

COVID-19 Weekly Focus

BE SAFE · WASH YOUR HANDS · WEAR A MASK · SOCIALLY DISTANCE					
2019 Knox County Total Population ¹	Total Confirmed COVID-19 Cases ²	% COVID-19 Cases/ Total Population	Total COVID-19 Deaths ²	% COVID-19 Deaths/ Total Population	
470,313	36,001	7.7%	437	.09%	

SOURCES 1. U.S. Census Bureau 2. Knox County Health Department data from 1/23/2021.

The Focus welcomes Dr. Harold Black

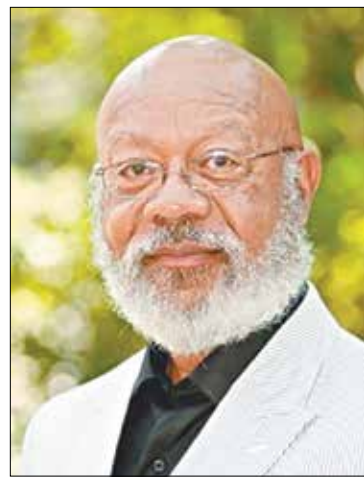
By Steve Hunley, Publisher
 publisher@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville Focus is very proud to welcome Dr. Harold Black as a new columnist. Dr. Black is a distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Tennessee's Haslam College of Business. Dr. Black has published in numerous highly respected financial publications such as the Journal of Money, Credit and Banking, American Economic Review, Journal of

Banking and Finance, the Southern Economic Journal, Journal of Financial Research, and the Journal of Monetary Economics. Dr. Black is a noted lecturer as well as a consultant to leading financial institutions and has served as a Director and Chairman of the Nashville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Harold Black has also been recognized over the years for many of his notable achievements,

which includes the Department of Treasury's Special Achievement Award, the National Urban League's Outstanding Service Award, the Distinguish Alumnus Award from the University of Georgia's College of Business Administration, and the 2001 John B. Ross Teaching Award for excellence in teaching, among others. Dr. Black maintains his own blog at HaroldBlack.blogspot.com.

As publisher of The Knoxville Focus, I believe our paper is very fortunate to have some of the best columnists anywhere in the country and I am very proud to welcome Dr. Harold Black to that stellar lineup. I know every member of The Focus family joins me in welcoming Dr. Black to our paper and I am certain, you, the readers will thoroughly enjoy Dr. Black's monthly columns. *Dr. Black begins his series of monthly columns in this week's Focus.*



975 vaccinated at second KCHD event

By Mike Steely
 Senior Writer
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The EXPO Center in North Knoxville was busy Friday with Covid-19 vaccinations and this time the process went much smoother. The Knox County Health Department set up an appointment system and 975 people, especially those over 75 years old, came at their appointed times. Friday's clinic was open for health care workers, first responders and those 75 and older. Director of Nursing Dena Mashburn spoke with the media inside the makeshift clinic and said the response was tremendous and the appointments filled up in less than four minutes when opened Thursday. She said the department will probably get more vaccines this week and make an announcement for the next round of shots. She said there are no current plans to open up the vaccine to Seniors 65 years and older, but added the response from the older seniors has been fantastic. Clinics will be held specifically for those needing second-dose vaccinations from the health department. KCHD officials will be in contact with those who qualify to inform them of the opportunities to complete vaccination. As residents wait for their opportunity to be vaccinated it is critical that everyone continues to utilize the Five Core Actions: wash your hands, stay home if you are sick, keep at least six feet of distance from anyone not in your household, sanitize high-touch surfaces and wear a mask.



Knox County Health Department workers administer a vaccine to a resident last Friday

Fire and rescue, court collections and redistricting

By Mike Steely
 Senior Writer
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The Knox County Commission's work session last week saw discussion on several matters including these three issues.

Fire and Rescue

After a bit of discussion on who would represent commission on the new Knox County Fire and Technical Rescue Committee, Commissioner Carson Dailey was selected. Dailey, a supporter of the Seymour Rescue Squad, was nominated by Commissioner John Schoonmaker. Initially, Commissioner Justin Biggs nominated Commissioner Richie Beeler but Beeler withdrew his name in favor of Dailey. Chairman Larsen Jay nominated Commissioner Randy Smith but the 10-1 vote saw Jay move his vote to Dailey. The commission would apparently include District 9 Commissioner Dailey, the executive director of the Knox County Emergency Communications District, the director of Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Management Agency, the controller for Knox County Finance, the emergency response coordinator for Knox County Health Department, the director of Knox County Community Development, the mayor's chief operating officer, and the chief of each fire and rescue organization

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Two health advisory boards for Knox County?

By Mike Steely
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Knox County Commissioners learned last week who Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs is nominating to serve on the new Committee on Health and Economic Well-Being. The alternate health advisory group was suggested by Commissioner Kyle Ward to advise the mayor and the commission on emergency health matters and how it affects the local economy. For more than two weeks The Knoxville Focus has been asking for the names of the applicants to the Committee on Health and Economic Well-Being but no applicant names were provided prior to the work session when the

clerk read the names into the resolution. Chairman Larsen Jay said the names had been emailed to the commissioners. Commissioner Richie Beeler moved the resolution ahead with no recommendations "just to give members of this body time to do research." Commissioner Charles Busler seconded the motion. Commissioner Randy Smith asked about adding a urologist to the list but was told that Dr. Martha Buchanan had reached out to UT but had no application. Dwight Van de Vate said, "We had multiple applications for the other positions" but those names were not made public. Chairman Jay said all the names submitted to

the commission are on the Knox County Commission's website along with their applications. Item 15 of the commission's online agenda lists the names and resumes of those recommended to serve on the advisory committee. Those recommended include David Moon and Dr. Ramon DeGennaro as the economists; Dr. Kathleen Brown as the epidemiologist; Candace Viox

and Allison Oaks as the Knox County business leaders; Dr. James Choo and Regina Hensley as the Knox County medical professionals; and Dr. Carletta Smelcer and Dr. Joshua Williams as the psychologists or social workers. Commissioner Dr. Dasha Lundy was nominated as the commission member. The vote was unanimous to move the consideration of those recommended

committee members to tonight's regular session. Also on the agenda for tonight is a resolution from Ward to strip the authority from the Board of Health. Ward had indicated earlier this month that he may postpone that ordinance. However, during the work session last Monday, Ward backed off of delaying the motion and said the media had misinformed

Continued on page 6

2020 FORD ECOSPORT
Ecoboost Power, Alum Wheels

\$16,688
after Ford factory rebate



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ASSOCIATES

My love of music

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.
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As a young girl in Iowa, my mother played the cello. In later years, her main enjoyment, after her grandchildren, was playing a very nice, small organ my father had bought her.

I may have gotten my love for music from her, but for most of my life I have

been inspired by many great songs.

I have many favorites, but if I had to choose just one, it would be “The Impossible Dream.” I love the tune, but especially meaningful to me have been the words, such as:

“And the world will be better for this, that one man, still strove with his last ounce of courage to reach the unreachable star.”

Another favorite of mine is the song “My Way,” and as I approach my own “final curtain,” I love these words, “For what is a man, what has he got? If not himself, then he has naught. To say the things he truly feels,

and not the words of one who kneels. The record shows, I took the blows and I did it my way.”

The Metro Pulse, a few years ago, ran a nice story about me entitled “Independent Man.” Perhaps at times I was a little too independent, because in Washington you sometimes don’t get little titles if you don’t always go along with the Party leaders.

But I really appreciated the very nice editorial that the News-Sentinel published after I announced my retirement. The title was “He did it his way.”

By the way, a great Tennessean, Elvis Presley, did possibly the best renditions

of both “The Impossible Dream” and “My Way.”

I remember reading in USA Today on the 25th anniversary of Elvis Presley’s death that he was selling more music then than when he was alive, a phenomenal accomplishment.

Other great songs that I have found inspiring are “Climb Every Mountain” and “You’ll Never Walk Alone,” especially the Andre Rieu orchestra and Sergio’s version.

I have always loved the song “The Rose” and these words: “It’s the heart afraid of breaking that never learns to dance. It’s the dream afraid of waking that never takes the chance.

It’s the one who won’t be taken who cannot seem to give and the soul afraid of dying that never learns to live.”

And then these are songs that I just think are beautiful, such as the orchestra version of “Unchained Melody,” the John Dunbar theme from “Dances with the Wolves,” Crystal Gale’s version of “When I Dream,” and “Perhaps Lover,” the song John Denver said was the best he had ever written.

The song “How Beautiful” was sung at my son, Zane’s, and daughter-in-law Hallie’s wedding and has to be just what the title says. I got Zane and

all his groomsmen to sing with me the song “Let It Be Me” to Hallie at their wedding party.

I have many, many other favorites, but I will end this column with the words of the theme song from “Grand,” a television show that lasted only one season in the 90s (you can hear this one-minute song on YouTube).

“See we’re all different drummers playing in the same big band, and if you’re going to play it, play it grand.”

I hope, in my own small way, that I have played it Grand.

Letter to the Publisher

Farragut resident questions development process

On January 14th, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved the First Reading to amend the Mixed-Use Town Center portion of the C-1 zoning ordinance. This is one of the last required amendments to town ordinances and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) for the Biddle Farm development. I have challenged these changes stating they are a “major update” requiring the “significant public outreach” called for and defined on page 6 of the CLUP.

Why was this outreach not done? There have been a variety of answers. The Mayor and Town Attorney said the multiple public meetings met the requirements while others said this was only a minor update.

However, on October 1st, I had a Facebook Messenger conversation with Vice Mayor Povlin that indicates the reason was to stop Horne Properties, Inc. from developing a known mixed-use project on the Ford property (next to Kohls).

During this conversation, I questioned some comments in a Farragut Press article. In response Ms. Povlin states, “I’m trying to limit the town center to one mixed use/high density residential project, there’s rumors someone is sniffing at the Ford property.” Later that evening, I questioned why the appropriate outreach was not being done and she responded, “How do you think they’ll feel when Doug Horne drops an application for a second one in our Town center and we haven’t addressed our land use plan to prevent that from happening?” Again, when I discussed the Town’s recent outreach efforts and asked why not now, she replied, “because the plans are imminent...” and “I’ll be damned if I’m going to sit by and watch someone who simply wants to maximize their land profit drop a group of apartments in the heart of our town and destroy the small town [sic] community...” She closed stating, “It would be irresponsible to leave this open

for Mr. Horne to walk right in. [sic] the Town center is far too important for our long term [sic] viability.”

I am not opposed to some high-density residential units in the MUTC area. This has been in the CLUP since 2012. Also, I am not opposed to making updates to the Plan. My concern is the failure to follow the significant public outreach guidance. This has led to the BMA, FMPC and a few Town employees determining the future of the MUTC for all of us. I believe this disenfranchises the citizens by placing the BMA, FMPC and Town employees’ desires over those of the citizens. I also fear this disparate treatment of landowners/developers may end in litigation.

Throughout the last few months, I have attempted to act prudently and with great discretion. My comments to the BMA and FMPC have been on the process and potential impacts. On December 8th, I shared my concerns and these quotes via a letter to the entire BMA offering to provide the original communications. This is not a personal vendetta but a desire to get the Town to reconsider the negative impacts of not conducting the outreach. And, to get them to pause and complete the outreach process fostering a collaborative decision on the future of the entire MUTC area. In publicly sharing these quotes without naming the source, I created a situation in which all of our Aldermen are under suspicion. This was not my intent and I apologize if my actions placed a negative light on any of the other Aldermen. I hope the Town understands her citizens frustration and will table the second vote on the PCD ordinance changes pending the completion of the significant public outreach.

Michael Wilson
Farragut, TN
Efforts by Focus staff to reach Mrs. Povlin for comments were unsuccessful as of press time.

Happy New Year. Time Magazine proclaimed 2020 as being the “worse year ever.” Such a headline is a sad commentary on our tastes in that Time is still published and Mad Magazine is not. I doubt if 2020 will rank among the worse 50 years ever much less as the worse year of all time. Was it because of the hurricanes? Climatologists say that 2005 was a worse year than 2020. Perhaps it was because at the Hurricane Center there were so many named storms that they had to resort to the Greek alphabet. If more names are needed I suggest that since hurricanes now include male names and Hispanic names, in the spirit of political correctness that they take Rep. Maxine Waters’ suggestion and include black names. I await Hurricane LaTeeshia.

Perhaps Time attributed the alleged worseness to the pandemic. Yet, as pandemics go, this one is fairly middling. It certainly doesn’t merit the worldwide panic and the draconian measures imposed by the politicians. COVID is not in the same league as malaria, tuberculosis, the flu and smallpox. It may even be less significant than HIV. The bubonic plague killed one third of the world’s population. Up to ninety percent of the indigenous



By Dr. Harold A. Black

inhabitants in the new world were killed by plagues brought by Western explorers to their shores. Then there was the Spanish flu – called the French flu by the Spaniards. Its estimated death toll ranged from 50 million to 200 million worldwide depending on who is doing the counting making 1918 the deadliest year in world history. But within a year the Spanish flu was gone without a vaccine to combat it. In contrast to COVID-19 the many of victims of the Spanish flu were young people. Hospitals overflowed and makeshift hospitals such as schools and private homes had to be used. Contrast that to the Mercy ships with unused beds sitting in New York harbor during New York’s spike in COVID -19.

We have apparently learned nothing from the past. To combat the Spanish flu, the politicians mandated masks, banned spitting, imposed quarantines, banned public gatherings, shut down schools, churches and restaurants. Many cities imposed fines for not wearing masks. Sound familiar? Today, masks are the modern talisman, much like wearing garlic cloves around one’s neck to ward off evil spirits.

While COVID-19 infects all ages, its effect is rather mild except for the elderly

or those with serious health problems. Yet the media acts as if positive tests equate to hospitalizations for everyone when that is obviously not the case. My granddaughter’s roommate at college tested positive. She exhibited no symptoms yet my granddaughter was quarantined at an on campus hotel. She loved it. She had chef prepared meals and privacy and wondered how she could make it permanent. Sadly, she had to go back in the dormitory. Now her university and many others have given them an extended Thanksgiving telling the students not to return to campus until the new year. That way they can spread the disease to their parents and grandparents.

The politicians say “follow the science.” What science? Much that has been reported as science has been wrong. More worrisome is that the politicians and health “experts” seemed to be making up stuff as they go along so much so that virtually none have any credibility. For example, there is no scientific evidence showing that restaurants are a source of infections. There is scant evidence that school aged children are spreaders of the disease. There is no evidence that a 10 PM curfew lessens infections. Why is it that small businesses are thought to be spreaders and big box stores are not? There are

mandates that limit gatherings no greater than 10 or 50. Where is the evidence supporting these limits? Lockdowns do more harm than the disease itself. In fact, lockdowns probably prolong the disease.

There is no scientific evidence that sporting events should be postponed or even canceled. Every day athletes test positive and then return to their sport after being quarantined. The MVP of major league baseball is a COVID-19 “survivor.” Even the vast majority of coaches who test positive recover and now roam the sidelines. Few athletes have been hospitalized and virtually none have died. One university threatened students with expulsion who participated in a large party. Rather, they could have allowed the parties and permitted the entire student body to go to all athletic events because the risks are so low (so says the science).

I am 75. My mother died after testing positive. But she was 101. Yet I don’t feel that I need protecting by the government. Still I guess it is naïve to wish that governments would let us return to normal since it means they would have to give up their new found power. As for me, I am reminded of the saying (with apologies to Rudyard Kipling) “If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs then perhaps you have misinterpreted the situation.”

E-911 updating security

By Mike Steely
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The Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Management Agency Board met briefly Wednesday morning and moved to add \$135,000 to their current budget to upgrade security.

Finance Chairman John Fugate said some of the funds go to cybersecurity and the 24-7 watch on all the systems.

Fugate said he watches the board’s budget closely but added, “I had no problem with that,” speaking of the additional

funds.

He also reported the outside audit of E-911 found no issues and “finances are in good shape with no exceptions.”

The construction of the Emergency Management Agency’s backup system is proceeding in the new Knoxville Safety Center complex at the former Tennova-St. Mary’s Hospital just off Broadway. Fugate said the city is doing a lot of the prep work on the building before E-911 moves backup equipment there.

The system is also adding eight new employees.

To the friends of
Darlene A. Haase
AKA Darlene A.
McQuain,
We are sorry to
say that she passed
away the second
week of January
2021.
Sincerely,
Her family from
Appleton



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Publisher's Position

Liberal Hypocrisy: Spreading Like Kudzu



By Steve Hunley,
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Kudzu: an invasive species that is extremely bad for the ecosystem as it invades and smothers other plants and trees under a blanket of leaves, hogging all the sunlight and keeping other species suppressed.

The trifecta of the Democrat machine - - Big tech, the news media, and the Democratic party - - have reached ever greater heights of hypocrisy with no end in sight. It even astonishes me House Democrats would trot out Maxine Waters to talk about inciting violence. Probably for the first time in Maxine's life, she knew what she was talking about. It's the very same Maxine Waters who yelled at a crowd, "If you see somebody from that cabinet in a restaurant, at a department store, at a gasoline station, you get out and you create a crowd. And you push back on them they're not welcome anymore, anywhere."

Nor was that Maxine's only transgression. In October of 2017 she said, "I will go and take Trump out tonight." Do you reckon Maxine still has a Twitter account?

If there was a Nobel Prize for lying, Nancy Pelosi would receive a Lifetime Achievement award. For Pelosi to stand before

the House and talk about "truth" was sickening. And Pelosi was the one talking about "uprisings" not so long ago. Nancy Pelosi actually said, when referencing illegal immigration, "I just don't know why there aren't uprisings all over the country. And maybe there will be."

Tim Kaine, Hillary Clinton's running mate in 2016 said the following: "So, the way we get outside the bubble is we take advantage of this tremendous public outcry against the administration... What we've got to do is fight in Congress, fight in the courts, fight in the streets, fight online, fight at the ballot box, and now there's the momentum to be able to do this." To the Democrats' credit, that is exactly what they've done.

Hillary, let's not forget, said repeatedly the 2016 election was stolen from her without a shred of evidence her statement was true.

Charges of sedition against Donald Trump are not at all new. For four years, there are all kinds of Democrats who accused Donald Trump of treason, of being an agent of Vladimir Putin without a scintilla of evidence to support the accusation. Did anyone get booted from Twitter or Facebook for making accusations without any factual basis? Nope, not a single one. In fact, even Robert Mueller and a staff composed of attorneys who had made contributions to Democratic candidates and/or Hillary Clinton could find nothing to hang their hats on. Still, the accusations are repeated to this day without any designation by any of the Big Tech giants banning those spreading the lies or challenging it as "unverified."

Senator Dianne Feinstein had a Chinese spy on her payroll for years and there's Congressman Eric Swalwell of the same state and the now infamous Fang Fang. Swalwell is on the House Intelligence Committee and Fang Fang may not have gotten anything from the California congressman because the last thing he is, is intelligent.

As far as ties to China go, there's Hunter Biden who has literally made a fortune without any other asset aside from his father and his last name. Big Tech and the mainstream media choked off any mention of Hunter Biden's shady dealings until after the election when it became known he was under investigation by federal authorities.

Maria Chappelle-Nadal, a state senator from Missouri, screamed, "I hope Trump is assassinated." Do you reckon she still has a Twitter account?

Alec Baldwin, who does an impersonation of Trump on TV, Tweeted he dreamed about hanging the President. He's still Tweeting as this is written.

None of these people complained about the people they called protesters, not rioters, much less terrorists, who tried to burn law enforcement officers alive. They said nothing as rioters tried to burn down a federal courthouse, which is a federal building, just like the Capitol building.

These are the very same people who have vilified law enforcement officers, refused to acknowledge the existence of Antifa, and derived support from those wanting to defund or abolish the police. Nor did they allow law enforcement to protect the homes and businesses of law-abiding, taxpaying citizens from thugs and anarchists

they insisted on describing as "mostly peaceful" protesters.

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressely said, "There needs to be unrest in the streets for as long as there's unrest in our lives."

Joe Biden said of Donald Trump, "If we were in high school, I'd take him behind the gym and beat the hell out of him."

Biden also said Antifa is not an organization, but instead "an idea."

Another thing to keep in mind is the Democrats in Congress challenged the Electoral count three times in recent years - - 2001 for the 2000 election 2005 for the 2004 election and again in 2017 for the 2016 election. Did any media outlet remind you of that?

House Democrats had the nerve to talk about anti-semitism during some of their speeches when one of them sits in their midst and on their side of the aisle: Ilhan Omar. Omar remains a committed anti-Semite and Democrats in the House refused to vote to condemn her hate speech against Jews and Israel. It is abundantly clear "hate speech" only exists if it's directed against a pre-approved group sanctioned by the left wing.

Alleged actor Robert DeNiro said he wanted to punch the President in the face; supposed comedienne Kathy Griffin had her picture taken with a photograph of her holding a likeness of the President's severed head. Madonna talked about blowing up the White House. As far as I know, none of them had their Twitter or Facebook accounts suspended for ten minutes.

Some people posted about executing Vice President Mike Pence by hanging him.

Joe Biden never once uttered a single word of condemnation of the rioters who spent much of the summer burning down the property of hard-working American citizens. Kamala Harris spent time raising money to bail out the rioters.

Justice being dispensed unequally is at the heart of what these same people say they are against. They claim compassion, diversity, and they like free speech...until you disagree with them.

Speaking of hypocrisy, Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon's garage was decorated with graffiti with the word "Death" spray painted in black letters. The apparent graffiti artist was almost surely not an Ivy League school graduate as he was spotted spray-painting Mayor Kincannon's garage around 7 p.m. The vandal was espied by a family walking a dog and several folks, including Indya, confronted the street artist (I'm sure that's how he would be referred to if he had been vandalizing a Republican home by the left) who showed all the bravery of a craven coward and ran to his ancient white Toyota and fled.

Who did Indya call? Why, the Knoxville Police Department, don't you know? She didn't call that hero, Councilwoman Amelia Parker to come over clutching her Council ID badge and face down the culprit. Nor did Indya call for a social worker. Instead, she called the cops. Wow.

By this time, I'm sure the leftists hovering over social media will have tried to pawn off the vandalization of Indya Kincannon's garage on right-wing extremists. Surely by this time the Proud Boys will have been declared

as being responsible. Of course that explanation begs a lot of questions, especially as it is obviously a stunt by someone who buys into the narrative currently being pushed by Amelia Parker's cohort David Hayes and the City Council Movement who claim the City and the police are terrorizing homeless people all across the land. In case you didn't know, the City Council Movement and all "woke" people don't use the pejorative term "homeless"; instead they prefer the term "houseless" which apparently is much more accurate and considerate.

To read the posts of the CCM members, one would think the police officers were merciless Cossacks riding through "houseless" encampments burning down dwellings and selling the survivors into indentured servitude. Keep in mind, the socialists, which is exactly what the City Council Movement members are, believe the "houseless" have a right to live anywhere they wish, including your front or back yards. The only place the homeless may not occupy is the home or yard of a socialist. David Hayes, as doubtless he will be reminding us shortly, got 10,000 votes in his last race for City Council. If everyone who voted for David took in just a couple of homeless people, viola! Problem solved. Of course that's about as likely to happen as David and Amelia becoming Republicans.

It will be interesting to see if it has finally sunk into the heads of the incumbent City Council members that they can't appease the socialists and remain in office. Council-people best invest in a good alarm system.

Magnolia Avenue Project Phase 3 being funded

By Mike Steely
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When the Knoxville City Council meets via Zoom Tuesday, it will consider allocating \$5 million to finance Phase 3 of the Magnolia Avenue Streetscape Project. Four million of that of that will come from federal funds through the state and the resolution involves an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

The council will also look at adding \$693,000 for the Washington Pike Roadway Improvements Project, bringing the total to \$1,948,600. The contract is with CDM Smithy Inc. and 2025 is the expected completion date.

A sum of \$480,000 is being considered for 4th Purpose Realty LLC from the Affordable Rental Development Fund to develop 15 affordable housing units at 211 Jesamine Street for very low income households with one unit reserved for a live-in manager.

The Salvation Army may get \$25,000 from

the city's Homeless General Funds to purchase and install physical partitions at the Bridge of Hope Men's Transitional Housing Program.

The council may also approve permitting four-inch sewer lateral connections with the city system and rezoning three adjoining lots on Greenway Drive from RN-1 Single Family to RN-2 Single Family. That change has been approved by Knoxville-Knox Planning.

A first reading of a property zone change for 8300 East Walker Springs Road is on the agenda to change from Office Park to General Residential to permit several three-story apartments to be built there.

Mayor Indya Kincannon has several appointments to be considered including appointing Claudio Gomez, Damon Rawls and Oren Yarbrough to the Public Arts Committee, Eboni James to the Board of Zoning Appeals, and reappointing Dr. Lisa Chassy to the Animal Control Board.

By Steve Hunley,
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The Knoxville Focus begins a new column we hope you will like. Biden Watch will keep track of things done by the new president, which you should know about. For instance, Joe Biden hadn't been president for half a day before, with the stroke of a pen, he wiped out 11,000 jobs with a cumulative payroll of between \$1.5 billion and \$2 billion dollars. 8,000 of the lost jobs were union jobs. These jobs were lost when Biden signed an Executive Order cancelling the Keystone XL pipeline.

Biden also signed an Executive Order putting the United States back in the Paris Climate Accord, which is very good for China. Aside for China, it's probably good for a few European diplomats and not so much for America.

The cancellation of the Keystone XL pipeline is a gift to Russian oil oligarchs. The biggest importer of oil in the world is China and the Chinese are going to buy it somewhere. That will certainly affect the bottom line for the trade deficit with China.

Biden's Executive Order stopping the building of the border wall is a boon for illegal immigrants.

Celebrity climate change activists flocked to Biden's inauguration, oftentimes arriving in Washington, D.C. on private jets. Singer John Legend and his wife Chrissy Teigen apparently flew from LA to the Capitol on board a private jet. Entertainer Jennifer Lopez was pictured beside a private jet to head to Washington where she performed at Biden's inauguration. These climate change "activists" are some of the biggest hypocrites on the face of the planet and have no compunction about telling you what to do and how to live.

Joe Biden said Antifa was an "idea, not an organization." Apparently an idea has run amuck in Portland with new riots protesting Biden's inauguration and the police. Rioters damaged an immigration facility in Portland throwing rocks and eggs. All of a sudden, police seem to be reacting with one officer reminding rioters vandalizing and painting graffiti on government buildings was a crime. Some individuals in the crowd

were spotted with various weapons, including fireworks, electronic control weapons, and pepper ball guns. Some rioters were seen carrying signs urging, "Abolish ICE."

Nor was Portland the only scene of protests and violence. Antifa protesters, again a figment of our imaginations according to Old Joe, had clashed with police in Portland. Denver saw the American flag burned in a protest by members of Black Lives Matter and others. The crowd there yelled anti-Trump and anti-Biden slogans.

The "idea" known as Antifa demolished the headquarters of the Democratic party in Portland and tried to hide their actions by opening umbrellas to shield them from surveillance videos. Some eight adults were arrested, ranging from 18 to 38.

I wonder if Kamala Harris will raise their bail money? I wonder if insurance covers destruction by an idea?

Joe Biden broke his own Executive Order requiring masks on federal property the same day as issuing it. The Betsy Ross flag, which Colin Kaepernick

had said was racist, was seen flying at Biden's inauguration, just as it had been at Obama's. And when Lady Gaga sang the national anthem, nobody seemed to be kneeling.

Biden spent a lot of time talking about unity, but free speech remains more threatened than at any time in our country's history. The impartiality of the news media, if you actually believe it is, basically quivered in their Gucci loafers. Chris Wallace (remember him from the debates as the neutral moderator?) glowed like a high school girl after her first kiss. Wallace cooed Biden's speech was the best he'd ever heard, including that made by John F. Kennedy in 1961. I'm going to hazard a guess 60 years from now, nobody will be quoting from Joe Biden's inaugural speech as they still, albeit less often, do that of JFK.

Time will tell whether Joe Biden intends to heal our nation and unify our country through compromise, or if he remains a captive of the extremist left and intends to achieve it by simply stamping out dissent.

Biden Watch

Historic Session to Help K-12 Tennessee Students Comes to a Close

Friday, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee, Lt. Gov. McNally, Speaker Sexton and members of the General Assembly closed a historic special session to address learning loss and the negative effects on student proficiency in reading and math marked by time away from the classroom due to COVID-19.

"COVID-19 has severely disrupted education in Tennessee. Our decisive action to intervene on behalf of Tennessee students will equip them for success, educating our kids better in the future than before the pandemic," said Gov. Lee. "I thank the General Assembly for their swift passage of legislation that will benefit our students."

In addition to interventions for Tennessee students, the passed legislation increases the salary component of the education funding formula by 4%.

"I am grateful for a productive and efficient conclusion to a legislative session focused on helping children, parents and teachers," said Lt. Gov. McNally (R-Oak Ridge). "Tennessee has made tremendous improvements in education over the last decade. The coronavirus public health crisis began to put all of that at risk. The steps we took this week will reverse the learning loss that has taken place and prevent any further erosion of our progress. I appreciate Governor Lee calling this special session to draw our attention to the pressing needs of education in this state. The House and the Senate

came together to ensure our progress continues. I appreciate the efforts of each and every one of my colleagues for their efforts this week on behalf of our students, teachers and parents."

Gov. Lee's slate of education priorities included learning loss, phonics-based reading instruction and accountability measures to inform student progress.

"This is a momentous day for Tennessee, for our students, and for our parents because our General Assembly has drawn a line in the sand, and we have said we can no longer accept that only one third of our students are proficient in reading and in math," said Tennessee House Speaker Sexton (R-Crossville). "We want to be number one in education; I appreciate Gov. Lee for his vision, as well as Lt. Gov. McNally, and the House and Senate for their partnership as we all have worked together this week to transform educational outcomes for Tennessee students."

The passed legislation includes the following measures:

Intervening to Stop Learning Loss – SB 7002/HB 7004

- Requires interventions for struggling students including after-school learning mini-camps, learning loss bridge camps and summer learning camps, beginning summer 2021
- Program prioritizes students who score below proficient in both

reading (ELA) and math subjects

- Creates the Tennessee Accelerated Literacy and Learning Corps to provide ongoing tutoring for students throughout the entire school year
- Strengthens laws around a third grade reading gate so we no longer advance students who are not prepared

Building Better Readers with Phonics – SB 7003/HB 7002

- Ensures local education agencies (LEAs) use a phonics-based approach for kindergarten through third grade reading instruction
- Establishes a reading screener for parents and teachers to identify when students need help, well before third grade
- Provides training and support for educators to teach phonics-based reading instruction

Accountability to Inform – SB 7001/HB 7003

- Extends hold harmless provisions from the 2019-20 school year to the 2020-21 school year so that students, teachers, schools and districts do not face any negative consequences associated with student assessments
- Provides parents and educators with assessment data including TCAP testing to provide an accurate picture of where Tennessee students are and what supports are needed to offset any learning losses

Knox Schools in good financial shape

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The Knox County Joint Education Committee met Tuesday and heard that the school system is in good financial shape despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

The committee is comprised of Knox County Board of Education and Commission members was formed several years ago to ease disagreements between the two bodies. It is co-chaired by Evetty Satterfield and Richie Beeler.

Ron McPherson, Knox County Schools Assistant Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer, told the committee that a 15% increase in sales taxes and the CARES funding from the federal government put the system ahead of its budget. He said that schools lost money from local activities like football and other events.

He also said that while federal funding can't be used for teacher raises or pay, the county can use those funds to reimburse its own expenditures for those purposes.

Satterfield led a discussion on the priorities stressed to local state legislators. She asked the committee for their input about what they want to discuss with the county commission and the legislators.

School Superintendent Bob Thomas spoke about the "letter" grading of schools under a recent state board of education plan, giving

all schools a grade of A, B, C, D or F. He said the letter grades are based on student achievement.

Board of education member Patti Lou Bounds commended that all the superintendents want an evaluation of a school based on an item-by-item system and not a letter grade. She said the pandemic interfered with testing this year.

Commissioner Courtney Durrett said that school teachers should be held blameless because of the pandemic. She added that teachers have been "burning the candles at both ends" while teaching students in class and virtually.

The committee also discussed vouchers versus school choice.

Commissioner Beeler said the committee should push the legislature for more state sales tax revenue and ask that the 1.15% held by the state before distributing dollars be reduced.

Superintendent Thomas said the county system lost 2,200 students last semester and should be "held harmless" or lose \$8 million in state revenue.

Future topics of the Joint Education Committee may be teacher diversity and Commissioner Carson Daily asked for a COVID-19 report in schools.

Other committee members include Board of Education members Kristi Kristy and Daniel Watson and Commissioner Dasha Lundy.

Fire and rescue, court collections and redistricting

Continued from page 1

serving Knox County residents outside the corporate limits of the City of Knoxville: Karns Fire Department, Knox County Rescue, Rural Metro Fire Department, and Seymour Volunteer Fire Department.

Court Fee Collections

The collection of unpaid court costs was discussed with Court Clerk Mike Hammond recommending Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins and Mott, LLP for the contract.

Hammond said his office has a collection division but some court costs and fines cannot be acquired without an outside company. He said a request for bids saw eleven replies and the Houston, Texas-based company was selected. Collection companies add 20% to the fines and keep that amount. He said that over

the past five years the former collection companies recovered about \$2 million for the county.

Redistricting the county

Chairman Larsen Jay reminded his fellow members that a county redistricting is due this year and must be completed by the end of the year. He sent other commissioners a report on the upcoming district changes based on population growth and shifts.

"We're going to be setting up the committee," he said, which could include commissioners and the election coordinator.

Commissioner Randy Smith noted that state law does not require a committee to do the work and redistricting can be done by the commission itself.

Jay said the effort is

"labor-intensive" and will affect voting locations. The latest census information will be used except that of jailed inmates. He also said that no district can change more than 10% and the effort should start in February and be on the March agenda. He suggested the committee be made up of seven to eleven members and suggested membership to include the health department, school board, planning commission, and election commission.

Commissioner Terry Hill, former school board member, said the redistricting will be driven by the census population but warned that changes could involve where students attend schools.

"It is impossible to line up schools," she said of creating districts. "It is impossible."

Jay said districts now have about 50,000 residents each.

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TN Department of Health

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Neighborhoods invited to CTV Focus Group

On Christmas Eve, Community Television of Knoxville celebrated 45 years of service to Knoxville residents. Currently, CTV is expanding its targeted outreach with increased emphasis on helping neighborhood groups overcome challenges related to neighbor to neighbor communication and engagement.

If your neighborhood has not yet participated in the CTV neighborhood focus group study currently underway, it's not too late. Kevin Jeske-Polyak, CTV acting general manager, explained, "This study is a perfect 'COVID-safe' activity that will help to energize, or re-energize, neighborhood groups that have become less active as a result of having to deal with the ongoing pandemic."

The study involves one 45-minute Zoom session with 3-7 residents of your neighborhood scheduled at the convenience of the group. At the conclusion of the study, each

participating group will receive a comprehensive report summarizing input received from all groups on topics related to: unique neighborhood characteristics, effective neighborhood communications, increasing neighbor engagement and participation, and successful neighborhood projects and fundraising activities.

Jeske-Polyak further explained, "Participating neighborhood groups will benefit in two major ways. They will learn from the successful experiences of other participating neighborhoods, and they will discover easy ways to use CTV to help them achieve their neighborhood goals."

Please contact Kevin Jeske-Polyak at (865)215-4352 or kevin@ctvKnox.org to express your neighborhood's interest in participating in this focus group study. Don't get left behind, focus group interviews will continue through February.

Fala – FDR's Beloved Scottish Terrier

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
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Reprinted from January 6, 2014

The lives of presidents and kings are usually equally celebrated or condemned, yet Franklin Delano Roosevelt remains one of the most iconic of American presidents to this day. During his lifetime as president, just about every aspect of Roosevelt's life was avidly followed by millions of people and in 1940, a new addition to FDR's family was to become almost equally famous.

It was 1940 when Roosevelt's cousin and frequent companion, Daisy Suckley, gifted the president with a Scottish Terrier puppy as an early Christmas gift. Many of Roosevelt's friends and relatives considered FDR to be quite lonely in the White House despite his usual sunny nature and the constant stream of visitors. Miss Suckley believed the puppy would give her cousin much happiness and comfort and the little Scottish Terrier soon became the president's constant companion of choice.

Born April 7, 1940 and originally named "Big Boy," the little Scottie was carefully trained by Miss Suckley and he had an entire repertoire of tricks he could perform. President Roosevelt received his new puppy in November of 1940 and promptly renamed the dog. The Scottie was christened "Murray the Outlaw of Falahill" or "Fala" to his friends and family.

Fala pretty much had the run of the White House and slept in the president's bedroom each night. The Scottie soon wasn't feeling well and was sent to a veterinary hospital by a distressed Roosevelt and it was discovered Fala had been visiting the White House kitchens where he was receiving all too numerous morsels of food. Fala's digestive system suffered as a result and an unhappy President Roosevelt issued a stern order that only he was allowed to feed the Scottie.

Unable to walk without the aid of heavy braces, FDR usually enjoyed his breakfast in bed and the presidential breakfast was almost always bacon and eggs, part of which was carefully portioned out for Fala, who was the president's most frequent breakfast guest.

Fala soon captured the popular imagination and remains perhaps the most famous presidential pet in our country's history. The news media frequently reported on the Scottie's doings and Fala became a symbol in his own right.

Metro Goldwyn Mayer, perhaps the most prestigious movie studio in Hollywood, known as the home of such screen legends as Clark Gable and Greta Garbo, hurried to Washington, D. C. and filmed a

"short" of the little Scottish Terrier. FDR, while holding a bowl of Fala's food, demonstrated Fala's ability to perform all his tricks for amused cameramen. The little Scottie could even curl his lips to resemble a smile at FDR's command. Millions of Americans happily watched the movie short in theatres across the country. It was so popular, MGM made yet another Fala short. Fala also became the subject of a bestselling book, which is still in print today.

Roosevelt's wife and First Lady, Eleanor, far more austere than the president, considered Fala to be something of a spoiled little beast, and more than one argument erupted between the two over Fala. The president was not above reviewing the folks proposed to accompany him on trips and scratching through Eleanor's name and writing in Fala's.

Fala was the witness to much history first hand; when President Roosevelt met with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill on a battleship in Newfoundland, Fala can be spotted sitting in front of his master and Churchill before an assembly singing "Onward Christian Soldiers." A medallion of Fala was struck and used to raise funds for British war relief. Fala himself was an honorary private in the United States Army, as he apparently had contributed \$1 for every day of the war from his evidently generous allowance.

American soldiers used Fala's name during the Battle of the Bulge to help determine whether someone was friendly or an enemy, not expecting Germans to recognize the presidential pet.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, once the Assistant Secretary of the U. S. Navy, loved traveling by ship, and the president rarely ever left Fala behind. It was on board a battleship when Roosevelt viewed his little dog with alarm, noting the Scottie's coat seemed to be falling out. The president demanded someone follow his Scottie and discovered admiring sailors were clipping locks of Fala's hair as souvenirs. An outraged FDR issued yet again another edict to protect the dignity of his pet.

Fala got his revenge upon some sailors who, attempting to escape the oppressive heat, were lying on the ship's deck beside one another barefooted. Fala hurried down the row of sailors, licking and tickling their feet and causing quite a commotion. Fala also amused the president by noticing fish caught by FDR and his party flopped about the deck wildly and the little Scottie was soon doing the same, causing much laughter.

Disgruntled Secret Service agents gave Fala the



COURTESY FDR LIBRARY, THE BETTMAN ARCHIVE.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt with his Scottish Terrier, Fala.

dubious nickname of "The Informer," as the Scottie had to be walked and he was so easily recognizable, that it was a certain confirmation that President Roosevelt was himself nearby.

Kings, prime ministers, Congressmen and senators were often left hungry while President Roosevelt fed Fala from his own hand. Only after Fala had eaten did the president's guests get to eat their own food.

Fala was disappointed by his master upon rare occasion. One such occasion was when Fala leaped into FDR's limousine, which was carrying the president to an inauguration ceremony. The top-hatted Roosevelt lifted up a disheartened Fala and whispered, "Not this time, old man."

Fala had to be about the best traveled dog in the country and whether FDR was embarking on yet another trip by ship or his plane, the Sacred Cow, or his personal railroad car, the Ferdinand Magellan, Fala was usually somewhere nearby. When President Roosevelt went to Mexico to visit Mexican President Camacho, Fala went along South of the border down Mexico way.

The subject of political cartoons, Fala was once even portrayed by another Scottie in the movie *Prince O'Rourke*.

Fala's popularity became such that he required a secretary to answer his mail, which ran into the thousands of letters.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, one of the shrewdest politicians ever to occupy the White House, once used his famous Scottie to pound the hell out of his political opponents during one of his reelection campaigns. The "Fala Speech" remains one of the most famous of FDR's many memorable addresses. Carried over national radio as Roosevelt addressed a gathering of labor leaders, FDR indignantly informed his audience that the Republicans were accusing him of having left Fala stranded on an island in the Aleutians and had sent a ship to retrieve him at a cost of millions to the taxpayers.

"These Republican leaders have not been content with attacks on me, or my wife, or on my sons. No, not content with that, they now include my little dog, Fala. Well, of course I don't resent attacks, and my family don't resent attacks, but Fala does resent them. You know Fala is Scotch, and being a Scottie, as soon as he learned that the Republican fiction writers in

Congress and out had concocted a story that I had left him behind on an Aleutian island and had sent a destroyer back to find him --- at a cost to the taxpayers of two or three, or eight or twenty million dollars --- his Scotch soul was furious. He has not been the same dog since. I am accustomed to hearing malicious falsehoods about myself, but I think I have a right to resent, to object to libelous statements about my dog."

As FDR spoke, his audience was convulsed with laughter and he received a tumultuous ovation when he concluded his remarks. A clever speech, it had the desired effect and once again Franklin Roosevelt routed his Republican opposition.

The only other political speech in our country's history about a pet that could even remotely compare to FDR's "Fala" talk is Richard Nixon's "Checkers" speech.

Fala was with FDR when the president died at his retreat in Warm Springs, Georgia. Miss Suckley was one of those present when FDR passed away and Fala seemed to recognize that his master was gone. The little Scottie had been sleeping in a corner and suddenly jumped up and ran to the screen door. Using his head as a battering ram, Fala broke through the screen and darted to the top of a hill, barking and howling, where he remained alone. No one who witnessed the incident ever forgot it.

FDR did not leave his beloved little Scottie to his wife Eleanor; he expressly stated he wished to return Fala to Daisy Suckley. The former First Lady had to endure the embarrassment of sending her son James to ask Miss Suckley if she could keep the Scottish Terrier. Miss Suckley agreed and Fala remained with Eleanor Roosevelt for the last seven years of his life.

Mrs. Roosevelt was the author of a famous and successful column, "My Day", before and after the president's death. Fala was often a topic of Mrs. Roosevelt's column and she readily admitted, "It was Fala, my husband's little dog, who never really adjusted."

Mrs. Roosevelt noted Fala always became quite alert whenever the little Scot heard sirens, once a sign that FDR himself was due to arrive. Fala stationed himself in a doorway in Mrs. Roosevelt's cottage where he could observe more than one door in the event he might dash out for

yet another adventure.

Fala had quite nearly been killed by a bullmastiff just months after FDR had died. The dog belonged to Elliott Roosevelt, the late president's son. Evidently the enormous mastiff only let go of Fala after someone had the presence of mind to beat him around the head with a rock. The mastiff badly mauled the little Scottie, who hovered precariously between life and death for several days. Mrs. Roosevelt was horrified and one can only imagine what Franklin Roosevelt's reaction might have been.

Fortunately, Fala recovered but the mastiff was put down.

Fala sired puppies and one of his grandsons was a favorite companion of

Mrs. Roosevelt, whom he accompanied on her ramblings at her Val-Kill cottage in New York.

Not surprisingly, there is quite a display of memorabilia relating to Fala at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park.

The most famous of presidential pets died on April 5, 1952, just days before what would have been his twelfth birthday. Eleanor Roosevelt, so composed and dignified when President Roosevelt died, was reportedly shattered by the loss of the little Scottish Terrier whom her husband had loved so well.

Fala was buried at the feet of his master at the estate in Hyde Park, where he sleeps to this day, reunited with the person Fala himself loved best.

Part of Election Commission moving to West Knoxville

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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Chris Davis, Administrator of Elections, confirmed Thursday that part of the administration office will be moving to the former Frank R. Strang Senior Center in West Knoxville later this winter or early spring.

"The main office will still be in the old courthouse, we will just be reducing our footprint there," Davis told The Focus. He said both offices will be full-service for voters to pick up and return petitions, register to vote, obtain supplies for voter registration drives as well as voter information.

Davis said that Chris Heagerty, appointed by Governor Lee as Chancellor, Division III, has resigned from the commission. He said the seat will probably remain vacant until the State Election Commission makes county election commission appointments on April 5th.

The election commission met Thursday morning and that meeting is probably the last meeting Election Commission Secretary Cameron Brooks will attend.

"Cameron Brooks most likely will not be retained as an election commissioner when appointments are made. However, he is still a commissioner until a new appointment is made,"

Davis said.

"It's been a great honor to serve for six years, and I look forward to supporting my successor when they are sworn-in in April. Thanks to Chris Davis for being an excellent administrator and thanks to my fellow commissioners Tammy Kaousias, Hannah Lee Hooper, Bob Bowman and Chris Heagerty for being so awesome to work with," Brooks said.

"I was a young 32 when I first was appointed in 2009, a little older in 2017 when I was re-appointed. It's been a fun ride!"

Davis said the election office will begin issuing petitions for the 2021 Knoxville City Elections on March 22nd. City Council seats for Districts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 will be on the ballot.



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Sheriff's testing of applicants fails in Special Committee

By Mike Steely
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After several meetings it appears the main disagreement between the Knox County Sheriff's Office and the Merit System Council remains unresolved. The matter centers around how civilian staff and officers are hired and who sets up physical and psychological exams for applicants.

A meeting was held Thursday, January 14 by a special committee formed of KCSO administrators, the three Merit Council members, a citizen representative and Knox County Commission Chairman Larsen Jay.

At stake were recommendations from the KCSO to the Knox County Commission. Jay, who hosted the virtual meeting, said that should the vote fail that no recommendation would be forwarded to the commission, which would discuss and possibly change hiring rules, procedures and responsibilities between the two groups.

The sheriff's administration office offered several changes to the Merit Council's operation including changes to the re-application for employment by former employees excluding former employees who were dismissed from duty. The suggestions also included considering applicants leaving the military with general discharges for reasons such as family hardships and minor offenses. That change would not include applicants for correctional officers.

A proposal from the sheriff's human resources department regarding which body is responsible for what in hiring procedure was read and discussed. One of the disagreements cited by



Members of the Special Committee to look at differences between the Merit Board and the Sheriff's Department met Thursday but many of the issues are yet to be resolved. (Photo by Mike Steely via Zoom)

Merit Council members was that whichever department orders the physical and psychological exams of applicants receives the results and sometimes the KCSO is slow to share the reports.

Merit Council Administrator Paula Taylor said that the KCSO HR Department "loses things" and some of the changes would put the hiring of deputies in the hands of the sheriff.

Jay suggested results of the exams being sent to Merit and HR at the same time. Broyles said the Merit Council process is supposed to be "at an arm's length" from the sheriff's department.

The suggestion that the sheriff's office, not the Merit Council, schedule the physical and psychological exams and handle the results failed in a 4-6 vote. Voting for the recommendation were Commission Chairman Jay, KCSO Administration member Lysette Aviles, Chief William Purvis

and Lieutenant Gabe Mullinax. Voting "No" were Commissioners Richie Beeler and Courtney Durrett, Gina Oster, Lt. Krystal Gibson, citizen member Scott Broyles and Merit System Council Administrator Paula Taylor.

The Merit System Council meets on January 27 and Deputy Law Director Myers Morton told the meeting that except for personal information in complaints, all the Merit Council meetings must be open to the public in both in-person or virtual. Morton said those open meetings would include grievance hearings.

Commissioner Durrett disagreed with Morton's advice, saying that an employee may have a problem with a superior and such an open meeting could result in the employee being bullied or fired.

The makeup of the Merit Council was also discussed.

Jay said he was "shocked" to learn there are only three members. Broyles said that similar boards in Blount County and the Knoxville have five to seven members. Director Taylor reminded the group that the Merit Council is set up by the Knox County Commission.

Attorney Morton cited the state statute which dictates three members but that Knox County may not be limited on the number of members given the way the county is chartered. Jay asked Morton to look into that.

Lt. Mullinax said having a commissioner on the board was "a great idea" but Myers responded that the board, under state law, cannot have a "political" member.

Following the vote to not recommend the change on exams go to commission, Oster referred to a local

news story that "put the Merit System in a bad light" and asked Jay to straighten things up. She stressed that the Merit Council "does not rubber stamp what the sheriff does."

"We want to work with the sheriff's office and don't have to like them to work with them," she said, adding the board would be "happy to sit down" and talk about the increasing number of officers who are leaving the force.

"It's not our job to make the sheriff happy," Oster said.

Chairman Jay comments on Special Merit Committee meeting

"If requested, there may be another special committee to talk about salary

rates and retention issues, but that would have to be thought through and timing would be a factor as we're about to head into budget season - so anything related to that would likely have to start in the new fiscal year (July onward). I'm not sure really if another Committee is warranted, but I'm open to the idea if it can be helpful in some way.

"I hope this special committee gives both sides (KCSO & MC) an opportunity for a "reset" where they will find common ground and start working together on solutions that will benefit our law enforcement officers. In my opinion, for too long, political posturing, aversions to transparency and power-plays on both sides have hurt the relationship between these entities and it's resulted in turning the one process that's not supposed to be political into one of the most political aspects of law enforcement. When that happens, the citizens of Knox County are ultimately the ones who lose."

Larsen told The Focus on Thursday the next steps include proposed "structural reforms" to the Merit Council policies and procedures and those recommendations by the sheriff's department. Jay said he will provide a review of both items and submit them to both parties.

Jay said he will work with the law department on the process and final form of recommendations before submitting them to the county commission. He hopes for a commission decision by July 1.

Two health advisory boards for Knox County?

Cont. from page 1

the public on his position to move the board to an advisory group.

Commissioner John Schoonmaker questioned Ward about statements Ward made two weeks earlier about postponing his ordinance change. Ward responded by saying, "It's not up to me, the media wasn't listening 100 percent." Schoonmaker replied that Ward had sent a message that the postponement was expected during the work session.

"It shouldn't just be me," Ward said on a decision, referring to death threats to officials and commissioners, and added he wants a

discussion in the regular session.

Several citizens joined the work session's virtual meeting and begged the commission not to disband the Board of Health or cut back on their authority.

If approved in today's meeting, the members of Knox County Committee on Health and Economic Well-Being will advise the mayor, commission and health department and serve staggered terms. If Ward's motion to dissolve the Board of Health should pass, that would create two health advisory boards that would be active during health emergencies.

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An illustration of a woman with brown hair, wearing a red shirt and a white apron, standing in a kitchen. She is holding a knife and cutting a red pepper on a wooden cutting board. To her right is a black smart speaker with yellow sound waves emanating from it. Above the speaker is a yellow speech bubble containing the text: "Alexa, ask **TVA Credit Union** to make my mortgage payment." In the background, there is a shelf with a potted plant, a blue vase, and a stack of colorful plates. On the counter, there are various kitchen items including a green cup, a blue pitcher, a blue bowl, a red apple, and a green pepper. The bottom of the image features a dark red banner with white text and logos.

Big second half propels Rebels past Hawks

By Ken Lay

West High School boys basketball coach Aubin Goporo wasn't happy with the way his Rebels played in the first half of their District 4-AAA tilt at Hardin Valley Academy Thursday night.

So he made a few changes at halftime and those alterations resulted in an 86-58 league victory over the Hawks. "A lot of times, games are won and lost with the adjustments you make at halftime," Goporo said after watching his squad improve to 6-5 overall and 5-5 in the district. "We were terrible in the first half. Then, we made some adjustments, and those worked for us."

The Rebels found themselves behind 23-21 at the end of the first quarter. But West rallied back to take a 41-36 lead by halftime.

After the break, Goporo changed his team's defensive tactics, switching from a man-to-man to a zone and that would give the Hawks (3-6, 2-5) trouble on their senior night, according to first-year coach Shane Wells.

"I'll say it like this, they're long and we're small," Wells said. "And they forced us to take a lot of deep threes and we didn't shoot them well. We didn't do very well with that. "When they were in a man-to-man, we did pretty well, but

when they switched to that 1-3-1 (zone), it really bothered us."

The Rebels also had one of their top scorers, junior Will Biven, pick up three early fouls. So he wasn't much of a factor before halftime, scoring just two points.

When Biven returned to the contest he culminated a 13-1 run for the Rebels with a field goal to make the score 54-37 with 4 minutes, 50 seconds remaining in the third stanza.

Biven would finish the contest with 15 points against the Hawks, who didn't convert their first field goal of the second half until Jaylen Pannell scored with 4:26 left in the frame. By the time the dust had settled, the Rebels outscored HVA 23-9 in the frame.

Things didn't go much better for the Hawks over the final eight minutes of the contest.

West High's Gabriel Pastrana led all scorers with 19 points, scoring 17 in the first half. Eirum Cuevas also finished with 15 points for the Rebels.

Pannell had 16 points to pace Hardin Valley while Dale Henley and Ty Gentry finished with 10 each.

Girls game postponed: West and HVA's girls were also scheduled to play Thursday night but the game was scrapped due to COVID-19 concerns in the Lady Rebels' program.



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

The Farragut Middle School girls basketball team celebrates a third-place finish in the Knox County Middle School Basketball Tournament. The Lady Admirals defeated Hardin Valley Wednesday to qualify for the weekend's Class AAA Sectionals.

Lady Admirals, Bruins advance to middle school sectionals

Cont. from page 1

Farragut never trailed in the extra frame and Priest made the game-winning free throw with 3.6 left.

"I wouldn't want anyone else at the (free throw) line," Lady Admirals' second-year coach Devan McIntyre said of Priest, who scored a game-high 15 points, including six after halftime. "I'm so proud of these girls for the way they battled."

"Hardin Valley came in here to play and they played with all their heart. Our girls stepped up when they were under a lot of pressure."

Madison Smith and Kamryn Butcher each

scored 11 points for the Lady Hawks, who came up just short of making their first sectional appearance in their brief three-year history.

Hardin Valley Middle School coach Cara Cahak was emotional after the game, but said she couldn't have been happier with her team.

"I'm so proud of these girls. We made history," said Cahak, who was in tears. "We made it further than any Hardin Valley team."

"These are my girls and they'll always be my girls. It's been fun to watch them grow over the last three

years."

For Farragut, Sydney English had 12 points, including 10 after halftime to help the Lady Admirals culminate their comeback.

Meanwhile at Bearden, the Bruins got 19 points from Jack Keith, who knocked down five 3-pointers and 10 points each from Maurice Clark and Devyn Martin en route to nabbing a 50-41 victory over the Panthers.

Like McIntyre, Bearden coach Ben Zorio is happy to advance.

"I'm happy to get a chance to keep coaching and working with these young men," Zorio said.

"We're supposed to play next Saturday and I just hope that we get to play. This year, you never know."

"We went almost a month between games between Dec. 12 and Jan. 6 or 7, and we didn't have much practice time in there either. But tonight, we made some big plays and we were able to beat a really good Powell team."

The Panthers had a trio of players post double figures in the scoring column. Conner Wheeler led the way with 17 points. Dylan Stooksbury added 12 and Lucas Mayes finished with 11.

SPOTLIGHT ON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

On what side of the line will Spartans land?

By Steve Williams

Webb School's boys basketball team is teetering between being a state championship contender or

a spectator on the outside looking in this season.

With tournament time not too far away, that's the message from Coach Ricky Norris.

"Honestly, I don't think we are as good as our record (18-2) would suggest," said Norris last week. "While we have played well in spurts, we have not developed the consistency to be a championship caliber team."

"I guess in some ways that is good. We have won games against some really good teams - Fulton, Morristown East, Oak Ridge, Alcoa, Cleveland, Heritage Christian, Ga. - just to name a few, and I truly believe we still have a ton of room to get better."

The Spartans won the school's first boys state basketball title in 2019. They lost to eventual state champion Lausanne in the semifinal round last year.

Coach Norris said the area his team needs to improve in is turnovers. "We are turning the ball over way too much which is leading to points for our opponent and putting our



Webb School's Jaylon Green looks for an open teammate. The junior leads the Spartans in assists, with four per game.

defense in a vulnerable position."

The Spartans can score the ball. That's the strength of the team. "We shoot it really well and have numerous players that can put the ball in the basket," said Norris.

That was the strength of the 2019 Webb team at the state tourney.

But this is 2021. The potential for Webb this season is up in the air.

"We could get beat early in the tournament if we don't clean up our decision making or could play in the state tournament and compete for a state championship," said Norris with an emphasis on the word or.

Sophomore Lukas Walls is leading Webb's starting

five with an average of 19 points and eight rebounds per game. Senior David Sanger and junior Luke Lentz are each averaging 12 points.

Junior Jaylon Green is averaging just under 10 points and four assists. Freshman Brandon Winton is averaging eight points.

Senior Owen Feld, junior Devin Mixon, sophomore John Tolsma and freshman Markeis Barrett are "playing a lot and give us a really deep bench," said Norris.

Freshmen Drake Ingram and Eli Vickers round out the bench.

Webb will host The King's Academy Tuesday and Alcoa Thursday.

Elsewhere on the local

boys prep basketball scene:

KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC would like nothing better than to repeat as state champions this season.

Mike Hutchens' Fighting Irish brought home the gold basketball for the first time in school history last year, winning the Division II Class AA title.

Catholic (13-2) will host Baylor Tuesday night.

JEREMY PARROTT'S Bearden Bulldogs (19-1) extended their winning streak to 10 and upped their district record to 9-0 with victories over Maryville and Hardin Valley last week.

Bearden's lone loss this season was a 60-48

Continued on page 4

NOTABLES FROM KNOXVILLE

CHARLES W. CANSLER

Charles W. Cansler was a noted Knoxville educator, civil rights advocate and author. A grandson of

William Scott, a pioneering Black American publisher, and the son of Knoxville's first Black American teacher, Cansler was instrumental in establishing educational opportunities for the Knoxville's Black children in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

His 1940 biography, "Three Generations: The Story of a Colored Family in Eastern Tennessee," remains an important account of Black life in 19th century in our region.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Cansler moved from Friendsville to Knoxville, which offered better protection from pro-Confederate guerrillas, who often targeted free Blacks. His mother formed a Black school with permission of General Ambrose Burnside during the Civil War.

Cansler became a lawyer, ran for the Tennessee State House, taught and ran a local all-Black high school and was active in establishing a library. The Cansler YMCA on Jesamine Street is named for him.

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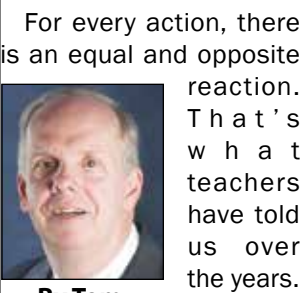
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'Trees in a Lynchburg Cemetery'



By Tom Mattingly

For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. That's what teachers have told us over the years. In Moore County, if you did or said something Elizabeth Majors might not have liked, you were going to hear about it. That was just a fact of life. John Majors often called his mother a "fierce competitor."

This was the same Elizabeth Majors whose name moved mountains in Lynchburg, who seemed to know everybody she met on the street.

CASE IN POINT: In the late 1980s, several UTAD staffers were visiting with Mrs. Majors one morning and offered to take her to lunch at "Miss Mary Bobo's Boarding House" in nearby Lynchburg, a not-to-be-missed eatery.

A phone call followed, and the message came back clearly: "We're full. There's no more room." An epiphany followed. Here came a critical question, almost out of desperation.

"Would it help if we told you one member of our party was Elizabeth Majors?"

The response was immediate and certain: "We always have room for Elizabeth Majors."

She was delightful, charming, well-mannered, and a host of other adjectives that indicated a life characterized by good manners and a genteel upbringing.

We found out two things. She could find her way to a table when all avenues seemed to be blocked. Once seated, Mrs. Majors could preside as no one else ever could.

Later that same day, we were at the local cemetery where headstones carried the names "Majors" and "Daniel," among many others. The "Daniel" was local entrepreneur Jasper Newton (Jack) Daniel.

We were walking through the cemetery when she made a troubling discovery. She found out that the powers-that-be decided to cut down several trees, apparently without notice of any kind. Seeing the trees on the ground did not sit well with her. She lobbied everybody she could find and told us she was going

to make a few calls about it. That turned out to be an understatement.

Seeing John Majors at practice a couple of days later, I mentioned the visit and his mother's reaction to the demise of the trees. After excusing himself to attend to a seemingly important matter on the other side of the field, he returned and could only say that she had talked with him about it at great length. The operative words seemed to be "at great length."

Fast forward a few years to the same cemetery after Mrs. Majors had died.

The funeral cortege had come down by Tim's Ford from Winchester, with traffic in both directions pulling to the shoulder as a sign of respect. That's vintage Middle Tennessee.

That doesn't happen as much as it used to, but it's still quite impressive when it does. In a moving tribute, school children stood at the cemetery entrance with hand over heart. She was a much-revered schoolteacher. This was one final tribute to a life well lived.

I reminded John Majors about the day the trees

were cut down. He smiled, as only he could, and said, "That sure made her mad, didn't it?" as he cast a pensive glance in the general direction where the trees once stood.

When you think about her impassioned defense of the trees in a Lynchburg cemetery, think about what might have happened had she known about a fellow named Harvey Updyke, now deceased, and his poisoning of the trees on Toomer's Corner in Auburn, Ala.

That would not have been pretty.

Wherever Harvey had resided would have looked pretty good. He wouldn't have wanted to have been anywhere in the same zip code with Elizabeth Majors.

A final thought. After the 1992 Memphis State game, played less than 24 hours after John had resigned as Tennessee head coach, she visited with her son outside the Vol dressing room, then walked up the ramp heading toward street level, by herself, alone with her thoughts and memories. You could likely have written a book based on what was going through



Shirley and Elizabeth Majors saw their three sons play at the University of Tennessee, John (1954-56), Bill (1958-60), and Bob (1969-71). Photo courtesy University of Tennessee Sports Information Office.

her mind at that moment. More than once, she had said she had given two sons to the University of Tennessee. One was William Bobo (Bill) Majors, who had died in the early morning hours of Oct. 18, 1965, in that car-train wreck just west of Knoxville. The other was John Terrill Majors.

She may have been short of stature, but she cast a long shadow over her community and the University of Tennessee.

There are uncounted thousands who are glad Elizabeth Majors was a part of their lives. We always have room for more memories of Elizabeth Majors.

Halama: Moving TSSAA state golf to Sevierville has benefits

By Steve Williams

After being held at Willow Brook Golf Club in Manchester for several years, Sevierville Golf Club was recently selected to host the state's high school championships in 2021 and 2022 by the TSSAA Board of Control.

The 36-hole facility will allow for all of the state's Division I and II tournaments to be held during the same week.

Farragut golfer Lexanne Halama, who played both courses in her prep career, believes the change will be a good one.

"Both courses are great places to hold the state tournament," said Halama, who will be starting her collegiate golf career at Illinois next season. "They are very different from one another, which will be a great opportunity for the returning players who competed at Willow Brook last year to experience a different type of course."

Lexanne said the staff at Willow Brook "has been wonderful" during her four years of playing there. "They really enjoy having the tournament and show that with how well they prepare the course. Especially the past two years, Willow Brook's greens have been amazing. Fast and smooth."

Halama sees a lot of benefits of having the tournament at Sevierville.

"The practice facilities are a little bigger, which can accommodate more players; there are more restaurant and hotel options, and all divisions will be held at the same time. Probably the best part will be that the TGA has decided to partner with TSSAA in running the event. They are an amazing group and I have no doubt they will take the



tournament to another level."

Lexanne added that the state tourney is "a big part of my high school golf memories."

The Board also approved changes in the calendar that affect the golf season in regards to the dates when districts and regions for each class must be completed by.

Governor extends attendance restrictions

Governor Bill Lee recently extended Order No. 70 as it pertains to the individuals who are allowed to attend athletic contests through Feb. 27. However, in addition to parents and immediate household members, grandparents and school faculty members have been added to those permitted to attend athletic contests.

Those individuals allowed to attend must still have their temperature checked, wear a mask, and practice social distancing the entire game.

The TSSAA inquired about allowing cheerleaders and dance teams to participate, but the amended Order maintains the temporary suspension of cheerleading and dance at contests.

All of the COVID-19 Guidelines that were in effect for fall sports apply to winter and spring sports. This includes the fact that there can be no scrimmages, jamborees, play days, or practices

Continue on page 4

Tennessee Football Continues to Amaze

By Mark Nagi

I'm speechless. Actually, no I'm not speechless. I'm just perplexed.

How does Tennessee's football program continue to screw things up, time after time?

Last week, the University of Tennessee fired Jeremy Pruitt "for cause." That means they expect that his dismissal will not trigger a buyout of over \$12 million (although Pruitt's lawyers and agent Jimmy Sexton will have something to say about that plan).

That was the reason given for the firing. Not his 16-19 record. Not the coaching staff defections nor the massive amount of his players that entered the transfer portal. Nor the decommitments by multiple recruits.

Instead, it was rule breaking that sealed his fate. An internal investigation into recruiting violations forced Tennessee's hand. The last thing they wanted was to fire Pruitt, but from the sounds of it, they had no choice.

"We are deeply disappointed in the activities that led to the action taken today (January 18) regarding Coach Pruitt," said UT Chancellor Donde Plowman. "We are proud of the great history and traditions of our football program, and we will restore integrity and win at a championship level."

Also shown the door were assistant coaches Brian Niedermeyer and Shelton Felton, four members of the on-campus football recruiting staff, the director and assistant director of football player personnel, and a football analyst/quality control coach.

Plowman added, "What is so disturbing,

as demonstrated by the scope of these actions, is the number of violations and people involved and their efforts to conceal their activities from our compliance staff and from the Athletic department's leaders... Despite a strong compliance culture in our athletic department, we must look for ways to further strengthen our processes. We deeply regret the impact this may have on our many student-athletes, particularly the vast majority of our football players who have had no involvement in this matter at all."

Tennessee athletics director Phillip Fulmer, who had signed an extension through the year 2023, announced that he was retiring. He will be replaced by Central Florida AD Danny White. Fulmer had been tasked with getting

Tennessee football back on track and expressed regret that he wasn't able to accomplish that goal.

"Tennessee has been a big part of my life," Fulmer said. "I was happy to step into the athletic director role when my university called. When I began this role three years ago, I told the administration I would stay for a few years to provide stability. Unfortunately, the unexpected need to hire a new head football coach has accelerated the succession plan the Chancellor and I have been discussing... My only desire is to do whatever it takes to give Tennessee the best opportunity to succeed."

Tennessee's football program has been trying to get back to its place among the SEC's elite teams since 2007, the last time they won the eastern division and played for the

conference championship. Since 2008, the Vols have had five different head coaches (going on six), and only twice have they had a realistic opportunity to win the East.

UT has learned firsthand just how difficult it is to get back to being a top level program after you've been knocked down a few notches. They've made lousy coaching hires, been unlucky, and watched their three biggest rivals (Alabama, Georgia, Florida) take multiple steps ahead of them. They've also watched as other SEC programs have gotten better as well.

Newly hired Kevin Steele will serve as Tennessee's interim head coach. He's not the long-term solution.

Whatever the solution is... Tennessee can't afford to screw up this next hire.

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Georgia girl now a state title contender at Carter

By Steve Williams

Jailynn Tindall is attracting attention in girls' high school wrestling.

A junior at Carter, she moved to Knoxville from Savannah, Ga., last August.

Tindall, who wrestles in the 140-pound weight class, recently won two tournaments and has a 27-1 record this season, with her only loss coming in December against a wrestler from Riverdale.

She won the Nuway state-based national tourney in Gatlinburg on Jan. 16 and followed that up by taking first place at the Governors Classic at William Blount High on Martin Luther King Day. Fifteen all-girls teams

competed in that tourney and Tindall prevailed with three pins.

"They're saying she has the ability to win a state championship," said her father, Matthew.

That would be a first if it happens, as Carter has never produced a state champion in wrestling.

"Win the state," she said is her goal this season.

Jailynn has been wrestling since her freshman year in high school in Georgia.

"She went to state her first year and won two matches, losing to the girl who finished in third place," said her mom, Jessica. "In her sophomore year, she finished second in the sectional.

"She was on an all-boys team in Georgia and wrestled against boys until the post-season tournament."

Jailynn said "wrestling is a lot tougher in Georgia than Tennessee."

Carter Coach Tim Free helped get wrestling started back at the Strawberry Plains high school five years ago. For many years in the 1970s and early 1980s, Carter and Halls were about the only high schools in Knox County that had wrestling programs and they were big rivals in the sport.

Free graduated from Carter in 1983 and said that was the last season the Hornets had wrestling until 2017.

"I think Jailynn has the best chance of anybody to do it (win state), if she can avoid injury," said Free. "I'm really proud of her. She doesn't give up. She listens good. She's a great kid, the 'yes sir' type. I wish I had a hundred more like her."

But Tindall is "a tough girl" too, added Free. He just wishes she



Jailynn Tindall with Carter Coach Tim Free after the Lady Hornets' junior wrestler won the Nuway state-based national tourney that was held in Gatlinburg Jan. 16.

had more of a mean streak in her.

"I'm trying to get her to be rougher," he said. "She's afraid she's going to hurt somebody."

"Jailynn has really good morals and good parents," added Free. "They're always at the matches and practices."

Jailynn's older brother, Hunter, is assisting Coach Free with the Carter team this season. He has experience in wrestling, having competed as a freshman 184-pounder at Ottawa University in Kansas and earned All-America honors at the Disney Duels in 2020.

On what side of the line will Spartans land?

Continued from page 2

decision at Catholic on Dec. 10. The Bulldogs will have a chance to avenge that defeat when they host Catholic Feb 15 in their regular season finale.

Parrott guided Bearden to its first Class AAA state crown in 2019.

FULTON IS BACK: The Falcons, perennial Class AA state powers, returned to action Friday with a come-from-behind 73-69 win over Alcoa, improving their record to 10-4.

"We were on pause for five days for precautionary (COVID-19) reasons," said Coach Jody Wright. "We resumed practicing Wednesday (Jan. 20)."

LIONS ARE ROARING: The Concord Christian School Lions are 12-6 overall and 8-1 in district play after an impressive 60-40 win over Providence Academy Friday.

OTHERS: CAK was 9-7 overall and 4-3 in district play after falling to Concord Christian 62-55 last week ... West (6-5) moved past Farragut 65-58 Friday, leaving the Admirals at 7-7. ... Powell lost close games last week to Campbell County, Clinton and Central to slip to 8-7. Central improved to 7-5 with its 57-54 win over the Panthers ... Halls (7-6) snapped a five-game losing streak with a 78-76 win at Karns Friday.



PHOTO BY TRACY HEARD

Powell's De'Arius Kinnebrew battles inside for the basketball against Campbell County last week. The Panthers lost a close one, 68-66.

TSWA honors area's top soccer players

By Ken Lay

The Tennessee Sports Writers Association recently honored some of the area's top girls soccer players when it released its all-state teams.

Six local players received all-state honors including Webb School of Knoxville's McClain Cameron, Farragut's Caroline Ekern, Bearden's Becca Roth, Bearden's Brinley Murphy, Seymour's Abby Wolfenbarger and Gibbs High's Carolina Pittman.

Cameron, a junior midfielder for the Lady Spartans, was the District II-A East Region District 1 Most Valuable Player. She led Webb with 18 goals and 12 assists.

"McClain is a great young lady," said Lady Spartans' coach Sonny Trotter. "She's a great player and she was MVP of the district. She led us in goals and she led us in assists."

Together, Roth and Murphy (both sophomores) helped the Lady Bulldogs to the District



McClain Cameron

2-AAA and Region 1-AAA Championships. Roth, a midfielder, and Murphy, one of the area's top forwards, helped the Lady Bulldogs reach the Class AAA State Semifinals.

Murphy scored 21 goals and had 14 assists in 2020. Roth had 15 goals and 11 assists for the Lady Bulldogs (21-2-0).

Ekern, a junior goalkeeper for the Lady Admirals, helped Farragut reach both the district and region championship matches. She had eight shut-outs and allowed just 24 goals in 22 games in 2020.

In Class AA: Seymour's senior forward Abby Wolfenbarger was named to the all-state team as she helped the Eagles reach the Class AA State Tournament.

She was the District 2-AA Player of the Year and an all-region standout.

At Gibbs, Pittman, a sophomore forward, scored 44 goals for the Lady Eagles, who won the district and region title.

Halama: Moving TSSAA state golf to Sevierville has benefits

Cont. from page 3

against another team. This also includes football spring practice.

New venues selected for wrestling

With the unavailability of the Williamson County Ag Expo Center next month, the TSSAA has selected alternative venues for the upcoming state wrestling championships.

The Dual Wrestling State Championships will remain in Williamson County and take place on Feb. 6. Nolensville, Centennial, Independence high schools and Mill Creek Middle School will serve as hosts.

Eight schools will compete in Division I Class AAA while four schools will compete for a championship in Division I Class A-AA, Division II, and the Girls Dual Meet Invitational.

The TSSAA's individual state wrestling championships will be returning to Chattanooga after a 12 year absence on Feb. 18-20. The Chattanooga Convention Center will host this year's competition.

Division I Class A-AA will take place on Thursday, Feb. 18, Division II and Girls will compete on Friday, Feb. 19 and Division I Class AAA will compete on Saturday, Feb. 20.

A complete tournament

schedule for both events will be published at TSSAA-sports.com as soon as details for both events are finalized.

The Williamson County Ag Expo Center has been in use as a COVID-19 testing center since last spring. The Expo Center

has served as the host for the previous 11 wrestling championships beginning in 2010.

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Saying Goodbye

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens...a time to be born and a time to die.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Worse than anything is the wish to die and yet not be able to do so.

Roman poet, Cornelius Gallus.

I lost one of my ardent fans last week, but our family lost its matriarch. Joanna was approaching her 104th birthday, but her attention in recent years had not been on birthdays. And in the last few weeks she was focused on “Crossing the Bar” as poet Alfred Lord Tennyson poetically penned.

Over the twelve years of this column Joanna has read every one of my weekly essays and frequently offered commentary. Since The Focus does not do obituaries (perhaps it should), this essay will not only be an homage to my mother-in-law, but also informational, because that’s what Joanna would have wanted.

It’s too bad we don’t get to hear our own eulogies. I once imagined the semblance of a eulogy when I was honored by those

attending the book signing for my novel “Epiphany,” even though science fiction is not the preference of some. Perhaps like coffee, science fiction is an acquired taste. I’ll readily admit romance novels and mysteries are not genres of my choice.

As a doctor I’ve seen death and I’ve been near the dying. In times past death was more a part of the life cycle than it is now. People lived and died at home, usually among their families. Unfortunately, in our post-modern society many people have become separated from the realities of death and dying.

Perhaps science and medicine have contributed to the hope that a correct diagnosis or the right combination of medications or treatments will prevent or at least forestall the inevitability of death. Sometimes this is the case, but I’ve participated in many discussions of the futility of more tests and false hopes of cure.

As I approach seventy years old, my youthful notions of immortality have disappeared. Joanna had the same thoughts because, true to form, she planned her end of days well in advance.

Dying people often begin saying goodbye to loved ones. Friends tend to accept that the dying have a dwindling horizon of their existence. Unfortunately, family members sometimes find this distancing more troubling, as the dying start bidding them farewell as well.

Joanna courageously struggled with the infirmities of aging. Ben Franklin once quipped that “Those who have drunk deeply from the draught of life should expect to find some dregs at the bottom.” Since Joanna was not a beer drinker, I never shared Franklin’s perspective with her.

Joanna stopped going to church after 102 years. She welcomed fewer visitors in her last months. She continued some phone chats, the daily crossword puzzle and even had a hair permanent the week before her death. I suspect this was also a part of her travel plans.

Joanna and her doctors finally concluded that medications to control pain would be more helpful than additional tests. The cocktails had mixed results. And with increasing pain and debility she courageously told her family she was “done” and decided to stop medications, food and water.

People are sometimes flummoxed when sick people don’t want to eat or drink. Without getting into arcane medical explanations of physiology, people who are sick are not hungry and often not thirsty. And forcing the dying to do things against their will is problematic.



last days saying goodbye to daughters, grandchildren and spouses. Though dying is often tough, Joanna’s suffering was minimized with morphine and she passed peacefully three days after she told us she was tired and ready to go home to her Master.

The living find it hard to imagine that someone could be so miserable that they prefer death to continued suffering. In fact, suicide is considered taboo and a sign of mental imbalance. But what if you have an incurable illness like Lou Gehrig’s disease and want to avoid the agony of a ventilator and progressive debility and pain? Our neighbor’s father, a physician, was in this situation, and near his end he chose euthanasia, which is legal in Oregon where he lived. The family described his death as tragic but uplifting. There are now nine states with euthanasia laws. I’m convinced Joanna would have chosen this route even over hospice and morphine. The fear is that when people are involved there will be abuses of euthanasia. I can’t deny that possibility, but professionally, and now personally, I believe we should consider this option in Tennessee.

I’ve read that Jewish people believe you’re not gone as long as you are remembered. If that be the case, our “Greasy Cuckoo” will remain our guardian angel for a long time. And I think I just heard a bell jingle. Way to go, Greasy!

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

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Continue on page 4

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COVID-19 vaccination urged for individuals living with Alzheimer's Disease and family caregivers

New Recommendation from Alzheimer's Foundation of America's Medical, Scientific and Memory Screening Advisory Board

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America's Medical, Scientific and Memory Screening Advisory Board is urging all individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and their family caregivers to get the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as they are able to do so.

"Getting vaccinated is one of the most important steps families affected by Alzheimer's disease can take to protect themselves and their loved ones," said J. Wesson Ashford, MD, PhD, Chair of AFA's Medical, Scientific and Memory Screening Advisory Board. "Individuals living with Alzheimer's disease are often older and at higher risk of developing

serious complications from COVID-19, and family caregivers cannot provide proper care to their loved one if their own health is compromised. COVID-19 has added enormous new hardships for families affected by Alzheimer's disease, but vaccination brings us another step closer to the end of this terrible pandemic."

The AFA Medical, Scientific and Memory Screening Advisory Board Recommendation follows:

"COVID-19 has been one of the most significant public health crises in recent memory. It has been extraordinarily hard for families affected by Alzheimer's disease—preventing visitations in long-term care settings, cutting off access to vital in-person therapeutic and respite care programs and adding enormous stress to family caregivers. The development of the COVID-19 vaccination brings us closer to the end of this terrible, global pandemic, but only if people receive it. We urge all families

affected by Alzheimer's disease to get vaccinated as soon as they are able to do so.

"Alzheimer's disease primarily impacts older adults, who are at higher risk of developing serious, and possibly fatal, complications from COVID-19, especially if they also have an underlying health condition.

"Eighty percent of COVID-19-related deaths in the United States have been among adults aged 65 and older, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (representing approximately 16 percent of the total population).

"Getting a loved one vaccinated helps protect them from the COVID-19 virus as well as becoming seriously ill if they do contract it. Caregivers themselves should get the vaccination as further protection because contracting the virus will impact their health and ability to provide care. Mental and physical stress, which have been significantly increased during the pandemic, can also impact the body's immune system.

"FDA-approved vaccines currently used in the United States do not contain the live virus that causes COVID-19—you cannot get sick with COVID-19 simply through vaccination itself.

"While there may be minor side effects as with any vaccination, such as fever, fatigue or pain/swelling at the injection site, they are normal signs that your body is building protection and pale in comparison to the dangers of contracting COVID-19. Currently-approved FDA vaccines require two shots in order to be the most effective.

"We all long for the day when this pandemic is behind us. Every vaccination brings that day a little bit closer. We highly encourage families affected by Alzheimer's disease to get the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as they are able to and continue practicing adequate social distancing, proper masking, and all other recommended safety protocols—for their own health, their loved ones' health, and for all of us."

Seniors: Get Your Flu Shot – It's Important!

(Family Features) Getting vaccinated for the flu is more important than ever. Not only will a flu shot help keep you and your family healthy, it can help reduce the strain on the health-care system and keep hospital beds and other medical resources available for people with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

This is no ordinary flu season; it's a flu season amid a pandemic. With two dangerous viruses going around at once, it's time for people to protect their communities by getting the vaccine already available: the flu vaccine.

And people with Medicare are at greater risk for serious complications from flu. A flu shot is an important preventive tool for individuals with asthma, diabetes, and heart and lung disease – chronic conditions that can increase the risk for serious flu-related health complications or even death. It's the best protection from getting and spreading this flu virus, and it's covered by Medicare at no cost. Medicare Part B covers one flu shot per flu season per beneficiary. You pay nothing for a flu shot if your doctor or other qualified healthcare provider accepts Medicare payment for giving the shot.

A flu shot won't protect you against COVID-19, but it has many other important benefits. Flu vaccines have been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there's no evidence that a flu vaccination increases your risk of getting sick from a coronavirus, like the one that causes

COVID-19.

Those at high risk for flu complications include young children, pregnant women, people 65 years and older, and people with certain chronic health conditions. Anyone who is six months old or older should get a yearly flu vaccine.

The CDC recommends getting vaccinated in September or October, but a flu shot anytime during the flu season can help protect you.

Flu season in North America rarely begins before early October and usually lasts from December to March. In the past two years, the peak activity has occurred around mid-to-late February. Your body needs two weeks after a shot to develop a protective response to the influenza virus, so your best bet is to get vaccinated before the flu rate begins to climb.

Workplaces and other settings that usually provide flu shots may not do so this season because of the challenges of maintaining social distancing. For more information on where you can get a flu vaccine, visit www.vaccinefinder.org.

When going to get a flu shot, please practice everyday preventive actions and follow the CDC's recommendations for running essential errands. Ask your doctor, pharmacist, or health department if they are following CDC's vaccination pandemic guidance. Any vaccination location following CDC's guidance should be a safe place for you to get a flu vaccine.

If you have a child over six months old who qualifies for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), you

Continue on page 4



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Balloon Buddies bring smiles to isolated, lonely senior citizens

Balloons helping cure the silent, slow killing epidemic of loneliness

Wide smiles! Sparkling eyes! Squeals of delight! Tears of joy! These are the reactions created when senior citizens at Knoxville-area assisted living communities receive a personal Balloon Buddy created by Dianna Glandon, CBA, and her team at Above the Rest Balloons.

Local balloon artist, Dianna Glandon, CBA, is part of a nationwide initiative that is determined to spread joy and bring smiles to senior citizens who have been isolated for 11 months due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The program, called Adopt-a-Grandparent, kicked off quickly. Glandon's team delivered 52 Balloon Buddies to the residents at Morning Pointe on Westland within two days of starting the adoptions. Morning Pointe was the first stop on Glandon's mission to deliver smiling Balloon Buddies to lonely senior citizens all over Knoxville.

Kari Christopher, Morning Pointe director, said, "Dianna, there was just an outpouring of love from our residents! They were in disbelief! Most of them decided right away that their Buddy would need a name which was adorable!

"There was not one resident who did not light up with a smile when we walked in their door! Thank you again from the bottom of my heart! That was a very special day, we are so

thankful!"

There are over 60 Assisted Living facilities in Knoxville, or over 3,000 grandmas and grandpas who can be uplifted by the vibrant, bright, friendly Balloon Buddies who bring the message of joy and love. According to Glandon's research, she found that "the effects of loneliness cause a decline in mental abilities, decreased attention and concentration, increased anxiety, and a rapid progression of Alzheimer's disease."

She also learned that loneliness has a bigger negative health impact than smoking two packs of cigarettes a day. She knew that the positive impact of receiving a Balloon Buddy would immediately lift spirits and let the grandparents who have given so much to us know they are loved and thought of by others.

The Adopt a Grandparent program already has 15 additional assisted living facilities on the list to be adopted, which means reaching over 400 seniors directly. The additional benefit is how uplifted and energized the Balloon Buddies make the staff feel.

Randa G., Resident Assistant, said, "I was super excited (to deliver the buddies)! Our residents really needed this pick me up! And also their smiles are why I do what I do and it made me feel so happy!"

As one community is completely adopted, Glandon and team build the Buddies. Then they deliver them to all residents at one community.

Grandparents can be adopted by everyone—individuals, churches,



Above, left to right, Jennifer Hamilton, Dianna Glandon, Piper Wells, Kari Christopher of Morning Pointe and Lisa Ellis of The Lantern prepare to deliver Balloon Buddies to adopted grandparents.

Right, an adopted grandparent at Morning Pointe enjoys her Balloon Buddy.



civic organizations, school clubs, businesses, people from out of town or state.

Sponsors can even adopt an entire community. Glandon donates all delivery services as well as two Buddies for every 10 adopted.

Learn more details about Adopt a Grandparent program by following this link: <http://bit.ly/AdoptaGrandparentBusiness>.

Above the Rest Balloon Event and Designs is headquartered in Knoxville, TN.

The company was founded by Dianna Glandon in 2006.

The company has won international design awards, and Dianna has often taught at balloon industry educational events.

For more information on balloon and event design, go to www.abovetheresteventdesigns.com, or email dianna@abovetheresteventdesigns.com, or on Facebook at Above the Rest Event Designs.

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Parkview Maryville: W. Broadway (865) 980-8810
Parkview Tullahoma: Cedar Lane (931) 222-4800
ParkviewSeniorLivingTN.com

Seniors: Get Your Flu Shot

Cont. from page 2

may also qualify for a flu vaccination at no cost to you.

What's the difference between flu and COVID-19?

Influenza (flu) and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they're caused by different viruses. COVID-19 is caused by infection with a new coronavirus (called SARS-CoV2) and flu is caused by infection with influenza viruses. Because some symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based

on symptoms alone, and testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis.

It is possible to have flu and COVID-19 at the same time. Health experts are still studying how common this can be.

While it's not possible to say with certainty what will happen in the fall and winter, the CDC believes it's likely that flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both be spreading.

The CDC has developed a test that will check for A- and B-type seasonal flu viruses and SARS-CoV2,

the virus that causes COVID-19. This test will be used by U.S. public health laboratories. Testing for these viruses at the same time will give public health officials important information about how flu and COVID-19 are spreading and what preventive steps should be taken.

So please protect yourself, your family, and your community by getting a flu shot. Visit the doctor, pharmacy, or other local providers to get a flu shot today.

Information provided by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

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Continued from page 1

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If you are unsure which plan is right for you, call us at (865) 777-0153 to talk with your local Medicare specialist. We are committed to helping you however you are most comfortable – by phone, by virtual appointment, or safely distanced in-person appointments. Though Medicare is complex, we strive to make the process simple and accessible for our seniors. That's how we do Medicare differently.

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COURT NOTICES

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TIFFANY DAWN HODGE -Vs- RAFAEL MADRIGAL MARTINEZ
Docket# 150463
IN THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant **RAFAEL MADRIGAL MARTINEZ** is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon **RAFAEL MADRIGAL MARTINEZ**.

IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file an answer to an action of COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE filed by **TIFFANY DAWN HODGE**, Plaintiff herein, with the Fourth Circuit Court in Knoxville, Tennessee, and with **JOSHUA D. HEDRICK**, Plaintiffs Attorney whose address is 607 MARKET ST., SUITE 1100 KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37902, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication, and if you do not answer or otherwise respond, a Default Judgment may be entered against you on the thirtieth (30th) day after the fourth (4th) publication. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This the 28TH day of DECEMBER, 2020.

Mike Hammond
Clerk

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: KERLEY HEATING & AIR INC AND VICTOR KERLEY
IN RE: SWIFT FINANCIAL LLC v. KERLEY HEATING & AIR INC
NO. 200726-1

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendants **KERLEY HEATING & AIR INC AND VICTOR KERLEY** is non-residents of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon **KERLEY HEATING & AIR INC AND VICTOR KERLEY** it is ordered that said defendants, **KERLEY HEATING & AIR INC AND VICTOR KERLEY** file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court in Knoxville, Tennessee and with **Glen C. Watson, III**, an Attorney whose address is, P.O. Box 121950 Nashville, TN 37212, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor John F. Weaver in the Knox County Chancery Court, Part I, at 400 W. Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 28th day of December 2020.

Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: BILLY JOE LAMB,
IN RE: ELIZABETH ANN LAMB
v. BILLY JOE LAMB
NO. 200766-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is verified, that the Defendant, **BILLY JOE LAMB**, is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon **BILLY JOE LAMB**.

IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with **Travis Patterson**, an Attorney whose address is, P.O. Box 70586 Knoxville, TN 37938, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice, or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Clarence E. Pridemore, Jr. at the Knox County Chancery Court, Part II, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 29th day of December 2020.

Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: JENNIFER JULIANNE CRIDER
IN RE: SHANE ALLEN SPROLES v. JENNIFER JULIANNE CRIDER
NO. 201058-3

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause appearing from the Complaint filed, which is verified, that the Defendant, **JENNIFER JULIANNE CRIDER**, is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon **JENNIFER JULIANNE CRIDER**.

IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with **Timothy Housholder**, an Attorney whose address is, 900 S. Gay Street Suite 2100, Knoxville, TN 37902 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice, or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Michael W. Moyers at the Knox County Chancery Court, Part III, 400 W. Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 13th day of January 2020.

Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

KIMBERLY DAWN SEXTON and MATTHEW STEPHEN HICKLE v. DOMINIQUE THERESA DONALD
IN RE: The Adoption of MDD by KIMBERLY DAWN SEXTON
Docket# 2-199-20

IN THE SECOND CIRCUIT COURT OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE of hearing on March 19, 2021, at

10:30 AM by Zoom

In this Cause, it appearing that the respondent **DOMINIQUE THERESA DONALD** is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that notice of hearing of the Motion for Default Judgment and to Set Hearing cannot be served upon respondent **DOMINIQUE THERESA DONALD**.

The full text of the Motion for Default Judgment and to Set Hearing is available through the Circuit Court in Knoxville, Tennessee, and with **NATALIE P. LeVASSEUR**, Petitioners' Attorney, whose address is 5420 SMOKY TRAIL, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37909, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication, and if you do not answer or otherwise respond, a Default Judgment may be entered against you on the thirtieth (30th) day after the fourth (4th) publication. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

To make an appearance at this hearing by Zoom, call the Judicial Assistant at (865) 215-2393 for information and instructions.

This the 25th day of January, 2021.

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: JUSTIN M. WILLIAMS
IN RE: JACQUELYN MARKS v. JUSTIN M. WILLIAMS
NO. 200588-1

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause appearing from the Complaint filed, which is verified, that the Defendant, **JUSTIN M. WILLIAMS**, is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon **JUSTIN M. WILLIAMS**.

IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with **Michael B. Menefee**, an Attorney whose address is, 9724 Kingston Pike, Suite 505 Knoxville, TN 37922, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice, or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor John F. Weaver at the Knox County Chancery Court, Part I, 400 W. Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 19th day of January 2021.

Clerk and Master

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BOBBY M ANDERSON, SR.
DOCKET NUMBER 83845-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 8 day of JANUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of **BOBBY M ANDERSON, SR.** who died Feb 24, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 8 day of JANUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF BOBBY M ANDERSON, SR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
BARRY D RUSSELL, CO-EXECUTOR
110 SUNSTONE TERRACE
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35806

DAVID ANDERSON; CO-EXECUTOR
3610 WELLSBURG WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37931

SHANONE EMMACK
ATTORNEY AT LAW
8115 ISABELLA LANE SUITE 11
BRENTWOOD, TN. 37027

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARGARET G BELL
DOCKET NUMBER 83946-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 12 day of JANUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of **MARGARET G BELL** who died Dec 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 12 day of JANUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF MARGARET G BELL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
PATRICE MINTER; EXECUTRIX
8439 BADGETT ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ROBERT E BOYD
DOCKET NUMBER 83834-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 12 day of JANUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of **ROBERT E BOYD** who died Oct 17, 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 12 day of JANUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF ROBERT E BOYD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
PAUL K BOYD; EXECUTOR
8095 CHATUGA CT
LAKE WORTH, FL 33467

STEPHEN BYRD
ATTORNEY AT LAW
9051 EXECUTIVE PARK DRIVE, SUITE 200
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WILLAMAE KATHERINE BROWN
DOCKET NUMBER 83935-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 8 day of JANUARY 2021, letters administration in respect of the Estate of **WILLAMAE KATHERINE BROWN** who died Dec 7, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred.

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 8 day of JANUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF WILLAMAE KATHERINE BROWN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
DAVID M WILLIAMS; ADMINISTRATOR
300 WINTHROPE WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37923

WILLIAM R RAY
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1356 PAPERMILL POINTE WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37909

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF NORMA J BURNS
DOCKET NUMBER 83933-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 7 day of JANUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of **NORMA J BURNS** who died Nov 24, 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 7 day of JANUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF NORMA J BURNS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
BETH ANNE VAINOWSKI; EXECUTRIX
10317 ZACHARYTOWN ROAD
CORRYTON, TN. 37721

G ALAN RAWLS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
900 S GAY STREET, SUITE 2102
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF IDA PAULETA CARNEY
DOCKET NUMBER 83858-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 8 day of JANUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of **IDA PAULETA CARNEY** who died Sep 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 8 day of JANUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF IDA PAULETA CARNEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHARLES T CARNEY; CO-EXECUTOR
4412 CYPRESS LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37920

SUSAN A RECTOR; CO-EXECUTOR
8608 PILGRIM CT
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22308

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CHARLES HALE CHANCE
DOCKET NUMBER 83230-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 8 day of JANUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of **CHARLES HALE CHANCE** who died Mar 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 8 day of JANUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF CHARLES HALE CHANCE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHARLES ALLEN CHANCE; CO-EXECUTOR
11643 SHIRECLIFFE LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37934

SUSAN CHANCE MINTZ; CO-EXECUTOR
4219 E EMORY ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37938

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF SANDRA KAY DOCTEUR
DOCKET NUMBER 83670-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 13 day of JANUARY 2021, letters administration in respect of the Estate of **SANDRA KAY DOCTEUR** who died Jul 9, 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 13 day of JANUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF SANDRA KAY DOCTEUR

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
LETHA BROOKE VENTURA; ADMINISTRATRIX
10826 DUNDEE ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37934

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JANETTE H EDMONDS
DOCKET NUMBER 83943-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 11 day of JANUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of **JANETTE H EDMONDS** who died Nov 16, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against 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 11 day of JANUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF JANETTE H EDMONDS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARIE PARRINGTON; CO-EXECUTOR
1060 WORLDS FAIR PARK
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37916

EUGENE A EDMONDS; CO-EXECUTOR
629 REDMILL LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37934

DAN EDMONDS; CO-EXECUTOR
5420 PINCREST ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LINDA FELLERS
DOCKET NUMBER 83874-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of JANUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of **LINDA FELLERS** who died Nov 20, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 6 day of JANUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF LINDA FELLERS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
PATRICK CASE; CO-EXECUTOR
2305 OLD CALLAHAN DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37912

MICHELLE HURST; CO-EXECUTOR
3531 PEBBLEBROOK WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37921

JOHN D AGE

ATTORNEY AT LAW
108 S MAIN STREET
CLINTON, TN. 37716

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARGARET MEADE GILLENWATER
DOCKET NUMBER 83784-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of JANUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of **MARGARET MEADE GILLENWATER** who died Jul 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 6 day of JANUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF MARGARET MEADE GILLENWATER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
DEBRA L GILLENWATER; EXECUTRIX
4948 NEHEMIAH LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37938

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CELIA GLOVER
DOCKET NUMBER 83879-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 8 day of JANUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of **CELIA GLOVER** who died Nov 17, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 8 day of JANUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF CELIA GLOVER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JC GLOVER, JR.; EXECUTOR
5120 CATES BEND WAY
POWELL, TN. 37849

RONALD ATTANASIO
ATTORNEY AT LAW
T STREET, 3RD FLOOR
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37902

MICHAEL R CROWDER ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 442 KNOXVILLE, TN. 37901

When someone asks me if they can dismiss a domestic assault charge, this question can come from either the defendant or the victim.

Let's define the parties first. The defendant is the individual arrested and charged with committing the crime of domestic assault. The victim is the person assaulted by the defendant.

What's the difference between assault and domestic assault? Usually the only difference is that the defendant and the victim have a relationship. Either boyfriend and girlfriend, husband and wife, parent and child, brother and sister, etc.

A domestic assault arrests usually starts with a fight. Yelling, throwing things, perhaps violence. Then the cops get called. What I tell people

is, if someone calls the cops, they do not leave by themselves. Someone is going with them in the back of the police car, even if everything has calmed down by the time they arrive. Further, the cops do not show up just to calm people down and then leave. I repeat, if the cops get called, someone is going to jail.

When someone gets arrested, sometimes, but not always, there is immediate regret by the victim related to their decision to call the cops. They want to know how they can drop

the charges. I am very sorry, but it does not work like that. The only way to drop the charges are to go to court on the defendant's court date and speak with the District Attorney's office about a possible dropping of the charges. Even if the victim wants to drop the charges, the District Attorney's office does not have to agree to drop the charges.

Defendants may ask me the exact same question about getting their domestic assault charge dropped. They may swear up and down that the victim does

not want to press charges against them. Sorry, but the charges do not get dropped just because you want them to be. You must appear at your court date and the District Attorney will want to talk to the victim on the court date and then a decision will be made as to whether the domestic assault charge will be dropped or there will be some other agreement reached.

So, can you get your domestic assault charge dropped? Technically, yes, but I am sorry to tell you, it is not something that can

be done in a matter of a few days. It will take going to court and going through the formal legal process before that is even considered.

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

Life can sometimes be like the flight of an eagle

It is the comment I hear most often from Focus readers: I look for the Bible verse in your column. When I first started writing for

The Focus, I would sometimes include a favorite Bible passage in my true, human interest column. When COVID-19 struck, it seemed words of inspiration were needed more than ever. It was then that I started including a Bible verse every week. This week the scripture is shared by Perry McGinnis along with his amazing picture of a bald eagle in flight. Focus readers may remember Perry from previous columns in which much was shared about his life in the field of dentistry. He retired as Dean from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi in 2001.

"It has been my favorite



Picture of an American symbol, the majestic bald eagle, courtesy of Dr. Perry McGinnis.

verse for many years and that all began when I was an avid runner and competing in road races," Perry said. "It did, in fact, give me strength and motivation to finish the race." In these days of dissension and unrest, perhaps this verse from the Old Testament will provide strength to others as well.

Words of Faith: "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;

they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and

they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31 (KJV). Be safe!

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In compliance with TCA 66-14-102 thru 66-14-106 the following cars will be sold on February 19, 2021 @ 2:00 PM @ Cedar Bluff Towing, Inc. 623 Simmons Road Knoxville, TN if total bill is not paid by date of sale.

- 2005 Toy Corol 1NXBR32E552556955
- 1987 BMW 3 ser WBAAE5404H1691727
- 2002 DOD Grand 2B8GP74L52R653337
- 2010 Dod Charg 2B3CA3CV4AH257373
- 2008 Che Malib 1G1ZH57B08F232250
- 1998 Toy Camry JT2BG22K9W0221631
- 2017 Nis Sentr 3N1AB7AP3HY221227
- 2004 Pon Monta 1GMDX03E04D210807
- 2010 Nis Altim 1N4AL2AP4AN564389
- 2005 For Tauru 1FAFP53U85A283708
- 2003 Hon Pilot 2HKYF18663H571449
- 2002 Hon Accor 1HGGC55452A108467
- 2008 Lex ES 35 JTHBJ46G982212167
- 2008 Nis Altim 1N4AL24E28C258260
- 2006 Che Impal 2G1WC581969282187
- 2006 Kia Sedon KNDMB23386050597
- 2007 Che Impal 2G1WD58C779126519
- 2005 For Escap 1FMCU931X5KA11668
- 2012 Nis Sentr 3N1AB6AP5CL725570
- 2005 Che Upland 1GNDV23L35D253812
- 2002 For Crown 2FAFP74W82X147870
- 1999 Inf G20 JNKKP11A5XT013338
- 1999 For Escor 1FAFP13P0XW146996
- 2015 Nis Sentr 3N1AB7APXFL662508
- 1998 Toy Camry 4T1BG22K0WU249362
- 2007 Cad Escal 1GYFK63807R159531
- 2003 Acu RSX JH4DC548X3C010803
- 2006 Nis Sentr 3N1CB51DX6L643265

- 2004 Hon Accor 1HGCM56394AU02489
- 2003 For Musta 1FAFP40433F329329
- 2002 Nis Xterr 5N1ED28T62C570568
- 1999 For Conto 1FAFP6537XK134360
- 1998 Sat S Ser 1G8ZK5276WZ285326
- 1995 Sat S Ser 1G8ZK5276WZ285326
- 2003 Che Silve 1GCHK29633E178226
- 2002 Nis Altim 1N4AL11D92C152613
- 2007 Acu TL 19UUA75537AD43927
- 2003 For Explo 1FMYU60E93UA62883
- 2000 Che Tahoe 1GNEK13T7YJ123237
- 2007 Sat Ion 168AJ58F972104302
- 2003 Acu RL JH4KA96583C002903
- 1997 Jee Chero 1J4FJ68S5VL511378
- 2007 For Escap 1FMYU03157KB38204

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

PUBLIC SALE TO BE HELD ON, February 10, 2021 11:00 AM AT YOUR EXTRA STORAGE (starts at Cedar Bluff location): CONTENTS OF THE FOLLOWING UNITS WILL BE SOLD TO SATISFY OWNERS LIEN FOR RENT DUE

254 Harry Lane Blvd. Knoxville TN 37923:
K44 Gary Rowcliffe, G13 Brian Bresnan:
4303 E. Emory Rd. Knoxville TN. 37938: C15
Jeremy Carr, E12 William Cremeans, H12
Laura Reynolds.
CASH ONLY
865-691-0444

Former Dry Cleaners Location for Lease

3000 Tazewell Pike, Ste A
865-679-5256
Great Location - Lots of Traffic

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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
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865-343-1474

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SMOKEY MOUNTAIN DRY CLEANERS & LAUNDRY
7052 Maynardville Pike
Knoxville, TN 37918
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Mgr Vicki 604-8077

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