

COVID-19 Weekly Focus	BE SAFE · WASH YOUR HANDS · WEAR A MASK · SOCIALLY DISTANCE				
	2019 Knox County Total Population ¹ 470,313	Total Confirmed COVID-19 Cases ² 38,719	% COVID-19 Cases/ Total Population 8.2%	Total COVID-19 Deaths ² 514	% COVID-19 Deaths/ Total Population .11%
SOURCES 1. U.S. Census Bureau 2. Knox County Health Department data from 2/13/2021.					

Masking policy debated at school board meeting

By Ken Lay

The Knox County Schools masking policy was again at the forefront Wednesday night as an item was added to the agenda after last week’s work session meeting. The item was added by board chairperson Susan Horn after a number of e-mails sent to her by parents of performing arts students, who are upset that those students must wear masks while in class or performing. The parents are also disappointed that performances have been limited this school year.

Despite the item being a late addition to the agenda, the public showed up and spoke at the meeting at the Andrew Johnson Building. Many accused the board and the district of practicing discrimination, citing that athletes are able to participate in their respective activities without wearing masks. The current policy for performing arts students requires them to practice social distance protocols and wear masks during activities both in the classroom and on

Continue on page 4

\$1.5 million for sheriff's video courtroom on agenda

By Mike Steely
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When the Knox County Commission meets Tuesday the proposal from Sheriff Tim Spangler for a \$1.5 million metal courtroom will be up for consideration. The sheriff has said that the facility, to be built at the Rogers E. Wilson Detention Facility on Maloneyville Road, would be a pre-engineered 5000-square foot building with six video courtrooms and six holding areas. The facility would save the

county money, according to the sheriff, by eliminating the transportation and holding of prisoners to the City-County building for hearings and trials. The judges would hear cases via virtual trials and not need to travel to the jail for the events. Spangler said all of the judges approve the idea. Vendors would apparently bid on the construction and the sheriff’s office would complete the interior. The agenda item includes the language: “Knox

Continued on page 6



The Andrew Johnson Building agreement is in a fog again as the Knox County Commission is being asked to delay the final sale for 30 to 60 days. The mayor’s office is asking for the postponement until a third party can review the sale and the tax breaks in the revised deal. Photo by Mike Steely.

Delay in AJ Building sale requested

By Mike Steely
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Another delay in finalizing the sale of the Andrew Johnson Building is being requested from the Knox County Commission. The delay request has been added to the commission’s work session agenda for Tuesday. Normally the commission meets on the third Monday of each month but that day is a national holiday, Presidents Day. Finance Director Chris Caldwell responded to Knoxville Focus questions about the addition to the agenda, including whether or not the \$6 million agreement is being revised or if the sale of the historic building is in jeopardy. “It’s nothing like that, just a timing issue with the third party review. MuniCap, third party

review, is who we use to review all the financial documents and make a recommendation on the PILOT terms and amount,” he replied. “The process is still ongoing, so we are asking for a deferral in the development agreement until we get the report back,” he said Thursday. “They had conversations with Mr. (Phillip) Welker this week, but we haven’t seen the report yet, and we didn’t want to give it to commission at the last minute,” Caldwell said. Welker is the Nashville developer. The Focus also asked several Knox County Commissioners about the addition to the agenda and Chairman Larsen Jay replied, “My understanding is the third-party (MuniCap) review of the PILOT terms, payment, agreement, etc. is not yet

Continue on page 2

Call if you can, text if you cannot

Knox County 911 announced Friday that “Text to 911” – a texting option for those who need it in case of an emergency – is now available in our community. Texting 911 should only be used in emergency situations when placing a call is not possible. For example, when a caller is deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired, or when speaking out loud would put the caller in danger. If there is an emergency and you are unable to call, remember these steps:

- Do not text and drive
- Text in simple language, without using abbreviations
- Be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the 911 operator

“Our team is excited to offer “Text to 911” services to our community,” said Brad Anders, executive director of Knox 911. “We are proud that we can better keep our community safe and provide more options for them to contact emergency services when they need help.” Molly Anderson, a Family Engagement Specialist with ARC of Tennessee, agreed. “For the deaf and hard of hearing communities, people with speech disabilities, and people in medical situations who cannot verbally communicate, texting 911 will be a helpful alternative way to



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Tennessee Senator Becky Duncan Massey and state Representative Eddie Mannis spoke at Friday’s E911 press conference, both in support of an effort to make 911 texting available statewide. The texting to 911 will help deaf people and anyone else especially in times like abductions, domestic violence, or school shootings.

contact 911 in case of an emergency,” she said. “texting 911 can save lives.” Officials stress that voice calls are still the best and fastest way to contact 911 operators. They also want to remind folks that abusing or pranking 911 is against the law and very dangerous

COVID-19 cases down in Knox County

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The number of COVID-19 cases locally and statewide seems to be easing up although the number of deaths locally remain high. This welcome trend may see Tennessee’s governor ease up on regulations. The question before the Knox County Board of Health now is how to adjust should the governor change the state plans on February 27. The board’s next meeting is on February 24 and Attorney David Sanders is looking into what may happen to the board’s powers if the state eases up on regulations. In the meantime, the Board of Health has extended the mandatory mask mandate, social gathering limits, and 11 p.m. restaurant and bar until

March 4. Two teachers took part in the board’s public forum Wednesday, urging the board to continue to regulate local COVID-19 precautions. Although the school system falls under state and not local rules, the teachers pleaded the public mask mandate remain in effect because it helps inside classrooms. Health Director Dr. Martha Buchanan, in her report to the Board, noted that while the number of cases and hospitalizations seem to be lower, the number of COVID-19 deaths is averaging five per day. She said testing is showing 26 cases per 100,000 population and a new case rate of those tested was 13.4% over the last week. The board is hoping for a 10% positive result rate or less.

Continue on page 6



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Today's liberals oppose free speech

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.
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Sen. Joseph McCarthy died in 1957, but the term associated with his name – McCarthyism – has lived on.

Since the 1950s, this term has generally been used by those on the left to mean an untrue or greatly exaggerated charge of communism or socialism made by someone on the right.

It has almost always

been used to try to make even moderately conservative people appear to be on the far right and thus guilty of McCarthyism.

Today there is a very dangerous reverse McCarthyism going on against conservatives.

This past weekend NPR had a leftist radical on expressing his hope that big business would stop advertising on the Fox Network so it would have to go off the air.

There are already many liberals urging that Tucker Carlson be taken off because he has been so outspoken against high tech, left-wing billionaires.

Lou Dobbs lost his program making it very obvious that many liberals do not really believe in free speech.

Many have said that if you truly believe in free speech, you have to allow even speech that you hate or speech with which you strongly disagree.

Glenn Greenwald, a liberal investigative journalist, said recently that Democrats today “believe that they are the party of science and rationality and the only way to disagree with them is you are either a deranged conspiracy theorist or exhibitionist, someone who is engaged in criminal conduct or terrorism.”

Speaking of terrorism, Mark Steyn, guest hosting on the Rush Limbaugh program, said the left has “invented a domestic terrorism threat that does not exist but is breathtaking in its audacity.”

Glenn Greenwald, on

Tucker Carlson’s program, agreed saying that Democrats believe “that if you disagree with their orthodoxies and their consensus, you are a threat and a danger.”

He added that they are trying to “silence everyone that disagrees with them, the very hallmark, the epitome of the fascism they claim to be fighting but in reality, they embody.”

Professor Bradley Hart of California State University, writing about Germany after the Nazis took over, said “open discussion of politics, unless obviously supportive of the regime, was dangerous if not out of the question.”

In the last several weeks, almost 6,000 lawyers, law professors, and law students demanded that

Sens. Josh Hawley and Ted Cruz, graduates of Yale and Harvard Law Schools, be disbarred simply for questioning the presidential election.

Sen. Hawley even had a book contract cancelled by one of the largest book publishers, and 1,000 who work for the book industry demanded that no books by any Trump administration officials be published.

Untold thousands have had their accounts cancelled, restricted, or temporarily banned, and Parlor destroyed, by the billionaire owner-rulers of Twitter, Facebook, and Google.

Columnists in several very large newspapers have urged that former Trump officials not be hired by major corporations, the modern-day blacklists.

Many people have said for years that there is less free speech on college and university campuses than in any other part of society.

Sen. McCarthy had almost no real power. Much of what he said about communism was true, but many of his specific charges could not be proven.

He was censored by a 67-22 vote in a Democratic Senate on Dec. 4, 1954. He died, a broken man, of alcoholism, 2 ½ years later at the age of 48.

Unlike McCarthy, the big tech, big media, big government combine of today has very real power.

The left-wing McCarthyism going on now is very dangerous to every freedom we have always held dear in this country.

Ethics complaint against Commission Chair Jay dismissed

By Mike Steely
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In a brief meeting of the Knox County Ethics Committee Wednesday morning a complaint by Andrew Flores against Knox County Commission Chairman Larsen Jay was dismissed with little discussion.

Flores, a longtime opponent of the Board of Health, charged that Jay had used his own money to purchase 2,000 snack bags and donated them to health care workers. Jay responded that he had raised the funds online from individuals and organizations.

Flores then claimed the funds came from supporters of the Board of Health.

Jay said it is unfortunate that basic kindness could become political.

Flores filed an amended complaint the day before the ethics committee meeting but Knox County Law Director David Buuck told the meeting the filing was only a “restatement of the complaint” and noted that having a suspicion of an impropriety is not evidence. He said the complaint was “not enough to pursue.”

Ethics member Perry Beal said the Flores charges showed “no plausible violation” and was Flores’ opinion only.

“It’s like smoke, you can’t get your arms around it,” he said.

Buuck told the meeting that Flores made accusations and assumptions and did not present a valid complaint. He called for the committee to dismiss it.

Ethics member Billy Stephens made the motion to dismiss and it passed on a verbal vote with no objection.



Ethics Chairman Michael Covington oversaw a dismissal of a complaint against Knox Commission Chairman Larsen Jay Wednesday. The complaint was found to contain no plausible violation.

Buuck spoke of the political nature of complaints to the ethics committee, referring to complaints against two Knox County mayoral candidates following a Republican primary when that seat was won by only 24 votes.

All complaints of ethics violations first go to the law director’s office and, once reviewed, are sent on to the ethics committee for consideration.

The Flores complaint comes at a time when the Knox County Commission’s “Committee on Committees” is considering if the Ethics Committee is necessary. Ethics Chairman Michael Covington has responded to that in defense of the group.

Current members on the committee include Covington, Beal, Stephens, Kim Frazier, Daryl Arnold, Mary Linda Schwarzbart, Virginia Anagnost, Rusty Goddard and Byron Wood. Non-voting members include Carleton Bryant, Marcus Kennedy and Commissioner Courtney Durrett.

Walker Springs development rejected

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The second attempt to develop 15 acres next to St. Andrews subdivision failed Tuesday evening when the Knoxville City Council voted 5-4 against the proposal.

The request narrowly passed Knoxville-Knox County Planning in an 8-6 vote. The zoning change would have changed the property at 8300 East Walker Springs Lane from an Office Park designation to a RN-5, General Residential, category. But the local homeowners association and the West Hills Neighborhood spoke against it and noted an opposition petition signed by 2,500 residents.

The applicant, The Offices at St. Andrews LLC, was represented by Taylor Forrester, who requested approval for the construction of nine apartment buildings. Local residents said the large development would hurt property values, increase traffic, and add children to the school system.

But the largest and most effective argument was the potential for adding to the existing flooding problem there. Seven members of the council visited the property and walked the adjacent greenway there. After hearing that any development there, including a previous Office Park request that fizzled, would

require run-off holding basins and possibly even water injection into the ground, the council discussed flooding in the area. One council member said the flooding issue has been neglected for two decades. Another member said that even with a possible flooding problem a property owner has the right to develop there.

The motion to approve, by Councilwoman Janet Testerman and seconded by Seema Singh, failed with Testerman, Singh, Lynne Fugate and Tommy Smith supporting the change. Voting against the change were Charles Thomas, Gwen McKenzie, Amelia Parker, Lauren Rider and Andrew Roberto.

In another zoning matter, an 8-1 vote approved an appeal made by Acres Kingston Pike T5 LLC to change the zoning at 8002 Kingston Pike from General Commercial, CG-3, to CG-1. The matter failed a Planning vote, 7-6. The approval would permit the building of two businesses, Scooter’s Coffee and Take 5 Oil Change, there. The main issue for the drive-through businesses was the access off the busy street. Councilman Tommy Smith was the lone “No” vote.

In other action a request to place a 45-foot cross at 4605 Central Avenue Pike was postponed for two weeks in order to iron out the details. The request was to increase the height of a

detached accessory structure from 18 to 45 feet and was on appeal from a decision by the department of Plans, Review and Building Inspections.

The agenda listed 10 members of the Knoxville Police Department retiring along with six Fire Department employees. Chief Eve Thomas said there are currently 62 positions open in the police department but added that 20 new recruits would be graduating last week. She said that the upcoming March recruitment class has 53 applicants and she applauded the council’s action two years ago to increase funding of the recruitment efforts.

The council also approved an agreement with the Community Action Committee for \$25,000 in federal grants for Mobile Meals/Public Service as part of the COVID-19 funding. Also approved was an agreement with Knoxville Leadership Foundation and Compassion Coalition to add an additional \$80,000 in federal funds for the Housing Assistance Fund. Chris Marin, founder and president of the foundation, told the council, “The calls just don’t stop from all kinds of people.” He said the COVID-19 pandemic has “a devastating impact on lower income families.”

Delay in AJ Building sale requested

Cont. from page 1

complete and as such they needed more time and is being deferred till April.” Jay forwarded a copy of the resolution sent to commission members that is not yet on the agenda.

Another commissioner replied they had not been informed of the addition to the agenda and another commissioner told The Focus that several commissioners have concerns about continuing the agreement to sell the AJ Building. The concern is that the latest purchase agreement, with a TIFF or

PILOT tax deferment, will not produce any revenue for the county for years.

In an update to commissioners from the mayor’s office said the following:

“On the legislative front, we are seeking to defer a vote on the PILOT payment for the Andrew Johnson Hotel building for thirty to sixty days because the third party review has not yet been completed.”

The Andrew Johnson Building, originally a hotel and once the tallest building in the city, has been the home of the Knox County School System. Those

administration offices will be relocated to the TVA East Tower in an agreement between the city, TVA, and the University of Tennessee.

The final sales agreement with BNA Associates was approved by the commission in December. The deal goes back to 2017 when BNA came in as the low bidder and proposed a \$43 million renovation that would include retail space, a hotel, and apartments. The company had difficulty raising the investment money and came back with a plan to

eliminate the hotel rooms but build the apartments so they could be converted to hotel rooms.

BNA is also requesting an in lieu of taxes break for the project and that request is apparently being reviewed by Muni-Cap inc., a public financing consulting firm.

Several controversies have surrounded the BNA deal including the building having an estimated insurance value of about \$15 million but selling for \$6 million.

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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,
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This Little Piggy...

Cliff Rodgers, former administrator of elections for Knox County, has underwhelmed anyone who happened to see the hardly earth shattering news he has left the Republican party. Rodgers is an attorney, but as far as I know, never practiced law or it was so long ago I was still a child. Rodgers was clerk to the late federal Judge James Jarvis, a Republican. Eventually, Cliff was hired as the administrator of elections by the Knox County Election Commission. The administrator of elections is actually a partisan one inasmuch as the first qualification to hold the office is one must be a Republican.

So Cliff Rodgers was gifted with an important post and a nice big salary by the Republican party. Now, if Cliff has done anything for any GOP candidate prior

to being appointed administrator of elections in particular or the Republican party in general, he's managed to keep it a secret to these many years. I don't know of a blessed thing Cliff has done for any Republican or the party which bestowed honors and good paying jobs on him. To be fair, I'm sure Cliff would say he was a federal employee for a long time and couldn't participate in politics and certainly couldn't do so while administrator of the Knox County Election Commission.

Now Cliff Rodgers has cried he can no longer call himself a Republican, but identifies as a Democrat. That has allowed the local Democratic party to send out a fund raising email to turn Knox County "blue" after pointing to the "prominent" Republican party. What prominent Republicans? If the Democrats think Cliff Rodgers is a prominent Republican they are much mistaken. Go to the nearest Walmart and ask the first 25 people you meet who Cliff Rodgers is if you don't believe me. Now in good conscience, Cliff says he can't bear the burden of the Republicans being the party of Trump. Still, he was collecting a fine salary through most of the Trump presidency and never uttered a word.

In fact, I don't know of anyone who can attest to

all the hard work Cliff Rodgers has done on behalf of Republicans or the GOP. What I do know is Cliff Rodgers has spent a lifetime eating out of the Republican trough.

That little piggy has gorged himself at the GOP's trough and if any elected or appointed Republican has done less for his party or its candidates, that individual could only be a Democrat. Now that Cliff can collect his pensions from the offices bestowed upon him by his former party, he's become a Democrat or an Independent. As a news flash, that rates right up there with the news Nancy Pelosi has had a facelift. Cliff Rodgers is the little piggy that went wee, wee, wee, all the way home.

They Went That-a Way...

Regular readers of the Publisher's Position in this newspaper will recall I have often expressed my dismay where only in the school system is a teacher or former principal also qualified to be the Director of Transportation or Grand Poobah of Nutrition. Which brings us to the Knox County Health Department. Being a fine doctor doesn't necessarily make one a mighty good administrator. That appears to be the case with Dr. Martha Buchanan. Dr. Buchanan

had to tearfully break the news almost 1,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine were simply thrown away by mistake.

We're all human beings and human beings are prone to make mistakes. We all have and we will all likely continue to do so. Still, the loss underscores some troubling and fundamental problems. There are going to be the folks locally who have lost family members or friends to the virus and are hurt and upset, who are going to be outraged by this mistake. There are the folks who don't like masks who are going to use this opportunity to remind our elected officials Dr. Buchanan refused to discuss contract tracing in her own case when she contracted the virus. Folks tend to rightly be a bit peevish with the "it's okay for me but not for thee" way of doing things. Those same zealots are going to point to incompetence inside the Health Department and there's no getting around the fact it sure does tarnish all the halos at the Knox County Health Department.

It's bound to affect the debate surrounding the County Commission's ongoing frustration with the Health Department's Board of Directors. It also reinforces the argument of those, including this newspaper, who believe the board is

an unnecessary appendage, especially when the County mayor is responsible for selecting the Director. The mayor is directly accountable to the people who elected him, while the director is accountable to the board while appointed by the mayor. One can argue that adds a layer of protection against political hires in a post that should be, above any other, non-political. Yet one can also argue equally well it can insulate an incompetent Director as well.

Let me be very, very clear. I have never been critical of Dr. Buchanan in this paper. I am NOT saying I believe her to be an incompetent public official. From all I can tell, she appears to be a good doctor; as to whether or not she is a fine administrator, I honestly don't know. A former director of the health department, Mark Jones, was an exceptionally good public official. He was not a doctor, but he was a very fine administrator.

Distribution of the vaccine is a critical thing and the longer it takes, the worse off we will be. There is certainly the appearance the health department is unorganized at a critical juncture and there needs to be a centralized information distribution point. That likely should be the health department.

It looks like we may be

dealing with an entirely different strain of the virus before everybody is even vaccinated for the current virus, God forbid. Anthony Fauci is already saying that may very well be the case next month.

One South Carolina mayor, frustrated with his own government's inefficiency at organizing a drive thru vaccine experience called on a true expert: the manager of a local Chik-fil-A. The drive thru had been hopelessly backed up before the mayor called on the team from Chik-fil-A to execute their own special brand of efficiency in moving people through and delivering product.

The government folks were so overwhelmed the computer system crashed while trying to handle the registrations. Manager Jerry Walkowiak pinpointed the problem quickly and precisely. Walkowiak donated his time and experience to help out his community and neighbors. The Chik-fil-A manager and his team of volunteers reduced the government's waiting time of hours to a mere 15 minutes.

That demonstrated yet again, government doesn't always do everything well, but fortunately that local mayor knew just who to call.

Remembering Tennesseans on President's Day

By Mike Steely
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Our state has played an odd place in presidential politics. While Tennessee claims three presidents, none were born here. We've also had Tennessean candidates in national primaries and the presidential races but none were elected.

Andrew Jackson, whose home is at The Hermitage near Nashville, was born in South Carolina and was elected while a resident of the Volunteer State. Andrew Johnson, who replaced Abraham Lincoln after the assassination, was born in North Carolina and was not re-elected after an unsuccessful impeachment. Johnson later was elected back to the U. S. Senate where he served after being president.

James K. Polk was also born in North Carolina and lived in Columbia, Tn. Presidential candidates from our state include Senator Hugh Lawson White, son of Knoxville's founder James White, who ran for president but failed. He had fallen out of favor with Andrew Jackson and lost to Martin Van Buren. White, despite his roots in Knox County, was another candidate born in North Carolina.

Al Gore Jr. ran for president against George W. Bush and lost. Gore was another potential president not born in the state but in Washington, D.

C., while his father was a Tennessee Congressman and later U.S. Senator. Gore served as vice president under President Bill Clinton.

Senator Estes Kefauver sought the Democratic nomination but lost to Adlai Stevenson, who also lost but carried Kefauver as his vice presidential nominee. Kefauver was born in Madisonville, Tn., where his father ran a hardware store and served as mayor.

Another presidential oddity from our state was Governor Sam Houston. He resigned that position, moved to Mexican Texas, oversaw the revolution, and then served as president of the Independent State of Texas and then governor when it became a state.

Knox Place Names: Byington or Karns?

By Mike Steely
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Many names of places in Knox County have changed over the years and that can be confusing to residents and newcomers. Gibbs, for instance, is also called Harbison Crossroads by some folks. That former title is for American Revolutionary War veteran James Harbison. Many people still refer to the intersection of Tazewell Pike and East Emory Road there as Harbison Crossroads.

Knoxville was originally known as White's Fort and is named for George Washington's Secretary of War, Henry Knox. Knox County was part of the Southwest Territory before statehood.

Farragut, Knox County's newest town, was originally called Campbell Station, for the family that settled there before the Civil War. The homestead still stands along Kingston Pike there.

Powell was originally known as Menifee's Fort, named for founder John Menifee. It then was known as Powell Station and, today, simply as Powell. Powell is known as an



Moses Brownlow Byington was a moving force in what is now the Karns community. He operated the first post office there, had a store, and promoted the area including building the Solway Bridge.

independent town although it is not incorporated.

Fountain City was originally Adair's Fort or Station. The town was unincorporated until taken in by a growing Knoxville. Halls is still referred to as Halls Crossroads for the family who settled the community.

Corryton was originally

Sawyer's Fort for John Sawyer, a Revolutionary War veteran. The railroad station there named the community "Floyd." Developer Corryton Woodbury purchased and developed the community which is now Corryton. The branch library there, beside the railroad tracks, is built like to resemble a depot.

The Carter community is named for the Paschal Carter family which settled the area and built a mill and a store there.

Many people still refer to Karns as Byington, and for good reason. The growing community along Oak Ridge Highway began when pioneer Moses Brownlow Byington moved there from McMinn County. He attended Wesleyan College of Athens, Tn., where he met and married Amanda Fox.

Byington's brief years of life saw him active in the progress and growth of the area, serving on the Knox County Court for 24 years,

and promoting the L&N railroad to serve the area. He started a store at the intersection of what became the Byington-Solway Road and the little rural town became known as Byington for the train depot that was established there.

He was instrumental in the promotion and building of the Solway Bridge, a 772-foot long concrete bridge, which was replaced in 1975 with the current four-lane bridge crossing the river at the north end of the Pellissippi Parkway. The cornerstone of the original bridge is in the Oak Ridge Library.

Moses Byington is buried in the Beaver Ridge Cemetery. He has many descendants in our area.

The community kept the name of Beaver Ridge/Byington until 1950 when the citizens voted to change the name to Karns, in honor of the county's first superintendent of public education, Thomas Conner Karns.

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February, the Month for Heart Health Checkups

By **Ralphine Major**
ralphine3@yahoo.com

It was a long night on that Palm Sunday, April 1, 2007. Our mother suffered a heart attack after experiencing nausea and cold sweats. My brother and I sat in the waiting room for hours while the doctors put stents in to open the blocked artery. Then, it was more waiting through the early morning hours as her recovery process began. Looking back, I remember sitting in the waiting room watching Pat Summit's Lady Vols. They won the national championship a few days later.

After three days in the hospital, mother was released. Slight complications required another quick trip to the hospital a few days later. During her recovery, Dr. Kyle McCoy, her cardiologist, stressed the importance of cardiac rehab and a low-sodium/low-fat diet. That was nearly 14 years ago, and our mother has experienced no other heart problems since.

Heart disease is still one of our nation's greatest enemies, though treatment for this killer has come a long way. It is important that all of us take care of

this vital organ that sustains life and see a health care provider if any alarming symptoms occur. Hopefully, there will always be a "Dr. McCoy" on call for anyone who needs emergency heart health care.

Words of Faith: The scripture from the Book of Psalms has long been a favorite and was quoted in my first column 10 years ago. It remains a favorite verse today. I hope you are blessed by Psalm 46:10 (KJV): "Be still, and know that I am God."



Picture of Wayne, Juanita (our mother), and Ralphine Major at the 2019 Grainger County Tomato Festival months before the COVID-19 pandemic began, courtesy of Steve Ellis, Light House Studio.

Lack of skill costs

I'm sitting in the waiting room of a car dealership this morning. No, I'm not looking to buy a new, or even a used, vehicle. Instead, it's oil change time for my wife's car. I always wait for a coupon to pop up to find the



By **Joe Rector**
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best deals for these kinds of basic services. The sad fact is that I never learned the skills necessary to perform these types of things. Oh, I've tried to fix things before, but as you might imagine, things didn't work well.

Jim and I drove an old '54 Chevy that had already gone through both parents and an older brother. I loved that car and wish I could afford to buy another one. On occasion, I ran up against some problems and tried to fix them to save a few bucks. On one rainy trip from Knoxville back to Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, the windshield wipers malfunctioned. They were vacuum wipers, which meant they worked depending on how the gas pedal was pushed. Around Crab Orchard, the darn things wouldn't move. A leak had developed in the vacuum line. I drove down I-40 with my head out the window so that I could see the road. With no idea of how to fix the thing, I drove only during clear skies until a mechanic could fix the problem.

The water pump went out on the vehicle another time. My friends all told me how easy it was to replace it, and the concept seemed simple enough. The problem was having the correct tools to do the job. I spent several days trying to get the tools so that I could buy a new one. I'm not sure who installed the new pump, but it wasn't me. Amy and I owned a Datsun

310 during our first years of marriage, and I decided to change the oil in the vehicle before driving to my brother's home in Powell Valley. I had no ramps, a fact that made reaching the oil pan plug and oil filter more difficult. Still, I managed to complete both tasks. I put on the new filter and poured in the oil. My pride swelled over having succeeded. I hopped in the car, backed it out of the garage and eyeballed a puddle of fresh oil oozing across the garage floor. To my shame, I realized I'd forgotten to replace the plug in the pan.

Over the years, I've tried to work on my lawnmowers. The same thing always happens with them as with cars. A couple of weeks ago, I replaced the pinion steering gear on a lawn tractor. Hours of labor went into a job that shouldn't have taken longer than half an hour. When I finished, the gear and plate weren't aligned evenly, so the turning radius in one direction was much smaller than the other direction. I later discovered that the wheels had to be offset to install the thing.

If I had my time to do over, I would take an auto mechanics class, a small engines class, and a construction class. The money I could have saved would have been in the thousands. Parents, I don't care if your children are geniuses who are headed to prestigious colleges. Insist that they take some of these vocational classes so that they aren't as lacking as I am. In the end, having those skills will save them, and possibly you, thousands of dollars.

'I take the Fifth' from bar owners in curfew hearings

By **Mike Steely**
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The main response from bars facing curfew violation hearings seems to be "I take the fifth amendment" on advice from their attorney. That was the go-to reply from Billiards and Brews owner Richard Lawhorn when asked, repeatedly, about breaking curfew 18 times.

The 1 p.m. hearing last Tuesday lasted well into the evening as details of the charges were introduced.

City Attorney Alyson Dyer called multiple city police officers as witnesses and quizzed Lawhorn about the 18 curfew violations, the shooting death in the parking lot, and the employee hours he filed with the city. Several officers testified they saw beer bottles and pitchers on the tables in the bar after curfew and issued citations.

The bar has already lost its liquor license from the state and Lawhorn's attorney, Rick Owens, noted the bar was cited several times "for being

open" with no mention on the citations about beer drinking inside beyond the curfew.

That was disputed by most of the officers appearing before Hearing Officer Gerald Gulley. Gulley asked the beer enforcement officer, Sgt. John Coward, if he had notified the state of the alleged curfew violations and Coward replied he had. The state then removed the liquor license.

Board of Health member Dr. Patrick O'Brien told the hearing that the regulations mandate closing at curfew except for drive-through, delivery and carry out business. He referred to the spike in COVID-19 cases and 500 deaths. Attorney Owens suggested the board's curfew regulation implied no alcohol service but not to close.

O'Brien said that for bars and restaurants serving beer, the closings at curfew "was our intent all along."

In his decision issued Wednesday Gulley wrote, "Given the severity of the sanction of revocation of the Permittee's beer permit, your

Hearing Officer declines to assess fines for any instances of violation by the Permittee. Pursuant to Section 4-89 of the City Code, your Hearing Officer taxes the costs of this matter to and against the Permittee, including reimbursement to the City of Knoxville for fees paid to the court reporter and the hearing officer.

He ruled requiring the owner to pay per violation is "likely an exercise in futility."

Gulley decided even with the owner evading questions by "taking the fifth," the evidence presented was enough to prove guilt.

Gulley revoked the license "immediately" and directed Billiards and Brews to "pay the costs incurred in this matter." The city had asked for a suspension for 90 days and fines for each offense but Gulley went beyond the suspension request and suspended the license without a renewal for 10 years, with no fine for the various offences.

County property tax rate has not increased in over 20 years

By **Mike Steely**
Senior Writer
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How has Knox County's property tax rate actually decreased over the past twenty years while county revenues are up? Finance Director Chris Caldwell explained the apparent conflict to the Knox County Commissioners during a Chairman's Briefing last week.

Caldwell said the current property tax rate is \$2.12 per \$100 of assessed value and has been for four years. A state law forbids the rate to increase based on appraisal. As a person's property increases in value the rate fluctuates

and cannot increase. The property evaluations are set every four or five years and next year is the next evaluation time.

The "healthy growth" in county revenue, as Caldwell explained, is based on property and sales tax growth, including the Amazon internet sales taxes that return to the county. The property tax revenue increase is credited to new residents, new construction and new homes.

Of the \$2.12 rate of appraised value, 89¢ go to the county's general funds, 80¢ to schools and 43¢ go to retiring county debt.

"We've always had

growth," Caldwell told the virtual meeting but agreed that while the individual tax rate remains low, the costs of services the county delivers to residents is increasing each year. Chairman Larsen Jay noted that the county maintains about 2,000 miles of road with more being added each year and has been using about \$6 million per year in local and state funds for upkeep and paving.

Caldwell said the county receives about \$270 million from property taxes and \$170 from sales taxes and expects the sales tax revenue could go to \$190 million thanks to the

internet sales. The school system gets about 72% of the revenue from these taxes.

The meeting also saw a discussion of the county debt, the school revenue and expenses, and general financial matters. Caldwell said that an increase in population will also see an increase in local sales tax revenue.

Caldwell said the property tax rate is "likely the lowest in metro government history."

Other sources of local revenue for the county includes the local wheel tax, hotel-motel taxes and court fees.

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Masking policy

Continued from page 1

stage. All students must wear masks with the exceptions of those who play wind instruments. Those students must wear face coverings when not playing. Wind instruments are also now equipped with bell covers for further precautions.

After an extended discussion, the board determined that no policy change would occur. The board did, however, leave the door open to re-open the issue at a later date.

But a pair of board members, Daniel Watson and Jennifer Owen took time to survey performing arts teachers, including band, chorus and orchestra instructors.

Both said that the teachers who responded were in favor of the current policy, despite opposition from parents.

"One band director that I spoke to said that no mask equals no band," Watson said. "Personally, I can't wait for the day that I can start a bonfire and burn every mask that I ever bought, but I spoke to Joe Childs, the Chief Medical Officer at Children's Hospital

and he said that this is not the time to let our guard down."

Owen noted that teachers in her survey had similar opinions.

As for KCS Superintendent Bob Thomas he said that all current protocols have worked and helped schools stay open.

"The policy works," he said. "We had 75 days of school (out of 80 instructional days in the fall), and this semester, we've only canceled two days and those were inclement weather," Thomas said. "Not that we had any really inclement weather."

"But our policy works and I think that our teachers and staff have done a phenomenal job. "Like (Watson), I can't wait to get rid of our masks. We can do it together."

The board also approved the Elevate Program to help students with substance abuse problems. The program is a partnership between the school system, Knox County, the Boyd Foundation and the Helen Ross McNabb Center.

The program, which is set to be implemented this fall, passed unanimously without discussion.

Carroll Reece Tennessee's 'Mr. Republican'

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
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The late Howard H. Baker Jr., the first Republican ever to be popularly elected to the United States Senate from Tennessee, has a great claim to being labeled "Mr. Republican" for the modern era. Yet Brazilla Carroll Reece of Johnson City may have a better claim to being "Mr. Republican" for Tennessee during a time when the GOP was distinctly the minority party in the Volunteer State. Like his successor, James H. "Jimmy" Quillen, Carroll Reece was not an orator. Reece spoke quite slowly and methodically, which oftentimes didn't excite audiences. Yet Carroll Reece proved to be enduringly popular with the people he represented. For one thing, Congressman Reece never stopped campaigning, in or out of office. Reece also concentrated on providing excellent constituent services to the people of upper East Tennessee. The people in Tennessee's First Congressional District liked and appreciated Reece's efforts. Carroll Reece was elected to Congress eighteen times by his constituents and his career spanned forty years.

Carroll Reece had been born in the town of Butler, Tennessee and was one of thirteen children of John Isaac and Sarah Maples Reece. B. Carroll Reece worked his way through the Watauga Academy and then Carson and Newman College. From there, Carroll Reece went to New York where he graduated from New York University with honors. Reece made quite an impression, as the trustees of the college noted his ability and offered him a professorship of political economy.

Standing about five feet and nine inches, Carroll Reece had fought in the First World War where he earned the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Cross, and the Croix de Guerre with Palm from the French government. After a brief teaching career in New York, Carroll Reece came home in 1920 and ran against Sam R. Sells, the sitting congressman from Tennessee's First Congressional District.

When Colonel Grant Trent had announced himself a candidate for Congress, Congressman Sells had sneered he would withdraw as a candidate for reelection if "a real soldier" wanted to run. Colonel Trent withdrew and Carroll Reece emerged as a candidate. Sam R. Sells did not withdraw and charged his political enemies had recruited Reece to run against him. The incumbent seemed to campaign less on his record than his

personality.

Reece's campaign featured a picture of the young candidate wearing his uniform, much to the chagrin of Congressman Sells. Sells snorted there was no way he could lose to a candidate who had not lived in the district for years; after a decade of service, Sells felt confident he would be renominated. Carroll Reece campaigned on the theme ten years in Congress should be enough for any man, a slogan that would come back to haunt him later.

During the 1920 campaign, newspapers referred to the young candidate by his military title, as did the Knoxville Journal and Tribune in noting Reece spoke in Bybee, Tennessee in the local high school auditorium. The Journal and Tribune reported, "Lieutenant Reece's speech was somewhat different from his former ones, in that he sought to answer the opening speech of his opponent which was delivered in Elizabethton a few nights ago..." Reece questioned why Congressman Sells had voted to "exempt excess profit taxes on corporations." Sells was a successful businessman, owning a lumber company and other concerns. "Why don't your congressman and mine in explaining how much he made in 1917 and 1918, tell our people how much he made in 1919, and why he voted to exempt these excess profits from taxes?" Reece cried.

The Knoxville Sentinel reported on the race in the First District as growing more heated with every passing day, dispelling "what followers of Sells at first considered a joke" was now a real race. The Sentinel acknowledged Carroll Reece had been "comparatively unknown until a few months" before the primary election and the candidate's "reputation he made in the recent world war was the first thing to bring him into notice."

The two candidates for the GOP nomination held a joint debate in Tazewell, Tennessee. It was "court day" in Tazewell and some 500 people in Claiborne County gathered to hear Sam R. Sells and B. Carroll Reece speak and speak they did. Carroll Reece spoke for an hour, while Congressman Sells spoke for an hour and 15 minutes. As might be expected, the candidates tossed the occasional barb back and forth. "Lieutenant Reece says that he is in favor of reducing the high cost of living," Congressman Sells snorted. "Who in the name of common sense and good judgment is not?" Reece jabbed Sells for paying considerable

attention to his business interests, telling his listeners he would devote all his time and energies to serving in Congress. "There is no reason why I should lose touch with the people from whom I sprang, when I am elected to office," Reece said. "Whatever office is held, the powers of it are from the people, and if I do not render as much service in two years as Sells has in 10, I will not seek reelection."

Carroll Reece had actually gone to the office of Congressman Sells before announcing his candidacy to visit. It was during the Tazewell debate Reece described his initial conversation with Sam R. Sells.

"Before I made the announcement of my candidacy, I met Mr. Sells on the street in Johnson City with one whom I thought at that time was a mutual friend," Carroll Reece related to his audience. "After being introduced, I was invited into Mr. Sells' office where I presume Mr. Sells' henchmen thought some wholesome advice should be given for the benefit of 'the boy.' When we were alone, this is about the way the interview went. We both sat down and Mr. Sells lit a cigar which he stuck in the corner of his mouth at an angle of about 5 degrees. Then, sticking his thumb in the armhole of his vest, and looking out from under his shaggy eyebrows as he looked at me and said, 'Reece, who are you?'"

Doubtless, that brought some laughter and twitters from those gathered in Claiborne County, Carroll Reece continued with the telling of his tale of his meeting with Sam R. Sells.

"Old Goliath showed that same spirit when he came face to face with David," Reece said. "What his attitude implied was, do you think that you can oppose me for this office? He knew who I was. Well might he have recalled the days when my father and mother lived in a log cabin which sat within the shadow of his mother's stately mansion, and when I came to the back door of his house peddling butter and eggs. He thought he could break my spirit and that I would sneak away like a whipped cur. 'You haven't a chance to win the nomination,' he said. 'I'm in better shape than ever financially to fight competition, and when I get ready to retire I am going to name my successor.' There was just one thing my friend overlooked and that is you can't disregard the wishes of a great people in things like this."

When it came his turn to speak, Congressman Sells did not dispute most of what Carroll Reece said about their first meeting, but insisted he had never insulted the young lieutenant.

The notion Carroll Reece's candidacy was little more than a joke had evaporated by the time the primary election approached. The Nashville Banner reported "the veteran congressman has a bear fight on his hands" and most Republicans inside the First Congressional District thought it "will be very close." As



PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

A campaign sticker for Congressman Carroll Reece.

the ballots were counted, Congressman Sells issued a statement claiming victory. "I am nominated by a majority of 200 to 300 with Claiborne county yet to hear from," Sells crowed. "Claiborne will give me a majority of about 400, which will make my lead in the district about 600 to 700. These are absolute facts, the statements of Lieut. Reece's friends to the contrary notwithstanding." Yet one Johnson City newspaper claimed Carroll Reece had been nominated by at least 300 votes.

The Kingsport Times carried a banner headline in its August 6, 1920 edition blaring: "Carroll Reece Decisively Defeats Sells in Congressional Race." According to the Times, Reece had won by more than 1300 votes. A day later, the Chattanooga Daily Times noted the success of veterans in elections all across Tennessee. "The people appear to have taken a great fancy to overseas men in the primary balloting in the state on Thursday," the Daily Times reported. "Lieut. B. Carroll Reece who served his country faithfully, honorably and with distinguished bravery during the war with Germany, appears to have beaten the veteran politician Sam R. Sells for congress in the First district."

The Chattanooga Daily Times article illustrated just what a feat Reece had accomplished in vanquishing Sam R. Sells, who was described as "one of the bosses of the republican party in East Tennessee" for quite some time. The Daily Times thought Sells "a strong man, too, and a fighter of ability and

experience." Yet the Daily Times pointed out Sells had "a record that savors much of demagoguery, hypocrisy and opportunism" which had given Carroll Reece the basis to upset the congressman. The Daily Times noted the similarities between the candidacies of Carroll Reece and Gordon Browning in Tennessee's Eighth Congressional District.

Browning had challenged Congressman Thetus W. Sims for the Democratic nomination. Sims had been in Congress for twenty-four years and Browning, like Reece, was a veteran of the First World War. The Chattanooga Daily Times thought Browning was "bright, active, progressive and sound on democratic principles." The editorial described Gordon Browning as direct and straightforward, with no disposition to compromise "with wrong of any kind."

Reece would go on to win the general election in 1920 while Gordon Browning would lose to Republican Lon Scott, who was also a veteran of the World War. 1920 was a Republican year in Tennessee

and many Democrats were swept out of office by the GOP tidal wave. It was the first election in which women could cast their votes for candidates up and down the ballot. Warren G. Harding carried the Volunteer State in the presidential race, while Alf A. Taylor defeated incumbent A. H. Roberts for governor. Congressmen John A. Moon of Chattanooga and Cordell Hull, both of whom had opposed suffrage for women, lost to GOP candidates.

Gordon Browning, stubborn and irrepressible, made a determined bid for Congress once again in 1922 and defeated yet another incumbent, toppling Lon Scott and remained in the U. S. House of Representatives for 12 years before leaving to make an unsuccessful race for the U. S. Senate. Browning served three terms as governor of Tennessee and he and Carroll Reece enjoyed parallel political careers until 1952. Reece remained in office for almost another decade after Gordon Browning had been consigned to private life by Frank Clement.

Once in office, Carroll Reece followed the example set by Senator Kenneth D. McKellar, who stressed service to constituents. The McKellar office was the first modern congressional office to emphasize constituent service in Tennessee. Carroll Reece adopted the same practices as the McKellar office to go the extra mile in attempting to help constituents with problems, large and small. It was a practice continued in East Tennessee in the congressional offices of Jimmy Quillen, as well as Howard Baker, Sr. and John and Jimmy Duncan.

Congressman Carroll Reece became an institution inside his own first Congressional District, but like every officeholder, he was not without political enemies or detractors. Usually surefooted on political grounds, Carroll Reece made one political miscalculation that cost him his seat in Congress. It was an experience he never forgot.



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S & E Properties seeks Planning Commission's permission to expand

By Bill Howard

Residential growth in most any city is a given. If one lives in Knoxville, it probably wouldn't take him or her long to observe yet another tract of land under construction for houses or apartment complexes.

On Thur., Feb. 11, the Knoxville-Knox Co. Planning Commission heard a case by Applicant S & E Properties, owned by William E., III & Courtney Manrod. The request was to rezone a property located at 12041 Hardin Valley Rd., west of Mission Hill Lane, in Commission District 6. The size of the tract is 6.98 acres.

The current zoning is RR (Rural Residential) / HP (Hillside Protection) and SP (Stream Protection) / A (Agricultural). The proposed zoning is LDR (Low Density Residential) / HP (Hillside Protection) & SP (Stream Protection) / PR (Planned Residential), and includes a density of up to four du/ac (dwelling units per acre). The existing land use is RR.

The staff recommendation was twofold: first, to deny the Sector Plan Amendment of LDR because it "is not in compliance with the Rural Area of the Knoxville-Knox County Growth Policy Plan and the surrounding development is consistent with the existing RR / HP / SP land use designation."

The second staff recommendation was to approve PR up to 2 du/ac because it "is consistent with the surrounding development and the adjacent residential densities, as well as the slope analysis." The slope analysis would figure prominently in the Commission's vote.

This area is transitioning from large, agricultural lots to single family residential. Steep slopes and stream protection areas are also in the vicinity.

Knoxville lawyer Benjamin Mullins spoke on behalf of the Applicant. He told the Commission that S & E would settle for three du/ac, rather than the proposed four.

"What S and E is offering today is to keep the Sector Plan as is, but to rezone the Sector Plan up to three du/ac," Mullins said. "The final density would be determined once there was a final engineering done and traffic impact done in this area to see exactly what the density would be. The difference in density on this zone for two du/ac that staff is recommending and the three du/ac that S and E is proposing is three units."

"We would ask that under these circumstances, a Sector Plan Amendment would not be needed to go up to three du/ac but this be approved at Planned Residential at three du/ac," Mullins said.

There was some confusion about how many total extra units would be added. Commissioner Dick Graf asked what part Hillside

Protections play in determining that number.

Said Senior Planner Michelle Portier: "The tract itself is 6.9 acres, and if you multiply that by three units per acre that the Applicant is comfortable with, that's 20 units. At two du/ac that's recommended, that's 13 units."

"Mr. Mullins said it only amounted to three du additional," said Graf.

"I didn't misspeak," said Mullins. "When the slope analysis is done, if you take two du upon slope analysis you get to 1.92 du/ac. If you were to apply that for three du/ac you would get a different density than that, so it depends on what number it starts with to what slope analysis shows is compatible."

Commissioner Sandra Korbek asked when the future traffic generated from the nearby 117-acre Ball PR would be factored into the traffic report.

Said Transportation Engineer Tarren Barrett: "We're not considering traffic from other subdivisions because we're only looking at a point of a small land area and a small number of trips to this corridor. We only look at the entrance to the subdivision of the corridor."

The Commission voted unanimously, first to deny the LDR Sector Plan. It then voted unanimously to approve the PR up to three du/ac.

The next meeting is March 11.

\$1.5 million for sheriff's video courtroom on agenda

Cont. from page 1

County General Sessions and Criminal Court are in support."

Also on the agenda is a request from the Knox County Health Department to lease the former Food City location at 4216 North Broadway for use as a COVID-19 vaccination site. The six-month agreement doesn't have a cost estimate yet nor a beginning or ending date. Currently the health department has been renting the

EXPO Center just off Clinton Highway for vaccines. The lease would be with K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc.

The Commission may also discuss approving a \$14 million federal grant for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and a grant of \$50,000 to the health department to address "social determinants of health."

They may also approve the selling of delinquent tax property owned by the county for less than taxes

owed. The Procurement Department is making the request. It may also accept the donation by the Parton Family for real property for an air quality monitoring station.

A donation of materials and repairs at Gibbs Ruritan Park valued at about \$28,000 may be approved and Kimley Horn may be contracted for engineering and design services for the Carter Park ADA compliance program, at a cost estimated at \$232,600.

COVID-19 cases down in Knox County

Cont. from page 1

As of Wednesday Knox County has had 509 deaths related to the virus and there was 2,164 active cases with 70 people hospitalized.

Dr. James Shamiyeh told his fellow board members the number of cases in people 71 years or older being hospitalized has

decreased in the Knoxville region and pointed to the number of vaccines being given.

Knox County's mask mandate has been in place since July of last year and apparently the majority of the population is observing the mandate when in public.

"We would not be there if not for masks," he said.

Dr. Buchanan added to the mask mandate requirement saying, "I'm afraid to take the lid off."

On the motions to continue the curfew and limit social gatherings all the members voted "Yes" except for Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, who continues to oppose those local regulations, although he praised the health department's effort during the pandemic.

What is a Motion for Default?

Occasionally I will have a potential divorce client call me and say something like, "They told me they would not give me a divorce, what can I do to leave this person?" Thankfully, you do not need the other person's involvement in a case to get a result awarded to you from the court, whether the case is a divorce case, a contract dispute or a personal injury matter.

How can that be? Particularly in a divorce case. By law, when you file a lawsuit, you have to serve the Defendant with a document called a Summons and a copy of the lawsuit you have filed. The service of these documents is usually done by a private process server or the Sheriff's Department, although you can also accomplish it by certified mail.

Once the Defendant is served, the person who served the Defendant will turn into the court proof that the Defendant was served. By law, the Defendant has 30 days to file a written Answer with the Court responding to the lawsuit. The Defendant cannot say they did not know they were not supposed to respond because the Summons that the Defendant receives has this written on the top of the first page.

If the Defendant does not file an Answer with the court within 30 days of receiving the paperwork then the Plaintiff (the person who filed the lawsuit), can file a Motion for Default. This motion

basically says that the Plaintiff should win by default because the Defendant has not bothered to respond to the lawsuit against them. This actually happens a whole lot. A large percentage of people sued for credit card, payday loans and medical debt do not bother responding to lawsuits against them for these debts.

When a Motion for Default is filed, the Plaintiff must mail a copy of Motion for Default to the Defendant notifying them of the Motion and on what court date the motion will be held.

Then, if the Defendant does not show up for the hearing on the Motion for Default, the Plaintiff is awarded whatever they requested in their lawsuit. They have just won by default.

Courts do not prefer to handle matters through motions for default if they can avoid it. They would prefer both parties to a lawsuit appear in court and tell their sides of the story and then the court can make a ruling. So motions for default are considered disfavored in court. However, they allow lawsuits to be resolved even if the person being sued refuses to participate.

So, yes, you can get a divorce through a motion for default even if the other person will not, "give you one."

Jedidiah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knox County 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.



By Jedidiah McKeehan
attorneyknoxville@gmail.com

Over two centuries many notable people have been born or lived in our county, from music and movie stars to business and political leaders. The Knoxville Focus highlights some of the outstanding individuals who have left their stamp on our history.



CLIFFORD CURRY, JR.

Clifford Curry, Jr. was born in Bearden in 1936 and played in several local music groups. He wrote the classic "Mr. Moon" and worked in Nashville. In 1967 he wrote the classic R&B "She Shot a Hole in My Heart."

He continued to play in the Southeast with his own brand of Carolina Beach Music and was inducted into the Beach Music Hall of fame in 1995. In 1997 Curry recorded an album called "Tennessee R&B Live with Earl Gaines and Roscoe Shelton and joined singer Fay Adams in her number one R&B smash "Shake a Hand."

He died in 2019 at age 79 in Knoxville.

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Bearden High: basketball capitol of the state

By Steve Williams

For the week beginning Feb. 9, Bearden was the capitol of Tennessee high school basketball!

The Dawgs were No. 1 in the boys' and girls' Associated Press Class AAA state rankings, and for a school to be on top in both polls is rare.

The Bearden girls' 47-39 win at Ensworth on Feb. 6 helped propel Coach Justin Underwood's team to the top. Ensworth had won 60 straight games.

On the other hand, the Bearden boys' 62-49 loss to highly regarded Hamilton Heights on Feb. 11 probably will cost the Bulldogs' their top spot.

By the way, the Bearden teams will host Catholic tonight (Feb. 15) in a grand way to close out regular season play. An overflow crowd no doubt would be on hand, if not for the pandemic.

Also in the AAA poll, Oak



Ridge boys were No. 5, Sevier County girls No. 8 and Maryville girls No. 10.

In Class AA boys, Kingston was No. 5, Fulton No. 9 and Loudon No. 10. Oneida ranked No. 8 in Class A boys. Catholic ranked No. 2 in Division II-AA boys and Webb No. 4 in Division II-A boys.

Other girls teams in the area ranked were Lakeway Christian Academy No. 1 in Division II-A, Grainger No. 5 in Class AA and Tellico Plains No. 10 in Class A.

Edwards and Fritz are basketball finalists

The TSSAA last week announced the finalists for Mr. and Miss Basketball in the state this year.

Two are in the running for the prestigious award from the Knoxville area – B. J. Edwards of Catholic (Division II-AA) and Denae Fritz of Maryville (Class AAA).

Road to Fame founder Jerry Julian resigns

Jerry Julian announced his resignation as president of the Halls High Athletics' Road to Fame at last week's organizational meeting to select the Class of 2021.

Julian started the group and headed up the process of selecting the first two classes of Halls honorees in 2019 and 2020.

According to the by-laws of the Road to Fame, there will be annual changes as certain directors will be exiting and new directors will be brought on.

"Out of all the things I've done in my lifetime that was probably the saddest for me to have to give up. That was hard," said Julian. "But the Road to Fame will carry on

in fine style, presenting the top athletes that have participated in the Halls community for years to come."

A new director will be announced at a later date. In the meantime, Ted Williams and Spencer Long are going to work together to fill the void.

Applications for nominees for the 2021 class will be available to be picked up starting March 1. Those locations will be listed in next week's Focus.

Pigeon Forge wrestlers take second

Pigeon Forge finished runner-up in the TSSAA Class A-AA Duals Wrestling State Championships Feb. 6 at Nolensville.

The Tigers defeated Signal Mountain 42-33 in the semi-finals but lost 39-36 to Fairview in the finals.

Baylor (Division II) and Cleveland (Class AAA) also captured state crowns.

In the Tennessee High

School Wrestling Poll's final rankings for the season, Baylor was No. 1 and Cleveland No. 2. Rounding out the Top 5 were Wilson Central, Christian Brothers and Bradley Central.

Pigeon Forge was listed among schools receiving votes.

Girls' state soccer site changed

Chattanooga was selected to host the TSSAA state championships for 2021 and 2022.

Sites for the early rounds will include Baylor School, Chattanooga Christian School, Girls' Preparatory School and the University of Tennessee Chattanooga Sportsplex.

The championship matches will be held at CHI Memorial Stadium.

Spring sports can start practicing

Today is the official first practice date of the season

for TSSAA spring sports: baseball, softball, boys' soccer, tennis and track and field ... weather permitting, of course.

Football, anyone?

East Tennessee State University's football team will host Samford Saturday afternoon starting at 1 as the South Atlantic Conference kicks off its spring season.

Head Coach Randy Sanders' Buccaneers have six players from Knoxville on their roster: Dashaun McKinney, a redshirt freshman wide receiver from Fulton; Trey Foster, a freshman running back from Austin-East; Nate Adkins, a junior tight end from Bearden; Gavin Campbell, a freshman offensive lineman from Bearden; Riley Bryant, a redshirt freshman wide receiver from Powell; and Colton Webb, a freshman defensive end from Powell.

From bottom to top and left to right are Halls cheerleaders Kaitlyn Kreps and Karmen Godfrey; Amelia Drafts, Caroline Sentell and Maddie Clevenger; and Chloe Fleenor, Caroline Plyler and Karah Warren.



Halls cheerleaders are 'thankful'

Cont. from page 1 time to practice. Many of my girls have already started spring sports while we were benched from cheering.

"They have had a rough season but are a great group of girls!"

Cheer and Dance teams, however, received good news about a week later, and on Feb. 10, Coach Duncan and her squad acknowledged the changes that had been made by the Tennessee governor and KCS and what getting to cheer again meant to them.

Senior Abbey Hopkins said: "It has been amazing getting the opportunity to cheer again and finish out the season with my best friends! I'm so thankful

that we got the chance to cheer again!"

Sydney Hollingsworth, a senior, also appreciated the opportunity to cheer again and added: "I'm so thankful for everyone that fought for us. We appreciate everyone so much!"

And senior Grace Lawson agreed, adding: "It has been so fun and has made me appreciate it so much more."

Coach Duncan was very excited to see her cheerleaders on the sidelines again.

"We would like to thank all those people who emailed, called and signed petitions for us. We would especially like to thank our State Representative Michelle Carringer for fighting on our behalf."



Linda Clark, a Project Grad counselor at Austin-East, shares a proud moment with Ke'on Smith, after the Roadrunners' wide receiver signed with Campbell University. "She kept pushing him (in academics) and worked with him when he was a freshman up to his senior year," said Kayla Williams, the school's head secretary.

A-E's Smith wants to succeed on and off the field

Cont. from page 1

"Even though we were down, we tried to stay up," said Smith.

It was a young team, and Ke'on was one of only seven seniors. The roster also included 10 freshmen, 19 sophomores and 11 juniors.

"We just kept working to get better and focused on the task at hand," said Smith. "If the game on Friday didn't go well, we just

kept practicing. We never got down on each other. We always stayed up as a team. That's what I liked about the young ones on the team."

Ke'on played QB up until the last two games when he was moved back to receiver.

Antonio Mays, in his first season as A-E's head coach, said Smith was willing to do anything he asked him to do.

"Yes, it was a tough year

for a lot of different reasons," said Mays. "On the field, Ke'on was always readily available to play any position."

Smith maintained a positive attitude.

"It was frustrating, but he was one of three captains on the team. So everybody always had eyes on (number) 15. I told the (Campbell) coach he's what you want at the next level.

"Prayerfully, he's going

to do his best and we're all going to support him and stand behind him."

When asked about Smith's potential on the collegiate level, Coach Mays said: "Well, he's definitely a receiver. His best attribute is that he's able to win the one on one ball."

Ke'on is also a receiver who loves to block. He showed that his junior year in a big win over rival Fulton.



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Josh Heupel's Hiring Process

By Mark Nagi

No matter the success you have had as a head coach in the past, transitions typically present some challenges.

New Tennessee football coach Josh Heupel is learning that firsthand.

He's been on the job for over two weeks and his coaching staff is still a work in progress.

Let's look at the hires we know about.

Not surprisingly, Heupel had raided his old staff at Central Florida, bringing in former Auburn standout Kodi Burs to coach wide receivers, Alex Golesh to be in charge of tight ends and Glen Elarbee to work with the offensive line.

The coaching community is a close-knit group. Having people he already knows well will assist Heupel greatly, especially in his first season, which likely will be a rough one.

Heupel got some Tennessee blood on the staff with the hiring of longtime SEC assistant Rodney Garner to coach defensive line. Garner was a member of Phillip Fulmer's coaching staff in 1996 and 1997, and a key recruiter for some of the best Tennessee teams in the program's history.

In addition, former Rice offensive coordinator Jerry Mack will be the running backs coach.

As of the writing of this article, those are the names we know about. We don't know who the offensive coordinator will be, but that's not a huge deal as Heupel will be the one calling plays.

The major concern is with the lack of hiring of a defensive coordinator.

Does Tennessee already have a defensive coordinator on campus? Why yes! Yes, they do. A highly respected one in Kevin Steele. He knows the SEC after decades working in the conference. Steele knows

Tennessee after serving as an assistant at UT twice. Oh, and Tennessee was already paying his \$900,000 over the next two years.

Of course, none of that resume (and financial commitment) has anything to do with Heupel, so he is under no obligation to keep him around. And barring some major change, Steele won't get the job.

Tennessee has been turned down multiple times, including a polite rebuke by Ohio State linebackers' coach Al Washington. Football Scoop's John Brice reported that Heupel approached Louisville defensive coordinator Bryan Brown and University of Southern Cal defensive coordinator Todd Orlando, only to be told "no thanks."

The Vols are ready and willing to pay big bucks to make that hire, in the range of \$1.5 million annually over three years, but so far Heupel can't get anyone to sign up.

Things move quickly and maybe by the time you read this, Heupel has his man. But the fact that his top choices weren't interested shows you his dire things are on Rocky Top.

Heupel's offensive system can in turn be difficult on the defense. They work quickly, which means the defense doesn't get as much rest. The Vols defense was already pedestrian and has seen a bunch of transfers this offseason. Whoever gets the job has their work cut out for them.

Coordinator hires are among the biggest decisions a head coach can make. It can catapult your program to new heights or accelerate your dismissal.

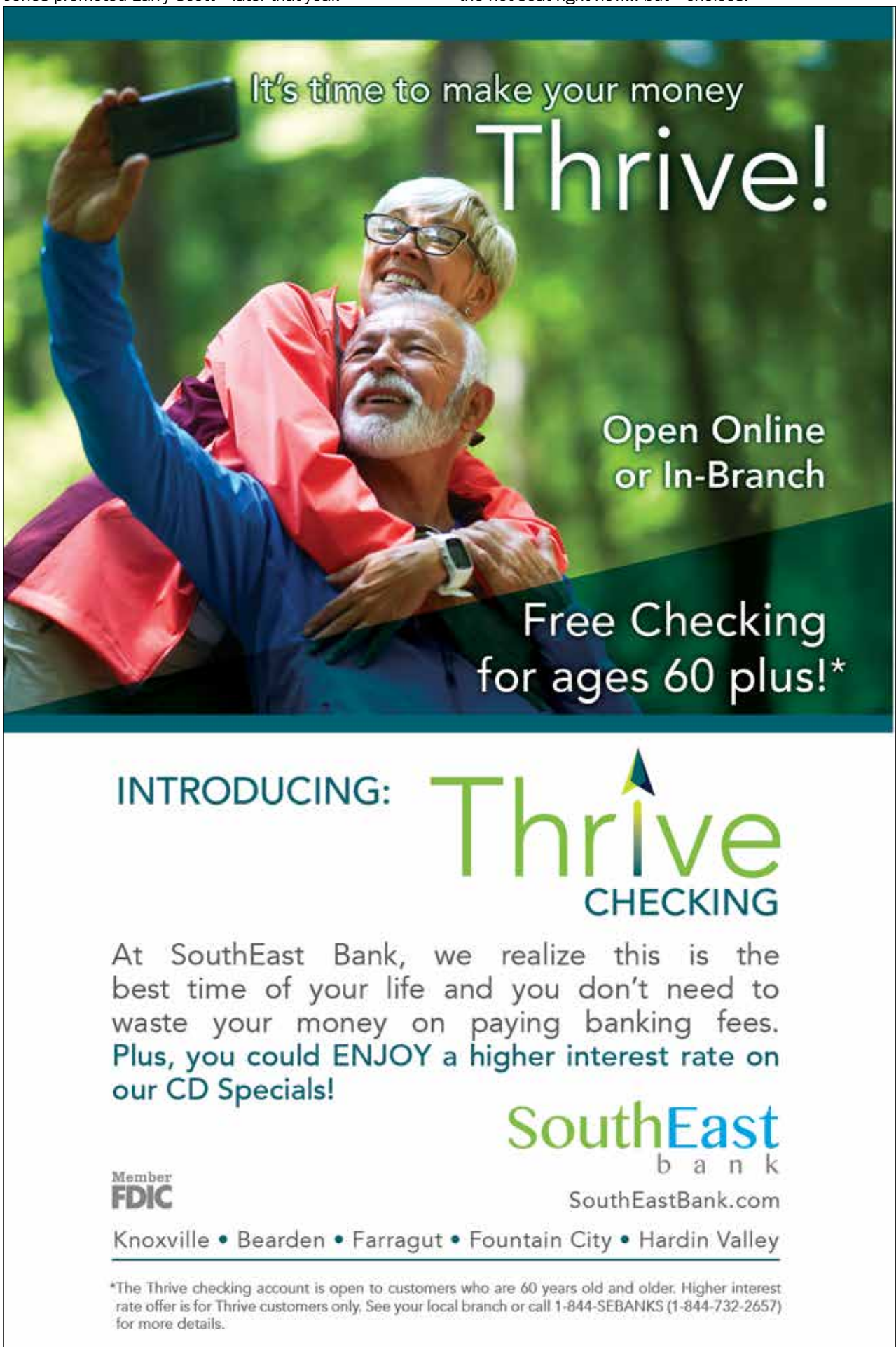
Fulmer hired Dave Clawson to replace David Cutcliffe in 2008 and the program never recovered. Derek Dooley's decision to bring in Sal Sunseri

as defensive coordinator doomed him in 2012. Butch Jones promoted Larry Scott

to be offensive coordinator in 2017 and would be fired later that year.

Certainly, Heupel doesn't have to worry about being on the hot seat right now... but

that doesn't mean he can't afford to make the wrong choices.



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Tenets

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Martin Luther King

What happened? It has been almost 60 years since the right Reverend King dreamed of a colorless society, but now all the left sees is color. Karl Marx envisioned class warfare in his communist manifesto. By analogy, the "left" uses race to divide us and to promote their poisonous ideology. As an example, the left's mouthpiece, the NY Times in their 1619 project, maintains the Orwellian notion that race was what founded America rather than the pursuit of freedom.

I am a stickler for words because, other than body language, words are our tools to communicate with others. This is the premise of the science fiction novel

I'm writing. Leftism is NOT liberalism. I've explained these concepts before, but they are important enough to reiterate.

The tenets of the "left" are intolerance of free speech and any perspectives different from their own (hate speech). Race is the tenet of their class warfare. They are anti-capitalist and socialist. Leftists want open borders and deny Abraham Lincoln's assertion that America is "the last best hope of earth." They consider themselves the hope for mankind (think of clueless AOC).

On the other hand, "liberals" are historically pro-capitalist, believe in national borders (USA), free speech and hold that MLK was correct and skin color is irrelevant. In fact, liberals consider a focus on skin color as the very definition of racism.

I know a few leftists, and recognize their organizations (BLM, Antifa). I have

many friends who are more liberal than me. It's hard to label Congressional Democrats. Like "professional" Republicans, most Washington Democrats are just party animals, also known as denizens of the swamp. Some who march under the Democrat ensign are avowed socialists (Bernie Sanders). Some, like AOC, describe themselves as Democratic Socialists (I doubt AOC could define the term). Some are "progressives" who believe in ever larger government to promote utopia through redistribution of wealth, perfection of humans by education and feeding the masses. Progressives see the Constitution as a "living" document rather than the "original" wording of the amended document.

I'm a "conservative," but it's a complex term because it encompasses many nuanced perspectives. Political conservatism advocates smaller government, lower taxes and adherence to the Constitutional rule of law. Social conservatives generally oppose abortion, a welfare state and believe a relationship with God is paramount. Fiscal conservatives desire a balanced budget, limited governmental regulation of businesses and personal responsibility for an individual's needs.

The word conservative derives from Latin and seeks to preserve traditions such as American culture, western civilization from which it derives and English as our lingua franca. Change is inevitable (Heraclitus), but conservatives desire slow and studied change rather than revolutionary upheaval.

As the unconstitutional impeachment of a private citizen continues, the powerful force of hatred is on full display. Blind hatred is more than a metaphor; it has led to insanity. The inmates of Washington are now in control. But, Pogo was correct; the enemy is us and we elected these miscreants. A friend's husband "just couldn't vote for Trump" so he voted for iPOTUS.

Recently, I came across this moniker for Joe Biden at a news site. I didn't understand the term, but after a bit of research I found the term was used in 2019 to denigrate President Trump. I thought it only fair to turn the tables (an idiom) and allow the reader to choose the "i" modifier word for POTUS 2021.

As my readers know, I love quotes. These pithy observations of life and reality make me think. Recently, two quotes were impactful.

I like Mike Rowe who

is noted for his TV series Dirty Jobs. Commenting recently on the pandemic, Rowe said "Safety is devastating." In other words, the continuing lockdowns have not ended the pandemic, have devastated the economy and isolated us as never before.

Some have chosen the pseudo safety of their home and, like my church, are dying. Since my church has been closed for "safety," I've tried online worship. While it may be safe and convenient, it's just not the same. I've asked myself why humans tend to think of things they don't have rather than their blessings. I believe the answer is we take our baseline for granted. An example is health. After an illness you really appreciate feeling good again. It's that way for me with church service. I've been attending a church which is open and I now realize what has been lost.

I teach medical students online using a platform similar to Skype and Zoom. I can lecture, discuss, pose questions and critique answers online. But how do I teach a medical student to use a stethoscope or feel a patient's liver on Zoom? The answer is I can't.

Regarding virtual classrooms, Marsha Blackburn recently quipped that children are "learning

virtually nothing." To a certain extent I agree. The school closings have become the "lost year" for many kids, another casualty of Covid mismanagement. As a teacher and a parent, I can state with certainty some of the best lessons a kid learns are from other kids. You might wonder why the progressive left has allowed education to founder since "education" is purportedly one of their utopian tenets. Perhaps "indoctrination" can continue without a classroom.

This seasoned citizen's tenet is thankfulness for life, a loving wife and my Lord, Jesus Christ. I pity those like Bill Maher who are "blind" and others who chase idolatrous tenets. As a student of history and the Bible I can tell you with certainty apostasy always leads to destruction.

In these troubled times so, many are asking what they can do. It is said that not everyone can do great things, but everyone can do small things with great love. I can speak and write the "truth." I can pray and champion the Way. A friend once assigned me the title, Watchman. Maybe she's right.

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

A Dangerous Word in Scripture – ‘Tomorrow’

One of the most dangerous words in all of Scripture is...



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

tomorrow. This word keeps people from coming to Jesus. A common word we use to describe the putting off of something today for tomorrow is procrastination, the thief of time. I think many of us have had moments when we could be called a procrastinator. Were you ever known as waiting until

the last minute to write a paper? Have you been accused of letting projects pile up around the house that you are always going to get to but never do? Do you find yourself flitting away precious time on meaningless things, like binge watching shows or getting stuck on social media for hours on end?

Why is this such a problem? Let's go to Jesus for our answer. What did Jesus think about time-wasting? Luke 9 is a turning point in the text. In Luke 9:51, Jesus heads out for Jerusalem. Up to this point he has been in the region of Galilee. In this chapter, Jesus is calling people to be his followers. Let's look

at one of these examples in Luke 9:61-62. After the invitation to follow Jesus, the guy says, "I will follow you but let me first..." He is saying, "Jesus, I want to follow you, but I have something more important to do right now. I need to go home, tell my family and friends what I am doing and then I will follow you." This sounds like the same sort of thing in I Kings 19:19-21. God picked Elisha as a successor for the prophet Elijah. Elisha asked permission to go back and tell his family that he is going into ministry. Elijah said, "Yes, go back to your family and tell them." Elisha had a big feast with his family

and even burned his plow. That was a big deal to burn the plow. That was the family heirloom passed down through the generations. What Elisha is saying is that I am not coming back. There is no plan B. He is going to go where God sends him and be who God wants him to be.

This reminds me of Cortez who attacked the Aztec Empire in Mexico. Cortez continued up the coast. On April 21, 1519, he landed near the site of Vera Cruz. There, to prevent all thought of retreat, he burned his ships. That expression has been used in many ways. Win or lose, we are in it till the end, and

there will be no retreat, there will be no return to our former way of life. So, this man says to Jesus, "I want to do what Elisha did." But Jesus knows this man's heart. If this man goes back, he will never move forward. He will not burn the plow or the ship. Sometimes we are like this. Before we go forward, we want to go back. We want to go back to a bad relationship, the old buddies, an old lifestyle. No, we have to go forward.

Jesus uses the analogy of plowing. His hand was on the plow as he set towards Jerusalem and the cross. There is no looking back. Just as Jesus plowed a straight line into

Jerusalem, we need to plow a straight line toward the future heavenly kingdom – the New Jerusalem. We have kingdom work to do until we get there. Life was not better before Jesus so don't look back, but also don't put off today for tomorrow. All you have is today (Proverbs 27:1). Augustine said, "God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but He has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination." "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6).



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Notice is hereby given that on the 9 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ELSA A LOGAN who died Dec 15, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 9 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF ELSA A LOGAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHRIS DOUGLAS LOGAN; EXECUTOR
212 OKEMA TRACE
LOUDON, TN. 37774

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WANDA RUTH LOVEDAY DOCKET NUMBER 84084-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 10 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of WANDA RUTH LOVEDAY who died Oct 8, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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ESTATE OF WANDA RUTH LOVEDAY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) KELLY
DEANN GIBSON; EXECUTRIX 736 SEAGLE LANE
SEYMOUR, TN. 37865

EVAN M NEWMAN ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 6 RUTLEDGE, TN. 37861

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ESTATE OF JEWELL CURTIS MARTIN DOCKET NUMBER 83904-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 8 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters administration in respect of the Estate of JEWELL CURTIS MARTIN who died Sep 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.

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ESTATE OF JEWELL CURTIS MARTIN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
EDWIN MARTIN; ADMINISTRATOR
100 FALLEN LEAF TRAIL
GEORGETOWN, KY 40324

M SUE WHITE
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ESTATE OF OPAL ROBERTS "PAT" MCBEE DOCKET NUMBER 84083-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 9 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of OPAL ROBERTS "PAT" MCBEE who died Sep 28, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 9 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF OPAL ROBERTS "PAT" MCBEE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) ROGER
DALE MCBEE; EXECUTOR 1322 BERKLEY
HILLS LANE POWELL, TN. 37849

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARY L MONTGOMERY DOCKET NUMBER 84053-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 4 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARY L MONTGOMERY 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 4 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF MARY L MONTGOMERY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ALAN LOY; CO-EXECUTOR
3440 WILEY NOLAND ROAD
SEVIERVILLE, TN. 37876

DAVID LOY; CO-EXECUTOR
4942 CURTIS DRIVE
COOKEVILLE, TN. 38506

CHARLES W KITE
ATTORNEY AT LAW
9925 TIERRA VERDE DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CAROL F MOODY DOCKET NUMBER 84054-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 4 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of CAROL F MOODY who died Dec 30, 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 4 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF CAROL F MOODY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
RHONDA L MOODY; EXECUTRIX
6813 CARDINDALE DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37918

ROGER D HYMAN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 26072
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WILMA R NEWCOMB DOCKET NUMBER 84055-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 4 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of WILMA R NEWCOMB 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 4 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 4 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF WILMA R NEWCOMB

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CARLA E NEWCOMB CURTIS; EXECUTRIX
8603 BRAVEHEART WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37923

DALE C ALLEN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 900
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ANN SCARBROUGH DOCKET NUMBER 84062-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ELIZABETH ANN SCARBROUGH who died Dec 10, 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 4 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ANN SCARBROUGH

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ROBERT STEVEN SCARBROUGH;
CO-EXECUTOR
3225 SHADY OAK LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37931

TERESA DIANE JONES; CO-EXECUTOR
2138 WILSON ROAD, APT B2
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37912

BRADLEY LEWIS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
10413 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 200
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WILLIAM Y SHIELDS DOCKET NUMBER 84057-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 4 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of WILLIAM Y SHIELDS who died Nov 29, 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 4 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM Y SHIELDS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHARLES Y SHIELDS; EXECUTOR
10219 KINGSTON PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37922

JERRY M MARTIN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
112 GLENLEIGH COURT, SUITE 1
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37934

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BARBARA LOU NORRIS SUMMERS SWEAT DOCKET NUMBER 84064-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 5 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of BARBARA LOU NORRIS SUMMERS SWEAT who died Oct 21, 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 5 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF BARBARA LOU

NORRIS SUMMERS SWEAT
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JAY WILLIAM SUMMERS; EXECUTOR
2707 NICKLE ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37921

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CHARLES EDWARD THOMPSON DOCKET NUMBER 84011-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 10 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters administration in respect of the Estate of CHARLES EDWARD THOMPSON who died Dec 8, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 10 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF CHARLES EDWARD THOMPSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KATHLEEN THOMPSON; ADMINISTRATRIX
3421 RIVERVIEW DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37914

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ROBERT LESTER WATKINS DOCKET NUMBER 84074-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 8 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ROBERT LESTER WATKINS who died Oct 28, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

ESTATE OF ROBERT LESTER WATKINS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
SYDNEY ANNE WATKINS; EXECUTRIX
3231 MISTY HILL WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37917

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CATHARINE WOLFENBARGER DOCKET NUMBER 84085-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 10 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of CATHARINE WOLFENBARGER who died Sep 18, 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 10 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF CATHARINE WOLFENBARGER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KENNETH WOLFENBARGER; EXECUTOR
4145 MEREDITH ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37921

MISC. NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization Executive Board Meeting, February 24, 2021

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board will meet on **Wednesday, February 24th at 9 a.m.** in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, TN. Due to the circumstances of the COVID-19 virus, this meeting may be conducted by electronic means. Please visit the Knoxville Regional TPO website frequently for updates on this public meeting. The full Agenda will be available on the TPO website 5-7 days prior to the meeting and can be found here: <https://knoxtpo.org/boards-and-committees/executive-board/>. If you would like a copy of the final Agenda please contact the TPO. If you need assistance or accommodation for a disability please notify the TPO three business days in advance of the meeting and we will be glad to work with you in obliging any reasonable request. 865-215-2506 or laura.edmonds@knoxplanning.org.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Due to social-distancing safeguards to protect from the COVID-19 threat, the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board meeting on **Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** will be held electronically. This includes the Public Hearing on the proposed Program of Projects (POP) funded by FY2021 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula and Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities grants. The meeting will use the Zoom video-conferencing platform. Further information will be on the TPO website, so check frequently for updates.

The City of Knoxville is the Designated Recipient of the FTA funds. The times established for public review and for allowing comment on the POP follow the TPO's Transportation Improvement Program public involvement process. Written and, if possible, oral comments will be allowed on the proposed POP. If there are no changes, the POP will be considered final.

The proposed POP can be viewed at www.knoxtpo.org. Interested persons, agencies, and private transportation providers are encouraged to participate. To be mailed or faxed a copy of the POP, or to provide comments contact Doug Burton at 400 Main Street, Suite 403, Knoxville, TN 37902 or at (865) 215-3824 or at doug.burton@knoxtpo.org. Comments must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 to be read during the meeting.

LEGAL NOTICE

On March 6, 2021, 9:00 am at Crown College, 2307 W Beaver Creek Dr, Powell, TN 37849, the Knoxville County Republican Party will hold its biennial Re-organization Convention.

Knox County Republicans wishing to cast ballots for County Party Officers must meet the Bona-fide Republican voter Requirements set forth in the Tennessee Republican Party By-laws.

Knox County Republicans seeking to serve in leadership roles and running for Vice Chair, Treasurer, Vice Treasurer and Secretary must also meet specific Bona-fide Republican requirements set forth in the by-laws.

Knox County Republicans seeking the position of Chairman must meet the Specific Bona-fide Republican requirements for Chairman set forth in the Tennessee Republican Party By-laws and must

also notify the Contest & Credentials committee 7 calendar days prior to the reorganization of their intent to seek the chairmanship (NLT 9:00am, February 27, 2021). Nominations will not be made from the floor of the convention for Chairman.

Knox County Contest and Credentials Committee Chair
Christine Cruz
Queenbee@reagan.com
931-252-4592

James Corcoran
James@jccorcoran.com
865-406-0375

James Crain
Jamesmcraim@juno.com
865-291-8954

Roger Kane
kane262@gmail.com
865-405-5103

Wayne Sellers
waynesav@hotmail.com
865-803-6647

Additional Convention information is available on the KCRP website, knoxrepublishers.org and on Facebook, Knoxville County GOP or by contacting Chairman Randy Pace, 609-760-5394.

LEGAL SECTION 94

Knox County will receive bids for the following items & services:

Bid 3026, Cylinder Collection Services, due 3/16/21;
Bid 3027, Construction of the New Farragut High Softball Facility, due 3/23/21

For additional information call 865-215-5777, stop by the Procurement Division, 1000 North Central St., Suite 100, Knoxville, TN 37917, or visit our website: www.knoxcounty.org/procurement. To bid on Knox County surplus items, go to www.govdeals.com.

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

SALE DATE MARCH 1, 2021 7120
ASHEVILLE HWY KNOX TN 37924

2008 LEXUS 460 VIN#JTHBL46F885071527
1992 MAZDA VIN#JM2UF1131N0285230
1999 JEEP CHEROKEE VIN#
1J4FF68S2XL595678
2012 FORD FUSION VIN#
3FAHP0GA8CR117946
2011 FORD ECONOLINE
VIN#1FTNE2EL7BDB40452
1986 WELLS CARGO TRAILER VIN#
#1WC200G20G3011781
1996 FORD F150 VIN#1FTEF15Y3TLA51