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April 11, 2022

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Wiegel's, Gibbs-Corryton community gives heartfelt tribute to Ryan Knauss

By Chase Clemmer

If you have not seen or heard the story of U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Ryan Christian Knauss you should take a moment to do so. He was the last American service member that was killed in the war in Afghanistan. His life was among the thirteen that were lost from the suicide bombing of Kabul airport as the U.S. was withdrawing from Afghanistan on August 26, 2021.

This past weekend friends, family, veterans and east Tennesseans alike gathered in memorial of Staff Sgt. Knauss and to celebrate the heroic actions he displayed on that fateful August day.

The memorial service took place Saturday, April 9, two days after what

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Paula Knauss Selph speaks at the memorial service that honored her late son Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss held at the Corryton Wiegel's on Saturday. She is joined on stage by Kurt Wiegel, left, and Bill Wiegel, right.

Board of education approves Rysewyk's contract

By Ken Lay

The Knox County Board of Education has approved the contract for the district's next superintendent. Dr. Jon Rysewyk also has a start date for his new role.

Rysewyk, the district's chief academic officer, will officially become the superintendent on June 4 at midnight.

He'll replace Bob Thomas, who will retire on June 30. The board will honor the remainder of Thomas' contract as he will serve in an advisory role until he retires.

Rysewyk was originally set to become superintendent on July 1, but the board voted to move his start date since hiring decisions are normally made in May.

The board voted 8-1 to approve Rysewyk's contract with Virginia Babb casting the lone dissenting vote.

Babb did not object to the contract; she said she felt, however, that the June 4 date was too late due to the importance of hiring decisions.

Thomas, who has served as KCS Superintendent since 2017, will officially remain in that role until June 3, the final day of high school graduations.

He'll serve as an advisor beginning at midnight on June 4.

The entire board agreed that Thomas should officially remain superintendent through graduation.

"I think Mr. Thomas should remain through graduation because he has walked side by side with these students," board member Susan Horn said.

Fellow board member Daniel Watson agreed.

"I know your heart is to finish strong," Watson told Thomas at Wednesday night's regular session meeting. "I think that this allows you to do that with this current graduating class."

It was Mike McMillan who brought this compromise before the board. He proposed it at last week's work session meeting before making the motion Wednesday.

Rysewyk will make an annual salary of \$240,000. The board was originally set to pay him \$250,000. He requested his salary stay at \$240,000 and he will have the opportunity to earn \$10,000 in performance bonuses.

Also on Wednesday night, the board voted 5-2 (with two abstentions) to hire attorney D. Scott Bennett to serve as outside legal counsel to assist the Knox County Law Department in two lawsuits regarding masks.

Hardin Valley Academy principal Dr. Rob Speas was recognized by Thomas and the board for being named by the Tennessee Association of Secondary Schools Principals 2022 Principal of the Year in East Tennessee.

In the work session meeting on Monday, April 4, Thomas issued an update on the plans to renovate playgrounds throughout the district.

This week's discussion came after Knox County Commissioner Larsen Jay addressed the board on the state of the playgrounds at the March work session.

Facts Regarding Sheriff's Merit System Law

By David Buuck
Knox County Director of Law

There are presently misunderstandings and outright misrepresentations being publicly disseminated about the Law Office's present lawsuit asking the Court for guidance regarding due process issues in the present Merit System ordinance. Contrary to these public

misstatements:

- The Sheriff and the Law Director fully support a strong legal Merit System.
- The present merit system ordinance passed in 1990 contains procedural irregularities which may legally invalidate the ordinance.
- The Office of Law Director has asked the Court for an opinion and interpretation to insure there is a valid Merit System to protect uniformed officers no matter who becomes sheriff.
- The Office of Law Director previously sponsored a replacement ordinance adopting the state authorized "County Sheriffs Civil Service Law of 1974" [T.C.A. §8-8-401].
- Were the County Commission to adopt the safe harbor of State Law, the current members and current rules will remain in place.
- Adoption of the State Law would maintain the integrity of the Merit System and end an expensive court proceeding.
- Most importantly, adoption of the State Law protects officers from political personnel decisions.

City to hire two accounting firms

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville City Council voted Tuesday to contract with two firms to help with financing, annual reporting and the audit process.

In a unanimous vote, the council voted to authorize Mayor Indya Kincannon to execute an agreement with Two Sisters Ventures Inc., which does business as Abacus Hive. The firm will provide professional budget and accounting services to the finance department on some important projects. The agreement, requested by the finance department, is for \$100,000.

Marret & Company PLLC was hired to provide professional government accounting services to the finance department for \$117,000. Councilwoman Lynne Fugate said that the new software and annual audit process is hard and stressful.

A memorandum of understanding with One Knoxville Sporting Club for a soccer mini-pitch project at Harriet Tubman Park drew some questions. Harriet Tubman Park is a public tennis establishment situated at 300 Harriet Tubman Street and there are four public tennis courts and four basketball courts within the park's 4.36 acres. The tennis courts are not lighted.

Zimbabwe U. Matavou, of the Harriet Tubman Tennis Association, spoke to the council and said he is not opposed to the agreement, which may take away plans to expand the tennis courts there. He said a detailed examination of the plans is needed. David Brace, Knoxville's Chief Operating Officer, told the meeting the memorandum of understanding would mean an additional \$150,000 to help rehab the park

Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie said that although people would like to see the tennis courts expanded, there are no plans in progress. She called for bringing "all entities together for a meeting." The city's part in the project is about \$80,000.

A motion to postpone the agreement for two months failed in a 4-5 vote. The agreement passed but after Drew McKenna of One Knoxville Soccer agreed to work with the neighborhood in the planning.

The council also heard a report from Tiffany Davidson of the Police Advisory and

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'Preserving American greatness'

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.
duncanj@knoxfocus.com

The last article published about my 30 years in Congress was written by a man I never met and who never interviewed me.

Yet it summed up my career and the things I stood for better than anything I could have written myself.

Ryan Girdusky, a writer from New York, wrote an opinion piece published on December 13, 2018, in a

magazine called The Week. I did not even see the article until over a year later when one of my sons saw it.

Girdusky wrote: "Duncan belongs to a brand of conservatism that dates back to the Eisenhower era, one that regularly opposed both the military-industrial complex and big business. He looked out for the interests of Main Street instead of Wall Street and voted to protect America's liberty and security at home instead of traveling the world in search of monsters to destroy."

He added: "Other Republicans used to believe in the same things Duncan advocates. Preserving American greatness isn't achieved by sending a generation to fight and die to 'make the world safe for democracy.' It ought to be about

advocating for the working class instead of Wall Street, K Street, or weapons developers who live in and around Washington, D.C.

Girdusky also wrote that conservatives "spent years idolizing Bush's foreign policy.... Instead, they should have been paying attention to Jimmy Duncan. Quietly, and all this time, they had in front of them a man who showed bravery, conviction, and dedication to the idea of limited government at home and abroad."

The article was titled "Jimmy Duncan, the hero America ignored." And while I certainly appreciated what was written, I was definitely not a hero, and while I was not a national celebrity, I do not feel I was ignored.

I spoke on the floor of

the U.S. House many more times than most members and wrote many columns for newspapers and magazines around the country.

I also spoke to all types of groups at meetings and conventions both in Washington and around the country and thousands of times to groups of people both large and small in my district.

And while it is true that I didn't put out many press releases or work very hard to seek publicity, I was interviewed on many national TV programs and was frequently quoted on national newscasts and in newspaper articles.

The Girdusky piece said, "although he never received much media attention, Duncan deserves praise as a stalwart against the

Bush administration policy of nation-building at a time when it was considered political suicide."

The problem was that George Bush campaigned against nation-building and said repeatedly when he was running that we needed a "more humble foreign policy."

However, he changed when he got into the White House and came under the control of a misnamed party called neo-conservative.

I had been speaking out for years saying that it was a mistake for us to spend billions (later trillions) in other countries when we were already deeply in debt and had so many needs here at home.

In early 2015, I spoke to about 200 members of the Los Angeles Chamber of

Commerce at the famous Willard Hotel in Washington. At one point in my speech, I said, "It's long past the time when we need to stop trying to run the whole world and start putting our own people and our country first once again."

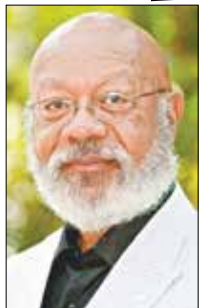
This was a group of important, successful people from southern California, and they didn't know me, but they broke into applause. Donald Trump, a little later found that an America First platform was popular throughout the nation.

I believe now, more strongly than ever, if Congress does not stop spending trillions that we do not have it is going to destroy the America we have known.

Censorship and Social Media

Personally, I don't understand social media. I have no idea why anyone would want to broadcast personal items to the world and I have no interest in seeing a video of your dog. Nonetheless, I am obviously in a minority (no pun intended). For whatever reason millions of people must get their news from social media and are too lazy to look at other news sources.

Social media and YouTube censor what they call "misinformation." However, misinformation is in the eye of the beholder. Consider their actions on Covid. While they allowed unsubstantiated statements from Dr. Fauci, the White House and the CDC, they censored contrary opinions claiming "misinformation." However, many of those censored were scientists who had reached different conclusions regarding the efficacy of masks, social distancing and the vaccines. Twitter



By Dr. Harold A. Black
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and Facebook deleted accounts and YouTube deplatformed those who did not adhere to the party line. This should not be surprising since the management of these social media giants are all in the left wing camp. In fact,

Facebook's Zuckerberg donated \$419.5 million to help elect democrats in the last election. I am certain that that money won't have any impact on any congressional scrutiny of Facebook.

The only problem is that what social media deems as misinformation has often turned out to be accurate, meaning that the government was the party guilty of misinformation. I once wrote an article that the mainstream press refused to publish when I questioned the scientific basis for local mandates imposed by our health department. Apparently, some editor decided that the public need not know the facts. Indeed, when Dr. Fauci was

asked about his conflicting recommendations regarding Covid, he responded that the evidence had changed (it hadn't) and that the public would have been confused by the truth.

People are slowly learning that there are alternative findings regarding Covid. There are studies showing that natural immunity is stronger than that from vaccines. There is evidence showing that masks are generally ineffective as is social distancing. There is evidence that those with natural immunity should not be vaccinated and troubling evidence that the CDC has withheld data showing that for those who are not aged and/or with co-conditions, the vaccines may be ineffective. Also troubling is the forcing of children to be masked and to be vaccinated. There has never been evidence that children need these measures and their death rate from Covid is less than that from the flu. Moreover, some studies show that Covid deaths have been inflated to allow the politicians to keep their Covid-related

powers. Indeed, since Covid deaths are decreasing, the government has taken to trying to keep the public scared by raising infections to the level of deaths. Why else keep sounding alarms when most people who get infected are not likely to get seriously ill and die, even if they have not been vaccinated?

The next item that social media will likely censor as "misinformation" is climate change. The climate alarmists have been yelling that the sky is falling since I was in graduate school in the 1960s. We were all supposed to have been dead by 2000, yet we are still here and the environment is actually cleaner. There is considerable scientific evidence questioning the conclusions of climate change models and the impact of humanity on the climate. Google, Facebook and Twitter have all stated that they will post only "credible" content on climate change. But who determines what is "credible"? Given that there is no "settled science" regarding the climate, the censoring of voices contrary to the climate change zealots silences those voices while promoting information from only the greenies. Like Covid, the objective is to keep the public scared so that the government and special interests can maximize their power. Yet substituting "renewables" for fossil fuels will increase worldwide poverty and may be more harmful to the environment. But there are many who have a strong interest in suppressing the truth so don't expect those views to see the light of day on social media.



A plaque honoring Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss was placed Saturday at the Corryton Weigel's.

Heartfelt tribute to Ryan Knauss

Cont. from page 1

would have been Knauss' 24th birthday. It began at 10 a.m. with a procession led by veterans that started at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Center and concluded at the Weigel's on the corner of Tazewell Pike and Emory Road next to the memorial site set up in his honor last year.

Gibbs High School's ROTC honored Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss with a raising of the flag ceremony. A memorial plaque was dedicated to Ryan and is permanently placed in the Weigel's memorial garden

at 7420 Tazewell Pike. The memorial dedication was followed by a birthday celebration at the Corryton Weigel's and the weekend concluded with a community hike at House Mountain on Sunday.

Among those in attendance at the memorial were 2nd District Congressman Tim Burchett, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, Knox County Sheriff Tom Spangler, Senator Becky Massey Duncan as well as many other esteemed political leaders from Knox County and the surrounding area.

City to hire two accounting firms

Cont. from page 1

Review Committee. Following the report, Councilwoman Amelia Parker called for more powers for PARC, including subpoena powers.

Eligible historic properties may receive part of \$129,404 in funding from Historic Preservation

Awards. The resolution, requested by the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department, passed unanimously.

Several street sections and right-of-ways were approved for closures in preparation for the future sports complex's construction and the One Year Plan prepared by the planning commission was approved. Also approved was a \$10,000 donation from Community Empowerment's budget to Two Bikes to support its bike school that provides jobs and training to underserved local youth.

Correction

In the story "Meet Knox County Trustee candidate Richard Jacobs" in last week's Focus, Jacob's quote on his experience should have read "I was living in Europe and I worked for a company that was worth \$800 million and had 5,000 working" instead of "\$80 million." We apologize for the error.



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,
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Liberals Sue to Block Wright-Niceley Bill

To the surprise of no one, the Wright-Niceley Bill, which establishes residency requirements for candidates for federal office in Tennessee, has been challenged in a new lawsuit. As noted by the Tennessee Journal, the suit is filed on behalf of three voters who say they want to vote for Morgan Ortagus. While endorsed by Donald Trump, Ortagus is the very definition of a carpetbagger. The suit has been filed by a Washington, D.C. law firm, Dickinson-Wright. The Tennessee Journal points out the suit is rife with typos, including the spelling of the Volunteer State as “Tennessee,” “Repulican,” “Con-sitution,” and several other appalling mistakes which appear throughout the document.

Perhaps one reason for the suit to be riddled with misspellings is the folks drafting it were in an all-fired hurry. So much so, the bill, as of this writing, has yet to be signed by the governor. Nobody seems to be able to recall any similar instance of a bill passed by the General Assembly being challenged before it has even become law.

The state legislature does not control political parties. Morgan Ortagus, and anybody else for that matter, is free to run for Congress, but the Wright-Niceley Bill only prohibits

her from running as a Republican.

Ortagus registered to vote in Tennessee last November.

The Rest of the Story

Older readers will remember the late Paul Harvey's radio broadcasts of some years ago, “And the Rest of the Story.”

For whatever is left of the readership of the Knoxville News-Sentinel, there may be the occasional reader who wonders why former Knoxville Mayor Victor Ashe takes every occasion to batter Knox County Law Director David Buuck. Lo and behold, there is a “rest of the story” in this instance as well.

Buuck made his reputation as an attorney by successfully trying a myriad of lawsuits having to do with the annexation of property outside the city limits of Knoxville. And who was the mayor who continuously and aggressively ate up lucrative sales-tax producing properties to feed the City of Knoxville's appetite? Why Victor Ashe of course. The City had already gone out of the school business, which gave its employees much better pensions than those of their counterparts in the county. In fact, occasional penny-pinching Victor gets a nice pension from four terms as mayor of Knoxville and so will his daughter, Martha, after he has gone onto his eternal reward. In the City, pension rights can be assigned. Not something that is especially good for the taxpayers, but those who receive them doubtless really like them.

The annexations by the City of Knoxville took in virtually every big sales-tax revenue-producing area outside what were then the city limits. That practice robbed the Knox County School system of a bigger share of sales tax revenue.

Of course, with the closure of the city school system, Knox County was left holding the bag (and the bill) for updating school buildings literally filled with asbestos; not only that, but very few were even air-conditioned and were sweltering during the warmer months. Knox County taxpayers shelled out some \$90 million the first go-round to begin removing the asbestos from the buildings where children sat day in and day out, as well as air conditioning them.

Victor Ashe is probably more responsible as an individual for taking more money from the Knox County School system than any single person in history since Tennessee has been a state. Yet he tut-tuts over David Buuck's office settling suits for his clients, the Board of Education. Victor might have a law degree, but if he ever used it, I'm not aware of it.

On the other hand, David Buuck surely used his law degree and was highly successful in representing homeowners who did not wish to be annexed into the City of Knoxville and pay double taxes. David Buuck won every lawsuit, 268 of them to be exact, with the City and Mayor Ashe. Victor might well have saved himself some grief had he employed Buuck to defend him when he was sued by a gaggle of firefighters who claimed the mayor had retaliated against them and violated their civil rights for their having supported his opponent in an election at the time.

Now, as Paul Harvey would say, you know the rest of the story.

Deceptive Political Advertising

I don't reckon there's a single person who will be shocked we have candidates running in the

primary elections running deceptive advertising campaigns. If there were an award for deceptive advertising in local politics, the prize would likely go to former Sheriff Jimmy “JJ” Jones who is attempting to return to office. Jones has blanketed the county with an ad blaming Sheriff Tom Spangler squarely for the homeless problem in our community. Using some headlines from local TV stations and the like to give it the appearance of an epidemic in the county that isn't even realistic. For instance, a story from WVLT-TV headlined “Homelessness in Powell Sees Major Uptick” is about four people being arrested behind a Walmart for littering and theft. Another story ripped from the headlines is from WBIR-TV 10 News entitled, “More homeless camps spotted in Knoxville.” And there is the actual answer to the problem.

Well, yes, Knoxville is inside Knox County, but it also has its own government, not to mention its own police department. Unfortunately for city residents, the administration of Indya Kincannon has backed policies that have exacerbated the homelessness problem in Knoxville. The more free housing that is provided, and free programs, the more attractive a place becomes to the homeless, who flock here, just as they have to Los Angeles, Seattle and the like. And make no mistake about it, the epicenter of the homeless problem in Knox County is located squarely within the city limits. When County Commissioner Larsen Jay posted a picture of a tent village below an underpass in the city and wondered why the city government could do no better, Leftists inside the city very nearly swooned with anger. When KPD officers

were at another tent village in South Knoxville, Councilwoman Amelia Parker inserted herself into the mix, actually interfering with the officers attempting to do their jobs. Parker retold the tale, casting herself as the heroine, telling anyone who would listen she was terrified, something that apparently happens to her quite often, as she clutched her City Council ID in her hand. Point is, Amelia did not want the homeless folks moved an inch.

The City government likes the idea of having the homeless folks here, as they believe it helps their argument to spend millions of dollars on subsidized housing on every available square inch of property. It bolsters their arguments for more spending; spending on mental health, free housing, and everything else. Of course, none of it is free as the taxpayers pay for every dime of it.

JJ Jones can claim Tom Spangler's approach to the problem of homelessness isn't working, but it is disingenuous at best, as the problem is almost entirely confined to the City of Knoxville. Transferring the homeless to area shelters is like putting a band-aid on a cancerous tumor. The problem hasn't been addressed, much less solved.

The failure - - - and the responsibility - - - for the growing homeless problem in Knoxville falls squarely on Indya Kincannon and the members of her rubber stamp city council who have literally done nothing save for spending more money with little or nothing to show for it.

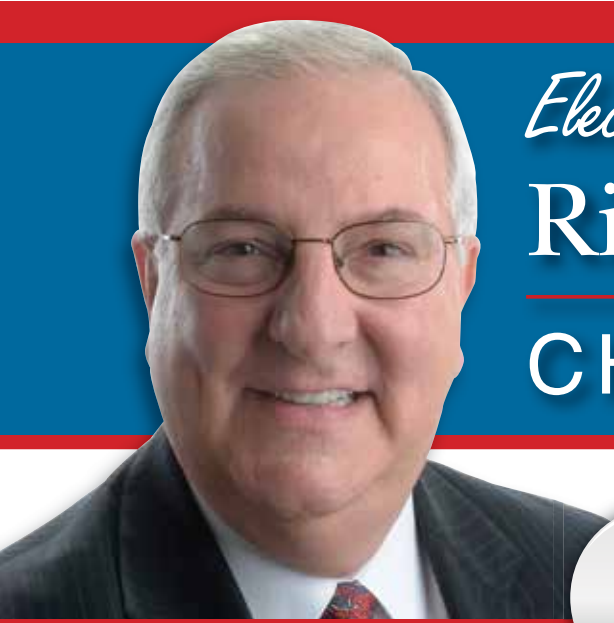
More Deceptive Political Advertising

A prize for first runner-up in deceptive advertising would go to Rhonda Lee,

a candidate for the Knox County Commission in the 7th District. Lee's style is not exactly demure or stately, but rather in-your-face. Lee is campaigning by telling folks she intends to do her best to regulate the Hallsdale-Powell Utility District. To give Lee credit, it is a popular issue as the folks in the Hallsdale-Powell District like the utility company about as well as they like a rash. Problem is, there is scarcely anything Rhonda Lee or any other member of the Knox County Commission can do to regulate the rates charged by the Hallsdale-Powell Utility District. The rates have to be approved by the Tennessee State Comptroller's office and the laws regulating utility districts in Tennessee fall under the jurisdiction of the state. Rhonda would be more likely to get something done about utility rates were she running for the legislature.

Of course, Rhonda told one group in a tearful display she was running for the Knox County Commission because she wanted her granddaughter out of the mask the tyke had to wear in school. That is a pretty odd reason to run for the county commission, as the masking policies in the schools is solely the purview of the board of education. There is an open seat on the board from Rhonda's district, but she's running for the commission instead. Truth be told, there's not a thing she could do as a member of the commission about the masking policy established by the board of education except fuss and fume.

It is the campaign season and some candidates excel in political theatre, which is never a substitute for actually talking about real issues and getting things done.



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- Reduced the Tax Attorney Expenses by \$2,000,000
- Waived \$2,000,000 in personal Attorney Fees to administer the Tax Attorney Department
- Saved Knox County \$2,000,000 in administrative Cost by Administering the Workers Compensation Program

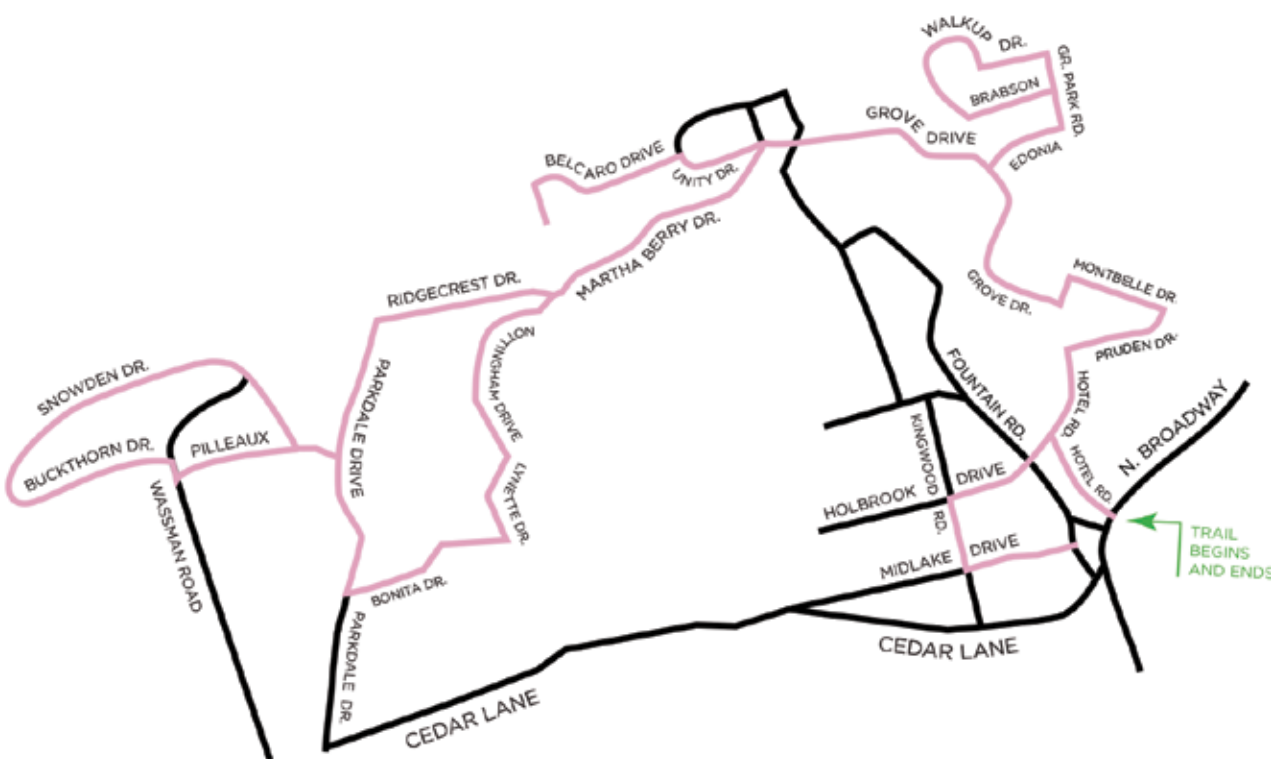
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- Served as President of the Tennessee County Attorney Association 2016-2017

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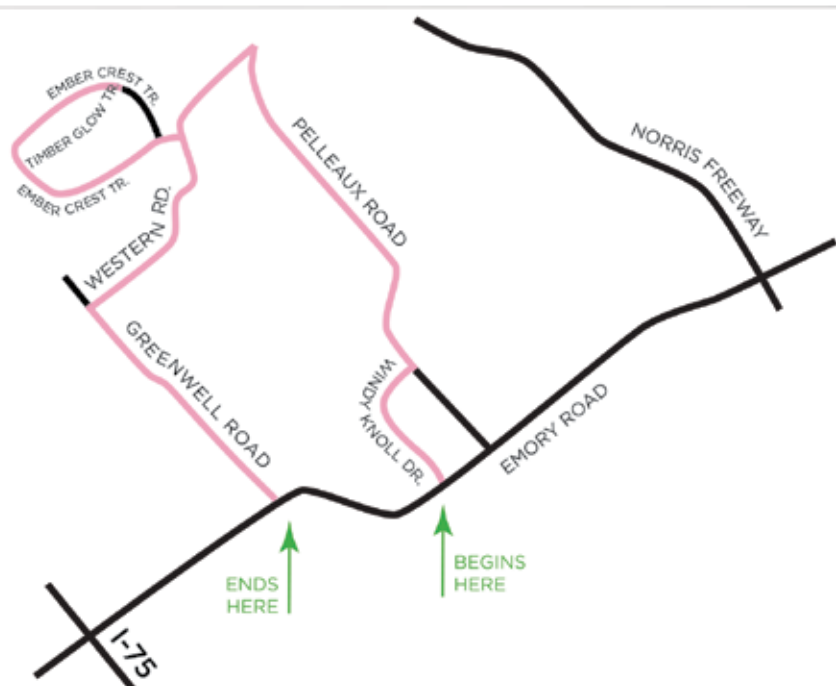
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HALLS/TIMBERLINE

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2022 DOGWOOD TRAILS: NORTH KNOXVILLE

FOUNTAIN CITY WEST

The Panoramic Side of the Fountain City Dogwood Trail begins and ends in an historic area. Fountain City Park located on the right is a community favorite. A clear spring, for which Fountain City is named, bubbles out of a steep cliff of solid rock behind the park. The trail is abundant with pink and white dogwoods as it meanders up the hillside to offer a first glimpse of a panoramic view from Black Oak Ridge across the city to the distant Smoky Mountains. The route skirts the western brow of Black Oak Ridge where charming homes framed by dogwoods continue into a heavily wooded valley, known as Sherwood Forest. Enjoy another look at those panoramic views of the mountains before winding down from the heights of the ridge to the early-day resort and popular Fountain Lake.

NORTH HILLS

The North Hills Dogwood Trail and neighborhood gardens attract much interest during the annual Dogwood Arts spring celebration.

As a Level 1 Arboretum, the neighborhood, boulevards, and park exhibit a great diversity of trees, with over 40 labeled species of trees and more than 400 individual trees in the arboretum. The Flowering Dogwoods (*Cornus florida*), a primary symbol of Knoxville and focus of a spring city-wide festival, lead the count with over 200 individuals. Other common tree species include oak, hickory, maple, redbud, elm, crape myrtle, and magnolia, and the arboretum also contains many labeled shrub species. The North Hills Garden Club and the city urban forestry program continue to add to the total number and diversity of trees. Also located in North Hills is a tree sanctuary recognized by the state with a collection of all the native magnolias.

HALLS/TIMBERLINE

This trail begins on Windy Knoll Dr. in the Meadowcrest neighborhood just off busy Emory Road and then winds through the beautiful Halls countryside to Timberline Estates. Developed in 1979, this community was designed with the vision that every tree possible would be spared during the construction phase. Located north of Knoxville and in the foothills of the Clinch mountains, the beautiful site was abundant with native Tennessee flowering dogwood trees. Timberline, together with the access roads, Greenwell and Pelleaux, represented Dogwood Arts' first trail outside Knoxville's city limits. Due to its strong support of Bazillion Blooms, Dogwood Arts' annual tree-planting campaign which began in 2009, this peaceful neighborhood has added hundreds of blooming trees to the trail.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16 at 2 p.m.
Don't forget your Easter Basket!

You won't want to miss it - the Easter Bunny will be there!

Prize Eggs † Inflatables † Snacks

Walkers through 5th Grade
(no strollers allowed in the search area)

On Sunday, April 17, everyone is invited to

Celebrate Easter

at New Beverly

Sonrise Service with Reverend Eddie Myers at 7 a.m.
 Sunday School with Reverend Sammy Sawyer at 10 a.m.
 Easter Sunday Morning Worship Service
 with Reverend Eddie Sawyer at 11 a.m.



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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

American Revolution

Never forget: Democrats cheered rioters for eight months before they were “outraged” by January 6th. J. Bradford Williams

What if everything you’ve been told proved to be a lie? What if the town crier of your truth (CNN, NYT, Washington Post, MSNBC and the alphabet media ABC, NBC, CBS, NPR) now admits to lying to you about Russian collusion, the “pee pee” tapes and the Hunter Biden laptop scandal? What if your leaders are demonstrably demented, incompetent or are proven to be scoundrels like Adam Schiff? What if Democrat progressive policies have produced inflation, shortages, class warfare, sexualization of children, foreign invasion, the energy crisis and a disastrous foreign policy? Perhaps the

best solution is to blame President Trump for all your troubles. He is, after all, the “Orange Man,” the Twitter extraordinaire and the opposite of all your policy achievements.

Is tolerance a good thing? Would you be tolerant of a thief breaking into your house? What about an illegal alien violating the border and breaking immigration laws? A friend of mine has a T-shirt which on the front proclaims she is “Intolerant of...,” and on the back continues, ... “pedophilia, racism and crime.” I told her there are so many things I am intolerant of these days. I would add CRT, BLM, the 1619 project and “wokism,” the anti-American, racist perversion of the euphemistic social justice movement. And speaking of euphemisms, I am

intolerant of gender affirming “treatment” of children.

Are you tolerant and accept the media’s recent mea culpa regarding the Hunter Biden laptop scandal? I am not. The posturing of the NYT and the Washington Post is nothing but CYA, or “cover your a**.” The major news media, the Tech Lords of Twitter, Facebook, Google, etc. worked with the Democrats to suppress the bombshell New York Post story. This suppression influenced the 2020 election because 15% of Democrats said they would have changed their vote if they had been aware of the New York Post story. And as a result, Trump’s peace and prosperity (despite the challenges of Covid) have been replaced with inflation, an energy crisis and foreign invasion because of open borders.

Last week, I almost felt sorry for Joe Biden, the Democrat party’s leader, as I watched him wander aimless and alone during the White House visit of Barack Obama. The President of the United States was ignored by everyone in the room, including Obama. I did not experience schadenfreude; I felt sadness for our country. Later, Obama’s hollow endorsement of Biden was telling and too little and too

late to repair the damage. Even media toadies can’t reverse such horribly defining optics. Everyone realizes Ol’ Joe’s gotta go. It makes you long for a parliamentary system where a vote of no confidence can dissolve a government and bring new elections. Unfortunately, in our Constitutional Republic we are stuck with Ol’ Joe and the vacuous K. Harris. Even Democrats can’t stand Harris. I’ve been wondering where all the Biden-Harris bumper stickers have gone. Perhaps people are afraid to admit they were duped and afraid of getting their cars keyed.

Recently, I heard that politics follow people, meaning our politicians are just reflective of We the People. What an indictment of the electorate who voted for incompetents and brought us to this sorry state of affairs. I find it increasingly difficult to be tolerant of such.

There is a difference between policy disagreement and perspectives that are just illogical and wrong. We are in the midst of a manufactured energy crisis and the Democrats continue to promote green energy and global warming claptrap. I wonder if AOC knows that her computer and electric cars are charged from

energy produced by fossil fuels? Rational people should be yelling, “Drill, baby drill!” and crippling regulations should be suspended during this crisis. Get out of the way of the producers! Folks, the government produces nothing. Citizens produce everything.

And we are experiencing rampant inflation. Democrats just want to print and spend more money, which we don’t have, and will only accelerate inflation, devaluing every dollar in your pocket. With such blatant policy errors, I am compelled to quote myself. “Sometimes the best explanation, for the otherwise inexplicable, is evil.”

This is the season of resurrection. I’ve often wondered why Western Civilization is preeminent among all the civilizations in the history of mankind. (I am sorry if you are intolerant that I use the traditional generic phraseology rather than the modernistic and contrived “human kind.”)

Approximately 2000 years ago something happened which changed the world. I read a book by Lee Strobel entitled The Case for Christ. Strobel was an atheist who decided to investigate Christianity, and as a result of his studies he became a Christian. I highly

recommend the book for believers and nonbelievers. Strobel puts forth evidence for Jesus that can be summarized as five E’s: no one refutes the fact that Jesus existed; Jesus was executed; there was an empty tomb; there were hundreds of eye witnesses to his resurrection; and there was early adoption and spread of the Christian message, whereas myths take a very long time to become established.

Sometimes my essays flow and other times they do not. I had planned to write about another topic, but my research took longer than expected so you will have to come back next week for a traditional medical and science topic.

This week’s column actually required the master’s touch because I’m writing while watching the Masters golf tournament, aided by the clarity of a nice claret. (I love double entendres and alliteration.)

So, in this Easter season, we can hope for enlightenment, America’s change of course and resurrection. Although enlightenment may not be possible with some, I believe rational people will agree with me on the latter two.

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



PHOTOS BY MIKE STEELY.

Freddie Nsapo greets a visitor to the Bridge Refugee Services booth during the Neighborhood Conference. The organization was among dozens of socially conscious groups to attend the annual event.

Knoxville Neighborhood Conference returns in-person, draws hundreds

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville Convention Center was packed recently as the 2022 Neighborhood Conference was live this year after an easing of the COVID-19 pandemic. Candidates for political office and representatives from nonprofits and city and county departments manned tables prior to the luncheon. The Knoxville Office of Neighborhood Empowerment sponsors the annual event and hundreds of citizens turned out Saturday, April 2 to visit the many booths, socialize, and attend the awards luncheon.

Debbie Sharp and Courtney Durrett of that office organized the event which recognized neighborhoods for



Attendance was large at the recent Neighborhood Conference at the Knoxville Convention Center where several neighborhoods were recognized for their projects and the Good Neighbor of the Year was named. Attendees could visit more than 80 booths representing city departments and various local organizations before the buffet lunch.

achievements and named this year’s Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year winner.

“We had 422 people registered (we have not had time to go through and see who didn’t show and who signed up at on-site registration to see actual numbers). I heard really good things about the workshops especially the

Leadership Succession Planning,” Sharp told The Focus.

“Overall, I was very pleased with the participation, engagement, and turn out, especially as we are still in a pandemic. People really seemed to have a great time being back in person networking, visiting old friends, and learning what other

neighborhoods are doing. We have already started ideas for next year,” she said.

Reico Hopewell of The Mend House was the keynote speaker and told the gathering of his past criminal and drug record, his recovery, and what his organization is now doing to help the community.

Continue on page 2

Merit Council to postpone most grievance hearings

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The Knoxville County Sheriff’s Merit System Council voted last week to suspend hearing any grievances until Chancellor Christopher Heagerty gives a final ruling on whether or not the board is legal. The Knoxville County Law Director and the sheriff’s office attorney Gary Prince have contended that a 1974 law passed by the Tennessee Legislature was never adopted and the current board legally does not exist.

Heagerty’s initial finding seems to support that position and the council met Monday for the sole purpose of discussing this order. Council member Jim Jennings basically said all grievance hearings should be postponed until a decision is handed down. The board’s only planned action now is to give a ruling on Martha Dooley’s grievance set for April 28.

Dooley charges she was transferred to another department, given minimal duties, and lost use of a sheriff’s vehicle and a department gas card. The law department contends that the merit council has no authority to hear the case because there was no loss in salary and she did not qualify for a car or credit card.

Chairwoman Gina Oster asked Jennings to hold off on his motion until the council’s attorney, Melanie Davis of Blount County, could arrive. Within minutes Davis entered the meeting being held in the small assembly room of the City-County Building. She asked that the council go into executive session and the members left the room for a few

minutes.

Upon return, Oster said the council does not “feel a need to shut down,” and added, “We are here to protect the officers of Knoxville County.”

“We will stop all grievance hearings until the county commission or Judge Heagerty rules,” she said.

Oster then asked for Jennings to repeat his motion and added the existence of the merit council may come with a two-thirds or supermajority vote of the Knoxville County Commission to adopt the 1974 state law on how to create such a board.

“There has to be a space between the sheriff and the merit system,” Jennings said. Council co-chair Jim Wright seconded the motion and it passed with all three members voting for it.

Oster said the council is reviewing all documents in the Dooley matter. Attorney Prince approached the council following the meeting’s adjournment and presented a multi-page document with several questions he said the members should answer when reviewing that case.

Attorney Davis told The Focus after the meeting that a decision by the council on the Dooley case would be binding unless it is appealed. She also said that most Tennessee jurisdictions that have a merit council adopted that state law but that Knoxville is a chartered jurisdiction.

Should the county commission vote to comply with that 1974 state statute, a new merit council could be created. Whether or not the current members would be named to a new merit council would be up to the county commission.

Merit council vacancies on commission agenda

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The Knox County Merit System Council will get at least one new member.

Merit council member Jim Jennings is term-limited and cannot serve again. Alternate member John Marshall was appointed last year as an alternate and can be reappointed or a new person could be chosen. The Focus has learned that at least one

person has submitted an application for the council member slot.

Resumes for the opening positions will be accepted through Thursday, April 14, and the commission will interview candidates at the April 18 work session. Those interested in more information about qualifications or how to submit resumes should contact commission@knoxcounty.org or (865) 215-2534.

Commission looking ahead to 2026 Knox Property Tax Appraisals

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The estimated value of your home or business may increase with the reappraisal this year. Although your tax rate will not increase, the estimated value of your property may increase the amount you owe the county. And the county reappraisal also affects the city property taxes you pay.

However, that doesn't mean your taxes will increase. It's a bit complicated.

During the last appraisal, in 2017, the value of residential property increased 11%. A home is appraised at 25% of its estimated total value and commercial

property is valued at 40% of the total estimated value. Tax Assessor John Whitehead explained that the current 2022 appraisal is based on a county average increase of 40%. The county, he says, is not allowed to make a profit with property taxes, so if your property increase 40% or less, you pay no new tax increase.

The Knox County Commission has a resolution in its work session and regular meeting ahead of the next four-year reappraisal cycle. The 2026 Reappraisal Plan for Knox County is before the commission for approval.

The resolution also provides a memorandum of

understanding with the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury Division of Property Assessment to clarify the areas of responsibility for all parties involved in the Knox County reappraisal.

IN OTHER BUSINESS The commission may approve hiring The Universal Group to print the upcoming election ballots and give a tax break to Summit Hill Redevelopment for work on the property at 203 South Gay Street.

The Knox County Strang Senior Center may get about \$70,000 from the Estate of Carolyn Swayne Carver and the Rules Committee is suggesting

a seven-day deadline for applicants wanting to fill a vacancy among Knox County elected officials.

Commissioner Courtney Durrett wants to discuss the proceedings and lawsuits facing the merit system council and Commissioner Carson Dailey may introduce Kahnn Chov, the new director of Keep Knoxville Beautiful.

The commission may also memorialize the late Billy Tindell and could approve a new sidewalk to connect the Carter schools with Carter Park. More than \$15.5 million may also be accepted from the U.S. Treasury for emergency rental assistance.

Knoxville Neighborhood Conference returns in-person

Cont. from page 1

Mayor Indya Kincannon could not make the event because of a family emergency and Neighborhood Empowerment Director Charles Lomax filled in, noting the large attendance and congratulating neighborhood leaders.

Singled out for their efforts over the past year were neighborhood organizations in Mechanicsville, Murray Drive/Wilkerson Road, South Woodlawn, Vestal, West Hills and Westmoreland Hills.

Debbie Smith, a leader in the West Hills Community Association, was selected as Good Neighbor of the Year

for her using her time, resources and energy for her area. She jumped at participating in the Second Harvest Food Bank effort, donated pressure washing services to West Hills Elementary for cleanup days and she and her father spend Sunday afternoons picking up trash.

In the running for Good Neighbor were Beth Booker of Old North Knox, who passed away last year; Chris Hall of Sequoyah Hills; Eric Johnson of Vestal; Nancy Shackelford of Sherrill Hills; and Arturo Cano of Colonial Village, who could not attend the ceremony.



Picture of a beautiful ray of sun, truly a gift from our Creator, courtesy of Bob Martin.

The Most Important Day in History

By Ralphine Major
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It is the time of year when that special morning welcomes children with baskets full of chocolate bunnies and colored eggs. It is the time of year when beautiful white lilies adorn church sanctuaries. It is the time of year when a message of hope is shared once again. It is the time of year when we celebrate Easter.

The story is the same, the message just as powerful. For years,

still pictures and drama productions have shared the elements of Easter--Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey as the crowd waved palm branches, Jesus sharing The Last Supper with his disciples, his arrest and brutal crucifixion on a cross, his nail-scarred hands, the stone rolled away from the empty tomb. John 3:16 (KJV) is one of the most quoted scriptures in the Bible: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever

believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." By simple faith, we must believe that the Son of God died a cruel death on the cross and rose from the grave to save us from our sins so that we may have eternal life.

May you and your family rejoice in the hope of salvation and have a blessed 2022 Easter, the most important day of the year. Happy Easter! He is risen!

Not into fighting

Not many people know this, but back in the days of the '60s and '70s, my twin brother, Jim, was a pretty tough guy. In high school, he ran with a crowd that was rough. The group's idea of a fun week-end night was

drinking and fighting. It's a wonder that Jim wasn't seriously hurt or worse in some of those interactions with others.

When he returned to college after a hiatus to marry Brenda and work some hard jobs, he kept his anger in check, except for one time. In the lounge of the music department, one fellow student made a disparaging remark about Jim's wife in a joking way. Before the boy could blink, Jim was on him and threatening to knock him out.

As we know, a good wife will settle down even the



By Joe Rector
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crustiest men, and Brenda did a good job quickly. On occasion, he would have to stand his ground, but for the most part, the rough lifestyle faded into the past as Jim grew older and began a family.

On the other hand, I wasn't much of a fighter or a lover for that matter. I avoided showdowns with other guys unless the situation demanded it. In most cases, however, I didn't have to fool with too many males looking for a fight. The rumor of Jim's fiery temper and willingness to fight circulated. For some reason, folks thought that I was the same. They figured we twins shared one brain and the same craziness. I was told back then that people warned not to mess with the Rector boys because they were mean

and ready to fight. Although I never uttered such a thing, I did nod in agreement. For my teen years, I lived off my brother's reputation and stayed away from most fights.

In my 30s, my inadequacies in defending myself began to bother me. A wife and two children needed someone to protect them, and I was short on those skills. So, I began taking karate lessons. I became an Isshinryu karate student. On the first day, we completed stretches and exercises. Before the session was half done, I was already so sore that movement of any body part brought pain.

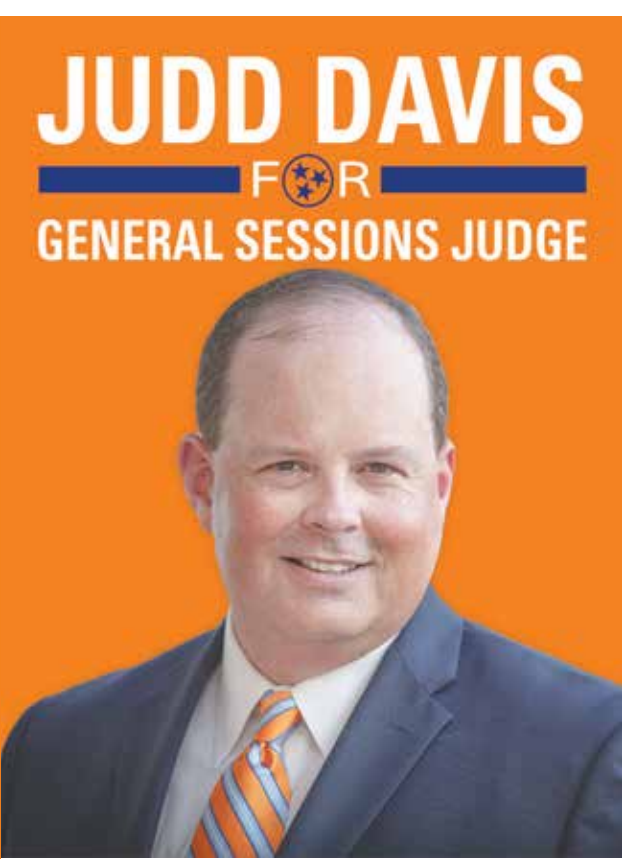
As time went on, I learned the discipline and was promoted. No, I never came close to earning a black belt. What I did develop was a love for sparring. Each evening after workouts, those who wanted to participate formed two lines. It made no difference at what level the individual was in his training, he

fought two-minute rounds with every other person.

On that first night, I dove into the fist of an experienced man, and when I stepped back, my nose gushed blood; it was broken. On another occasion, a brown belt and I decided to spar a little without permission. At one point, I read the man's move, which was to throw a kick. I thought I could step inside of the kick as he threw it and deliver a hand strike. Wrong! Instead, my face met his foot at the perfect time. I took a couple of steps back and then dropped like a rock. I was out cold for a couple of minutes, but no worse for the wear.

The sport was taking too much of my time, and Amy told me that I needed to choose between it and family. See, I told you a good woman can defeat any man. I gave up the sport, but from it, I gained a bit of confidence that I could handle those situations that I'd avoided in school.

I'm too old now to throw many of the kicks and punches and holds that I learned. Instead, I just avoid trouble as much as possible. These days, my brittle bones don't heal nearly as fast as they once did. Besides, too many crazy people settle disputes with handguns instead of fists.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **CURRENT GENERAL SESSIONS JUDGE FOR DIVISION 2**
- **KNOX RECOVERY COURT/ VETERAN TREATMENT COURT TEAM MEMBER**
- **FORMER ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL SINCE 2015**
- **PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE FOR 5 YEARS WITH BANKS AND JONES**
- **WESLEY HOUSE BOARD MEMBER**
- **GRADUATE OF WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE**
- **BS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE**
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The 1948 Election In Tennessee I

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Republicans had not really been a factor in statewide elections in Tennessee for the better part of almost half a century. There were those occasions when a Republican managed to win the governorship, usually due to some unusual circumstance that gave the GOP an opening. That had been the case in 1910 and 1912 when Ben W. Hooper had been elected governor and reelected two years later. The Democrats had ripped themselves asunder following a brutal primary contest between former United States senator Edward Ward Carmack and incumbent Malcolm Rice Patterson for the governorship in 1908. Carmack lost narrowly and resumed his occupation as a newspaper editor. The former senator had a knack for dipping his pen into vitriol and writing editorials that badly scalded his opponents. One of those opponents objected and Edward Ward Carmack met Colonel Duncan Cooper and the Colonel's son Robin on a Nashville street. Shots were exchanged and Carmack lay dead. A court let Robin go free on a technicality while Patterson pardoned the Colonel and the outcry forced the governor to relinquish the Democratic nomination. One of the most popular Democrats in the state, Senator Robert Love Taylor, was induced to accept the gubernatorial nomination much against his own inclination and better judgment. The Democratic Party was too divided and Hooper won the election. Hooper was reelected in 1912 and both of Tennessee's United States senators (elected by the General Assembly) were Independent Democrats, elected by a combination of Independent Democrats and Republicans against regular Democratic candidates. When Tom Rye was nominated for governor in 1914 and Democrats united around his candidacy, he was able to beat Hooper who was running for a third two-year term.

Tennessee Republicans had their best year for fifty years in 1920 when they elected Alf Taylor governor, Julian Campbell to the Tennessee Railroad & Public Utilities Commission (a statewide office) and five out of ten congressmen. Yet Republicans had never elected a United States senator. From 1900 until 1964, there were only two campaigns where Republicans waged a serious bid to win a seat in the United States Senate in the Volunteer State. Former Governor Ben W. Hooper was the GOP nominee for the U. S. Senate in 1916, the first election where Tennesseans went to the polls to select their own senator. Hooper was a credible candidate and

won roughly 45% of the vote against Congressman Kenneth McKellar. Had either Malcolm Patterson or incumbent Senator Luke Lea been the Democratic nominee, Hooper might very well have had a chance of being elected as both were highly polarizing figures and there were thousands of Democrats who could not bring themselves to vote for either.

The quality of some of the senatorial nominees offered up by Tennessee Republicans was oftentimes high, while at other times, little more than a sacrificial offering. James A. Fowler, a distinguished attorney who had served under several U.S. presidents as a special assistant Attorney General and mayor of Knoxville, was the GOP senatorial nominee in 1928 to face McKellar. Herbert Hoover carried Tennessee that year, largely because the Democrats had nominated a Catholic and wringing "wet" for president. Fowler's son Harley, also an able lawyer, was the Republican nominee for the United States Senate in a 1938 special election. Howard Baker, Sr., father of the future U.S. senator, was the GOP standard-bearer against Senator McKellar in 1940. Still, few Republicans were under the illusion their senatorial nominee would win the general election.

The first real effort by a Republican to win a seat in the United States Senate since the campaign of 1916 was in 1948. To understand that particular race, one must comprehend the circumstances surrounding the election. Nationally, morale amongst Democrats was at its nadir with presidential nominee Harry Truman. Say what they may, few Democrats believed Harry Truman could win the general election. The Democratic Party nationally was splintered into three factions; the regular Democrats who supported Truman, as well as the far-left group which coalesced around the new "Progressive Party" led by former vice president Henry A. Wallace. Lastly, there was the more conservative State's Rights Party, which was comprised almost entirely of Southerners disgruntled with the national party or outraged by Truman's civil rights platform. The "Dixiecrats" then fielded their own ticket headed by South Carolina governor Strom Thurmond.

With the Democrats so deeply divided and the Republicans seemingly united behind their own nominee, New York governor Thomas E. Dewey, it was little wonder almost no one gave Harry Truman a chance of winning the fall election. Dewey's running mate was Earl Warren, the governor of California



Tennessee's senior United States Senator Kenneth D. McKellar with his political partner and friend E. H. Crump of Memphis.

(and later Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court); virtually every election analyst forecasted the GOP ticket would sweep both California and New York, giving Republicans a big head start in the Electoral College.

If the situation nationally was bad for Democrats, that in Tennessee was, if anything, worse. Since the 1932 election, the combination of Senator Kenneth McKellar and Edward Hull Crump, leader of the Shelby County political organization, had dominated Tennessee's Democratic Party and the state's politics. McKellar and Crump had not always agreed on nominees, most notably in 1936 when the Memphis Boss favored former congressman Gordon Browning for the gubernatorial nomination in 1936. It had proved to be a terrible mistake with Crump and Browning having a falling out following the sudden death of Tennessee's junior United States senator, Nathan L. Bachman, who had just been re-elected to a new six-year term. Browning moved decisively, albeit unwisely, to exterminate the Shelby County political machine. Although most historians have accepted the notion E. H. Crump was a statewide power and political dictator for Tennessee, the truth is his political potency was largely confined to his own domain of Shelby County where he reigned supreme. Crump was dependent upon McKellar's vast network of personal friends, patronage army, and network of supporters to form a statewide organization. With Governor Browning seeking to reform elections in Tennessee by trying to pass a county unit plan in the legislature, Crump called on Senator McKellar for help. The county unit plan would make the popular vote meaningless, as each county would be assigned a certain number of votes according to size and population, much like the Electoral College. The final battle was waged in the 1938 Democratic primary, which would determine just precisely which faction would emerge dominant in Tennessee. The McKellar-Crump alliance backed Tom Stewart for the United States senatorial nomination and an unknown state senator from Shelbyville named Prentice Cooper for the gubernatorial nomination. If one of the two men

had more to do with selecting the nominees, it was McKellar, while the Memphis Boss contented himself with destroying Gordon Browning. Tom Stewart beat Senator George L. Berry, a labor leader appointed to the Senate by Governor Browning following the death of Senator Bachman. Browning was soundly beaten by Prentice Cooper and for the next decade, every successful Democratic nominee for statewide office had the support of McKellar and Crump.

The change was wrought in 1948 by two things: the sales tax and Ed Crump's greatest political mistake. Governor Jim Nance McCord had been politically prominent in his own Marshall County for decades and was the publisher and editor of a country newspaper and successful auctioneer. McCord served a single term in Congress before becoming the nominee for governor in 1944. Reelected in 1946 on a ticket with Senator McKellar, McCord believed education in Tennessee needed greater funding. Crump had been especially hostile to the idea of imposing a sales tax on Tennesseans and had fallen out with other governors who seemed interested in the idea, most notably, Hill McAlister. Somehow, Jim McCord convinced a very reluctant Crump to go along with the creation of the sales tax in Tennessee, with the greatest part of the new tax going for education, both higher and secondary. For the first time, Tennessee schoolchildren would have free textbooks. As it turned out, Tennesseans weren't especially grateful for or supportive of the sales tax.

Crump told Tom Stewart in December of 1947 that he would not support the senator for reelection the next year. The Memphis Boss quite likely thought

Stewart would meekly go back home to Winchester without complaint nor uttering a peep. The junior senator instead issued a fiery statement saying he would be a candidate for reelection and denounced Crump. Some of those around Crump apparently convinced the Memphis Boss to give his endorsement to an obscure judge of the Circuit Court from Cookeville, John A. Mitchell, who was a veteran of the First World War. Senator McKellar, who had always been quite friendly with Stewart, was highly skeptical that Mitchell could win a statewide race and reluctantly went along. Senator McKellar clearly disliked abandoning Stewart and felt bad about it. Crump's decision to dump Stewart opened the door for a little-known, yet highly ambitious congressman from Tennessee's Third District, Estes Kefauver, who had flirted with the idea of challenging McKellar in 1946. Kefauver later thought better of it and came to the conclusion there was an opening with Crump having blown apart the alliance. Although McKellar issued an endorsement of Judge Mitchell, most of his own political organization simply ignored it and backed Senator Stewart.

Before the 1948 primary campaign was over, Ed Crump realized he had made a critical mistake and seemed prepared to drop Judge Mitchell and throw his support behind Senator Stewart. The Kefauver campaign caught wind of it and publicly accused the Memphis Boss of contemplating exactly that. It stung Crump's pride and he promptly denied any such intentions. That gave Kefauver the opportunity to win the Democratic primary with a narrow plurality. There is every reason to believe had Crump merely stayed with Tom Stewart

the senator would have won the Democratic nomination. The governor's race went no better for the McKellar - Crump alliance as Jim McCord was buried in an avalanche of votes from Tennesseans who disliked the sales tax, irrespective of what it went for and how it was spent. Worst of all, McCord lost to Crump's old nemesis, former governor Gordon Browning.

The 1948 Democratic primary was not Ed Crump's last political miscalculation. The Memphis Boss refused to back Harry Truman in the general election and declared his support for Strom Thurmond and the Dixiecrat ticket. Senator McKellar issued his own statement saying he was a Democrat and backed President Truman. Crump's announcement caused whatever national influence the Memphis Boss had in national affairs to evaporate.

Crump's refusal to support Harry Truman raised the hopes of Republicans in Tennessee. Confident in Tom Dewey's election, the bitter primary campaigns and the split inside Tennessee's Democratic Party gave some Volunteer State Republicans to believe a GOP candidate might very well win statewide. The Tennessee GOP nominated its candidates in a primary and produced a ticket calculated to appeal to a cross-section of voters. Carroll Reece, longtime congressman from upper East Tennessee, had just been eased out of the chairmanship of the Republican National Committee by Governor Dewey. Reece thought there was an opportunity to cap his career by serving a term in the United States Senate. Carroll Reece emerged as the GOP nominee for the Senate in 1948.

Roy Acuff, the legendary country music entertainer, was the duly nominated Republican candidate for governor. Acuff's popularity was such that he had been the star of several low-budget movies throughout the 1940s, which were especially popular in much of the Southland. Acuff had amply demonstrated he could draw a crowd just about anywhere he went with his Smoky Mountain Boys and Carroll Reece had served in Congress for twenty-six years and was widely recognized as the most prominent Republican below the Mason - Dixon line. Reece was well known and widely respected in Republican councils at a time when Republicans in the South were as rare as hen's teeth.

The Republicans could smell a whiff of victory in the air.

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Races to watch

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Early voting starts Wednesday, April 13, and there are many contested primary election races to watch for results. Some will decide which candidate moves on to the general election in August and some primary contestants will effectively be elected with no future opposition.

There's no party registration in Tennessee so voters may choose which primary they wish to vote in.

Here are the contested races to watch, mainly in the Republican Party Primary.

Former Knox County Law Director Richard "Bud" Armstrong is challenging incumbent Chancellor Part II District 6 Judge Clarence "Eddie" Pridemore and fellow Republican R. Deno Cole. The winner will effectively become the judge.

Nicholas Ciparro and Gina Oster vie to replace Randy Smith as the county commissioner for District 3. The winner will face Democrat Stuart Hohl in August.

In District 7, Rhonda Lee, Allen Merritt or Chuck Severance will get the party nod to replace Commissioner Charles Busler. There is no Democratic opponent in the general election.

Incumbent District 10 Commissioner At-Large Larsen Jay is challenged in that primary by Steve Weiner. Democrat Dylan Earley is unopposed in his bid for that seat.

In District 11, Devin Driscoll and Kim Frazier will vie to replace Commissioner Justin Biggs. The winner will face Democrat Vivian Underwood Shipe in the general election.

Biggs is seeking the County Trustee slot to replace Ed Shouse and is opposed by Richard Jacobs. The winner faces Democrat Dave "Cat" Cazalet.

General Sessions Division II Judge Geoffrey Emery retired last year and Judd Davis, named as interim judge by the county commission, is facing Sharon Frankenberg in the Republican race.

Sheriff Tom Spangler is opposed in the Republican Primary by former Sheriff Jimmy "J.J." Jones. Whoever wins this one will be the next Knox County Sheriff.

Two of the Republican positions on the board of education have opponents. Sherri Garrett and Steve Triplett view to

replace Patti Lou Bounds in District 7 and incumbent Kristi Kristy is opposed by Phil King in District 9.

Democrats John Butler and Charles Frazier vie for the District 1 seat, to replace Evetty Satterfield, who chose not to seek the office again. The winner will have no Republican opponent in the general election.

In the Democratic Primary three people are seeking the party nomination to face Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs in August. Bob Fisher, Tyler Givens and Debbie Hensley face off for that position.

State Rep. Eddie Mannis not seeking re-election, endorses Janet Testerman

Republican state Representative Eddie Mannis, who represents District 18, announced last week he will not seek re-election. In a sit down with WATE TV's Tennessee This Week and, he endorsed Janet Testerman when asked who he'd like to replace him.

"I've know Janet Testerman for a long time. She is what I perceive to be a moderate. She listens and is open minded and, in representing District 18 for my seat, I think she'll be perfect," Mannis said.

WATE TV News previewed portions of an interview with Rep. Mannis last week prior to the Sunday airing of the show.

Testerman serves as one of three At-Large Knoxville City Council members. Republican Elaine Davis and Democrat Gregory Kaplan, a UT professor, also have petitions for the office.

Mannis plans to focus on his business, Prestige Cleaners, and HonorAir, a program that he founded that flies area veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit monuments there. He cited his father's death as one of the factors in his decision.

Testerman is CEO of Young-Williams Animal Shelter, the daughter of the late Knoxville Mayor Kyle Testerman, and currently chairs the Knoxville Beer Board. Should she be elected the Knoxville City Council would name a replacement to fill out her term.



Ray Hill, Mike McMillan, Devin Driscoll and John Sharpe. Photo by Chase Clemmer.

District 8 leadership turns out to support Driscoll

By Chase Clemmer

Some Knoxvilleians may remember the old River Breeze Drive-In. It was there, last Thursday evening, that the leadership of the 8th District showed their support for Devin Driscoll. Driscoll is currently running for Seat 11 At-Large in the Knox County Commission.

The event was sponsored by Ray Hill, current District 8 school board member Mike

McMillan, John and Charlotte Mills, prominent 8th District businessman John Sharpe and Parker Foster. Mr. Foster is the current owner and developer of the River Breeze location. Although it is currently under construction, the River Breeze is soon set to be the premier outdoor music venue here in Knox County.

Early voting begins April 13 for the May 3 primary election.



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~ Ed Shouse, October 30th, 2013, WBIR TV

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Carter High dedicates new softball facility

By Ken Lay

After 40 years without a true home, the Carter High School softball team has a place to call its own.

The field, which is located a short distance from campus at Carter Youth Sports Parks, was dedicated Thursday afternoon before the Lady Hornets lost, 11-0, to Cocke County.

The newly renovated facility is dedicated to fallen Knox County Sheriff's Deputy Tim Laycock and to the late John Howell Clift, an educator and coach at the school.

The field features LED lighting, new dugouts, new fencing and a new scoreboard in left field. It was officially opened with a ribbon-cutting by the Carter senior softball players. Danielle Laycock, Tim's widow, then threw out the ceremonial first pitch before the game.

Lady Hornets' coach Ryan Burkhart said the facility, which was nearly a decade in the making is a special place.

"We've been working on



The Carter High School softball team prepares to cut the ribbon to celebrate its new home field at Carter Youth Sports Parks. The field, in addition to being home to the Lady Hornets, honors the memory of former educator and coach John Howell Clift and Knox County Sheriff's Deputy Tim Laycock.

this for eight years, since I got here," he said. "It's been overwhelming but it's special and exciting for these kids."

"I'm a graduate of Carter High so this is a special day."

The Lady Hornets previously played their home games at Holston-Chilhowee Park and on a field at Carter Youth Sports Park.

Burkhart said he was grateful for the community

support during the renovation of the facility.

"Our community really came together," he said.

Carter principal Angie Messer was excited to see the Lady Hornets play at their new home.

"This is a special day and a joy," Messer said. "I would like to thank Knox County School and Parks and recreation for coming together and helping us make this happen."

PLAY BALL! Join the Knox Senior Co-ed Softball League

Who: Men age 60+ and women age 50+

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When: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, April through October.

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Visit the Knoxville Senior Co-Ed Softball page on facebook or call the O'Connor Center at (865)523-1135.



PHOTO BY JAMES SPEARS

Gibbs freshman Lacey Keck flirted with a no-hitter before giving up a single in the top of the fifth inning and finishing with a 10-0 shutout Thursday against Fulton.

Freshman Keck hurls Gibbs past Fulton

By Steve Williams

A young and talented Gibbs softball team wiggled out of a first inning jam and faced very little difficulty after that in a 10-0 win over improved Fulton Thursday night in Corryton.

The visitors had a runner on each base with two outs in the top of the first, but freshman lefthander Lacey Keck got Rheagan Thomas to ground out to second baseman Emma Keck – her older sister – to end the Lady Falcons' early threat.

After that, Lacey got all the way to the fifth inning before losing her first bid at a no-hitter. Makenzie Martin's single to right field broke it up.

The game was halted in the bottom of the fifth by the 10-run mercy rule as pinch-runner Rheanne Tullock scored on Taylor Selby's single to shallow left field.

The win upped Gibbs' record

to 13-2. Fulton slipped to 10-5.

When asked what she felt was the key to the win, long-time Gibbs coach Carol Mitchell said: "We executed the bunt, which seemed to get us going."

"Their pitching is really strong."

Coming from Mitchell, who was one of Knox County's best-ever pitchers at Gibbs in the 1980s before going on to Carson-Newman, that is quite a compliment for Lindy Webber, the Lady Falcons' senior hurler.

Webber, however, didn't have one of her better games in the circle. She struck out seven, but gave up seven hits – including two right in front of the plate. Gracie Palmer, Gibbs' clean-up hitter and the only senior in its lineup, turned one of those into a double in a six-run third inning that broke the game open.

Gibbs batters also were hit by pitches five times plus Webber

walked two and the Lady Eagles' first run scored on a wild pitch.

"The difference in the game was a lot of errors and I believe we had six on the day," said Fulton Coach Brian Cochran. "Gibbs put pressure on us with their small game and had us on our heels all game."

"We had a great opportunity in the first inning," added Cochran. "We had runners on second and third with no outs and we could not execute by putting the ball in play. When you play a team as good as Gibbs, you need to execute when you do get a chance. We simply did not do that."

Meanwhile, Keck improved her pitching record to 6-2 with her one-hitter. She struck out nine, walked one and hit one batter. Coach Mitchell has been alternating Lacey and junior Abbie Buckner in the circle this season.

Offensively, sophomore leadoff

Continue on page 2

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By Ken Lay

A pair of area high school baseball coaches recently reached career milestones. And the duo has deep connections in the game.

Christian Academy of Knoxville head coach Tommy Pharr won his 900th career game last week while Farragut's Matt Buckner notched his 600th victory as a head coach.

Pharr and Buckner are great friends and both have won multiple state championships in Tennessee.

Pharr has nine state championships, winning multiple titles as with the Admirals and at CAK. Buckner, who succeeded Pharr in Farragut, has guided the Admirals to four state championships and two runner-up finishes.

Prior to replacing Pharr, Buckner led the Bulldogs to the state tournament in 2009.

Buckner, who also served as an assistant to Pharr at Farragut, before taking the reins at Bearden, played his high school baseball for Pharr at Monterey High School in Middle Tennessee.

On capturing his 900th win as head coach, Pharr said that he had great players.

"I've been coaching a long time and we've had a lot good players and some really good teams," he said. "It's been fun. (Coaching baseball) is what I do.

"For me, it's a longevity thing."

While Pharr, one of the best high school coaches in Tennessee, was humbled by his milestone accomplishment, he said that he was proud of Buckner, his former player and assistant coach.

Both notched their monumental wins Monday as the Admirals defeated William Blount and the Warriors toppled Lakeway Christian Academy.

"It was kind of neat how this all coincided," Pharr said. "Matt is a great coach and I'm proud that he's (at Farragut). He's done a great job there.

"He's my boy, he's my son and he's my brother in a lot of ways."

Buckner, like his mentor, credits longevity and players for his success and said that Pharr has always been a key influence in his life around baseball.

that. His record speaks for itself. He was my coach and he was my mentor when I started to coach. He's a very unique coach."

LEFT: Farragut High School baseball coach Matt Buckner recently won his 600th game when the Admirals defeated William Blount last week. Photo by Jack Tate. RIGHT: CAK baseball coach Tommy Pharr won his 900th career game when the Warriors defeated Lakeway Christian Academy last week. Pharr, who previously coached at Farragut and Monterey, reached the career milestone the same day that Matt Buckner, his former player and assistant coach, notched his 600th career victory at Farragut. Photo submitted.



Clockwise from top: Lennox Langham, a Webb freshman, leads the state in the girls' triple jump and Coach Jerome Romain believes she has potential to become one of the best-ever combination jumpers in Tennessee.

Karns sophomore Hannah Little has the state's top time in the 400-meter dash this season.

Parker Willis of Farragut finished the indoor season No. 1 in the state in the 800 and qualified for the New Balance Nationals in New York in just her second year competing in track.



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Langham and Little are No. 1 in state rankings

By Steve Williams

Nearing a month into the track and field outdoor season, Knox County has state leaders in three TSSAA events and a few more may be joining the list soon.

Webb School freshman Lennox Langham is No. 1 in the girls' triple jump, according to the Tennessee Mile Split rankings. She posted a mark of 37 feet, 5¼ inches in the Hardin Valley Invitational in late March.

Sophomore Hannah Little of Karns ranks on top in the girls' 400-meter dash as she was clocked in 58.28 seconds at the HV meet.

The Hardin Valley Academy boys' 4x800 relay team took the state lead Friday with a time of 8:01.25.

Farragut sophomore Parker Willis held the state's top time in the girls' 800 until last week when Claire Stegall of Nolensville ran a 2:13.01. Willis had run a 2:20.02 at the Farragut Invitational in early April.

Webb Coach Jerome Romain believes his young jumper has great potential.

"Lennox is a very talented young lady," he said. "She has so much room for improvement. She has a very high ceiling and still needs to embrace and understand the process of development not just as a jumper, but as an athlete.

"Once that happens, she will become one of the best-ever combination jumpers in the state. I'm looking forward to watching her grow."

At Karns, Coach Hunter Fendley has been working with Little on her specialty, the 400 dash, and breaking it down into sections.

"We have broken down the 400 into four sections and are setting goals for each 100 meters," he explained. "She has worked to strengthen the backstretch and finish strong.

"Hannah also has been focusing a lot mentally to win each race."

At Farragut, Willis is just in her second season of track and field and also plays soccer for the Lady Admirals.

"Last year in her first season, she kept improving every time she would race," said Coach Christopher Allison. "She has been a great impact for the Farragut program and I believe the best has yet to come from her as she progresses towards the pentathlon. She has been great to coach and is a great teammate to others."

Willis, incidentally, finished the indoor season No. 1 in the state and qualified for the New Balance Nationals in New York in mid-March, noted Coach Allison. Parker finished that race with a new PR in the 800 and placed sixth in the Emerging Elite division.

Freshman Keck hurls Gibbs past Fulton

Cont. from page 1

batter Taylor Selby went 2-for-2, stole two bases and scored a run. Juniors Jordan Reagan and Emma Keck each had two-run doubles. Sophomore Dakota Large contributed a run-scoring single and freshman Malyiah Smith chipped in a single and swiped a base.

Large, Palmer and Emma Keck also each scored a run.

"Gibbs is a very good and fundamental team," said Coach Cochran.

"They have speed and create chaos when they put the ball in play. Their freshman pitcher pitched really well today and kept us off balance, mixing her speeds and pitches. When we did put the ball in play, their defense shut us down."

Prior to the loss, Fulton had notched some impressive wins this season.

"We have come a long way since we got here three years ago," said the Fulton coach. "Last year, the girls really bought in and I believe that it showed greatly. This year we have continued to work to get better and we have strengthened our schedule to face some better competition. I hope that playing some tougher teams will help us come tournament time.

"The potential of the program is endless when we show up to play. We preach that we have to play solid games for us to advance."

‘I’ll always respect him more as a man’

A few years ago, I received an e-mail from Chris Burrows, who identified himself as the Baptist Student Union Director at Itawamba Community College in Mississippi. It was one of a number of missives I receive on a daily basis.

He had spent more than 20 years as a sports writer/columnist, primarily at the Northeast Mississippi (Tupelo) Daily Journal and for The Associated Press, primarily for Ole Miss and Mississippi State athletic events.

He offered an insightful story about the relationship between Archie Manning and Lester McClain, gleaned from the aftermath of the 1968 Tennessee-Ole Miss game in Knoxville and from halftime of the return engagement in Jackson a year later, a game well known in Tennessee history as the “Jackson Massacre.”

McClain was the first African-American athlete in the SEC to earn significant playing time and had a major impact on Tennessee fortunes. He and Archie were each home-state players recruited in 1966-67, Lester from Nashville and Archie from Drew. Manning’s recollection of the 1968 and 1969 games included a couple of vignettes about McClain.

Lester caught 70 passes during his Tennessee career (1968-70) for 1164 yards and 13 touchdowns and had memorable receptions in the fourth quarter of the 1968 Georgia game and the 1970 UCLA game. Both came at key moments as Tennessee stole a 17-17 tie against the Bulldogs and roared back from a 17-14 deficit to win against the Bruins.

In 2022, Lester was one of four African-American athletes honored with statues outside Neyland Stadium for their contributions to the history of Tennessee football. He joined Condredge Holloway, Jackie Walker, and

Tee Martin in being so honored. All were true trailblazers in orange jerseys.

“Manning,” wrote Burrows, “grew up in the Mississippi Delta and had not shared the field with a black athlete until his college career.” He said McClain “had a profound effect on his attitude concerning African-Americans as competitors and comrades.

“Everybody remembers 1969, but 1968 at Knoxville is something I’ll never forget,” Archie told him. “I was a sophomore and threw about seven interceptions, had three or four passes knocked down, and spent the best part of that day on my butt.

“They just killed us, 31-0, and as the final seconds ticked off, I can honestly say at that time it was the worst moment of my football life. I didn’t know if I’d ever get over it. It’s a moment, especially for a young player, when you question whether you can really get the job done.”

As the teams were heading toward their dressing

room, there was an unexpected interaction with a Tennessee player.

“As I was walking off the field, Lester McClain made the effort to come over to me,” said Archie. “I don’t remember exactly what he said, but he told me I was a great player and not to let one day ruin things for me.

“It really said a lot about him, because it wasn’t easy to be a Black player in the SEC and, at the time, it meant the world to me and my confidence. It was great sportsmanship on his part, and he went out of his way to do it.”

Fast forward to Nov. 15, 1969, when a No. 18-ranked Ole Miss squad demolished an undefeated No. 3-ranked Tennessee contingent apparently headed to the SEC title and Orange Bowl berth. (When the dust had cleared, the SEC title did come home to Knoxville for the second time in three years, but the Vols ended up losing to Florida in the Gator Bowl.)

“Now, it’s a year later and we’re up 24-0 in Jackson.



Ole Miss and Tennessee squared off on Homecoming Day 1972 at Neyland Stadium, but there was another story developing behind the scenes that day and a year later in Jackson, Miss. Allen Spain photo.

That stadium had the locker rooms for both teams off the same end zone, so at halftime, both teams would run off together.

“As I was about to break off toward our locker room, I looked over, and Lester McClain was running beside me. He looked over, and we nodded at each other and ran side-by-side for about five seconds.

“He said, ‘See, Archie,’ and I looked over, and he shook his head a little bit and with a little smile, he said. “Y’all are just kicking

the **** out of us today.”

Archie had a quick response to Lester’s comment.

“Lester McClain was a great player, but I’ll always respect him more as a man,” said Archie.

It has been said that sports don’t build character as much as it reveals it. That was the case more than 50 years ago with a moment or two spent between Tennessee wide receiver Lester McClain and an Ole Miss quarterback named Archie Manning.

Halls High’s Reeves has a little of Tiger in her

As the golf world and sports fans in general watched Tiger Woods at the Masters last week to see how well he could do

in his comeback attempt from a serious car accident 14 months ago, there are countless athletes who face adversity with courage and hope just like him.

The only difference is they are not famous worldwide.

But family and friends who know them can see and appreciate their attitude and perseverance. Tiger probably would appreciate them too, just as much as they appreciate his attempt to compete again.

I met and learned about Alicia Reeves’ adversity and battle with a medical condition at a high school softball game between Halls

and Central last season at Fountain City Ball Park. And I was so impressed by Alicia’s attitude and kindness, I wrote a story about her.

In a nutshell, during Reeves’ freshman year at Halls, a medical condition her parents first thought was a form of asthma turned out to be a benign cyst inside her spinal column that was pressing on some nerves. Her surgery was successful and she began physical therapy.

As a senior, Alicia still has not recovered enough to play the game she grew up loving. But she is still on the Halls team and contributing in many ways.

Reeves was upbeat about the improvement in her physical condition when I went out to see her prior to the Lady Devils’ game against Clinton March 29. She flashed a big grin when she saw me and said she appreciated me coming out to see her and check on how she was doing.

“I can do a lot more than I did last year,” she said. “I can throw, but it’s super-sloopy slow. I can do about half-swings almost. I can do a lot more stretches than I used to do. And I’m getting faster on walking.”

Although Alicia’s high school career won’t last long enough for her to get back and be a full 100 percent, she still has hopes of getting in a game before the end of the season.

“Yeah, I’m hoping though that I can potentially get to play in one of the last few games and at least get in there at one point,” she said. “If I can do that, it will be worth it.”

Alicia is still as busy as ever on game days.

“Oh yeah, if I’m not cheering out there, I’m putting in the bases or managing Game Changer,” she said, laughing heartily, “and kind of being like a side manager almost.”

It was good to hear Alicia genuinely say she is



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS.

Alicia Reeves relaxes outside the dugout with other Halls players before the start of their home game against Clinton on March 29. Alicia hasn’t been able to play during her high school career since having spinal surgery as a freshman, but she has many important duties on game day and the team is like a “family” to her.

enjoying her senior year. “Honestly, even though I don’t get to play, I really like spending all the time with these girls. They’re like a family. You spend all your time with them.”

Incidentally, Alicia is one of the best high school singers in town, a member of the All-State and All-East

Tennessee choirs. Just recently, she had the role of Bambi Bernét in the musical / murder mystery Cur-tains.

“I got a lot of laughter out of the audience, so I think I played my part okay,” said Alicia. “I sang and danced and acted.”

After high school, Reeves

plans to major in Accounting at Carson-Newman.

Perseverance often comes into play as athletes have to overcome physical challenges. For four years, Alicia Reeves has shown us that she has a little of Tiger Woods in her. She didn’t quit. Instead, she did the best she could for the team.

Looking back at the Vols basketball season

By Mark Nagi

College basketball is a tournament sport. Which, of course, can lead to some of the most exciting moments on the athletic calendar.

But it also gives us immediate endings, sooner than would come if there wasn’t a lose and go home finish for all but one of the 68 teams that advance to the NCAA tournament.

Tennessee’s second round defeat at the hands of Michigan left a sour taste in the mouths of Vols fans because it felt like this team had a legitimate shot at making it to the Final Four.

But that shouldn’t take away from a solid run.

“It’s really hard when the season comes to an end, and you know when you’ve been doing it as long as I have, only one team is going to be really, truly ecstatic,” Tennessee head coach Rick Barnes told reporters in his first comments since departing the NCAA tournament. “I’ve said it before. You lose in the championship game, semifinal game, you lose. It’s such a sudden

halt that it’s tough, especially when you have high expectations and want it all... But then as time goes on, you look back and think about this team and the fact that we had half the team as freshmen and the way they came together with the older guys. You look back on it and the fact that we never lost back-to-back games, winning the SEC championship... that’s something that this group of guys will always have, I mean, they will be teammates forever.”

UT ended their season with a 27-8 record, went 16-0 at home, and won the SEC tournament for the first time since 1979. Any season in which you can raise a banner should not be considered a failure.

“Looking at it from the inside out, it’s the way that they respected each other, and had the utmost respect in terms of holding each other accountable,” said Barnes. “It started coming together at the end of January when they started to hold each other accountable at a very high level.

Not just in games, but in practice every day. It was a special group of guys and even the guys that didn’t play taught our teammates life lessons.”

One teammate that will not be returning is point guard Kennedy Chandler. He has chosen to make himself eligible for the NBA Draft after one year in Knoxville.

“Kennedy was responsible for 30 percent of our offense,” said Barnes. “Most of the guys coming back have played a lot of minutes. We’ll continue to recruit until we shut that part down. The best compliment I could give Kennedy was how he always kept wanting to get better. It took him a little bit to adjust to the game which you would expect at the college level, not just practice, but the grind that goes into it.”

The good news for Barnes is that Santiago Vescovi and Zakai Zeigler will be back. The addition of Knoxville Catholic’s B.J. Edwards should help maintain the high quality of play that UT gets from their backcourt.

Tennessee likely will make off season moves in the transfer portal to further bolster that roster.

“We would like to get the best players that we think

can help us,” said Barnes. “We want versatility. We want guys that can play different positions. We want guys with all the intangibles that you talk about and

want to get better defensively. We’re looking at several guys right now. We’re excited about them, but we’ll wait and see how that all shakes out.”

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Smokies' Fandemonium to Vols' Pandemonium

By Steve Williams

The Tennessee Smokies' annual "Fandemonium" on Saturday, April 2 attracted a little over 500 baseball fans of all ages.

There was a lot going on at Smokies Stadium, but for Chris Allen, President of Boyd Sports, which includes the Tennessee Smokies, "the highlight of the event for me is always seeing the kids out on the field playing catch."

Tours of the ball park, including the Smokies' locker room, were also a popular part of Fandemonium, which started at 2 and lasted until 5.

Two high school baseball games were played earlier in the day, and one went extra innings and actually ran a little bit past 2 o'clock. Pigeon Forge defeated Greeneville 1-0.

The Easter Bunny was on hand for pictures and Homer Hound, the Smokies' mascot, was on the scene greeting youngsters.

Longtime Smokies public address announcer George Yardley topped off the event by speaking on the "history of Smokies baseball" at the stadium's Batter's Box Restaurant.

Yardley started as the Smokies' PA guy when the team still played at Bill Meyer Stadium in Knoxville in 1998. He actually got the job by answering a "want ad" for the position that ran in the News-Sentinel that May.

Yardley brought some of his favorite memorabilia to be viewed, including a Norman Rockwell sign that included Pittsburgh Pirates Manager Bill Meyer, a Knoxville native who the Smokies named their stadium after in 1957.

Yardley began his talk by mentioning the Knot Hole Club that he belonged to when he played Little League ball at Skaggston, "a suburb of Mascot," he said.

Back then, each Little League team put the name of their sponsor on the back of each player's uniform. George's team was "Mutt's Esso," which was owned by Mutt Ellis.

Little Leaguers could get in free at Smokies' games if they were wearing their uniform or had their Knot Hole Club card, which didn't cost very much and was good for the entire season.



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Cliff Blanchard and grandson Henry Farris are greeted by Tennessee Smokies mascot Homer Hound at the Fandemonium event April 2. Cliff and his wife Romana had come from Oak Ridge to Smokies Stadium to pick up their tickets for Tuesday's game between the Tennessee Vols and Tennessee Tech. Henry's sister Sailor also made the trip.

Yardley mentioned several players and events with baseball ties that he fondly remembers, including John Duncan Day and the late, great Ted Williams, who missed a good portion of his prime baseball days to serve his country in the military.

SMOKIES WIN: With the temperature in the low 40s when their season opener ended Friday night, it was fitting that the Tennessee Smokies won by a 6-0 score over the Chattanooga Lookouts.

It felt more like football weather than baseball weather, so winning by a touchdown was the cool thing to do.

AVOL FLAVOR: As for Tuesday's (April 12) game pitting the No. 1 ranked Tennessee Vols against Tennessee Tech at Smokies Stadium, a packed house is expected. The first pitch will be at 6:30.

The game will have the atmosphere of a typical Vols home game with headshots, walkup music, and in-between inning entertainment. The Vols will be the home team for this game.

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Paid for by Kim Frazier for Commission, Russ Frazier, Treasurer

2022 DOGWOOD ARTS

NORTH KNOXVILLE

FOUNTAIN CITY EAST

The Garden Side of the Fountain City Trail begins on Historic Gibbs Drive, the definition of a story-book neighborhood, noted since the early 1920's for its double row of pink dogwoods. With its linear street pattern, broad sidewalks, and spacious façade lawns, this Historic Neighborhood District reflects the characteristics of an early streetcar and automobile suburb in Knoxville. The houses are mainly Craftsman in style but all are unique featuring bungalows, Minimal Traditional, and four squares, an outstanding example of the early twentieth century tread away from elaborate Victorian-era styles to a more simplified appearance. Stone columns mark the entrance to another historic neighborhood, Harrill Hills, which dates back to the early 1920s and is an interesting mix of architectural styles including everything from stone cottages to mid-century ranchers. This charming neighborhood enjoys lots of mature trees with beautiful gardens around every corner.

Colorful plantings of mature azaleas, perennials and wildflowers are abundant along Garden Drive, Dogwood, Crestwood, and Briarcliff Roads.

The trail climbs halfway up the steep side of Black Oak Ridge to enter Beverly Acres, where handsome houses blend into their forest setting and acid-loving azaleas flourish

FOUNTAIN CITY (EAST)

TRAIL BEGINS AT 2800 GIBBS DRIVE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37918



in the rich woodland loam.

You might catch a glimpse of a lovely "weeping dogwood" which is unique to the Knoxville area. Its slender, pliant branches sweep down from the top of the trunk. Wherever it chooses to grow, a weeping dogwood must be left undisturbed; it cannot be transplanted.

The route continues across North Broadway at Hotel Avenue onto the Panoramic side of the trail.

Keep reading The Knoxville Focus and be sure to visit www.dogwoodarts.com for more information on this year's trails, open gardens and camera sites and events.

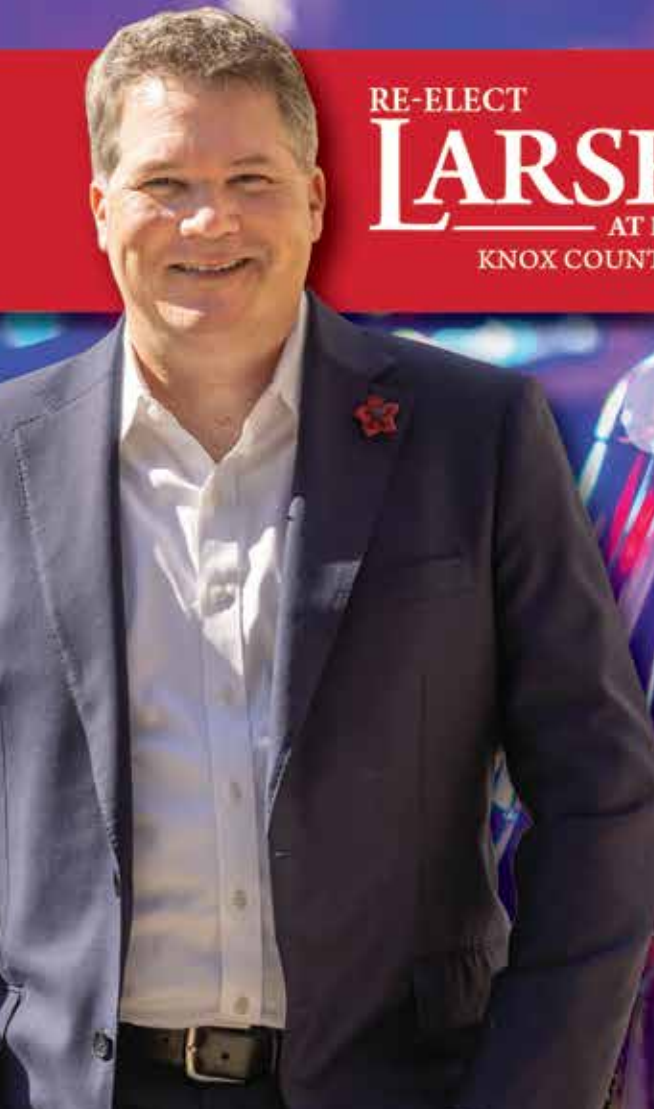
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RE-ELECT
LARSEN JAY
AT LARGE
KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

Our local law enforcement professionals work tirelessly every day to keep our community safe. Since becoming a Commissioner, I have spent many hours with officers in the field and on ride-alongs to see the challenges they face first-hand and listen to their concerns.

I've been proud to support fully funding annual budgets while fighting for pay increases and improvements to the officer's protection program. As long as I'm a Commissioner, I'll continue to advocate for our law enforcement professionals to ensure they receive the respect and support they deserve.

- Commissioner Larsen Jay

From jailers and patrolman, to investigators and support staff, I'm proud to stand with the officers who keep our community safe!

Larsen Jay

EARLY VOTING:
April 13 - April 28, 2022

ELECTION DAY:
May 3, 2022

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Paid for by Larsen Jay for Commission, Kirk Huddleston, Treasurer.



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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ANNA SUE NORDIKE DOCKET NUMBER 85712-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 31 day of MARCH 2022, letters administration in respect of the Estate of ANNA SUE NORDIKE who died Sep 5, 2021, 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 31 day of MARCH, 2022.

ESTATE OF ANNA SUE NORDIKE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
PAM HOLBERT; CO-ADMINISTRATRIX
3374 ESQUIRE DR.
MURFREESBORO, TN 37130

CINDY TINNELL; CO-ADMINISTRATRIX
43 CEDARTOWN RD.
CAVE SPRINGS, GA 30124

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF PAULA B PURCELL DOCKET NUMBER 85977-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 31 day of MARCH 2022, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of PAULA B PURCELL who died Jan 27, 2022, 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 31 day of MARCH, 2022.

ESTATE OF PAULA B PURCELL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
PATRICK J PURCELL; EXECUTOR
1828 EL PRADO DR.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MICHAEL DOUGLAS SHOFFNER DOCKET NUMBER 85218-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 5 day of APRIL 2022, letters administration in respect of the Estate of MICHAEL DOUGLAS SHOFFNER who died Aug 30, 2021, 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 APRIL, 2022.

ESTATE OF MICHAEL DOUGLAS SHOFFNER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KEVIN A DEAN; ADMINISTRATOR
550 W MAIN STREET, SUITE 500
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37902

KEVIN A DEAN ATTORNEY AT LAW
550 W MAIN STREET, SUITE 500
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CARL NORMAN SNYDER DOCKET NUMBER 86004-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 5 day of APRIL 2022, letters of administration c.t.a in respect of the Estate of CARL NORMAN SNYDER who died Feb 6, 2022, 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 date of the 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 the 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 APRIL, 2022.

ESTATE OF CARL NORMAN SNYDER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KATHERINE BIGGER;
ADMINISTRATRIX CTA
3306 LAKEBROOK BLVD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37909

CHRIS BEAVERS ATTORNEY AT LAW
2125 MIDDLEBROOK PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37921

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOHN DAVID VANHOOSE DOCKET NUMBER 85982-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 31 day of MARCH 2022, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOHN DAVID VANHOOSE who died Jan 7, 2022, 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 31 day of MARCH, 2022.

ESTATE OF JOHN DAVID VANHOOSE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARY CAROL PRATER
VANHOOSE; EXECUTRIX
4939 ANGELIA DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF VIOLA LORENA WILLIAMS DOCKET NUMBER 85997-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 4 day of APRIL 2022, letters administration in respect of the Estate of VIOLA LORENA WILLIAMS who died Jan 21, 2022, 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 APRIL, 2022.

ESTATE OF VIOLA LORENA WILLIAMS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHARLIE R WILLIAMS; ADMINISTRATOR
7906 STANLEY ROAD
POWELL, TN. 37849

BILL FIX ATTORNEY AT LAW
608 MABRY HOOD ROAD, SUITE 2613
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37932

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ELIZABETH WITHERSPOON AKA ELIZABETH JOSEPHINE "JENNIE" WITHERSPOON DOCKET NUMBER 86005-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 5 day of APRIL 2022, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ELIZABETH WITHERSPOON AKA ELIZABETH JOSEPHINE "JENNIE" WITHERSPOON who died Jan 5, 2022, 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 APRIL, 2022.

ESTATE OF ELIZABETH
WITHERSPOON AKA ELIZABETH
JOSEPHINE "JENNIE" WITHERSPOON
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JONATHAN E AYTES; EXECUTOR
5121 HORSESTALL DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37918

JACKSON KRAMER ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 629
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BRENDA WOOD DOCKET NUMBER 85923-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 30 day of MARCH 2022, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of BRENDA WOOD who died Feb 18, 2022, 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.

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of APRIL 2022, letters of administration c.t.a in respect of the Estate of MARGARET ARNWINE YARNELL who died Jan 15, 2022, 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

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

ESTATE OF BRENDA WOOD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
SUSAN GOODALL; EXECUTRIX
3917 ISLAND HOME PK
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARY RUTH WRIGHT DOCKET NUMBER 85637-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 5 day of APRIL 2022, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARY RUTH WRIGHT who died Dec 6, 2021, 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 APRIL, 2022.

ESTATE OF MARY RUTH WRIGHT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
PATRICIA SHELBY; EXECUTRIX
9009 THUNDER BAY WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37938

COURTNEY D SCOLLARD
ATTORNEY AT LAW
10004 MEADOW VISTA CIRCLE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARGARET ARNWINE YARNELL DOCKET NUMBER 85953-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of APRIL 2022, letters of administration c.t.a in respect of the Estate of MARGARET ARNWINE YARNELL who died Jan 15, 2022, 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 date of the 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 the 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.

ESTATE OF MARGARET ARNWINE YARNELL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CAROLYN WOLFFORD;
ADMINISTRATRIX CTA
9625 STRINGTOWN ROAD
STRAWBERRY PLAINS, TN. 37871

HOAI R ROBINETTE ATTORNEY AT LAW
800 S GAY STREET, SUITE 1950
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37929

MISC. NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE 94

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

- Bid 3245, Track Resurfacing and Restriping Services, due 5/10/22;
- RFO 3249, Architectural and Engineering Services, due 5/5/22;
- Bid 3250, Construction of the CAC Mobile Meals Facility Addition/Renovation, due 5/12/22;
- Bid 3251, Body Worn Cameras, due 5/9/22;
- RFP 3254, School Bus Tracking Application for Parents/Guardians, due 5/11/22

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.

Knox County Annual Action Plan Public Hearing Knox County Community Development

The Knox County Community Development (KCCD) office is applying to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development for funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Recovery Housing Program. The CDBG Recovery Housing Program (CDBG-RHP) was established and authorized under the SUPPORT Act to create and improve transitional housing for persons in recovery from a substance misuse disorder.

In order to obtain the views of citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties, the County has placed its proposed CDBG-RHP application on public display online at www.knoxcounty.org/communitydevelopment from April 11 - April 25, 2022. Knox County residents are encouraged to share their verbal or written comments about the County's proposed application at a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 1:00 pm in the Auditorium of the Knox County Health Department at 140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917**. The County will consider all local input on the proposed activity as well as consider alternatives that may be presented at the meeting.

Comments may also be submitted by email to cdfeedback@knoxcounty.org or by mail to Knox County Community Development, City/County Building, Suite 364, Knoxville, TN 37902. All comments must be received no later than Tuesday, April 26, 2022. It is anticipated that the CDBG-RHP application will be submitted no later than April 29, 2022.

Persons requiring special assistance or accommodations should contact KCCD, at 865-215-3980 or cdfeedback@knoxcounty.org, at least three days prior to the public hearing.

"Si usted necesitara asistencia para este aviso en otro idioma, por favor llame al 694-8880 para mayor información y mencione del Desarrollo Comunitario del Condado de Knox."



PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for Bids – KCCD, the Public Housing Authority for Knoxville & Knox County, posts all of its solicitations at www.kcdc.org/procurement. Click on 'Open Solicitations' and follow the link.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE KNOX COUNTY AUDIT COMMITTEE SHALL MEET ON MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE MAIN ASSEMBLY ROOM OF THE CITY-COUNTY BUILDING, 400 WEST MAIN STREET, KNOXVILLE. ALL AGENDA ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO VOTE

AGENDA

- Call to order (Morrison)
- Roll call (Kim or Angie)
- Pledge of Allegiance (Commissioner Schoonmaker)
- Approval of minutes of the previous meeting (Morrison)
- Discussion of FY 2023 Budgets – Key assumptions including consideration of prior/current year actual and budgeted amounts (Chris Caldwell, Ron McPherson)
- FY 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR):
 - (a) Presentation of only key points of interest since this ACFR was presented in detail at the February 15, 2022, Finance Committee Meeting (Chris Caldwell)
 - (b) External Auditor's presentation of FY 2021 Governance Letter and the findings in the FY 2021 Single Audit Compliance Report (Ted Hotz)
 - (c) Observations noted by the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury in its March 30, 2022, letter discussing Review of the FY 2021 ACFR (Ted Hotz)
- Internal Audit Brief Update (Andrea Addison)
 - i. Hot Line update
 - ii. Staffing positions – current, open, and additional requested
 - iii. Status Report (current, completed, upcoming projects)
 - iv. 2022 Audit Plan
 - v. CRE Summary
- Dates for CY 2022 remaining scheduled Audit Committee Meetings at 3:00 PM: June 20, 2022; September 19, 2022; December 12, 2022
 - i. Special Meeting(s) will be individually scheduled as needed
- Other business
- Consideration of not having a confidential, nonpublic executive session under TN Code 9-3-405, subdivision (d)(1) through (d)(5). (Jim Morrison)
- Adjournment

You can reserve your legal or public notice by emailing Lisa at legals@knoxfocus.com or calling (865) 686-9970.