-19 and the loss of a loved one to the virus.

For folks who have a belief in something bigger than themselves, God, regardless of the name used to call Him, has a central role in our lives. We ask for His help in fighting this new illness; we cry to him after losing a family member or friend; and we draw nearer to him as we fear what the future might hold.

At this special season, however, we live in the belief that with the arrival of Christ on earth that our lives have forever been changed. His life and death give us hope.

We are confident that God will always walk with us, not necessarily changing events that befall us, but there, just the same, to help us deal with the trials and triumphs. We place our faith is something better than ourselves, and we believe that nothing in our power can separate us from the love of that being.

New Years is always a time for parties, countdowns, and fireworks. I suppose that most of us will ring in the coming year with a delirious joy that 2020 is gone. To be frank, the year has been less than stellar. We've spent it quarantining, socially distancing,

and mask-wearing. Our country has experienced a contentious presidential election that has divided the country. Even after the votes are counted, objections and court filings have continued in a hope that the results would be overturned. The extremists on both sides engage in violence against each other.

New Years is also a time of excitement and hope. We look toward a future in this country where Covid-19 is eradicated with the help of vaccines. Individuals want to return to work to provide financial security for themselves and their families. The possibilities and surprises of the future keep us going because, for the most part, we humans are an optimistic bunch, no matter how much we gripe and moan.

We've experienced a once-in-a-generation pandemic that has knocked the props out from under us. Our tendency toward complacency has been

erased. The losses in family, friends, and financial security have awakened us. Those of us who follow a belief in God will rely on his guidance through the coming year as we rebuild our lives. Perhaps our faith is stronger, or maybe someone has discovered a relationship with God. That would be good. Others will look to the coming year with a feeling that things will be better. Some might eat black-eyed peas, greens, and cornbread for good luck.

I hope that each of you has a wonderful Christmas and holiday season, and I further hope that you find good luck, good health, and good fortune in the coming year. Give the country and all people a chance; we all might be surprised how quickly we unite into a strong and loving citizenry.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy New Year!



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# Publisher’s Positions



**By Steve Hunley,**  
**Publisher**  
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## Mayor Crazy

Bill DeBlasio, whose real name is William Wilhelm, Jr., is the perfect chief executive for a crazy town, because he is clearly the kind of nut-cake that could feed the squirrels of the world for quite some time. Of course these days he has plenty of competition, especially from the crazy lady who is the mayor of Seattle. Even inside the Democratic Party DeBlasio hasn’t amounted to much. Folks have already forgotten he ran for president last year, but dropped out early.

DeBlasio has already doubled down on his recent comment about his mission as mayor is to redistribute wealth. “If we think we’re going to deal with structural

racism and segregation without redistribution of wealth, we’re kidding ourselves.”

Maybe David Hayes should move to NYC.

## Very Definition of Hypocrisy

Speaking of Seattle, if there was an award for hypocrisy akin to the Oscar for the movies or the Nobel Prize, that particular Lifetime Achievement Award would belong to Seattle City Councilwoman Lisa Herbold. Herbold called 911 after having voted to defund the police. She was reporting a crime she is trying to legalize as a member of the Seattle City Council. The good councilwoman called to say a man allegedly threw a rock through a window in her living room. Herbold said she had been in the living room when the rock shattered the glass and sailed into her living room, causing her to dive for cover in the kitchen. The councilwoman said the noise sounded like a gunshot. One neighbor told officers someone had been seen fleeing; that neighbor must have had a sense of humor because that

individual said the person leaving was “unathletic and a bad runner.” The witness was so concerned he or she refused the officer’s business card for follow up.

The icing on the cake is Councilwoman Herbold is the sponsor of a proposal which the protestor would probably like. Herbold’s proposal would help the suspect who threw the rock through the councilwoman’s living room avoid criminal charges. Herbold’s bill would dismiss most misdemeanor charges against suspects who show “symptoms of mental illness or addiction or if they can prove the crime provided for a need to survive.” That is what is becoming known as a “poverty defense.” Lisa Herbold has said she wants juries to hear the reason why a defendant committed a crime.

“It’s giving people an opportunity to tell their stories and giving judges and juries the opportunity to hear those stories and make a decision based on the values of our city,” Herbold said when speaking before the Public Safety Committee of the Seattle City Council recently.

Scott Lindsay, a former Public Safety Advisor, said Herbold’s proposal is “a green light for crime.” “If you are engaged in 100 different misdemeanors that are in our criminal justice system code, you are not going to be held liable. You are not going to be held accountable.”

The city council of Seattle already cut funding for its police department by 18%. Murders are at the highest level in more than a decade. Crime has been steadily on the rise in Seattle, which has recently peaked at more than a 52% increase.

## I Agree With Ilhan Omar??

I just got back from looking in my backyard to see if Halley’s Comet had fallen into it. It wouldn’t have surprised me since I found myself agreeing with Ilhan Omar and you have no idea how much it pains me to say that. I hate to agree with the anti-Semitic Omar, but when she criticized fellow congressmen for being prioritized to receive the coronavirus vaccine by virtue of their office, I just couldn’t help myself. Omar is right, congressmen

should wait their turn. I think everybody agrees health care professionals should be the first folks to get them, immediately followed by residents of nursing homes and the like. Then folks who suffer from one of the conditions that could become life threatening with the virus.

Omar’s bestie, Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, took the vaccine and immediately announced she wouldn’t expect others to take a shot she wouldn’t take. AOC offered to share her experience with folks wanting to ask her about it on Twitter. Didn’t make a bit of difference to Ilhan Omar.

Now the conversation and argument comes down to do elected officials go ahead and take the vaccine and lead by example? There are going to be a lot of folks who think that’s a pretty convenient way of looking at it.

Joe Biden has just taken the COVID vaccine so does every congressman and senator in Washington, D.C. have to do the same to lead by example? Biden getting the shot was broadcast on live television and it seemed like he actually knew where he was at the time. Biden

was accompanied by his wife, Dr. Jill Biden.

The second biggest miracle of the week, after my agreeing with Ilhan Omar, was Biden sort of paying a compliment to President Donald Trump. “I think the administration deserves some credit for getting us off the ground with Operation Warp Speed.” That’s the first time I can recall Joe Biden being right. While he couldn’t bear to utter Trump’s name, the High Prophet of Perpetual Country Healing did take a tottering old baby step in the right direction.

I can tell you one thing for sure: without private enterprise and entrepreneurial spirit, which really has made America great, we’d STILL be waiting for a vaccine. If the government were run by these socialist pinheads we’d all be dead or living in the midst of the zombie apocalypse and wishing we were dead.

All of us here at The Knoxville Focus hope you and your family have a better 2021 and a blessed New Year.

# Commission splits on first vote to dissolve Board of Health

**Cont. from page 1**  
than seven-hour meeting. Twice prior to the vote Commissioner Randy Smith attempted to delay a first vote for 90 days and then to pass on first reading but delay a second vote for 90 days.

Commissioner Kyle Ward has led the effort to remove the Board of Health, describing himself as a “constitutional conservative” and the final vote saw Ward and Commissioners John Schoonmaker, Charles Busler, Richie Beeler, Carson Dailey and Justin Biggs voting to demolish the board. Commissioners Jay, Terry Hill, Courtney Durrett and Dr. Dasha Lundy voted against the motion. Commissioner Smith abstained on the vote.

Ward and others, including Dailey, praised Dr. Buchanan with Dailey saying he will support any decision she makes even if he disagrees. Mayor Glenn Jacobs, who has the power to fire Buchanan and replace her, said he has no intention of doing that.

“I trust her, not the Board of Health,” Commissioner Busler said.

Dr. Buchanan cited the drastic results of the pandemic, totaling 158 deaths since December 1, an average of 3.3 each day.

“We’re not in a good place to make a decision now—it is not appropriate. It’s not the time to make a change, we need a unified approach. I voted for everything the Board of Health has done. How do you see this playing out?” she asked.

She spoke directly to Commissioner Ward, “This does not change COVID.”

Two commissioners said that the motion would not prevent Dr. Buchanan from meeting with the Board of Health for advice and another commissioner said such meetings would not need to be sun shined.

Commissioner Beeler said the action is “a reasonable change” and “more



**Health Director Dr. Martha Buchanan, pictured in June, pleaded with the Knox County Commission not to dissolve the Board of Health and place the entire COVID-19 duties on her. The commission disregarded her words and voted, on first reading, to take regulatory power away from the Board. A second and final vote will be held in their January meeting.**

constitutional.”

While critics and some commissioners note that the Board of Health is “unelected,” Dr. Buchanan reminded them she is also not an elected official. Other commissioners mentioned the additional pressure placed on Dr. Buchanan as the sole person who would make the health decisions. She is recovering from COVID-19.

Although Dr. Buchanan officially works under the Tennessee Health Department she is also an employee of Knox County, placing her within the Jacobs administration.

Chairman Jay made a detailed plea to the board about keeping the Board of Health, comparing the pandemic to the Gatlinburg fires and micro-managing the firefighters there. He noted the national attention on Knox County because of the large surge here.

“Yes, she can be fired by the mayor. I fear for her personally,” Jay said, adding, “We have ample time to review this down the road, don’t undermine our public health officials.”

While most of the commissioners voiced their faith in Dr. Buchanan they

overlooked her plea to keep the Board of Health as a regulatory agency. County Law Director David Buuck said the governor’s Emergency Order authorizes the health director, and not the Board of Health, to have the powers to issue

regulations.

Supporters of the first vote indicated that the weeks between now and the next regular commission meeting on January 19 could be time to review the final decision.

The Board of Health has

spoken on attempts by the commission to regulate their decisions. Their next meeting is this Wednesday. While there is some confusion about possibly dissolving the board and reappointing the same members as an “advisory” board,

the commission is creating their own separate health and economic advisory committee and, last week, applicants were being invited to submit resumes to the Knox County Mayor.

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# The Nomination of Judge John J. Parker to the U.S. Supreme Court, III

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill  
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In the twentieth century, only four nominees to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States have been rejected; all were the nominees of a Republican president and three of the four were rejected by Democrats, who controlled the United States Senate. John J. Parker, was the first nominee to be rejected by the U. S. Senate in a span of 72 years. Parker was also the only one of four nominees to be rejected by a Senate controlled by his own political party. Parker's nomination was the beginning of the modern conformation process for future nominees to serve on the U. S. Supreme Court.

Following the death of Associate Justice Edward Terry Sanford of Knoxville, President Herbert Hoover nominated Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge John J. Parker of North Carolina to serve on the U. S. Supreme Court. The White House summoned the working members of the national press for an announcement where President Hoover declared his intention to nominate Parker to succeed the late Justice Sanford.

The nomination of Judge Parker to succeed a Tennesseean was an acknowledgement of the support Herbert Hoover had received from Southern states during the 1928 presidential campaign.

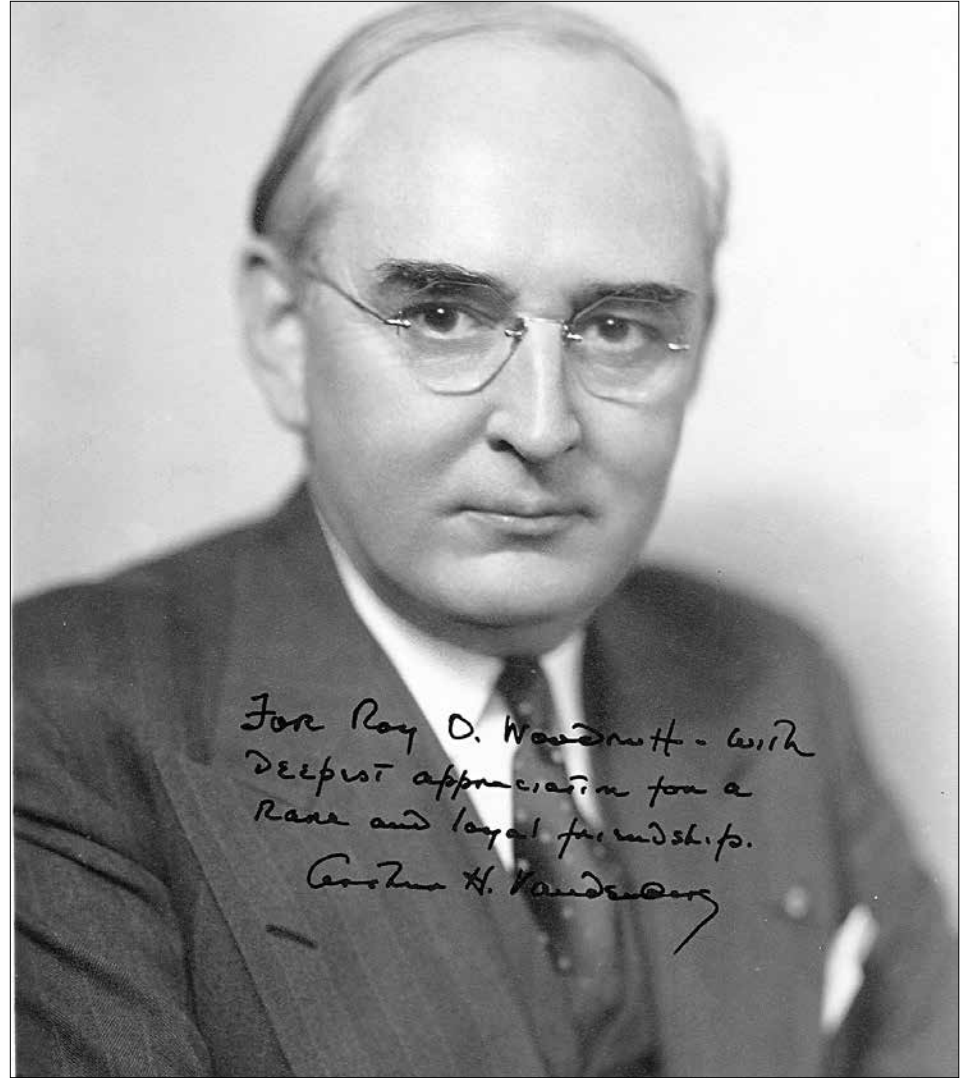
Hoover had been the first Republican candidate for the presidency to carry several Southern states since Reconstruction after the Civil War. Hoover had won Tennessee, Texas, Florida, Virginia, and North Carolina against Democrat Alfred E. Smith of New York. Indeed, Hoover was the first GOP presidential candidate ever to carry solidly Democratic Texas. A Catholic and "wet" (meaning the governor was against national prohibition, which was the law at the time), the Protestant South had rebelled against Smith's candidacy. Prominent Democrats bolted their own party to support Hoover, including U. S. senators Furnifold M. Simmons of North Carolina and Thomas Heflin of Alabama. Smith had only barely carried Alabama, winning by 7,000 votes.

Hoover's nomination of Judge Parker represented a recognition of the South and initially there was some regional pride in Parker's appointment. It was Tennessee's senior United States senator, Kenneth D. McKellar, who caused a sensation by combing through files to find a copy of a letter written by Joseph M. Dixon, First Assistant Secretary of the Interior, to Walter Newton, the secretary

(today it would be Chief of Staff) to President Hoover. Dixon, who had served as both U. S. senator and governor of Montana, knew a little something about politics and was a progressive Republican. Dixon's letter to the presidential secretary urged the appointment of Judge Parker, as it would help with Republican gains in the largely one-party South. Dixon wrote Newton he believed North Carolina was the likeliest state among the Southern states to realign with the GOP. McKellar's reading of the Dixon letter had curdled some of the support for Parker amongst Southerners. The last thing Democrats in the South wanted to see was a realignment of political parties and a competitive Republican Party. McKellar's speech on the floor of the Senate was acknowledged to have badly wounded Judge Parker's nomination to the Supreme Court.

Two organizations had opposed Judge Parker's nomination to serve on the Supreme Court from the beginning: organized labor and the NAACP. The nomination of John J. Parker was also likely the first instance of pressure politics being used to successfully defeat the confirmation of a nominee for the United States Supreme Court.

If rebellion came more naturally to Democrats, Hoover's own party had its own rebellious members, including Nebraska senator George W. Norris, who had bolted the GOP in 1928 to support Governor Smith. Norris, realizing he likely could not be renominated as a Republican, opted to run again in 1930 as an Independent. Norris would win two additional terms in the Senate running as an Independent. Norris had been a progressive Republican, which comprised a significant bloc of senators, including William E. Borah of Idaho, Bronson Cutting of New Mexico, Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota, and Hiram Johnson of California, who had been Theodore Roosevelt's vice presidential nominee in 1912 when the former president had been the candidate of the Progressive or "Bull Moose" Party. Many progressive Republican senators had not been supportive of President Hoover's nomination of Charles Evans Hughes to serve as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court following the resignation of William Howard Taft. Hughes had been governor of New York, an associate justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, and Secretary of State during the administrations of Warren G. Harding and Calvin Coolidge.



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION

Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Republican of Michigan.

Progressive Republicans fretted Hughes had made a small fortune as a lawyer by representing corporations and corporate clients. Others resented the fact Hughes had resigned as an associate justice of the high court to accept the 1916 GOP presidential nomination to run against incumbent Woodrow Wilson.

Likewise Judge Parker's own political past became fodder for his opponents, Republicans and Democrats alike. Parker, a Republican in North Carolina, had been defeated for Congress, state attorney general, and governor in the elections of 1910, 1916, and 1920, respectively. Virtually everyone sitting in the United States Senate had gotten there through the popular vote of the people of their individual states. Successful politicians had little respect for someone who was a failed candidate for public office. Of more concern, especially to his progressive Republican and Democratic detractors, was John J. Parker's association with former Attorney General Harry Daugherty. Daugherty had been President Harding's Attorney General and had been irredeemably tainted in a series of scandals. Although never convicted of any wrong-doing, Daugherty was viewed with profound suspicion and distrust, especially after his close friend and political associate Jess Smith killed himself. Ironically, Parker had been an assistant to the Attorney General in an abortive attempt to investigate the Harding administration scandals. Many of the progressive Republicans in the Senate had been appalled by Judge Parker's decision in a case involving "yellow-dog" contracts on behalf of the United Min Workers' Union. For progressive, that particular decision exemplified John J. Parker was no liberal. Another issue which haunted Parker's nomination was a statement he made as the GOP candidate for governor when he

had been race-baited by a Democratic candidate, who accused Parker of welcoming the participation of black voters. Parker denied that was the case. Senator Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan, a Republican, claimed to struggle with the Parker nomination and said he truly wished to believe in the Judge's "independence and fidelity." Vandenberg was not alone in worrying about the views expressed by candidate Parker during his 1920 campaign. Vandenberg said he believed "the authority of the Supreme Court depends upon the measure of public confidence which it enjoys." Senator Vandenberg continued, pointing out, "Therefore if 18,000,000 colored citizens of the United States have a basis for feeling that Judge Parker is prejudiced against their political rights, it is impossible to ask of them that they still give him their confidence in respect to these constitution questions." At the time, most black voters were Republicans and many shared their opposition to Judge Parker's confirmation with their senators. Otis F. Glenn and Charles Deneen, the GOP senators from Illinois, received hundreds of telegrams from Blacks in Chicago. Deneen, facing a serious primary challenge, was especially sensitive to the concern of his black constituents. Senator Arthur Robinson of Indiana, who had allegedly helped to win his seat in the U. S. Senate with support from the Ku Klux Klan, flatly refused to support the Parker nomination.

If opposition by blacks and the NAACP caught the attention of many Republican senators, it was not an impediment to Southern senators, many of whom frankly agreed with Judge Parker's racial views as expressed in his 1920 gubernatorial campaign. Still, the nomination of Judge John J. Parker attracted profound opposition from a coalition of progressive Republicans and

populist Southern Democrats. Parker retained the support of most Republicans inside the Senate, as well as a handful of Democrats. Judge Parker had attracted endorsements from numerous other jurists and no less than Supreme Court Justice Harlan Fiske Stone (later Chief Justice from 1941 until his death in 1946) wrote Justice Department officials he had "formed a very favorable opinion" of Judge Parker due to Parker's attitude as the prosecutor in a criminal case. Stone had written the letter in response to a query regarding Parker when the North Carolinian was being considered for appointment to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Henry Fountain Ashurst, the senior U. S. senator from Arizona, was a courtly man all too cognizant of his position in the greatest deliberative body in the world and he did his best to look the part. Ashurst relished his role as a senator of the United States and enjoyed attention as much as anyone. Famed for his colorful and elaborate language, which flowed from his lips like a torrent of sparkling silver, Henry Fountain Ashurst could fill the Senate galleries when he rose to speak on the floor. It was Senator Ashurst who caused newspaper headlines to blare across their front pages one legislator may have been offered a bribe to vote for John J. Parker.

Not surprisingly, senators wanted to know the identity of the colleague who had supposedly been offered an appointment to vote for confirmation of Judge John J. Parker's nomination. Senator Henry Allen, a Republican from Kansas, demanded, "Who was the Senator who was approached?" Suddenly, the normally loquacious Ashurst was rather silent before replying the senator in question was present in the Senate Chamber and could easily speak for himself. Senator Ashurst looked hopefully in a direction, but no senator offered to rise.

That evidently angered Ashurst whose face was quite flushed and his hair "disheveled." "All right," Senator Ashurst shouted. "I will tell."

The Senate was hushed as Henry Fountain Ashurst said, "Last Saturday noon in the presence of Senator Bratton, a Senator sitting in this chamber told me an offer of a judgeship had been made to him." "Yes, but who was it?" Henry Allen snapped. That was when Ashurst once again looked in a particular direction and the stillness in the Senate Chamber was such that Ashurst's voice, which was quite low, could nonetheless be heard clearly as he said, "Senator Dill."

Clarence Dill was serving his second term in the United States Senate from Washington State. Dill, having been publicly identified by Henry Fountain Ashurst, finally got to his feet and said he had not taken the offer at all seriously and related he had been approached by a nameless "gentleman" from his home state who insisted the administration was prepared to "reward with almost anything" those senators willing to vote for Parker.

As Senator Dill spoke, his voice was so "husky" some of his colleagues asked him to speak more loudly. "I have hesitated to inject myself into this disturbance," Dill confessed. "all the Senator from Arizona said was in good faith, but he is mistaken." Senator Dill explained. That caused Henry Fountain Ashurst to shout, "Well, then, tell what you told me in the presence of Senator Bratton, at lunch the other day."

"All right," Dill agreed. "I was talking about being impressed with the pressure that was being brought to bear on me to vote for Judge Parker. I told about a gentleman from my own State who suggested I would be in high favor with the administration if I should vote for Parker." Senator Dill told his colleagues, "I was amused at the gentleman's statement and tried to draw him out. He told me I would be rewarded with anything I wanted." Dill paused before saying, "I told him the trouble was I did not want anything." Dill quoted the anonymous "gentleman" as telling him, "Well, judgeships are always open." Senator Dill then claimed, "I told him I would rather be a private citizen than a judge when I retired. I did not at any time consider it a challenge to my integrity. I did not think it would justify anything serious being said about it."

Dill insisted there was no need for an investigation. "The gentleman who talked to me was a personal friend who did not claim to have any assurance from President Hoover, but indicated he could do a lot for me at home," Dill said. It seemed then and it seems now rather a poor explanation. Supporters of Judge Parker immediately insisted any vote on the nomination be delayed until a proper investigation could be made.



# 2020: What a long strange ride it's been

## A look back through Focus front pages

### By Focus Staff

Who knew when we began the year that it would be a strange venture ending with a growing pandemic affecting all of our daily lives. The year began usual enough but by March, COVID-19 began to rage. So did the campaigns for local, state, and federal offices in a long political season that saw three elections.

## January

2020 began as Knoxville celebrated Emancipation Day, the new Strawberry Plains Rural Metro Station opened, and the David Hall Cabin called for financial help. Negotiations with TVA continued for the East Tower for use by the school system and the search for a new Hardin Valley school site began.

Farragut residents objected to 5G cell towers in their town and warned the county of the dangers they saw in the mini-towers. A local shooting by a policeman was on the Police Advisory Review Committee agenda.

Local politics kicked off with a rally for Property Assessor John Whitehead at Calhoun's on the River. Councilwoman Stephanie Welch resigned her seat and would return as a staff member of Mayor Indya Kincannon. Former Knox County Commissioner Brad Ander became head of the E-911 system.

Remote Area Medical announced a free clinic for a weekend at the Jacob Building in Chilhowee Park. Coach Bryson Rosser of Central High School announced his retirement after taking the football team to two state titles.

## February

The Knox County Commission discussed the possibility of forming its own planning commission and approved terms for the sale of the AJ Building, allowing the board of education to approve the school system's relocation from the AJ to the TVA East Tower.

Commissioner John Schoonmaker was chosen to serve on the TCSA Board of Directors and Farragut residents continued to fight 5G antennas in public forum at a Farragut Municipal Planning meeting.

The Etters vs. Knox County lawsuit was rescheduled for March but, as of the end of the year, a decision has not been made because of delays, the pandemic closing courts, and illness among the lawyers.

The new 27 Knox County Charter Review members met for the first time to organize to begin the review of the charter as required every eight years by the state. South Knoxville's Tommy Smith was named by the Knoxville City Council to replace Stephanie Welch. The city authorized and funded body cameras for police officers in February.

State and federal office seekers began filing for office and candidates for county commission began answering Focus questions. David Buuck kicked off his successful race to become Knox County Law Director.

Emerald Youth Foundation opened its East Knox Career Center and singer Con Hunley performed in a benefit for the Walter State Foundation. A Doyle High School ring that had been lost for 50 years was found and returned to its original owner and the Fountain City Forward membership was growing.

Judge Harold Wimberly, who passed in January, was remembered by Focus publisher Steve Hunley and columnist Ray Hill.

The annual Neighborhood Conference began laying plans for the large annual gathering. The March event was ultimately canceled because of the pandemic.

## March

Knox County Republican Primary winners celebrated on the March 3 Super Tuesday and local Democrats prepared for their National Convention. Governor Bill Lee issued COVID-19 restrictions on mass gatherings, schools, travel and closed the state capitol to visitors. Knoxville's mayor signed an agreement for Burlington Commons affordable housing funds. The city council announced virtual meetings via Zoom and approved home delivery of beer.

Schools went from an extended spring break to another month of being shut down as Governor Lee had extended the closure. The school system introduced "distance learning" for students who opted to remain at home after the April 24 reopen date.

Guidelines for resisting the COVID-19 pandemic were released by the health department as the county starts to see more and more spring events cancelled or postponed and non-essential services temporarily suspended.

Two veteran memorials were announced for Fulton High School and Master Sergeant Roddy Edmonds was recognized and would be honored later in the year with a plaque downtown. He protected Jewish members among U. S. prisoners of war in German during WWII.

Jim and Rudy Thomas celebrated 70 years of marriage. Judge Charles Susano retired from the bench and was celebrated by friends and family. A county park was announced for McBee Ferry Landing near Strawberry Plains.

Old Sevier Neighborhood won an appeal of a zoning change for a large apartment complex proposed there.

The Hardin Valley, Catholic, Central, Farragut and Bearden soccer team traveled to Cookeville to help in to clean up the tornado devastation from the costly March 2-3 storms.

## April

Knox County Schools switched to digital meetings and began offering emergency meals to students at many locations in the county. CTV's viewership skyrocketed as public meetings are canceled and people turn to community television to see the Zoom meetings. The Knox County Health Department began COVID-19 testing and the response was huge, with long lines backing up for testing.

Some questions arose in commission about the funding of the county's purchase of the TVA Towers and the adjoining Summer Place. Both the city and county began limiting use of parks and Chris Davis was selected to replace outgoing Election Director Cliff Rodgers.

Mayor Indya Kincannon followed up on a promise made by former Mayor Madeline Rogero and proposed a Human Resources Department. The city council approved a study of the fire damage at and around the Fort Loudoun Recycling Service property.

Knoxville Area Transit reduced bus service a bit and then dropped all fees to riders. A new E-911 antenna was approved for Sharp's Ridge and both the city and county mayors discussed ways to reopen local businesses under the governor's Safer at Home order.

A large field of candidates emerge for Knox County offices and The Focus began a multi-issue series of state and local candidates answering Focus questions about district problems, opinions on defunding police, the pandemic, etc.

As community Easter egg hunts were canceled, the Norwood community offered a walking Easter event with home displays.

Fountain City historian Dr. Jim Tumblin and Rev. Charles Lomax Jr were featured in The Focus. Former election DM Miller, Island Home's David Keck, and Town Hall East leader Conrad "Mac" Goodwin passed away and were honored in The Focus in April.

## May

The Lion's Club Mobile Visions Lab sought donations and a Farragut town meeting became heated over the 5G cell tower issue.

The Knox County Commission rehired its external auditor. The county Audit Committee heard a report on how COVID-19 is affecting the annual budget. The Knox County Finance Director said COVID-19 funds would be used to help the county budget.

The city council approved additional funding for several organizations and the city's proposed Human Resources Department was questioned about its relationship with the City Service Merit Board. The Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center was discussed at city council and incoming COVID CARES ACT funds were allocated to agencies by the city council.

Requests for absentee ballots increased drastically and new Election Coordinator Chris Davis said the office was being overrun with requests.

Fountain City's annual celebration on Memorial Day was canceled but outgoing City Councilman Mark Campen and Central High Schools Foundation member Courtney Shea were honored symbolically.

Knox County Superintendent Bob Thomas announced limited graduation ceremonies for high school seniors.

New rules were adopted for the city's Property Naming Committee and eight county libraries, closed during the shutdown, looked to reopen.

The candidates for House District 14 answered questions from The Focus and Yassin Terou of Yassin's Falafel House was featured.

## June

By midyear, COVID-19 was touching many people. The Focus followed one family's struggles to help an 85-year-old West Knoxville patient who could have not visitors because of safety precautions. They finally got permission to return him to their home. Because of COVID-19 absentee voting was opened to everyone who wanted to vote by mail for the August election.

The Focus looked at the Burlington neighborhood as it attempted to restore and renovate and a development along Dutchtown Road was approved by the planning commission by a narrow vote.

County Mayor Jacobs released his proposed budget, cutting about \$4 million, and the city's new Human Resources Department passed its first and second votes.

The Knox Education Foundation attended a board of education work session and introduced its new CEO, Chris Letsos. The school board sought public input on how to reopen county schools and approved the purchase of a parcel of land for a new elementary school in northwest Knox County.

Several Focus writers wrote tributes to the life and success of Coach Johnny Majors following his death on June 3.

Sheriff Tom Spangler was successful in asking the Knox County Commission for a bonus for his employees and the county and the University of Tennessee agreed on the use of TVA Tower East. The Knoxville Police Department revised its use-of-force policies. E-911 received \$2.2 million from the state and planned to use about half of it for training and renovations at the call center.

The Charter Review Committee talked about letting the public vote on whether the law director should be elected or appointed and also discussed changing the size of the commission but decided to leave it the current size.

# The Knoxville Focus

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## Knoxville celebrates Emancipation Day

By Mike Stealy  
Senior Writer  
mstealy@knoxfocus.com

talk about the history and freedom of African Americans. The Historic Mt. Zion Baptist Church was packed for the celebration. The 157th National Observer and 7th Knoxville Observance of the Signing of the Emancipation Proclamation on New Year's Day saw many speakers

Alarman Lincoln's proclamation and the strategies since then to achieve full freedom for American citizens. Rev. John A. Butler spoke along with several other vocal pastors including Rev. Harold A. Middlebrook. Also speaking at the Knoxville NAACP-sponsored event were state

Representative Rick Starnes and Vice Mayor Gene McKernan. McKernan recalled Knoxville's first African American state legislator, Bob Booker, and noted some of the accomplishments and prospects in the legislature. **Continued on page 2**

Vendetta (Rumi) Chandler spoke at the NAACP's annual celebration. She spoke of the struggle for freedom and how it is to be done. Photo by Mike Stealy.

## Rural Metro opens new Strawberry Plains Pike fire station

By Mike Stealy  
Senior Writer  
mstealy@knoxfocus.com

Homeowners, business owners and facilities in the new Strawberry Plains Industrial Park have a new fire station. Rural Metro Fire officially opened their new facility, Fire Station 27, at 5601 Strawberry Pike just off Governor John Cooper Highway on Christmas.

Fire Chief Jerry Harsh spoke briefly and, along with several elected county officials, he dedicated the new facility. Harsh said it is the first new station in three years and thanked several people including the community for their support.

The fire station was formerly located in industrial Park and the new location, improving response times, enables them to service. No tax dollars are involved in the project. The department serving the community. The station. Property owners who are not subscribers may receive service but at a higher rate than subscribers.

Rural Metro Fire

Harsh cut the ribbon on the new Strawberry Plains Pike fire station. The chief was joined by state and county officials including Knox County Sheriff Tom Spangler.

## Something for Everyone at Grand Opening for Southern Sweet Boutique and Salon

By Focus Staff

Sisters Nikki Monroe and Lauren Humphrey grew up in Halls. They wanted to put their fashion sense and hairstyling skills to work in starting their own boutique and salon, located in Halls. The new location is a highly skilled hairstylist and nail technician. The new location is a highly skilled hairstylist and nail technician.

The Grand Opening of the new location is a highly skilled hairstylist and nail technician. The new location is a highly skilled hairstylist and nail technician.

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Old South High School's renovation is progressing nicely. The school, which was built in 1907, is quickly transforming into the vision of Dover Signature Properties. The project is estimated to be completed in April 2020. The renovation will include the addition of 42,000 square feet of building. Helen Porter, executive director of South High Senior Living, is overseeing the renovations and also serving as a liaison to the community. The renovation is a partnership between the school and the community. The renovation is a partnership between the school and the community.

## Hardin Valley, other area soccer teams assist Cookeville's cleanup effort

By Ken Lay

The Coronavirus pandemic has halted area high school athletics but several area soccer teams recently came together to help in the relief effort after a severe flood hit Cookeville. The teams, including the Hardin Valley Academy boys soccer team, were scheduled to play their final preseason game against Cookeville. The teams, including the Hardin Valley Academy boys soccer team, were scheduled to play their final preseason game against Cookeville.

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Members of the Hardin Valley Academy boys soccer team assist in the Cookeville cleanup effort after the city was hit by a tornado earlier this month.

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Members of the Hardin Valley Academy boys soccer team assist in the Cookeville cleanup effort after the city was hit by a tornado earlier this month.

## Commission workshop cancelled, agenda moved to next meeting

By Mike Stealy  
Senior Writer  
mstealy@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Commission has a resolution agreement with Knoxville Jewish Alliance to honor an East Tennessee Jew who saved more than 200 American Jewish soldiers. The Knox County Commission has a resolution agreement with Knoxville Jewish Alliance to honor an East Tennessee Jew who saved more than 200 American Jewish soldiers.

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## Master Sergeant Roddy Edmonds to be honored

By Mike Stealy  
Senior Writer  
mstealy@knoxfocus.com

Master Sergeant Roddy Edmonds will be honored with a memorial marker at the corner of Market Street and Church Avenue in Knoxville. Master Sergeant Roddy Edmonds will be honored with a memorial marker at the corner of Market Street and Church Avenue in Knoxville.

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## KCS announces graduation schedule

By Mike Stealy  
Senior Writer  
mstealy@knoxfocus.com

Congratulations to the Class of 2020. The Knox County School System is pleased to announce the graduation schedule for the Class of 2020. The Knox County School System is pleased to announce the graduation schedule for the Class of 2020.

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Several Central High School seniors are celebrated and cheered at a recent parade on the school's campus.

## COVID-19 won't stop the Class of 2020

By Ken Lay

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Several Central High School seniors are celebrated and cheered at a recent parade on the school's campus.

## Absentee ballot requests up in Knox County

By Mike Stealy  
Senior Writer  
mstealy@knoxfocus.com

Cliff Rodgers is leaving his post as administrator of the county's election system and is looking for a replacement. The county is looking for a replacement for Cliff Rodgers, who is leaving his post as administrator of the county's election system.

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# Sadly, COVID-19 puts holiday helpers on the sidelines

deborah@deborahhillhobby.net



# Jones builds 'Battle in Rocky Top' into nation's largest youth tourney

By Steve Williams

The Battle in Rocky Top youth football tournament turned 15 years old this season and "it's really grown," said Josh Jones, who started the tourney in 2006.

Jones, a former long-time local youth coach who now is the quarterback coach and offensive coordinator at Powell High, went on to call it the "largest youth football tournament in the United States" based on

the most teams.

The tournament is played annually the week-end before Thanksgiving. The inaugural tourney had 80 teams from 12 states. In 2019 it had quadrupled in size, with a field of 320 teams from 18 states.

"According to Visit Knoxville, the local tourism group, it's an over \$5 million economic impact to the local community," said Jones.



The Knoxville Falcons won the 8U American Division championship in this year's Battle in Rocky Top youth football tournament at John Tarleton Park's Field No. 1.

Despite the pandemic, this year's event attracted 285 teams from 18 states and would have had more.

"Over 300 registered," said Jones, "but 35 to 40 teams had to cancel the last week before the tournament because of COVID-19 related reasons."

A youth football tournament in the United States, said Jones, is generally considered "big" if it has 70 to 90 teams.

South Dakota was represented for the first time at this year's Battle in Rocky Top tournament.

Teams also came from Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

When the first tournament was held, all of the games were played on fields in Knox County. Because of its growth, however, Knoxville now does not have enough hotel-space to accommodate all of the teams, said Jones, so about half of the 23 fields used this year were outside of Knox County.

Games also were played in Sevier County, Jefferson

County and Loudon County.

The fields at John Tarleton Park and Tommy Schumpert Park were used in Knox County plus the Knoxville Catholic and Webb high school fields.

"The Battle in Rocky Top has really helped make football more competitive here in Knoxville at the grassroots level," said Jones, who led the Fulton eighth grade program for 15 years (2003 - 2017) before getting into high school coaching.

"Prior to the start of the tournament in 2006, there were only a few teams in our area getting to play teams from other states. Many teams - local, state-wide and from other states - now use this as their big year-end measuring stick.

"There's also been some really good players come through this tournament and many have went on and played in the SEC, ACC, Big Ten and other college football conferences.

"Some of the country's best youth football players have come through Knoxville to play in the Battle."

After taking many of his teams to play in tournaments out of state for years, Jones said he and his wife

talked about it and decided to start a tournament in Tennessee.

"It began with the Kickoff Classic, a preseason tournament that we still have although it's not as big, and I kept hearing the same message from coaches, 'If you do one at the end of the season, let me know.' After hearing about 15 comments like that, I said let's do some in November too. So we put it together and it took off like wildfire."

With the Battle in Rocky Top now as big as it is, Jones said he has probably close to 120 people who work it. "About half are staff and the rest are officials from Knoxville, Nashville, Chattanooga, Georgia, Kentucky and North Carolina.

"It's still hard to put on a tournament this big, but it's gotten a lot easier. Having taken my teams and played in many tournaments around the Southeast, I thought I knew a lot about it when we first started, but I found out quickly I knew very little and had to learn a lot about it."

A couple of big names who played in the 'Battle' and are now in the NFL include University of South Carolina product Deebo Samuel, a

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver; and former Ohio State standout Mike Weber, a Green Bay Packers running back.

As youngsters, Samuel played for the Spartanburg Gators, while Weber played for the Eastside Saints out of Detroit.

The recent No. 1 pick in the NBA draft, Anthony Edwards, who was chosen by the Minnesota Timberwolves, played in the 'Battle' with the Atlanta Vikings.

Even the player "who threw the shoe" in college football this season played in it. That would be Florida Gators cornerback Marco Wilson, who tossed an LSU player's shoe down field and drew a costly unsportsmanlike conduct penalty that led to the Tigers' winning touchdown.

Marco's older brother Quincy, now a cornerback with the New York Giants, also played in the 'Battle' with the WPO Wildcats of Fort Lauderdale.

"All of the local stars have played in it over the years," added Jones, "starting with Todd Kelly Jr." That list also includes Amari Rodgers, who currently is a standout wide receiver at Clemson.

## NOTABLES FROM KNOXVILLE



### POLLY BERGEN

Polly Bergen, née Nellie Paulina Bergen, was a Knoxville native, the daughter of a construction engineer and singer. She went on to become a noted singer, actress, and appeared in many Hollywood films. Bergen received an Emmy Award for her portrayal of Helen Morgan in the episode The Helen Morgan Story of the 1950s television series Playhouse 90. In the 1950s she was known as "The Pepsi Cola Girl", after a series of commercials for that soft drink.

Her role in the 1962 "Cape Fear" is notable and she also hosted TV's "Polly Bergen Show."

She was a cousin to the founder of Burgin Dodge and helped him open his dealership.

She was an ardent feminist and supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment. She formed a cosmology firm and opened clothing stores in Knoxville and Gatlinburg. She passed away in 2014 at age 84 in Southbury, Ct.

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## Coach of the Year

**Cont. from page 1**

She was also a winner of the TSSAA Academic Excellence Award. She was a member of the all-district and all-region tournament teams in 2019 and 2020.

She also helped the Lady Bobcats win the regular-season district championship and has a 4.32 grade point average.

**Briel Norman**  
**Carter High School**

Norman, a senior for

the Lady Hornets, helped Carter advance to the sectional round of the state playoffs. The Montana State signee helped the Lady Hornets make a deep postseason run as Carter made the District 3-AA and Region 2-AA Championship matches.

**Kami Livingston**  
**Hardin Valley Academy**

Livingston, a junior for the Lady Hawks, helped HVA have another successful

season in 2020. She was the District 3-AAA Server of the Year.

**Annabelle Sulish**  
**Concord Christian School**

A junior outside hitter for the Lady Lions, Sulish helped Concord Christian make deep state tournament runs in 2018 and 2019. She and CCS had a successful season but were eliminated by Goodpasture Christian School in the regionals.

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# ‘So, here’s to you, old Tennessee....’

On October 27, 1928, Maj. Bob Neyland was in the midst of his first tenure as Volunteer head coach. The Vols had defeated Alabama the week before in Tuscaloosa, 15-13, led by Gene McEver's



By Tom Mattingly

98-yard return of the opening kickoff. Neyland's charges were 4-0, having defeated Maryville, Centre, and Ole Miss, before the win over the Crimson Tide in one of the seminal victories in the history of Tennessee football.

Not to be outdone, Buddy Hackman delighted the Homecoming Day crowd, matching McEver's effort, this time for 94 yards and another quick lead. That led to a 26-3 victory over Washington & Lee.

It was a kinder and simpler era, a time campus life was centered around Ayres Hall, the Carolyn P. Brown Student Center, and Ellis & Ernest Drug Store.

During that year, the university had been seeking an "alma mater," a song that had to be "original and of high standard."

Prof. J.S. Meyer, head of a campus group charged with selecting such a song, announced the selection at a banquet at the Farragut Hotel the night before the game.

"It is not the plan to declare this song the official alma mater hymn unless it captures the hearts of UT students and alumni," Meyer said. The "right type" of alma mater was of

paramount importance.

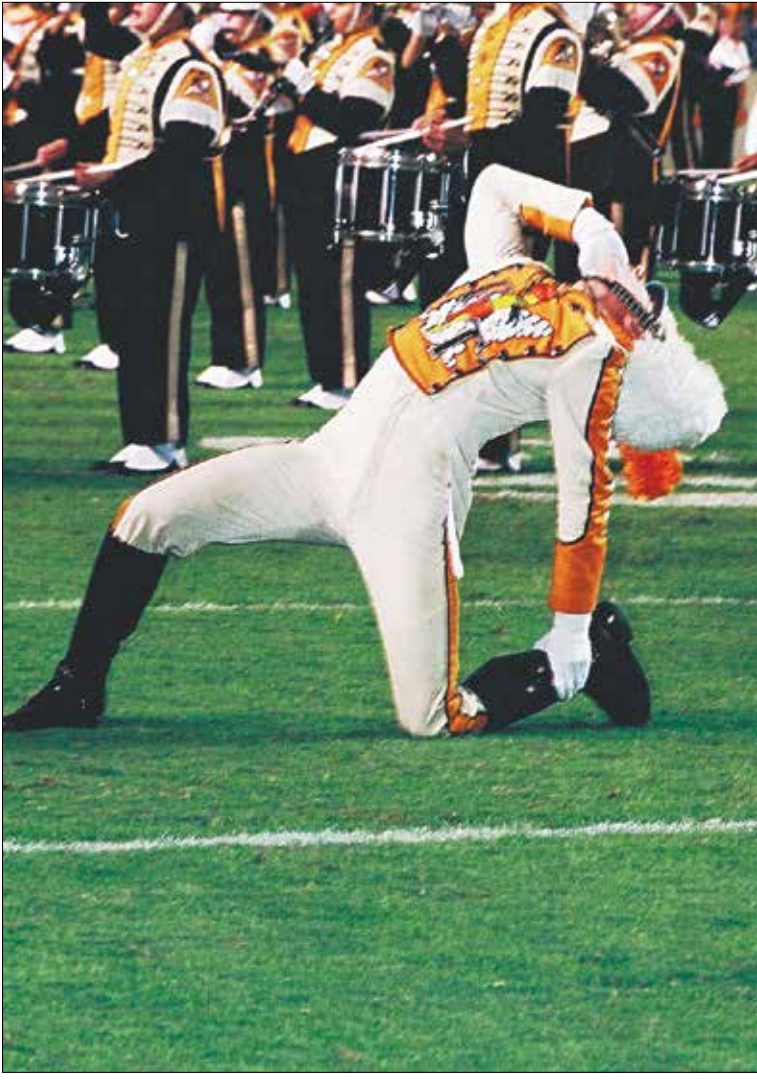
An outside committee, composed of George B. Nevin of Easton, PA., Harry Alan Russell of New York, and Nathaniel Irving Hyatt of Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C., all apparently big in the music field, had been brought in to make the final call.

The contest attracted wide interest from students and others across the state. A prize of \$50, thought to be worth more than \$750 today, went to the winner.

Mary Fleming Meek of Chattanooga, Mrs. John Lamar Meek as listed on the sheet music, submitted the winning entry, titled "On a Hallowed Hill." It won out over one written by Knoxville's Frances Johnson, by unanimous vote.

Although Mrs. Meek was not a Tennessee alum, she had attended UT's Summer School of the South. Her husband and son were graduates, and her father had served as a University trustee. Mrs. Meek's great-grandfather designed one of the Hill's earliest buildings, Old College, razed in 1919 in preparation for the construction of Ayres Hall.

It remains something unique, just as they had wanted in 1928. It's not some variant of "Far Above Cayuga's Waters," Cornell University's school song that is also the tune for numerous other collegiate alma maters, most notably Alabama, Georgia, and Vanderbilt and nearly 20 others. Mrs. Meek's composition is Tennessee's and no one else's. "Every self-respecting student



The saluting drum major is a fitting end to the Pride of the Southland Band's halftime show.

of the University has memorized the words to the Alma Mater." An unknown writer penned these words in "The Torch," an orientation publication from 1944.

Mrs. Meek had looked to the "Torch Night" and "Aloha Oe" ceremonies on campus for

inspiration and touched all the bases in composing words and melody. The second verse, for example, begins with the words, "What torches kindled at that flame have passed from hand to hand..."

No one knows the exact creative process that went into

the writing of the Alma Mater, but the words and music live on and continue to have an impact on generation after generation of students and alums.

Regardless of the time of year, UT fans stand taller and prouder when those strains echo around Neyland Stadium and the surrounding campus area, as played by the Pride of the Southland Marching Band, complete with solo trumpets. When the chorus swells to, "So here's to you, old Tennessee," Vol fans wouldn't want to be anywhere else. It matches the moment when the orange and white-clad Vols enter Shields-Watkins Field through a giant "T" formed by the band.

"She composed an alma mater, which is not just a custom, but a song in which every line expresses the University of Tennessee's charm, character, and strength," Linda McHugh of the U.T. Daily Beacon wrote Nov. 10, 1967.

"As our alma mater is willed from generation to generation, no matter how others may dress, talk or live, they may see that there is a spirit stronger than that in jugs, the Volunteer spirit of mind and soul. Our inward spirit becomes outward when we sing the Alma Mater."

More than 90 years after Mrs. Meek's passing in June 1929, her composition, played from the old-fashioned block "T" at the end of the band's halftime show, positively reflects University of Tennessee collegiate life, from the late 1920s through today.

## The Direction of Tennessee Football

By Mark Nagi

Tennessee's 2020 season was one to forget. From a six-game losing streak to a quarterback quandary that was never solved, to a total of seven losses that were each by double digits... let's just say that the Vol Network won't be producing any special DVDs about the past 10 games.

Things went from bad to worse when it was announced that head coach Jeremy Pruitt, assistant coaches and multiple players tested positive for COVID-19, which forced them out of a spot in the Liberty Bowl.

The University of Tennessee's Athletic Department released the following statement: "After receiving Sunday's (December 20) COVID-19 test results, the University of Tennessee football program has paused all team activities and will be unable to compete in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl. The test results revealed an increase in positive cases among student-athletes and staff and subsequent

contact tracing. The decision was made in consultation with health officials, the Southeastern Conference and the AutoZone Liberty Bowl. The student-athletes and staff affected are taking the appropriate safety measures in accordance with University, CDC and local health department guidelines. The University of Tennessee extends its sincere appreciation to the AutoZone Liberty Bowl and the city of Memphis and is disappointed it will not be able to fulfill its commitment on New Year's

Eve."

This means that all attention when it comes to the football program turns to the future of Pruitt, and where Tennessee goes from here heading into 2021.

When it looked like Tennessee was playing in this bowl game, Tennessee released a statement from athletics director Phillip Fulmer that sure made it seem like Pruitt was getting a fourth season. "It's a tremendous development opportunity for our team

and should serve as a primer to spring practice for Coach Pruitt and our returners."

Fulmer knows a lot about coaching changes. Back in 2008, he was dismissed after winning 152 games, two SEC titles and one national championship. To this day, he feels that he shouldn't have been fired. This might affect his decision when it comes to Pruitt. Fulmer, of course, hired Pruitt at the end of the coaching search mess of 2017 and is going to

give him every opportunity to succeed. Their fates are aligned. If Pruitt turns things around, Fulmer looks good. If Pruitt can't turn the tide, Fulmer's legacy is somewhat tarnished, and both Pruitt and Fulmer likely will be shown the door.

If Pruitt is safe, he certainly is going to have to make changes to his staff. Offensive coordinator Jim Chaney and quarterbacks coach Chris Weinke in particular are the assistants whose

jobs are most in jeopardy. Tennessee's quarterback problems were never resolved, and the offense struggled mightily most of the year.

College football is a results-driven business. And Pruitt is not delivering. The Vols are 16-19 under his guidance, with an 0-9 record against Tennessee's three biggest rivals (Alabama, Florida, Georgia).

No matter what happens, Pruitt's first head coaching job is sitting on shaky ground.

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## The Gift

"I salute you! There is nothing I can give you which you have not; but there is much, that while I cannot give, you can take.

No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today.

Take Heaven.  
No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present instant.

Take Peace.  
The gloom of the world is but a shadow, behind it, yet, within our reach, is joy.  
Take Joy.

And so, at this Christmas time, I greet you,

with the prayer that for you, now and forever, the day breaks and the shadows flee away."

Fra Giovanni 1513

Sometimes I think it would be easier to write a column more contemporaneous with events rather than once a week, because it seems I always

have something to say. But then a weekly essay is more reflective and less prone to knee-jerk reactions of the 24 hour "fake news" cycle. The mantra in academia is "publish or perish." The media mantra is "If it bleeds it leads," especially if it disparages President Trump.

Christmas was different this year with coronavirus pandemic and panic, separated families, lockdowns and election fraud. My excuse for being a bit tardy with a Christmas message is that it's taken me longer to get in the Christmas Spirit despite Christmas decorations, music and movies. I'm not a master of exterior illumination like Clark Griswold of Christmas Vacation, but our outside lights, snowman and Christmas pig at the doorway brightened my spirits.

We did not put up a big tree this year because Christmas parties were

cancelled by pandemic Grinchies, and only Becky and I see our inside decorations. Actually, our small Charlie Brown tree serves us well because most of our Christmas gifts were to others and would not have fit under our tiny tree.

By the time you read this essay, I will have spread the Christmas Spirit with a special gift. I will be Santa Claus for the KCOs (Knoxville Cute Ones, aka grandchildren and cousins). By nature, I'm not a thespian like the lovely Becky. However, early in my medical career I learned to perform medical lectures by memorizing my presentations. This came in handy handling audience smart alecks. This year I purchased a Santa outfit and I hope the Big Guy's Spirit will help me handle any three- to eight-year-old hecklers.

When I was eight years old a Christmas crisis arose. The urbane sophisticates of the grammar school lunchroom informed me that Santa Claus wasn't real and parents brought Christmas morning gifts. I didn't believe this 1959 fake news and went home to ask my mom. I don't remember what she said, but she certainly did not validate the lunchroom rabble vying for a career in "journalism."

A few days later, as my

parents were hosting a Christmas Eve party, the doorbell rang. I was told to answer the door and when I did so, there stood the Big Guy holding sleigh bells, sporting a "beard as white as the snow" and a red suit I swear was "all tarnished with ashes and soot." I don't remember what was in his "bag full of toys," but the magic of Christmas and Santa were again real, and stayed with me for several years. Christmas in the eyes of a child is magical. Please seek Christmas magic with my favorite seasonal movie One Magic Christmas with Mary Steenburgen.

The Christmas magic is different for adults. We often have to look harder to find it, sometimes in the eyes of cute ones. And, "♪ We need a little Christmas ♪" these days. Some years ago, I wrote an essay about finding the Christmas Spirit while shopping with Becky. My Gift of the Fer-Guy echoed the wondrous short story The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry. Women are better shoppers than men because "Women shop, men buy." This and other Fergisms are in my book "Well...What Did the Doctor Say?" (Even if you are a bit late, it's still a great Christmas gift online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble!)

You didn't have to mask

up this year, search catalogues or the Internet for the best Christmas gift of the otherwise terrible year 2020. Pfizer-BioNTech's and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines, as a result of President Trump's Operation Warp Speed, are here. Research and development of the vaccine occurred in record time and vaccination of the nation is now underway.

The vaccine will first be offered to frontline doctors and nurses in hospitals, residents and staff at nursing facilities, home health personal, teachers and first responders. Then, the vaccinations will be offered to seasoned citizens and especially those with serious medical conditions like cancer. Two doses of the vaccines are said to be 95% effective in generating protective antibodies and lasting immune system recognition. Finally, primary care doctors, outpatient specialists and their staffs, pharmacists and therapists, dentists and lab personnel will be offered vaccination before the rest of the population.

These vaccines are novel, utilizing mRNA protein of the COVID-19 virus attachment spikes. We've heard of a handful of reactions to the vaccines amidst hundreds of thousands already vaccinated. It is thought the reactions

are due to PEG (polyethylene glycol). This chemical is often used to stabilize vaccines, and reactions are primarily an issue for people who had previous reactions to other vaccines. It is very common to hear reports of side effects after a drug is marketed and used in large numbers of people. Everything has a risk/benefit ratio. It is apparent to me that the benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks.

In 1796 Edward Jenner developed the first "vaccine" using milder cowpox to prevent smallpox. So dreaded was the smallpox scourge that in the early 1700s, Cotton Mather began "inoculations" with material from smallpox sores to prevent more severe disease. John Adams' wife, Abigail, was so desperate during a 1778 smallpox epidemic in Boston that she had her entire family "inoculated." The side effects of this procedure were terrible and sometimes fatal. By comparison, the Covid vaccine side effects are miniscule.

The most succinct definition of Grace is a gift. But a gift must be accepted. It's time for Americans to step up and receive President Trump's Christmas gift of COVID-19 vaccination, and be thankful.

You may email Dr. Ferguson at [fergusonj@knoxfocus.com](mailto:fergusonj@knoxfocus.com)

# Surprises await at David Crockett Birthplace State Park

Sometimes when you visit a place you've been before you can still find some real surprises.

When my wife and I decided to take a day away from our home in Knoxville and make a safe drive to David Crockett Birthplace State Park, just east of Greeneville, we knew the place must have changed somewhat since our last visit several years ago.

What we didn't expect, aside from the huge amount of traffic during the pandemic, was how much the place had changed. There's RV camping there

## A Day Away



By Mike Steely

now, several new log buildings, a third re-building of a cabin where it is believed Crockett was born, a visitor center and a small museum.

Near the parking lot at the park entrance was another surprise. A small path led up and around a wooded hill there and every few feet stood a display sign.

The signs tell a story and bits of folktales and history and point out the native plants along the trail.

The park is about two hours from Knoxville by way of I-81 or Highway 11E. You can totally bypass

the interstate if you wish by taking Andrew Johnson Highway through Jefferson City, Morristown, Bulls Gap and Greeneville. We were amazed at the growth of Greeneville with every imaginable national chain store and lots of local businesses as well visible from the bypass.

David Crockett Birthplace State Park has 105 acres along the Nolichucky River and is at or near the birthplace Crockett wrote about. No, he wasn't "Born on a mountain top in Tennessee" as the ballad goes, but on the banks of the river where his father built a cabin. The park has, in season, various planned programs and obviously honors the life of the hero who died at the Alamo in 1836.

Crockett left his family at an early age, lived with the Cherokee, did odd jobs and rejoined them briefly when his father built the "Crockett Tavern" in what is now Morristown. David, or Davy, married and moved to western Tennessee living at several places there. Yes, there's another David Crockett State Park, that one near Lawrenceburg.

The Birthplace State Park has 48 full RV hook-ups, 16 water and electric sites, and 13 primitive tent sites. A swimming pool is open during the summer, and there is fishing in the river and five miles of hiking trails. There are picnic tables here and there in the park. If you don't take a picnic lunch you might want to stop in Greeneville and get chicken or something

to go and eat at the park.

In the center of the park is a marble monument to Crockett surrounded by a rock wall that holds stone from all 50 states. In the distance is a barn with donkeys and sheep. You can drive to various sites in the park or, to help stretch your legs from the drive, you can walk to most of the sites with ease.

And don't pass up the Story Trail.

You can find the park on the internet or call them at (423) 257-2167. The camping office can be reached at (423) 257-4500 for reservations. The park is open at 8 a.m. and closes near sunset.

If you're headed that way you may also want to stop by Crockett Tavern in Morristown, get off the highway

at Bull's Gap and visit the city hall and ghost town there, or check out the President Andrew Johnson sites in Greeneville.

Taking a day trip is a great and safe family outing. Don't forget to take your mask or face shield, or both, and use hand sanitizer after you gas up.

We drove the entire trip from our house in north Knoxville to the park without ever touching the interstate. The trip is a bit longer but, even with some traffic, you have a chance to make quick side trips to other sites along the way.

So, get out of the house and take the family somewhere, even if it is a no-destination drive. It helps break up the "cabin fever" and isolation.

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# A Crazy Year in Review

We certainly will not forget 2020 anytime soon. We all learned what the word COVID-19 stands for: Corona Virus Disease and 19 the year it broke out. When we began this year, who would have thought that three months later our country would be pretty much shut down for a number of weeks. Our economy was upended as the country lost 20.6 million jobs since mid-March, resulting in an unemployment rate of 14.7%, a level not seen



**By Mark Brackney,  
Minister of the  
Arlington Church  
of Christ**

since the Great Depression in the 1930s. The entertainment industry would be hit hard with no concerts nor attended sporting events (or low attendance) for the entire year. Hotels, restaurants, the airline industry, movie theaters, and cruise lines took a huge financial hit. But other businesses boomed, like Zoom. Online shopping took off like never before, and delivery services like FedEx, UPS and USPS are overwhelmed with

deliveries.

Seeing people wear masks on American streets was shocking. This was only something we saw people in Asia wearing. Now masks have become pretty much mandatory and it seems strange seeing someone not wearing one. Disinfectant wipes, purifiers, hand sanitizers and fogger machines took on new meaning this year. We saw vaccine development fast-tracked by our government like never before. We have watched the tireless effort of frontline workers helping patients fight for their lives. Other frontline workers like

farmers and service workers like truck drivers and grocery staff are keeping shelves full at grocery stores.

There are a number of lessons this pandemic has taught us. First, we have learned money can't buy health. The virus has shown us that both rich and poor succumb to the virus. The rich might have the best doctors and a good diet, which often leads to better health, but if you are high risk and you get this disease, none of that matters. It reminds me of what Jesus said about trusting wealth. Luke 12:16-21 is a parable where a rich man thought

he had his whole life in front of him. He was prepared to take life easy and live in luxury off of all he saved up. He didn't get to enjoy any of his life savings for he died early.

Second, we have realized how precious life is and we need to make each day count. Paul wrote, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). While the exact numbers are debated, as of Dec. 21, there have been 321,097 deaths in America associated to COVID and 1,695,606 in the world. The crazy thing about this virus is that two people the same

age and same health can get the virus and one not show any symptoms and the other die from it. While there is much I don't know, here is one thing I do know. None of us are getting out of this life alive, except for the generation of God's people who will be alive when the Lord returns for the final time: "After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air. And so, we will be with the LORD forever" (1 Thess. 4:17). Each day is a gift, and we live it for Christ. One day we will die, and be with our Lord forever.

## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### ESTATE OF SAM MCCLANAHAN DOCKET NUMBER 83865-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of DECEMBER 2020, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of SAM MCCLANAHAN who died Sep 28, 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 21 day of DECEMBER, 2020.

ESTATE OF SAM MCCLANAHAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
HOME FEDERAL BANK/KATHLEEN  
L WALDROP; EXECUTOR  
515 MARKET ST., STE 500  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

GLEN KYLE  
ATTORNEY  
4931 HOMBERG DR  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### ESTATE OF HANSA S PATEL DOCKET NUMBER 83814-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day of DECEMBER 2020, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of HANSA S PATEL who died Oct 22, 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 22 day of DECEMBER, 2020.

ESTATE OF HANSA S PATEL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
SUDHIR PATEL; EXECUTOR  
1709 TOTANKA LN.  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

DANIEL WILKINS  
ATTORNEY  
7632 GLEASON DR.  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ANN PENLAND DOCKET NUMBER 83867-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day of DECEMBER 2020, letters administration in respect of the Estate of ELIZABETH ANN PENLAND who died Dec 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:

(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 22 day of DECEMBER, 2020.

ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ANN PENLAND

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MATTHEW T CATANI; ADMINISTRATOR  
8144 OLIVE TREE WAY A202  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

THOMAS R RAMSEY, III  
ATTORNEY  
550 W MAIN ST., STE 310  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### ESTATE OF PATRICIA ANN RAY DOCKET NUMBER 83722-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 17 day of DECEMBER 2020, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of PATRICIA ANN RAY who died Sep 1, 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 17 day of DECEMBER, 2020.

ESTATE OF PATRICIA ANN RAY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
KATHRYN RAY HIGH; ADMINISTRATRIX  
3621 KING ARTHUR DRIVE  
LEXINGTON, KY 40517

JAMES C SHASTID  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
1816 AMARILLO LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### ESTATE OF PARNICK H ROGERS DOCKET NUMBER 83855-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 17 day of DECEMBER 2020, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of PARNICK H ROGERS who died Oct 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:

(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 17 day of DECEMBER, 2020.

ESTATE OF PARNICK H ROGERS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ALAN L ROGERS; EXECUTOR  
4134 GALBRAITH SCHOOL ROAD  
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LAPTOPS \$100 - \$125, WE DO  
COMPUTER REPAIR \$65, CALL  
JAMES 865-237-6993

### FOR RENT

**SOUTH KNOXVILLE /  
UT / DOWNTOWN**  
2 BR, 700 SQ FT APARTMENTS  
\$700/MONTH  
**865-573-1000**

### WANTED

\*\*\*\*\*WANTED\*\*\*\*\*  
**BROKEN PUSH & RIDING MOWERS**  
**\$10-20 PUSH OR \$40-100 RIDING**  
**MUST BE COMPLETE**  
**865-933-9660**  
**LEAVE PHONE # IF NO ANSWER**

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### ESTATE OF JUSTIN TYLER SOUTHERS DOCKET NUMBER 83837-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 17 day of DECEMBER 2020, letters administration in respect of the Estate of JUSTIN TYLER SOUTHERS who died Oct 19, 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 17 day of DECEMBER, 2020.

ESTATE OF JUSTIN TYLER SOUTHERS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
KATHY C SOUTHERS; CO-ADMINISTRATOR  
5228 LUTTRELL ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

ROY L SOUTHERS, JR.; CO-ADMINISTRATOR  
5228 LUTTRELL ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 3791

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### ESTATE OF DONNA L SPLANE DOCKET NUMBER 83862-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of DECEMBER 2020, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of DONNA L SPLANE who died Sep 27, 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 21 day of DECEMBER, 2020.

ESTATE OF DONNA L SPLANE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
HOWARD SCOTT SPLANE, III; EXECUTOR  
3211 WHISPERING OAKS DR.  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37938

## MISC. NOTICES

### NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

CEDAR BLUFF TOWING 12-28-20 \$86.40  
In compliance with TCA 66-14-102 thru 66-14-106 the following cars will be sold on January 15, 2021 @ 2:00 PM @ Cedar Bluff Towing, Inc. 623 Simmons Road Knoxville, TN if total bill is not paid by date of sale.

### ALTERATIONS

JOANNE'S ALTERATIONS  
PANTS HEMMING \$5,  
SPECIALIZING IN JEANS.  
CALL 579-2254 OR 438-5614

### CHILD CARE

**MARCIA'S LEARNING CENTER**  
1411 Exeter Ave, Knoxville  
(865) 673-8223  
Day Shift 7:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Night Shift 4:30 pm - 12 midnight

### CLEANING

KATHY'S HOUSE CLEANING,  
DEPENDABLE, REASONABLE  
RATES, FREE ESTIMATES,  
865-343-1474

### DRY CLEANING

**SMOXY MOUNTAIN  
DRY CLEANERS & LAUNDRY**  
7052 Maynardville Pike  
Knoxville, TN 37918  
**865-922-6677**

### ELDER CARE

CLOSE TO HOME ELDERLY  
CARE. 24-HOUR CARE IN  
PRIVATE HOME. RN WITH 30  
YRS EXPERIENCE. EXCELLENT  
REFERENCES.  
865-335-6337

ELDER CARE. CAREGIVER FOR  
THE ELDERLY, HOUSEKEEPING,  
32 YRS EXP, DAYS OR NIGHTS,  
EXCELLENT REFERENCES,  
KNOX/S KNOX/SEYMOUR,  
865-280-0896

### ELECTRICIAN

RETIRED UNION  
ELECTRICIAN AVAILABLE  
for service calls/small jobs.  
\*Ceiling Fans a Specialty\*  
Wayne 455-6217

### FENCING

FENCING & REPAIR, YOU BUY  
IT-WE INSTALL IT, LICENSED  
AND INSURED, 865-604-6911

### FENCE & DECK BUILDS

**FENCE & DECK BUILDER**  
NEW BUILDS OR REPAIRS  
QUALITY, SAFETY, HONESTY, INTEGRITY  
"OUR PRIORITY"  
INSURED & BONDED  
FREE ESTIMATES  
CALL OR TEXT **865-888-1241**

### FLORIST

POWELL FLORIST AND  
GIFTS 865-947-6105  
POWELLFLORISTKNOXVILLE.  
NET

### GUTTER WORK

GUTTER CLEANING,  
INSTALLATION OF 5 INCH AND  
REPAIR OF FASCIA BOARD  
936-5907

### HANDYMAN

**HANDYMAN**  
Carpentry • Plumbing  
Painting • Hedgerows  
Tree trimming & MORE!  
30+ Years Experience  
INSURED! FREE ESTIMATES!  
Call 865-607-2227

### METAL WORK

**GHOST RIDERS  
METAL WORKS**  
**865-705-0742**  
Mobile Welding  
Fabrication & Repair  
Electrical - Plumbing  
Gas piping & Welding  
State Licensed  
Stick Welding, Mig Welding  
Gas Welding  
[www.ghostridersmetalworks.com](http://www.ghostridersmetalworks.com)

### PAINTING

PAINTING- INTERIOR-  
EXTERIOR  
Lic. & Ins. 30 Yrs. Exp.  
Free Estimates  
865-573-2199  
Professional Painters

**Pilgrim Painting**  
Repaint Specialist  
Commercial & Residential  
Serving Knoxville 26 years  
• Interior/Exterior  
Painting  
• Pressure Washing  
• Staining  
• Drywall &  
Carpentry  
GOOGLE 5 STAR RATING  
[WWW.PILGRIMPAININGKNOXVILLE.COM](http://WWW.PILGRIMPAININGKNOXVILLE.COM)  
Major Credit Cards Now Accepted  
FOLLOW US & LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**865-291-8434**  
Licensed • Bonded & Insured  
Background Checks and Drug Testing  
Required for all employees  
Home Improvement License #291843

### PAINTING

**Randy the Painter**  
Interior & Exterior Painting  
Celebrating 40 years of business in 2020  
Licensed and Insured  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**865-522-3222**  
**FREE PRESSURE WASHING**  
**WITH ALL EXTERIOR PAINTING**  
NOW ACCEPTING  
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS.

### ROOFING

ROOF REPAIRS,  
METAL:SHINGLE:RUBBER,  
ROOF COATING: FREE  
ESTIMATES, 865-705-7069

Call or email  
Ruthie at  
**865-254-3498**  
or  
[ruthie@knoxfocus.com](mailto:ruthie@knoxfocus.com)  
to place  
your Classified  
or Service  
Directory ad!

### GOD'S PLACE TREASURES THRIFT STORE

6119 Chapman Hwy  
Furniture, glassware, clothing & more  
Variety of clothing \$1 each  
Friday Special: Adult clothes \$2 a bag  
Proceeds help feed homeless.  
M-F 10am-5:30pm  
Mgr Vicki 604-8077