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PHOTO BY JAMIE SCHNELL.

Surrounded by the support of her family, Knoxville City Councilwoman and Young-Williams CEO Janet Testerman (red blouse) kicks off her campaign for State Representative District 18. Family members from left to right: Muffet Testerman Buckner, sister; Brooke Buckner, niece; Henry Buckner, great-nephew; Joey Creswell, husband; Janet Testerman; Janet Testerman Crossley, mother; Georgie Creswell, stepdaughter; and Elie Creswell, stepdaughter.

Use on Review policy could change for Board of Zoning Appeals

By Mike Steely
 Senior Writer
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"I won't want that step taken away from citizens," Commissioner Carson Dailey said last week during a discussion about possibly changing the Use on Review appeals process.

Dailey was responding to a resolution added to the work session agenda by Mayor Glenn Jacobs and Commissioner Randy Smith. Basically, the resolution was "requesting the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission to recommend amendments to the Knox County Zoning

Ordinance to provide for use on review appeals to a court of competent jurisdiction."

If the planning commission ruled that courts would better speed up the development of the county, the property owner would have to pay more than the standard \$200 BZA fee to go to court.

The change would mean amending the Knox County Charter to bypass that appeal process. Smith told the commission the matter would go to the planning commission and then come back

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Janet Testerman kicks off campaign

By Jamie Schnell
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Janet Testerman, Knoxville City Council member and CEO of Young-Williams Animal Center, engaged the crowd of supporters that gathered at Lakeshore Park in Knoxville last Monday night to kick off her Republican primary campaign for State Representative District 18.

Through drinks and hors d'oeuvres, Janet engaged over eighty attendees, which also included family and friends. Janet's mother Janet

Testerman Crossley told The Focus, "I am absolutely thrilled for Janet." Her sister, Muffet Testerman Buckner, described Janet as having "a heart for service, a passion to make it better."

Businessman Doug White introduced Janet to the stage, "Janet takes a deep dive into her community, with class and character." He went on to describe Testerman as compassionate and possessing a love for her community.

As a daughter of the late Knoxville

Mayor Kyle Testerman, Janet is no stranger to the world of community service. She has a background in communications and business and has served on a multitude of community organization boards.

Testerman spoke to the audience about her decision to run and how the decision was assisted and supported by her family. She is thankful to be "surrounded with the strength of people who lift you up and give you honest feedback." She described her

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City Council approves tax increase, higher pay for employees

By Mike Steely
 Senior Writer
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It took almost three hours Tuesday night but a slightly divided council voted to approve a 50¢ per \$100 increase in property tax, higher wages for city workers, and a \$2,000 bonus for employees.

Mayor Indya Kincannon's budget proposal

was divided into four parts, each with a separate vote. The first was amending the current capital budget to include the \$2,000 bonus, a one-time payment to city employees from the current fiscal budget. Vice Mayor Andrew Roberto described the bonus as a retention bonus.

The second part of the **Continued on page 3**

Merit council ruling on Dooley grievance reversed

By Mike Steely
 Senior Writer
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The Knox County Sheriff's Office Merit System Council voted last week to amend its earlier ruling that Martha Dooley, who retired following the recent re-election of Sheriff Tom Spangler, to strike the attorney fees granted to her.

The special called meeting was prompted by a request from KCSO attorney Gary Prince for the council to reconsider their ruling in favor of Dooley's grievance that awarded her

use of a department vehicle and a gas card, plus attorney fees. After about an hour and two executive sessions, the merit council heard a motion from Vice Chair Jim Wright Jr. to dismiss the appeal. That failed for the lack of a second to the motion.

When asked for an opinion by the hearing officer and former judge Sharon Bell, Knox County Deputy Law Director Myers Morton said the earlier ruling was moot since Dooley retired following her ruling. All

attorneys agreed that since Dooley no longer was an employee, the use of a sheriff's vehicle and a gas card no longer applied.

But the award of attorney fees, mentioned by Merit Chairwoman Gina Oster and former member Jim Jennings, remained to be decided. Prince's associate, attorney Dan Gass, argued that there is no mention of awarding attorney fees either in state law or in merit system procedures. He walked the hearing officer through the rules

of procedure and they found no mention of attorney fees.

Bell asked Dooley's attorney John Valliant if his statement about not pursuing any more action included attorney fees and Valliant confirmed that.

Mediator Bell asked if the matter would be closed if the attorney fee ruling was overturned and the reply was yes.

After conferring with his client, Valliant informed the hearing that Dooley was dropping her request for payment of attorney fees.

The new merit council member, John Marshall, made the motion to dismiss the attorney fees, Oster seconded the idea, and it passed with a 3-0 vote. The sheriff's attorney had also asked for a dismissal of a complaint by former sheriff's employee Ivan Harmon but Harmon had withdrawn his complaint prior to the Monday meeting. Two complaints are still before the merit council, those of Scott Moore and Nathan Cole; both grievances have been postponed with no date set

for a hearing.

Shortly after the dismissal and adjournment the Knox County Commission met downstairs and postponed any decision on adopting a 1974 Tennessee statute that would have legalized the merit system in the county. The Knox County Law Director has contended for a couple of years that as the current merit system was adopted without passing the 1974 authorization act, the council has been functioning without the property authority.

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My new love story

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.
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Vickie was married for over 50 years to Rev. John Dowling, a Presbyterian minister and teacher who she met when both were students at Maryville College.

Her husband had Lou Gehrig's Disease for the last five years of their marriage and could not even speak for the last two. He passed away in December of 2020.

My wife, Lynn, passed away on August 1 of 2021. She had had two strokes and was confined to a wheelchair for 3 1/2 years and then cancer spread through her body.

Both Vickie and I had a deep and abiding love for our previous spouses, and we were both blessed with good and strong marriages.

Regular readers of The Focus know how much I loved Lynn. No one ever did as much for me as she did, and I tried very hard to be good to her, too.

Vickie will always have a special place in her heart for John as I will for Lynn.

Vickie has three children and eight grandchildren, and I have four children and nine grandchildren, and all live here. So, neither one of us was lonely, and neither she nor I ever expected to get married again.

But I walked into a church supper in mid-February, and the first empty seat was next to Vickie.

Many years ago, Eastminster had a Wednesday night Bible Study that 10 or 12 people would come to. I told Lynn that I thought more would come if we served food and had some good programs.

She liked to cook and entertain people, and I got some interesting speakers and soon we started having 75 or 80 or sometimes more at these Wednesday night suppers.

But Lynn did not like to go

to church after she ended up in a wheelchair, so we started watching religious broadcasts at home.

I had not been to one of these Wednesday night suppers for several years and do not know exactly why I went the night I sat by Vickie. I have accused her of casting a spell over me that night.

But I think it is a wonderful blessing for both of us to have someone at the ages of 74 (me) and 73 (her) to spend whatever time we have left together.

I have told her that I think since I have been walking around with prostate cancer for the last five years (now in remission), I am getting a far better deal than she is.

I know some people will think we have moved too fast. But my dad told one of his brothers he had met the woman he wanted to marry the first night he met my mother at a YMCA dance,



Congratulations to Vickie and John!

and three months later they were married in her hometown of Iowa City.

I heard on a program just a few days ago that George W. Bush married Laura three months after their first date, and I married Lynn 3 1/2 months after our first date.

Parents of children know that love can expand, and it

is possible to love a third or fourth child just as much as the first or second.

Vickie and I believe that our love has expanded and that we now love each other just as we did our previous spouses.

We hope and pray that God will expand our love even more in the years ahead.

So who taught you how to read?

One of the most laughable bumper stickers out there is the one that says "If you can read this, thank a teacher." Are teachers really responsible for kids learning to read? If so, then teachers are also responsible for kids not being able to read.



By Dr. Harold A. Black
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for Knox County. How we tolerate these scores is a mystery to me.

Tennessee is not alone. The Wall Street Journal reported that the state of Massachusetts may take over the Boston city schools because of their dismal

record of educating school kids. Despite a \$1 billion budget, only 25% of black elementary students read at grade level. However, I bet you that those kids are well versed on climate change, CRT and gender identity.

The inability of teachers to teach kids to read is blamed on the kids. Consider that the head of the Chicago teachers union once said that the increased accountability demanded by the city

administration over the dismal performance of the school system was "unfair" because "poor kids can't learn"! Of course, this is nonsense. Consider that virtually all these students can recite every word to the most complicated rap after only three listenings. Indeed, some inner city teachers are using rap as a teaching tool in the classroom. My limited experience with local second graders convinced me that all children are able to read at grade level unless they have a learning disability. But most can't.

Why? First, the students do not have an advocate who holds schools accountable for failure. I know, you say "What about the board of education?" Or "what about the PTA?" If these were advocates for the students, then they would not tolerate the miserable reading and math

scores in our schools. Lack of achievement is always laid at the feet of the students when the real culprit is the method of instruction utilized. The most dedicated teacher is doomed to fail given how they are taught to teach. Sure, there are high achievers but studies show that these students excel regardless of the method employed.

The Educational Industrial Complex - textbook authors, textbook publishers, colleges of education, accreditation boards and unions - has a vested interest in traditional methods of instruction and will defend despite the dismal outcomes. Yet nontraditional methods such as Direct Instruction have been shown to produce proficiency rates in at-risk students that are equal

to and often higher than those for students in high income districts.

It's time that we quit excusing the teachers and blaming the kids for failure to achieve. Although there is considerable merit in changing how we pay teachers whose salaries can be read off a chart that shows years and education, the main culprit is method of instruction. If we want kids to achieve, then we must blow up the current system used by our government schools. Although charter schools and private schools are an improvement, they still may be hampered by inflexible accreditation standards that have little to do with learning. Direct Instruction was rejected locally on the grounds that schools would lose their

accreditation because it required "too much reading!"

If our schools were a corporation, the board of directors would fire the CEO. Given the poor performance of our schools, I would give the superintendent a raise only if based performance and proficiency improved. That would provide an incentive to do better. I only wish we could unleash American ingenuity and innovation on the school system. I would put out for bid contracts, collect the taxes and turn the school system over to private enterprise. The contracts would be reviewed periodically and if certain metrics were not met, then the contractor would be fired and a new one hired. Then our children would be able to read.



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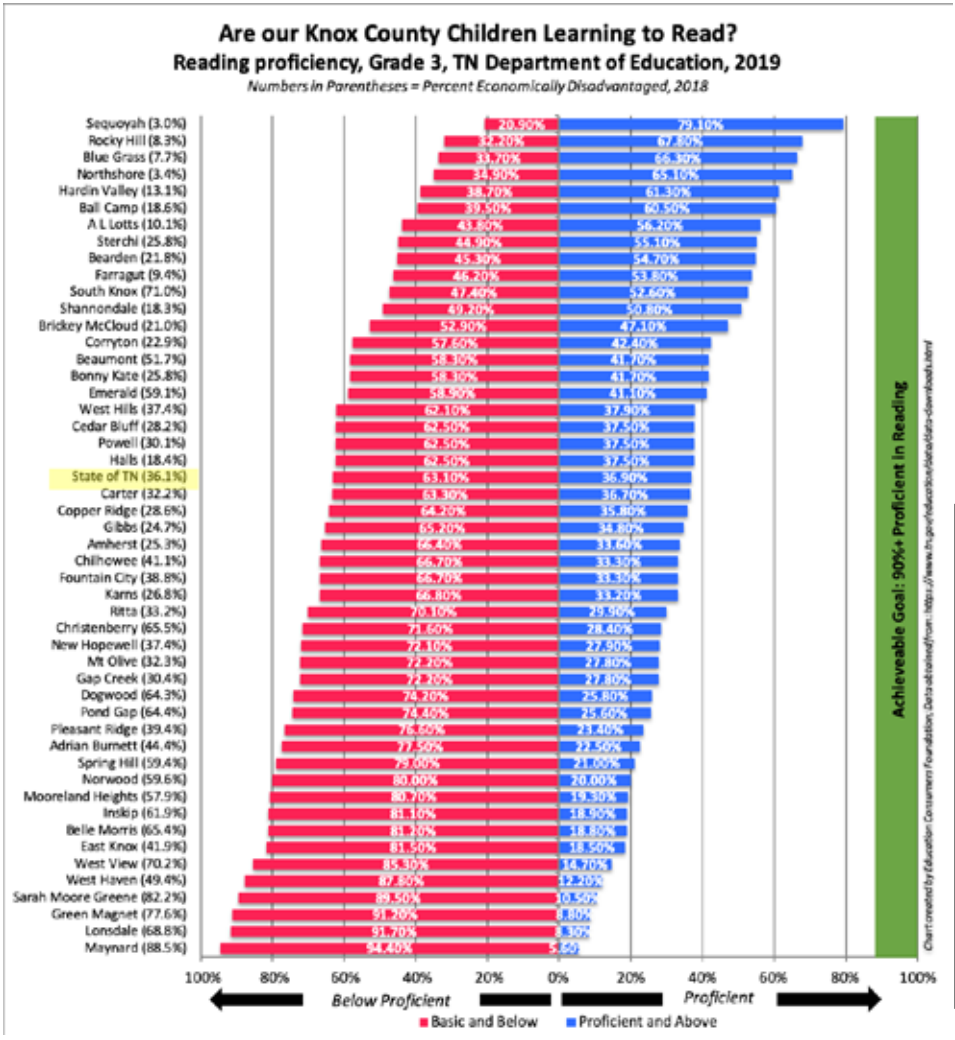

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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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Cameron Brooks Announces 2023 City Council Run

Councilwoman Lynne Fugate, who only narrowly won her seat by a handful of votes three years ago, raised some eyebrows by voting for Kincannon's budget and the tax increase. Nominally a Republican, Fugate apparently indicated she would vote against the budget and tax increase and promptly changed her mind. Fugate has already drawn a challenger in next year's city election in Cameron Brooks, local realtor and a former chairman of the Knox County Democratic Party. Brooks, whose political roots were planted in the labor movement, has a strong populist bent and is a firm advocate for working people and families. Cameron Brooks has said he agreed with the need to focus on recruiting and hiring for the Knoxville Police Department as a priority and believes higher salaries are a prime ingredient for boosting recruitment. Yet Brooks was critical of a blanket raise for all city employees rather than raising those workers who earn \$50,000 annually or less. In contrast, Fugate was one of the members of the city council who argued those earning well over \$100,000 annually needed a raise.

Brooks was also one of the very rare Democrats locally who expressed concern when Kincannon abruptly withdrew KPD officers from city schools. Fugate, a Sequoyah Hills Republican and former member of the Knox County Board of Education (as is Kincannon), never made a peep of protest about the withdrawal. Brooks also lives near downtown in East Knoxville in a largely Black neighborhood and his

campaign treasurer is Reverend Harold Middlebrook, an iconic figure in the Black community. Brooks is already raising money and should be a serious challenger to Fugate who may become the first political casualty of the Kincannon tax grab.

Larsen Jay Speaks Up for Property Owners

Another interesting sidelight of the City of Knoxville budget tussle was the surprise appearance of County Commissioner at-Large Larsen Jay who spoke in opposition to the property tax grab. The toothsome Kincannon's fixed smile quickly faded into something more resembling a death rictus as Jay began speaking. Jay rapidly pointed out several of the numerous deficiencies in Kincannon's budget, noting Indya had never even considered the possibility of trying to save taxpayers money by trimming a single expenditure. Indya huffed and puffed there wasn't a single piece of "fluff" in her budget when the reality is there's more fluff in her budget than there is cotton candy at a carnival.

Larsen Jay is seen as the leading candidate to contest Kincannon's expected reelection effort next year. Jay is articulate, smart, and will be very well funded and able to compete. Jay's publicly taking issue with Kincannon's budget was seen by many as the opening salvo in the 2023 mayor's race inside the City of Knoxville.

Democrats Need a Reality Check

It seems as if with each passing week, the Democrat candidate for Knox County mayor talks about

everything but what concerns working people. Debbie Helsley's campaign is now bragging she marched with others in a pro-abortion rally. Helsley's campaign blasted out a press release heralding her stand on behalf of abortion along with a picture of her with State Representative Gloria Johnson while holding a sign which read, "Abortion is Health Care." Not really. It's certainly not very healthy for the baby.

Helsley's messaging is not her own, but rather that of Jack Vaughn, a 22-year-old running for the Democrat State Executive Committee. Apparently, Vaughn thinks Helsley is running for mayor of San Francisco. Helsley had a front row seat to applaud city Mayor Indya Kincannon's announcement she was raising property taxes on working families; Helsley has issued a clarion call citing the urgency of climate change; and now, marches on behalf of abortion.

It's no surprise to anyone the Democrats in Knox County would nominate someone for office who sides with the pro-aborts of their party. Democrats nationally have systematically driven pro-life folks out of their party. The self-described party of compassion is as intolerant of those who do not follow the progressive doctrine as any tyrant.

The quality of the candidates running for office as Democrats in the August general election cannot even be fairly described as "subpar." They are a motley collection of Leftists who seem to have confused Knox County with the City of Knoxville.

The messaging of the Democrat ticket is well to the Left of the average voter in Knox County. So far, I have yet to hear a single

candidate from the Democrat side talk about any issue that has anything to do with the everyday lives of the people of Knox County. The truth is they really can't because they can't acknowledge the truth that their Democrat president and the Democrat Congress have about run this country into the ground in record time.

Joe Biden has repeatedly demonstrated he is the most incompetent president of our lifetimes. The cost of gas is continuing to rise and has hit record highs in numerous states, including Tennessee. The cost of foodstuffs in grocery stores continues to rise as well, with no end in sight. Try as they might - - - and they have tried - - - to blame everything under the sun for the spiraling tide of inflation, it is their baby. Joe Biden and the Democrat war on energy, their desire to make us a nation of bike-riding Green New Dealers is the root cause for the inflation making life ever more difficult for working families. Working families struggle to pay their bills, put groceries on their tables, and literally feed babies due to the disappearance of baby formula in our country. What are Knox County Democrats talking about? Climate change and abortion.

The Democrats don't give a hoot about working people. In fact, the policies they advocate either benefit the elite or those who expect a hand out from the government from subsidized housing to government-subsidized everything. In effect, they worry about those who don't work and contribute nothing to society save for bills.

It was not Republicans who by and large supported trade deals that benefited everybody except for union workers in the United States. It was the

Democrats who shipped good-paying jobs overseas with their high taxes on corporations and globalist policies that put America and Americans last.

Local Democrats are campaigning on a national agenda here in Knox County. There is little discussion about anything that means anything to working people or those who pay the taxes to keep the government running.

Inflation Poll

A new NBC poll asked Americans the following question: "Do you think that your family's income is . . . going up faster than the cost of living, staying about even with the cost of living, or falling behind the cost of living?" 65% of respondents said their family is falling behind, while 28% stated they are running about even with rising costs. A meager 6% claimed their family incomes were rising faster than the cost of living.

Gas prices have risen about 40 cents in the last month alone. The average price in the country for a gallon of gas a year ago was \$3.04. The average cost per gallon in the United States as this is written is \$4.48, an increase of \$1.44 per gallon.

Illegal Immigration Out of Control

During the month of April of 2022, at least 234,088 illegal aliens crossed the border into our country. It sets a new record for the largest number of illegals to cross the border in our country's modern history. The confirmed count of the number of illegal aliens to enter the United States since Joe Biden assumed office is more than 2.75 million.

Use on Review policy could change for Board of Zoning Appeals

Continued from page 1 — to the commission for a decision. He said all the other powers of the BZA would remain intact except for the use on review decisions.

Currently the use on review decisions of the BZA can go on to a court for a decision but always starts with the appeals decision.

Mayor Jacobs urged the commission to refer the matter to the

planning commission for guidance. He said the current system causes appeals to "slowly matriculate" and slows the process. He added that a 30- to 90-day wait for a decision slows the housing process and the change would eliminate redundancy, "streamline the process" and help solve what he described as a "housing crisis."

Both Commissioners Dailey

and John Schoonmaker served on the Board of Zoning Appeals prior to the county body. Schoonmaker said the use on review appeals before the BZA are much more casual than a court hearing. "They felt like they were actually speaking to fellow citizens of Knox County."

"If you now take that process and send them to a courtroom, that courtroom is very

intimidating for the general public," he said. He added that changing to sending appeals to the court shuts the public out of the process.

Both Schoonmaker and Dailey questioned whether the resolution was an ordinance or not and Smith said it was his mistake—it was only a recommendation to the planning commission. Dailey said he had no problem with that.

"The public will have a chance to come before planning and have their say so," Dailey said.

Critics charge that a court case could cost thousands of dollars and most citizens would not know how to take an appeal to court.

The request for a planning commission study and recommendation passed with only Commissioner Schoonmaker voting "No."



Janet Testerman

Cont. from page 1 — desire to serve the people of Knoxville and spoke of her plans to continue representing the Knoxville community.

"We need to be intentional about our efforts, recruiting top talent and by also retaining our young graduates so they don't leave their community. We need to help parents bring their voices to the forefront of their involvement in their children's education.

"We need to keep taxes low, focusing on the inflation crisis. We need to continue to address the crisis in mental health, and we must support our veterans, Back the Blue, and fully fund them. We cannot get complacent."

The State and Federal Primary will be held on August 4, 2022, with early voting from July 15-30.

To support Janet Testerman's campaign, visit ElectTesterman.org.

City Council approves tax increase, higher pay

Cont. from page 1 —

budget proposal, for appropriations to the various city departments and funding for the city, included a 6% pay increase for all city employees except the mayor and her staff. That proposal drew some praise from various city employee speakers and criticism from visiting Knox County Commissioner Larsen Jay, who is a city resident. The appropriation ordinance is aimed at upping the pay, especially for police and fire department employees.

Jay cited the proposed tax increase and the property appraisals and said the city is doing nothing to cut back. He called the 50¢ bump "the largest tax increase in history."

Mayor Kincannon responded by saying, "There's no fluff in this budget," and added that the additional revenue is needed for essential

services. She also said that once the state reviews the budget the increase may only be 35¢ per \$100. The tax increase was the third vote on the budget.

Councilwoman Janet Testerman, a candidate for state House Seat 18, said she could not support the increase.

"Every family is experiencing a budget crisis," she said, adding that the tax increase would be "more hardship for people already struggling."

Vice Mayor Andrew Roberto attempted to limit the \$2,000 bonus to employees making less than \$100,000 a year but that idea failed. Councilwoman Lauren Rider countered by saying the impact of the bonus was minimal and even employees at a high level are not immune from leaving.

Rider said failing to pass the budget would be like "cutting off our nose to

spite our face."

Councilman Charles Thomas said a 6% increase in overall pay was "not a significant savings for taxpayers." That increase in pay doesn't include the standard 2.5% increase given annually to city employees.

Pointing out that the increased salaries for all city employees is the reason for the property tax increase, Councilman Tommy Smith said that paying new employees \$15 per hour should help attract people.

"We can't hire fast enough to keep up with those retiring," Smith said.

Councilwomen Amelia Parker and Testerman were the lone votes against the 6% pay raise for city employees and Testerman was the only "No" vote against the tax increase. The final portion of the city budget proposal, the compensation plan,

passed unanimously.

In other action, the city council moved quickly with the remaining items on the agenda including a guardrail replacement program, a \$4.2 million street resurfacing agreement, and applying for a \$5 million grant from the federal government for the electric buses and charging equipment.

The rezoning application from Huber Properties, opposed by Inskip residents, was postponed for two weeks. Also postponed for two weeks was a zoning change request from Knoxville College, which is looking to designate part of that historic property for medium-density residential and office zoning.

Tennessee Auto Salvage at 4912 Rutledge Pike was granted a zoning change from General Industrial to Heavy Industrial.

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The Doctor is in
a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Rage

Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.
Dylan Thomas

When you lose that trust it changes the institution fundamentally. It's like an infidelity that you can explain it, but you can't undo it.
Clarence Thomas

I seriously doubt that the leftists screaming outside the homes of Supreme Court Justices were thinking of Dylan Thomas' poem. But the metaphor of another corrupted and dying American institution was apparent to me. The damaging leak of a confidential SCOTUS decision regarding abortion has, in Justice Thomas' opinion, forever changed the court. As I watched leftists rant and vow to become "ungovernable," I wondered if anyone was surprised by such

bullying tactics. Democrat socialists damage everything they touch, and children throw tantrums if they don't get their way.

I am no legal expert, but many lawyers consider the landmark Roe vs. Wade decision of 1973 an overreach and poor legal precedent. Reportedly, the "preliminarily" SCOTUS ruling is expected to return the decisions regarding abortion to the states of the union and end the current national mandate. I read that Connecticut may promote itself as an abortion destination, but that may just be rumor and hyperbole. Tennessee will not be an abortion destination.

Abortion is a tough issue for everyone. And just because I am a man does not disqualify my opinion as some feminists have opined. I am a citizen, a doctor, a father and a Christian, a partial list of qualifications. And despite

the risk, I believe discussing the issue is appropriate, so I won't be shouted down by the mob. Actually, you may be shocked to learn that I agree with Hillary Clinton who once said, "Abortion should be legal, safe and rare." It is a tragedy that abortions are not rare.

Whether you are Pro-Life or Pro-Choice, times have changed. And our laws should reflect how we wish to live and govern ourselves. I believe in a Federalist system of government as outlined in the Constitution. Elected officials make laws. Judges interpret laws to make sure laws are Constitutional. And the executive branch (President) carries out the laws. We have strayed far from the Constitution and are suffering as a result.

I personally think it is illogical for nine black robed "supreme" judges to make absolute rules for three hundred and fifty million Americans. I think it would be better to have elected representatives in the various states decide abortion regulations/laws with oversight of the judicial system. No system is perfect including SCOTUS. Recall that in 1857 SCOTUS deemed Dred Scott a slave and property rather than a man "endowed by [the] creator with unalienable rights [of] life, liberty

and the pursuit of happiness." That decision was errant and was corrected by We The People with the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

Birth control methods are better now and more available than in the 1970s. In fact, Planned Parenthood lists many means of birth control including tubal ligation, vasectomy, hormone patches, implants, shots and vaginal rings, birth control pills, spermicides, IUDs, condoms, and even the morning after pill combo. It is interesting they even list withdrawal and avoid coitus during the most fertile times of a woman's cycle. Their website does not list abstinence, although it is virtually 100% effective.

I realize this is a controversial topic and that I may be accused of being insensitive to women who find themselves with an unwanted or unplanned pregnancy. Perhaps our family was fortunate to have escaped such a difficult choice. I am sympathetic to the pro-choice argument and cannot say how we would have reacted. But I'm also sympathetic to the pro-life argument because, as a science guy, I cannot tell when life with unalienable rights begins. Test tube "babies," in vitro fertilization and technology have extended the

horizons of life.

I have had discussions about when life begins with doctors, friends, ministers, ethicists and philosophers. Everyone has different viewpoints. One religious perspective holds that a preborn is not a human being until the baby passes through the birth canal and is delivered. The former governor of Virginia held that a baby surviving an abortion can be dispatched if the mother says so. My former professor of medicine held that a "clump of cells" (morula) is not alive even though life will result from those cells if allowed. Quickening is a term that describes when a mother can feel her child move in the womb. This occurs at 16-20 weeks of pregnancy during the second trimester. Elizabeth felt John leap in her womb when she saw Mary pregnant with Jesus (Luke 1:41).

I know that a sperm or an egg has only half the genetic material necessary to build life. Today, few would argue this point. However, a fertilized egg has the full complement of DNA to produce a human being created in God's image (Genesis 1:27). And embryos can be frozen and later implanted in a uterus and produce a baby. I can tell you the post-fertilization boundary of life is currently impossible to define. Even the

notion of viability (capability of life outside the uterus) is steadily increasing with modern technology.

So where do I stand at this moment in time? Until doctors, biologists, ethicists, philosophers and theologians can present an understandable consensus statement about when life begins, I have to side with life, even the proto-life of a clump of cells because these have everything necessary for human life.

I don't have all the answers nor does SCOTUS. Life is complicated and perhaps it is best to have a range of options regarding abortion instead of one size fits all. I will not presume to tell a woman what to do, except to offer the advice to consider wisely the consequences of your choices. But no one gets a free pass on this issue. And I feel compelled to protect the helpless unborn by opposing unrestricted abortion, be it post term, late term or at some nebulous and arbitrary point of viability or development.

Maybe the states will do a better job with this troubling issue. The national policy is a mess, causing some to refer to the 63 million abortions since 1973 as "The American Holocaust."

Food for thought.
You may email Dr. Ferguson at fergusonj@knoxfocus.com

Guests gather at the re-opening of Claude Walker Ball Park held last Thursday, May 19. The park underwent major upgrades and is located at 2945 Wilson Avenue in East Knoxville. Below: Kaylin Chesney, director of Area Ministries - East/South, Emerald Youth Foundation addressed the crowd and said, "Claude Walker Ball Park is where I grew up playing, and my children play there today. According to a study we completed several years ago, fewer than 20% of young people in Knoxville's city neighborhoods are playing a sport of any kind, and youth participation in baseball and softball has been on the decline. This investment is such a blessing and has dramatically transformed the park for our city's youth to enjoy for years to come." Photos by Randy Sartin Photography.



Play Ball! Hundreds attend re-opening of Claude Walker Ballpark

By Bill Howard

Last Thursday night at 7 o'clock brought a momentous step forward for kids in East Knoxville wanting to play baseball and softball.

At that time, the City of Knoxville had a ceremony for the re-opening of Claude Walker Ballpark, located at 2945 Wilson Ave. The field where the ceremony was held is one of two baseball/softball fields, and will be used by Little League teams in the area, Austin-East High School's softball team, and various other teams.

Renovations went far beyond the ball field itself and included the concession stand, restrooms, dugouts, and batting cages, among other amenities. The artificial turf on the entire field - almost Disney-esque in its

colors and texture - was in stark contrast to what the lot looked like before renovation began.

The seeds for the project were planted about a year ago, according to Sanford Miller, Director of Sports Ministry and FCA Urban Outreach at Emerald Youth Foundation. As with most any such project, input and support came from numerous sources, one of whom was UTK President Randy Boyd, who was in attendance.

"A year ago this field was dirt, grass with dirt spots in it, and the dugouts were run down," said Miller. "It was a meeting with me and Randy Boyd and his team, and we were just trying to figure out how do we bring back baseball to the city of Knoxville. Randy had a vision. Kaylin Chesney and I

explained what we really needed was great fields for our kids to play on."

Boyd's GEM Community Development Group - formed to build the proposed downtown baseball field for the Tennessee Smokies - funded the project with a gift of approximately \$1.6 million, \$1.1 million of which went to construction. The rest is allocated for operations support

A major player in the project, according to Boyd, was Knox Area Youth Alliance Commissioner William Anderson, who has managed Claude Walker Park for many years.

"About a year ago we came to this field when it was nothing like this," said Boyd. "Willie Anderson shared



Continue on page 4

Memorial Day

A Day for Remembering...

Our great American flag. It is a symbol of our freedom. She is seen at parades, in schools and churches, on flagpoles in front yards of homes, and in community centers. It is not unusual to see the



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

Memorial Day gives us reason to pause and pay tribute. The end-of-month holiday is more a time of remembrance than celebration. This year will surely have special meaning as we recall the tremen-

American flag flying proudly on trucks as they drive by. Sometimes we hear people say they are so thankful that their flag was saved from a fire. Nowhere is her presence more revered than when given in memoriam of a fallen service member.

The month of May is packed with special occasions including Mother's Day and the start of many graduations. Before the month is totally gone, another national holiday is recognized. Often referred to as the start of the summer season,

dous loss of America's heroes in Afghanistan last year. U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss from East Tennessee was among those who sacrificed his life on foreign soil. On Memorial Day 2022, may we remember the many who have sacrificed their lives for America.

Words of Faith: "Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast." Psalm 57:1 (KJV).



Picture of our great American flag flying high behind the sun's rays, by **Ralphine Major**.

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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

John Huber (right) wants to develop a vacant lot in the Inskip neighborhood for 120 apartments. Councilman Charles Thomas and Inskip residents met with the developer in the Inskip Park across from the proposed site.

Inskip residents meet with apartment developer

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

Across Bruhin Road from the Inskip Park and Pool is an overgrown 4-acre lot the owner has been trying to develop for multi-family dwellings. During last week's Knoxville City Council meeting, Councilman Charles Thomas postponed a rezoning of that property for two weeks. Thomas said the postponement would give enough time for local residents to meet with the developer, John Huber.

That meeting took place at Inskip Park with Betty Jo Mahan and other members of the Inskip Neighborhood Association. Councilman Thomas joined the meeting held under the picnic shelter Wednesday evening and developer John Huber brought a draft of the proposed two-story apartment building development. He addressed the

project and took questions and comments from those residents, many of who lived near the site.

Huber is asking the council to agree with a unanimous vote of the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission and change the zoning from RN-1 to RN-5. A similar attempt by Quint Bourgeois to develop the lot for apartments failed a few years ago when the neighborhood opposed the idea. Most residents don't mind the lot being developed but prefer fewer apartments or single-family homes.

Huber said the current requirement to develop the apartment complex involves building a sidewalk along the Bruhin Road frontage of the property. Local residents said that the sidewalk needs to be extended to Dutch Valley Drive and Broadview Drive. Huber indicated that, if that is required and

the city grants a right of way, he would consider it.

Local residents also questioned the entrance proposed for the apartment complex and said that a buffer or retaining wall is needed on the hillside there between the project and adjoining neighbors. The amount of traffic generated by 120 apartments was questioned and several auto wrecks along that hillside street were noted.

Also mentioned was the increase of density that so many apartments introduce to the neighborhood. Most homes in the already dense Inskip community are single-family residences. One resident complained that the planning commission's approval was based on several errors and said the property does not have easy access to a bus stop.

Huber said the loss of trees on the lot was a "trade off" necessary

for such a development but added that new trees would be planted. He described the apartment development as affordable but upscale and said such housing is in high demand in the city.

The developer also said that a decision needs to be made soon or he will lose the window on the special financing and tax break he needs to afford to build affordable "workforce housing" there.

Although the city adopted a proposal several years ago to protect Inskip from further apartment developments, it appears the city council will approve the zoning although there may be some restrictions or alterations to the plans. Huber said that after the approval of RN-5 zoning, no further approval will be required to build the complex and estimated completion for some time in 2024.

Living through changes



By **Joe Rector**
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Eight years ago, Amy and I sold one condo we had in Bellevue and followed our daughter's family to Hendersonville. After looking for a place in which we could be comfortable, our realtor found a condo that was perfect except for the fact that it was in Gallatin. We decided that being seven miles from Lacey wasn't that bad and purchased the place.

To say the place was in poor condition was an understatement. Dogs had ruined the carpet and baseboards with "accidents." I tore it out, scrubbed the concrete slab, and installed vinyl plank flooring throughout, the first time I'd ever attempted any major renovation. I next painted the place and resurfaced the countertops. The foul smells were gone, and we came to enjoy our time with our kids and grandson.

Whenever we made a trip to our condo, we tried to find something for Madden to do. On spring breaks, we spent time with him while his parents were working.

Madden liked having his days filled with activities and being able to sleep in his own bed at night. We were just glad to have time with him. Of course, sharing a meal and talking with Lacey and Nick were bonuses.

Something strange happened during every visit. I'd sit down after unloading the car and find my eyelids almost impossible to keep open. Before long I'd be napping in the recliner. Even during times that I was awake, a sense of relaxation washed over me. Our trips to this condo were the same as vacation trips. The hubbub of daily life never entered the days. Amy felt the same way and bought a sign that declared the condo as "our beach house."

We made friends first with Lois, whose condo was directly across the street. She was helpful when we needed a repairman and friendly when we saw each other. At some point, Fred and Laura moved into the unit across an open area. It was with their becoming neighbors that this place became special. Fred and I hit it off immediately. He always has great stories to tell, and he keeps up with the current affairs of Gallatin. Our political views aren't exactly in line, but that never has driven a wedge in our friendship.

Covid hit Fred hard. He lost his hearing from the damn virus. His most recent problems are due to a terrible year of allergies and a cold. I worry about him and say a prayer for his recovery. He's tired of feeling bad, and I know how that feels and how it affects life.

The one thing we all can count on is change. Over the last eight years, Madden has grown up and is now 14. He still loves his grandparents, but friends and video games are more interesting. We don't need a place when we visit Lacey anymore. A motel room or B&B are good enough. We pay HOA fees and utilities and upkeep for a place we visit once a month, not necessarily a wise financial move.

We've had good memories in this condo, and I'm proud of the work I've done on it. The worst part of this move, besides having to strain every muscle in my body in packing and loading a truck, is leaving Fred and Laura. Good friends are hard to come by, and saying goodbye is full of hurt. We'll travel to see Lacey and family, and we'll make a special effort to stop by to see our friends as well. I do hope this is the last move I have to make. I'm too old to hoist furniture and pack boxes and lose friends.

The 1948 Election in Tennessee IV

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

For decades, Democrats in Tennessee had enjoyed the luxury of sailing through general elections without having to worry about the results. Republicans in Tennessee talked a good game and usually had nominees for both the governorship and seats in the United States Senate, but few serious candidates offered themselves up as sacrificial lambs. Most statewide campaigns waged by Republican candidates were not well funded. That changed in 1948 when Carroll Reece, immediate past chairman of the Republican National Committee, came home to seek a seat in the U. S. Senate. Reece was certainly well qualified to serve in the Senate, having been in Congress for twenty-six years. Reece had also been Tennessee's Republican National Committeeman since 1939. Carroll Reece was widely known and highly respected inside the councils of his own party. Reece was also one of the very few Republicans to hold elective office below the Mason - Dixon Line.

Tennessee is divided into three "Grand Divisions," each representing a separate part of the state. East, Middle and West: each is different in topography as well as its politics. The political divisions dated back to the Civil War when East Tennessee had finally voted against succession, while both Middle and West Tennessee favored it. Much of East Tennessee was occupied by Confederate forces and the mountainous region of the state remained reliably Republican, as it does to this day.

Reece's running mate during 1948 was country music entertainer Roy Acuff, even then a big celebrity. Acuff was as well-known at the time as any person could be as the star of radio, motion pictures and the Grand Ol' Opry. Acuff campaigned with the help of his band, the Smoky Mountain Boys, and Democrats were soon made very uneasy by the huge crowds coming to Republican rallies, especially in counties and cities that had been heavily Democratic for years.

Tennessee Democrats had fought a bitter primary contest for both the nominations for the governorship and the United States Senate. Senator Tom Stewart was upset in the primary by Chattanooga congressman Estes Kefauver when E. H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County machine, gave his backing to a third candidate. Governor Jim Nance McCord could not carry the heavy burden of having instituted the sales tax in Tennessee. While the lion's share of the sales tax went to fund education, both higher and secondary, and free textbooks for school children became a

reality, Tennesseans demonstrated yet again their dislike of taxes. McCord lost to former governor Gordon Browning, a veteran of Tennessee politics. Browning had served for twelve years in Congress, representing a rural West Tennessee district before he ran for the United States Senate against incumbent Nathan L. Bachman and lost the primary. Browning was a very stubborn man and equally determined; the former congressman ran for the Democratic nomination for governor in 1936 and won with the support of E. H. Crump. Browning never let go of his greatest political ambition - - - a seat in the United States Senate - - - until he had given up elective office entirely. When Nathan Bachman died suddenly, Browning hurried to Memphis to confer with Mr. Crump. Each man had his version of how the meeting went, although there were some things both agreed upon. Crump had witnesses who confirmed his account of what happened. Governor Browning had proposed that he run against his own appointee to the U. S. Senate, George L. Berry, with Crump's support. Crump would back Lewis Pope for the governorship in the 1938 election and in turn, Pope and Browning would support Crump for the United States Senate against Kenneth D. McKellar in 1940. Crump told Browning had the governor wished him to be in the Senate, he could have appointed him to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Bachman instead of Berry. Nor was Crump delusional enough to think he could beat his friend Senator McKellar in a statewide primary. The Memphis Boss was already uneasy by appointments made by Governor Browning of individuals with ties to disgraced U. S. senator, publisher and financier Luke Lea. Moreover, Crump positively loathed Lewis Pope who had twice bolted the Democratic Party to run for governor as an Independent. The end result was a political battle to the death between McKellar and Crump and Browning and his allies. McKellar and Crump won that fight.

Gordon Browning's relatively easy victory in the 1948 Democratic primary had to be the sweetest of his long political career. Yet Crump had finally bolted the Democratic Party, refusing to support President Harry Truman. Crump and the Shelby County machine preferred States' Rights candidate Strom Thurmond instead. There were more than a few Democrats in Tennessee uneasy that Crump might covertly support Carroll Reece and Roy Acuff in the general election. When Kefauver came to campaign in Knoxville in



COURTESY OF THE REECE MUSEUM, EAST TN STATE UNIVERSITY.

Former Congressman Carroll Reece circa 1948.

September, the candidate was introduced by former mayor John T. O'Connor. "I'm for Estes Kefauver and I love him for the enemies he has made," O'Connor told an audience. "Every reactionary newspaper from Carter to Shelby; every foe of TVA; and everyone who gets his meal ticket from the private power trusts opposes him."

Speaking to the same audience, Kefauver noted Carroll Reece's opposition to much of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal program. While in Congress, Reece had opposed several of the New Deal's alphabet agencies and programs, including AAA, OPA, price control, rural electrification, and some national defense measures, Kefauver said. "The old guard Republicans throughout all these years have sought to cripple and damage the TVA," Kefauver insisted. "Look at the vote on the various TVA appropriations, You will see what I mean." Congressman Kefauver was certainly right inasmuch as most Republicans in the House of Representatives were opposed to the Tennessee Valley Authority's appropriations; what Kefauver failed to point out was that Carroll Reece always voted for those same appropriations.

When Reece suggested Tennesseans compare his record in Congress to that of Estes Kefauver, the Chattanooga congressman declared he was ready and willing "any time and on any matter" to make that comparison. Kefauver immediately issued a challenge to the Republican nominee to debate the issues before the Tennessee Junior Chamber of Commerce convention in Nashville, which would meet on October 5.

With Kefauver's invitation to compare records and debate, the Bristol News Bulletin announced the "fiery battle between Estes Kefauver and B. Carroll Reece for election as United States senator from Tennessee has started in earnest."

During much of September, the press in Tennessee was busily writing about a prospective

debate between the senatorial contenders, Carroll Reece and Estes Kefauver. That debate was the subject of much editorial comment in Tennessee's daily newspapers. The Nashville Tennessean noted Reece "suddenly becomes a shrinking violet" at the moment Kefauver issued a challenge to debate. The Tennessean scoffed that the former congressman would only agree to a debate "before a microphone in the secluded quiet of a radio broadcasting station." "Mr. Reece's mistake was the hasty acceptance of Rep. Kefauver's challenge," the Tennessean editorial cried, "for no sooner were the words out of his mouth than it became clear that he shrank from the prospect." The Tennessean was practically an extension of the Kefauver senatorial campaign. Its publisher, Silliman Evans, was perhaps the notable supporter of Kefauver through the arduous and hard fought primary and was doubling down on the general election.

Even Reece's hometown newspaper, the Johnson City Press Chronicle, was critical of the former congressman, saying in its own editorial "Mr. Reece accepted Estes Kefauver's challenge" only to begin "to crawlfish." Nor was the Knoxville News-Sentinel any kinder to the GOP senatorial candidate. The News-Sentinel editorial noted Roy Acuff and his Smoky Mountain Boys had traveled to Texas to fulfill a contractual obligation and wondered if Carroll Reece was continuing the speaking tour of Tennessee on his own? "Not on your life," the News-Sentinel editorial huffed. "He has cancelled all dates, too, until Roy gets back." "We suggest this period of enforced idleness gives Reece a chance to accept Estes Kefauver's challenge to a joint debate from the same platform."

The Memphis Press-Scimitar jeered in an editorial, "Not much point in speaking when there are no crowds, eh, Carroll?"

If the Nashville Tennessean was the daily newspaper in Tennessee that was highly supportive

of Estes Kefauver, its polar opposite in the state was the Knoxville Journal, whose editor, Guy Smith, was an active Republican and state chairman of the Tennessee Republican Party at the time. The Journal was the voice of Republicanism in East Tennessee. The Knoxville Journal suggested Kefauver's proposed format of a debate before an audience was so it "could be packed with some of his CIO pals."

The Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle opined, "If Reece is wise he will stand pat on the studio debate" and remain "beyond Kefauver's reach." The Leaf-Chronicle thought "Kefauver will hardly agree to a formal debate in an empty studio" and deprive himself of the reaction of a live audience.

For those who have never been deeply entwined or involved in a political campaign, they are more rife with wild rumors than any neighborhood beauty shop. One of the more entertaining rumors of the fall campaign was that Senator Tom Stewart would run in the general election as a States' Rights Democrat and siphon off votes of Democrats from Kefauver, which would almost certainly guarantee the election of Carroll Reece in the general election. As the rumor went, Stewart would be rewarded by the expected incoming Republican administration with an appointment to a judgeship.

Carroll Reece certainly believed the States' Rights ticket would cut into Harry Truman's majorities in much of the Southland. While meeting with Governor Thomas E. Dewey, the GOP presidential nominee, at Albany, Reece told reporters he expected Dewey to carry Tennessee. The former congressman told the newsmen he also

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expected to defeat Estes Kefauver in the Senate race. The former congressman ticked off five states he believed the "Dixiecrats" would actually carry in the general election, naming South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana. Reece's prediction was right in four out of five instances, as Truman carried Georgia easily. Reece also pointed out three of Tennessee's own electors were committed to vote for the ticket headed by Strom Thurmond, although only one faithless Tennessee elector abandoned the regular Democrats.

Democrats tried to reassure themselves at the crowds drawn by Roy Acuff and the Smoky Mountain Boys during the month of September. Guy Smith taunted the fearful Democrats in his editorials in the Knoxville Journal, which compared the crowds drawn by Democrats senatorial nominee Estes Kefauver and Acuff and Reece when they all appeared in Camden, Tennessee. Smith noted "the comparison in crowds... would seem to justify the confidence of Reece and Acuff supporters... that a victory for them is in prospect."

The 1948 race for the United States Senate would prove to be the first really serious effort by Republicans in Tennessee to win a seat in the Senate since the first popular election of U. S. senators in 1916. The issues between the two candidates can easily be summarized; Carroll Reece said Estes Kefauver was a dangerous "radical" who "has followed the left movements" and picked up a tactic first employed against the Chattanooga congressman by E. H. Crump during the 1948 primary campaign, by comparing Kefauver's voting record in Congress to that of Communist-leaning Vito Marcantonio. Kefauver retorted Reece was a spokesman for reactionary and predatory business interests and "at heart" a foe of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Guy Smith published an editorial that declared, "Estes is Leftist." Smith's editorial stated no person "possessed of his senses" questioned Kefauver's close association with the CIO-PAC. Smith wrote, "The Senatorial race in Tennessee this year, stripped of any emotion or heated partisanship, simply boils down to the question of the kind of ideology Tennesseans want in their senator. Only forty percent of the Democrats wanted the leftist ideology of Mr. Kefauver as revealed in the recent primary."

So indeed had the 1948 Senate race begun in earnest.

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What is a Motion for Summary Judgment?

One of the those lawyer terms you may have heard is a, "motion for summary judgment." What does this terms mean though?

Okay, first, let's set parameters, a motion implies there has been a lawsuit filed and there is a case pending before the court. A motion is filed by one side, usually before the trial, asking the court to make a ruling on some specific issue before the final conclusion through a trial.

A motion for summary judgment is a motion, usually filed on behalf of the party being sued, that is saying that, "if you assume that everything the plaintiff



By Jedidiah McKeehan
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says is true, the defendant is still entitled to win, because the law is clear as to what the outcome of this case should be."

Motion for summary judgments are a big deal because if the defendant wins, usually the case is over. Because of that, usually both sides will put significant time in to drafting the motion, drafting a response to the motion, and preparing to argue the motion in front of the judge. When a motion for summary judgment is granted, that means that the case never even gets to the jury, the judge has decided, based on applying legal precedent to the

specific facts, there is no genuine issue of material fact that would allow the plaintiff to win.

The term, "genuine issue of material fact," is a weird term, but it is a key part in a motion for summary judgment. If the plaintiff can show there is a fact dispute, then they can usually get their case to the jury because the jury is considered the trier of facts. However, if there is no "genuine issue of material fact," then the only thing to be decided may be an issue of law, and a judge is the decider of issues of law.

I know this is diving into minutiae of the law, but a motion for summary judgment is a fairly common pleading in the legal field.

You will typically not see motions for summary judgment in divorce cases,

small claims actions, or landlord-tenant matters. Additionally, a motion for summary judgment is not a pleading you can file in a criminal case. In a criminal case, a defendant's motion to suppress evidence would be the most similar pleading to a motion for summary judgment in a criminal case.

However, if the case involves a contract, medical malpractice, or a business dealing, a motion for summary judgment is a fairly standard pleading filed.

Jedidiah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knoxville County and surrounding counties. Visit attorney-knoxville.com for more information about this legal issue and other legal issues.

Independent candidates on the August County Ballot

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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While the primary held earlier this month ended the races for several Republican and Democrat candidates, Independent newcomers will make their debuts on the August 4 general election ballot.

Voters on August 4th will also be selecting state and national primary candidates but, like the May Primary, Independent candidate names for those contests will not appear until the November General Election.

David Bridges, an Independent, will face Republican Kim Frazier and Democrat Vivian Underwood Shipe for the At-Large Seat 11 that

Justin Biggs is leaving to run for Trustee.

Two Independent candidates, Breyana Holloway and Reginald Jackson, are up against Democrat Rev. John Butler for the District 1 school board seat. There is no Republican candidate. Evetty Satterfield holds that position but chose not to seek re-election.

Phillip Michael Sherman is up against Republican and incumbent District 6 school board member Betsy Henderson and Democrat Katherine Bike.

Dominique Oakley is in the race with Steven Triplett, Republican, for the District 7 school board seat currently held by Patti Lou Bounds. There is no Democrat in that race.

Play Ball!

Cont. from page 1

his vision. When you heard his passion for what this could be, we were convinced before but really committed afterward."

Both parts of the investment will be managed by Emerald Youth, but the park will remain a city park.

Chesney is East/South Director of Area Ministries for Emerald Youth Foundation. He oversees all program operations for those parts of the city. He also coaches Austin-East High School's baseball team, which resumed this year after many years off.

"It's amazing that the kids now get an opportunity

to play in a complex like this," Chesney said. You don't typically see this for Little League baseball. No grass, no dirt, all turf."

Clause Walker was a longtime supervisor in the City's Parks & Recreation Department. Very palpable at the ceremony among the hundreds in attendance was a feeling of community cohesion and unity.

"This is the power of partnerships," said City of Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon. "Sports is something that brings people together. You're here as a kid and you feel like 'this community cares about me. I matter.' That's what I'm so proud of."



Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon, center, with parents and members of a local tee-ball team.

"Partnerships are key as we look to provide a better quality of life for people all across our city," said Mayor Kincannon. "The investment at Claude Walker Ball Park is so much more than just physical improvements. This project is about increasing access, breaking down barriers, and bringing people together. Thank you to everyone who helped make this day a reality." Photo by Randy Sartin Photography.

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Flatford fires Farragut into Spring Fling again

By Steve Williams

Pitching has always been a major part of fast-pitch softball and both coaches' decisions of who to start in the circle in Saturday night's Class 4A sectional matchup between Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett and home-standing Farragut was a key factor.

As it turned out, Nick Green's decision to go with senior southpaw Avery Flatford just minutes before game time worked out well for the Lady Admirals, while the Dobyns-Bennett coach may have second-guessed himself based on

what happened in the first inning.

After Flatford struck out the side in the top of the first, D-B starter Hannah Frye had control issues and the Indians gave up four runs before they could get off James Bellamy Field.

That was more than enough run support for Flatford, who hurled defending state champion Farragut to a 5-0 victory and a berth in this week's state tournament in Murfreesboro. The Lady Admirals (39-3-1) will play their opening game Tuesday at 5:30 CST at McKnight Park.

Flatford struck out 14 and limited Dobyns-Bennett (16-12) to just two hits.

"It's easy to play when everything is going right," said Coach Green. "When Avery was cruising through the first couple of innings, she was ready to go. But in innings five, six and seven, she had to gut it out a little bit, grind and take it one pitch at a time. She did an excellent job."

"My backdoor curve tonight was nasty," said Flatford. "I was really proud of myself to be able to paint the corners and I'm proud of Autumn (Caywood) to be

able to frame those pitches like she did."

The sixth inning may have been Flatford's most challenging as she walked the leadoff batter and then gave up a double that got past the leftfielder. But with runners on second and third, Avery got out of it. She reacted with some excitement, knowing a shutout was still possible.

Flatford, who has missed some action this season with discomfort in her shoulder, indicated she felt pretty good after the game and that her adrenaline helped keep her going.

Frye gave up only one hit to Farragut in the first inning, but two errors, two wild pitches, a base on balls and a hit batsman resulted in four runs and the D-B coach brought in Julianne Tipton.

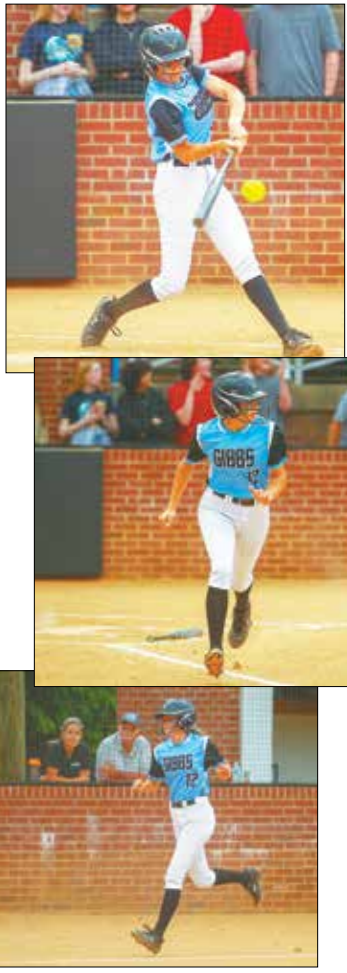
Lauren Brakovec's RBI single to right field in the second gave Farragut its five-run lead and would be the only run Tipton would give up. In fact, Tipton limited the usually hard-hitting Lady Admiral offense to just two more hits. One of those was a double off the left field wall by Caywood in the fifth, but Tipton managed to

get out of the inning with the bases loaded.

Flatford was asked following the game if the Lady Admirals could make it two state titles in a row.

"I believe that we can do it," she said. "We just need to focus on keeping the confidence up. We're hitting and fielding pretty good. If we keep that up, it's pretty possible."

GIBBS ADVANCES: In the Class 3A sectionals Saturday, Gibbs rolled past Greeneville 14-3 for a state berth, while Carter was eliminated by Tennessee High 14-4 at Bristol.



PHOTOS BY JAMES SPEARS

Gibbs' Gracie Palmer hops on home plate as teammates greet her following her home run in the first inning against Carter Wednesday night in Corryton. The Lady Eagles went on to post a 6-2 victory in the Region 2-3A finals.

Catholic sweeps doubleheader to avoid elimination, punches ticket to state

By Ken Lay

Catholic High School is headed to the Division II-AA State Tournament, which opens in Lebanon Tuesday afternoon.

The Irish punched their ticket late Thursday night, culminating the evening with a 12-10 victory over Briarcrest Christian School in West Tennessee in a wild game.

"That game was tied 3-3 in the top of the fifth," Catholic coach Caleb Moore said of the clinching and decisive game of the best-of-3 State VIII series. "It was just crazy."

Hudson Lutterman homered and drove in six runs for the Irish (25-12) in the second game of the doubleheader. He had two hits against the Saints.

Nate Breeden also had two hits, two runs and two RBIs.

Pitcher Ben Sompayrac earned the win on the mound for Catholic as he threw 5.2 innings and struck out 11. He surrendered nine hits and eight runs. Only three of those runs, however, were earned.

Lutterman finished the game on the mound, going 1.1 innings. He yielded two runs, three hits and one walk.

The Irish opened the day Thursday afternoon with a 5-2 victory over the Saints to avoid elimination.

Junior and University of **Continued on page 3**

After close calls in semis, Gibbs is region champion

By Steve Williams

A pair of 1-0 games in the Region 2-3A softball semifinals last week produced some anxious moments.

Gibbs, a perennial state tournament visitor, pulled out its close win over Clinton, a school that hadn't been in a region tourney since the mid-1980s.

Carter, a young squad that starts nine underclassmen and one senior, shocked Halls, a former state champion with a great program.

Things returned closer to normalcy in Wednesday's region title game at Gibbs as the Lady

Eagles used timely hitting and the pitching of Abbie Buckner and Lacey Keck to defeat Carter 6-2.

With the victory, Gibbs (37-4) earned home field advantage for Saturday's sectional game against Greeneville. Carter (18-24) would have to travel to Tennessee High in Bristol.

Gibbs senior shortstop Gracie Palmer, a LMU signee, hit a two-out home run to give her team a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first. That was an encouraging sign as it matched the Lady Eagles' run total against Clinton.

Gibbs did more damage in the

second inning when it batted around and scored three runs. Buckner started it with a single down the right field line - the first of many hits in that area of the field.

Buckner was replaced by courtesy runner Savanna Melo, who scored on Emma Keck's triple deep down the right field line. Emma raced home on the play too when the throw to third was off the mark. Taylor Selby scored the third run after singling, stealing second and coming in on another Lady Hornet error.

Buckner retired Carter in order in the third to complete

her scoreless three innings in the circle.

Lacey Keck struck out the first batter she faced in the top of the fourth but walked Ivey Jones, who scored on Kayla Rucker's triple into the right field corner for Carter's first run.

The Lady Eagles answered with two runs. Selby, who got aboard on an error, scored on Dakota Large's single, and Jordann Reagan's single to left field brought in Large to make it 6-1.

Carter scored the game's last run in the sixth when Rucker reached on an error and raced **Continued on page 4**

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Notes from the scorecard: The postseason rolls on

By Ken Lay

The West High School and Bearden High School boys soccer teams renewed their long standing rivalry with a Region 2-3A Championship hanging in the balance late last week.

The Bulldogs, the District 4-3A regular-season and tournament champions, and the Rebels, who swept the District 3-3A crown, met at Turner-Allender Field, and for the third consecutive postseason match, the two longtime rivals went to overtime and Bearden claimed a 1-0 victory and the region championship in front of a packed house in West Knoxville.



The Bearden High School boys soccer team celebrates its Region 2-3A Tournament Championship Thursday night. The Bulldogs defeated rival West High 1-0 in overtime to claim the title at Turner-Allender Field.

"This game doesn't count for much but I wish it did," Bearden coach Ryan Radcliffe said. "You have to win on Saturday.

"The good thing about winning this game is that we get to play the next one and home and we give our seniors a chance to play on

our field one last time."

The Saturday match that Bearden's longtime coach was referring to is the state sectional game, which was played over the weekend.

Both West High and the Bulldogs still had a chance to make this week's Class 3A State Tournament in Murfreesboro.

The Rebels traveled to Kingsport to face Dobyne-Bennett while Bearden hosted Science Hill in Saturday's elimination games on Saturday but results were unavailable at press time.

The two sides were locked in a scoreless deadlock through 90 minutes of regulation and in the first

18-plus minutes of overtime before Lucas Nordin scored the lone goal of the match.

While Radcliffe was grateful for the win and the region title, he wasn't exactly pleased with his side's effort.

"I don't think we played our cleanest soccer and I don't think we played our best soccer, but you have to give West credit for that," he said. "This was a tough game and West is a tough team.

"They're physical and they have some good athletes, good athletic players. We just had to find a way to play the kind of soccer that we've been playing all

year."

For the Rebels, it was another tough overtime loss to a bitter rival. Coach Alex Walls, however, kept things in perspective.

"This was a tough game between two teams and I think both of us have a chance to get through (to the state tournament)," Walls said. "This one's tough. This is the third straight (postseason) game that we've had with them that's gone into overtime.

"I'm trying to remember, but I think the district championship and the region championship both went to overtime and now this one. You hope that

Cont. on page 4

Farragut holds off Smoky Bears to return to Murfreesboro

By Ken Lay

The Farragut High School baseball team is accustomed to being a regular at Spring Fling and the state baseball championships.

The Admirals will soon make their 21st appearance on the Volunteer State's grand stage when they play Tuesday. Farragut, will make its third consecutive trip to Murfreesboro.

But if veteran coach Matt Buckner, who has guided the Admirals to multiple state tournament titles, knows anything, he knows that returning to the Mid-state year after year is extremely difficult.

And the Admirals didn't have an easy time punching their 2022 ticket to Murfreesboro.

Farragut, the District 4-4A and Region 2-4A Tournament champions, edged Sevier County, 7-5, in a state sectional playoff game Friday night at John Heatherly Field at the Ballpark at Farragut.

The final score was close as the Smoky Bears mounted a late rally before being eliminated.

Sevier County (27-13) made things interesting by scoring five unanswered runs over the final two innings after falling behind the Admirals (26-11-1), 7-0.

The Smoky Bears sent the tying run to the plate twice with one out in the top of the frame.

But the Admirals would as finally advance as Eli Evans retired the two

Sevier County hitters he faced; and the celebration kicked into gear for Farragut, which won a Class 3A State Championship in 2019.

Buckner was ecstatic but made no bones about the difficulty of the feat that his young team had accomplished.

"This will be our 21st state tournament, last year was our 20th, but people don't know how hard it is to get to the state tournament," Buckner said. "People around here think it's a God-given right to go to the state tournament. But it's not. It's hard.

"We just beat a good ballclub over there. (Sevier County coach) Casey (Taylor) is one of my best friends. We've known each other for 25 years and I'm proud of him for what he's accomplished with his team. Now, I told the guys that we're still alive. We're still playing, so we're going to go down there and see what we can do."

Farragut's young team took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning when junior infielder Jett Johnston hit a solo home run.

The Admirals, who are chasing their 11th state championship, added two more runs in the fourth as Jack Alley and Mark Underwood, the No. 8 and No. 9 hitters came up with back-to-back singles to make the score 3-0.

Farragut erupted and tallied four times in the fifth as Underwood had another

scoring single that brought home two runs and Jake Merrick had a two-run double.

"We have some young guys and every game has been adversity for us, but we had some kids come up with some big hits today," Buckner said.

The Smoky Bears scored twice in the second and added three more in the seventh before the Admirals retired the final two batters to end the game.

Also in Class 4A: Region 2 runner-up Powell punched its ticket as it upset defending Class 3A State Champion Science Hill 4-2 in Johnson City.

The Panthers got a complete game from senior Charlie Smith, who struck out five Hilltoppers in the contest.

Bryce Burkhart led the Powell offense as he was 3-for-4 with an RBI.

In Class 3A: Gibbs, the defending Class 2A Champion, saw its season come to an end with a 16-3 loss to Tennessee High in Bristol.

South-Doyle saw its 2022 campaign come to an end with an 8-0 loss to Tullahoma Friday night.

State Tournament Schedule: Class 4A Tournament play opens Tuesday at Oakland and Siegel High Schools.

The Admirals open play at Oakland against Collierville Tuesday at 5 p.m. ET.

The Panthers face Germantown-Houston at 7:30 p.m. at Siegel.

Local athletes hoping to score big at state

By Steve Williams

Knox County will have several track and field athletes seeking top honors in this week's TSSAA state meet at the Spring Fling in Murfreesboro.

In the Class AA boys division on Tuesday, Austin-East's Dwayne Morris should be in the mix after winning the Class AA East Section at UT's Tom Black Track last week. The Roadrunners' 4x200 relay team also is a strong entry.

A-E senior Ariya Rice is among the girls' top sprinters in the 200 and 400 dashes and South-Doyle has a strong girls' 4x100 relay team.

In the Class AA girls' field events, Halls senior Kendall Morris is a threat in the discus and shot put.

Knoxville Catholic's Keegan Smith, one of the nation's top prep distance runners, will be seeking gold Wednesday in Division II, along with Webb School jumper Lennox Langham. Both Smith and Langham are 9th graders. Brianna Baker of Grace Christian Academy could make some noise too in the hurdles.

CAK's Ethan Fulford also will be seeking state titles in the pole vault and hurdles.

In Class AAA boys action Thursday, Bearden high jumper Cayden Douglas and Hardin Valley long jumper Gavin English are expected to contend after winning their events at the Section 1 meet at HVA on May 14.

Hardin Valley's 4x400 and 4x800 relay teams also will be seeking top finishes at state.

There will be several girls from Knox County competing for medals in Class AAA on Thursday.

The list includes sprinters Laila Rudolph of Bearden and Hannah Little of Karns. Lexi Foley of Farragut (800) and Lydia Lively of Bearden (300 hurdles). In the field events, Sidnee Stanton and Brooke Taylor of Hardin Valley both will be going for gold in the triple jump and long jump, respectively. Samantha Harvey of Farragut will compete in the pole vault and HVA sophomore Gracie Waite is strong in the shot put.

Continued on page 4

TSSAA recognizes multi-sport athletes

By Steve Williams

The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association annually recognizes student-athletes who participate in three or more sports. As the current school year comes to an end, the TSSAA is proud to recognize nearly 3,500 students in that group in 2021-22.

Of the 83,400 student-athletes at TSSAA member high schools, only 3,490 participated in more than two sports. The state office made printable certificates available to each school to present to their three-sport athletes this spring.

"We encourage coaches and administrators to allow student-athletes every opportunity to participate in the sports they are interested in, whether that's just one, or two, or three, or more," said Bernard Childress, Executive Director of TSSAA.

TSSAA believes that interscholastic



athletics is one of society's best tools for building positive relationships, learning ethical behavior, and fostering personal growth and perseverance.

CHS coaches help Prince play two sports in same season

Luke Prince was a two-sport athlete in baseball and tennis in the spring at Central and the cooperation between coaches Brandon Roberts (baseball) and Joe Walsh (tennis) helped make this year his most enjoyable one.

"We opened up our hitting facility at 7:30 multiple times for Luke to come and get his hitting in before school because he had tennis matches after school," said Roberts. "He communicated very well with me whenever he had a tennis match, and I told Coach Walsh that we

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'The official raised his hands over his head, didn't he?'

I remember going to Chattanooga one day to meet with a bunch of guys who post on a chat board called Outermonvolia. It was a chance to see the faces behind the voices of the guys who proffer their opinions on anything to do with University of Tennessee athletics. Once there, it was a fascinating hour or so, well worth the drive.

Also attending was Dewey Warren, the "Swamp Rat," so named for his Savannah, Ga., roots. He was the starting Vol quarterback from the 1965 Ole Miss game through the next two seasons. He and I enjoyed sharing stories with the group, but I found myself doing more listening than talking.

Dewey had had a stellar career on several of the many radio talk shows in the Knoxville area. It was "can't miss" radio.

People have tended to follow him instinctively, regardless of the destination. An hour or so with him over lunch was a trip through Vol history, mid-1960s style. As the saying goes, Dewey is "often in error, but never in doubt." He was No. 20 out of 26 "legends" of Tennessee football, according to Marvin West, between Bowden Wyatt and Frank Emanuel, in his book "Legends of the Tennessee Vols."

Dewey, now 77, quickly recalled Dec. 4, 1965, at Memphis Memorial Stadium with a crowd of 44,495 in attendance. Many more than that will attest to being there as they recall Tennessee and UCLA battling to the final seconds.

Dewey told of the game's key play. It was fourth down at the UCLA 1, with the Vols trailing 34-29 inside the last minute. He remembered having two pulled groin muscles and not being able to find any receivers open. History records that he managed to find his way to the left side of the defense and struggle into the end zone. The clock showed 39 seconds left to play.

"The play was a rollout pass to Hal Wantland, a play we had been using all day," he recalled. "They don't come any tougher than Hal, but they just clobbered him and knocked him off his feet. Johnny Mills was out with the broken arm. David Leake got in the back of the end zone, but he was just getting out of the way. The play was designed for Wantland all the way."

Somebody asked Dewey if he had really scored on that fourth-down play. I had expressed some doubt, having recently looked at the game tape. Dewey's response was to the point, stated directly and confidently: "The official raised his hands over his head, didn't he?"

"The play opened up like the Red Sea," said center Bob Johnson, "but I thought Dewey would never get there."

Dewey also told of drawing up plays in the huddle that weren't in the playbook and having to explain to Doug Dickey why he did so. For his part, Dickey didn't think much of Dewey's chances.

"It appeared Tennessee had wasted a scholarship to get somebody to run the scout squad," said Dickey. "Dewey was a T-formation quarterback nobody else wanted. I don't think anybody ever

expected him to play."

Dewey still insists that two of the most historic missed field goals in Tennessee football history (in the 1966 Alabama game and in 1968 in the Orange Bowl against Oklahoma) were both good. For the record, the first was close, the second wasn't. In neither case did the official raise his hands over his head.

He told about forgetting his helmet in his first game under center against Ole Miss in November 1965, also in Memphis. He stood helmetless in the huddle during a timeout, with teammates snickering and blue-shirted Rebels ready to get after him.

"I was out there without my helmet," said Dewey. "We had to call time out before my first play."

Dewey Warren is not far removed from the signal-caller who helped lead the Vols to glory. He still has the swagger. The intelligentsia of his day doubted he could play. He spent his freshman season in 1963 as a linebacker and red-shirted a year later.

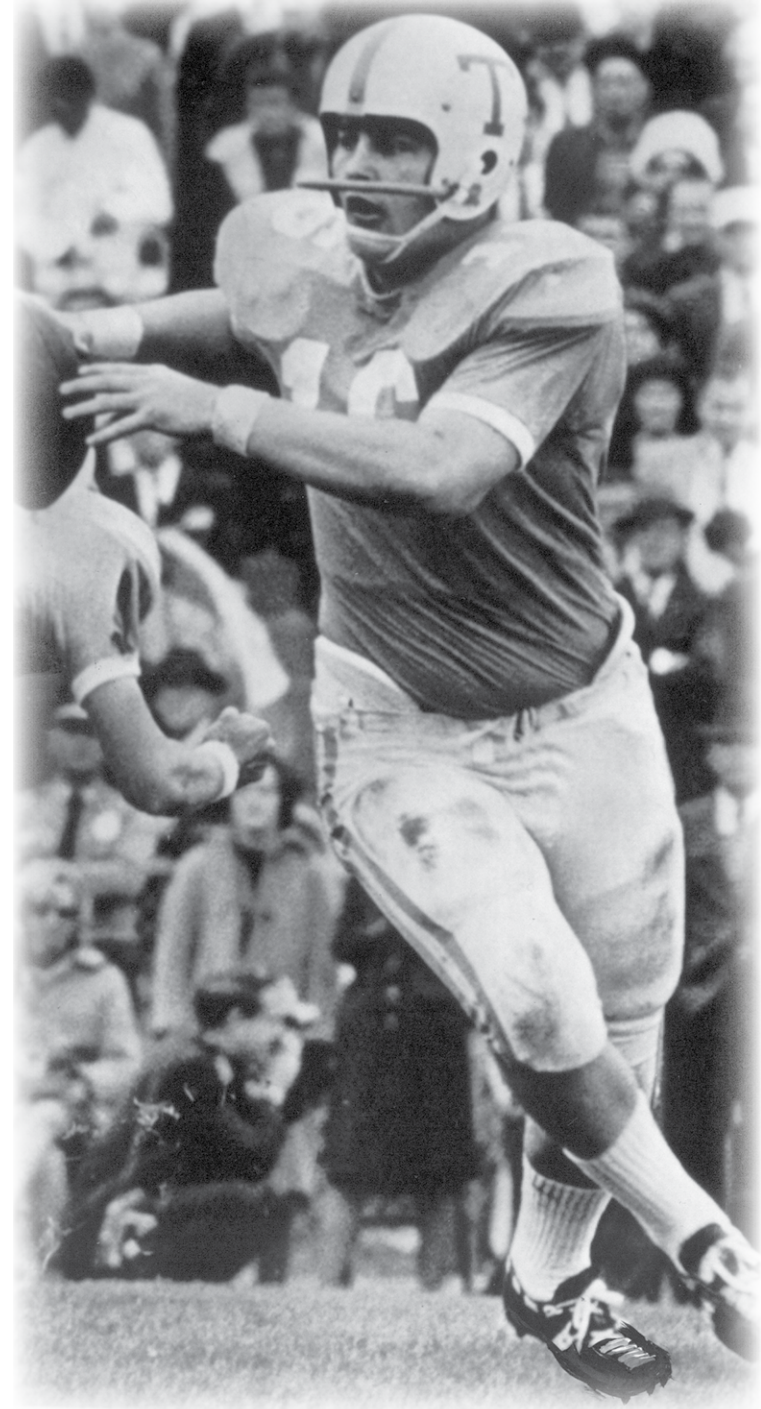
He earned his chance and gave the Vol offense a jump start and an identity. When Dewey had his hands on the ball, good things were about to happen.

Ray Trail, Vol offensive line coach from 1965-76, and a cogent observer of the human condition, summed up the Warren mystique.

"Dewey couldn't run. He wasn't tall enough to see over the line. But he was tough. And he could throw the football pretty well. That's about all he could do."

That's about all?

"No, that's not right," Trail added. He was a fearless competitor, a good leader, and the subject of many a tall tale."



Tennessee quarterback Dewey Warren looks for a receiver downfield in the 1966 Gator Bowl game against Syracuse.

Vols Cancel Trip to Provo

By Mark Nagi

Back in 2019, Tennessee hosted BYU. The visitors from Utah brought thousands of fans to Knoxville and by many accounts, they had a positive presence at Neyland Stadium. Cougar supporters were loud and supportive of their team and talked glowingly of their experience in Knoxville.

This was a home and home series, with Tennessee scheduled to make the trip to the BYU campus in Provo in September 2023.

Well, that was the plan.

Last week the University of Tennessee announced that they had canceled the back half of the home and home, and instead would play Virginia... at Nissan Stadium in Nashville.

"Pivoting to play a marquee non-conference opponent in Nashville made

sense for multiple reasons," Tennessee Vice Chancellor/Director of Athletics Danny White said. "This is a more accessible game for our fanbase. I expect that we will have a much larger contingent of fans in Nashville than would have been able to travel to Utah. Our fans also have heard me talk about the importance of finding new revenue to grow our operating budget and playing Virginia at Nissan Stadium is an opportunity for a net-positive revenue game. I appreciate Virginia AD Carla Williams and the Nashville Sports Council for working with us to make this attractive matchup happen."

"We are thrilled to welcome the Vols and Cavaliers to Nashville on opening weekend of the 2023 college football season,"

Nashville Sports Council President and CEO Scott Ramsey said. "Both programs have a place in Nashville Sports history, having both played in the TransPerfect Music City Bowl. We look forward to hosting them along with their loyal fanbases and once again showcasing Nashville on a national stage."

That all sounds fine and good... but all I keep thinking is why on earth does Tennessee continue to buyout games?

In 2010 Tennessee bought out a home and home series against North Carolina. This was at the start of the Derek Dooley era, and athletics director Mike Hamilton wanted relief on the schedule. The Tar Heels weren't exactly the 2001 Miami Hurricanes. It was an awful look for UT,

giving the world of college football the perception that they were running scared.

And how could you argue against it?

Last year they paid Army \$500,000 to cancel their scheduled meeting during the 2023 season. That's a game that honestly never should have been scheduled in the first place. They are an awful opponent to gameplan for, and without a return trip to Michie Stadium at West Point (one of college football's hidden gems), what's the point of playing that game?

But buying out the BYU game is the worst decision of them all.

\$2 million of the Tennessee/Virginia ticket revenue will go the BYU. Let's step away from the financial ramifications though, because Tennessee will certainly

make more money having a game in Nashville than if the game was in Utah. If this was all about money, it's a no-brainer.

And yes, it can't hurt recruiting to play a game in the mid-state.

But what this decision did is remove an opportunity for Vols fans to travel to a beautiful part of the country. Yes, Provo is a long way from Knoxville, but we all know that Tennessee fans would make the trip.

And what about Tennessee fans on the west coast? This would have been a chance for them to see their team play and not have to travel 2000 miles.

The home and home series are one of the things that makes college football special, and more and more often those games are being replaced by boring,

neutral site affairs.

Remember a few years back when Notre Dame and Georgia played a home and home series? Those games were must-see TV from South Bend and Athens.

Now imagine that those games were played at the Cincinnati Bengals stadium instead.

Not really the same, is it.

I'll admit that some of this is just me venting. I was planning on going to the game at BYU. And I will not attend the Virginia game next year, which will likely be played on a Saturday afternoon. In early September in Nashville, that game will be played on what feels like the surface of the sun.

But Tennessee is trying to build its brand back up. And it's a shame that they think the best way to do that is to stay closer to home.

Catholic sweeps doubleheader to avoid elimination, punches ticket to state

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Tennessee commitment Daniel Parris hurled a complete game on the mound. He allowed two hits, two runs (one earned) and two walks, while striking out seven.

Hudson Lutterman went 1-for-3 with an RBI while Landon Lutterman went 1-for-3 and scored a run.

The Irish entered Thursday's action facing elimination after dropping Wednesday's series opener 6-2 to the Saints.

But Catholic appears to perform best under pressure and Moore said he's known that his 2022 team is special as the season has been long and filled with adversity.

"I'm definitely extremely proud of the guys for their

effort," Moore said. "Our seniors have been great and this is a wonderful team and it's been fun coming to practice every day."

The Irish have one more leg of its long journey remaining as they will open the state tournament against Lipscomb Academy this week at Spring Fling at Wilson Central High School.

They play Lipscomb Academy at 5 p.m. ET.

Catholic is extremely familiar with the field as it is one of three teams from the Division II-AA East Region to remain standing. The Irish and Lipscomb Academy will be joined in the Midstate by Chattanooga Baylor and Chattanooga McCallie.

"These kids have worked extremely hard to get to Murfreesboro and we've

played a tough schedule, and we started in a couple of really tough tournaments," Moore said. "We started 2-6 and now, we're 25-12."

"Three of the other four teams (in the state tournament) are from the East Region. You have Baylor and McCallie."

Catholic has played the Red Raiders and Blue Tornado a combined six times this season.

Baylor swept three games from the Irish while Catholic took all three games from McCallie.

"Baylor and McCallie are good teams. Baylor swept us but we played them really tough," Moore said. "We were fortunate to sweep McCallie."



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Powell hosts Alcoa in a spring football headliner

By Steve Williams

High school football in May will attract a pretty good crowd, particularly when the two teams involved are defending state champions.

Alcoa, the Blount County manufacturer of the most state titles (20) in Tennessee since the classification era began in 1969, came to Powell last week to scrimmage the Panthers, who brought home the Class 5A gold football in December – their first-ever state crown. TSSAA rules allow for each team to only have one practice versus another opponent in the spring, so Powell Head Coach Matt Lowe wanted to make it a good one, which came as no surprise to Panther fans. Lowe put together one of the most attractive and challenging regular

season schedules in the state in 2021.

With region baseball and softball games also being played on the Powell campus the same day, needless to say, parking spilled over.

“There were a lot of plays made on both sides of the ball by both teams, so we are extremely excited,” said Powell Head Coach Matt Lowe. “We saw some young guys that certainly stepped up and look like they are going to be major contributors starting in the fall. Those are the things you are always looking for in the spring.”

Lowe pointed out he and his coaches already have “a good idea” of what they will be getting from their returning varsity players. They are looking for those young guys – backups or

JV-type players a year ago – that are ready to make that jump.

“We think we got some of those questions answered,” he said.

Lowe also noted there’s a long way between now and August and a lot of development that will need to continue to happen for those kids to take a major step forward.

What’s it like coming off a state championship season?

“It’s been awesome. I ain’t gonna lie,” said Matt, laughing heartily.

“So much has been made of all the accomplishments of that ’21 team. “It’s great to share those experiences with so many people in the community and the kids that were on that team. It’s been something that none of us will ever forget.”

But at some point you’ve got to turn the page, said the Powell coach.

“You got to start to prepare this group of young men to go on a journey that hopefully leads in the same direction.

“It’s a long season and you got to pace things out. You also have to remember these are kids. They need



PHOTOS BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Powell junior defensive back Markus Jackson and senior DB Jonah Moore have their sights on an Alcoa running back in the scrimmage between the two state powers on May 16.

summertime. They need to go to the lake or pool. They need to sleep in every now and then.

“When late July and August gets here, they got to be ready to handle the heat and be able to endure the entire season. If it’s done right, it’s a 13, 14 or 15-game season. You’ve got to be able to pace that out as you go through it.”

To deal with the grind of a long season, it’s broken down into segments.

“Every coach has said ‘one game at a time,’ but at the same time, you break it down from there,” said Lowe. “You just go day by

day for continuous improvement.”

The Alcoa vs. Powell matchup

“There was a lot of talent on the field,” acknowledged Coach Lowe. “It was a great scrimmage and I think both teams became better because of it.”

What about a score?

“We’re all highly competitive people, but anytime you’re talking about 1s, 2s and 3s and mixing it up, it’s awfully tough to tell,” said Lowe. “Both teams scored and had great offensive plays and both teams

had some great defensive plays.”

But choosing a winner wouldn’t hold much weight, Lowe figured.

Unofficially, with the scrimmage more than halfway over, one adult on the Powell sideline said each team had scored two times. Then it became three scores for each team. And finally, on the last play, Alcoa scored again.

You can add it up if you want, but never has a high school football game been won in May. The scoreboard will be turned on in August.



Powell Head Coach Matt Lowe instructs his Panthers during their spring scrimmage last week against the Alcoa Tornados.

TSSAA recognizes multi-sport athletes

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completely supported him wanting to do both sports. I am thankful Coach Walsh allowed him to practice so much with baseball.”

Incidentally, Prince was one of the Bobcats’ best contact hitters. “I believe there is a huge correlation between his tennis training and abilities and hand-eye coordination with hitting a baseball,” said Roberts. “Because of his speed and ability to put the ball in play, he had a very successful season.”

In 84 at-bats, Prince hit .274 with 10 RBI, 13 runs and six stolen bases, noted Roberts. In one of his best games, Luke went 3 for 4 with four RBI in a district win over Karns. As a rightfielder, he didn’t have any errors in 31 chances.

Sports Hall of Fame announces inductees

The Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame, presented by First Horizon, has proudly announced its Class of 2022.

It includes: Sharrieffa Barksdale (Track & Field), Hoyt Carroll (Coaching), Claire Donahue (Swimming), Gordon Heins (Coaching), Joe Hendee (Swimming),

Jimmy Hyams (Media), Buck Jones (Track & Field), Vance Link (Community Contributor), Willie Poplar (All-Around) and Randy Sanders (Coaching).

The dinner and induction ceremony will be Aug. 25 at the Knoxville Convention Center. Former Atlanta Braves star Chipper Jones will be the guest speaker.

All ticket and auction proceeds will benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley, which serves more than 6,700 youth and teens at 21 Club locations in Knox, Blount, Loudon, Claiborne, and Anderson Counties. Contact www.bgctn.org for more information.

Boles leads Bearden softball to second place

Kenny Boles’ first season as head softball coach at Bearden High was a successful one.



A ‘nice’ surprise! Carol Zachary Mitchell, former Gibbs High standout player and now one of the winningest high school softball coaches in the nation, was surprised Friday, May 13, with a display of her honors and memorabilia from over the years being placed in the school’s gymnasium entrance. “We had a pep rally, just kind of an end of the school thing,” recalled Coach Mitchell last week. “Coach (Brad) Turner had it all going. He was in charge of it. I had no idea. I totally did not know this. It’s nice.”

Boles guided the Lady Bulldogs to a 14-9-1 overall record and a 6-4 mark in District 4-4A for second place in the regular season, which included a 6-5 win over rival Farragut.

Prior to taking the Bearden job, Boles coached two years at South-Doyle rebuilding the Lady Cherokees’ program. His assistant at S-D, Courtland Styles, is now the head coach.

Before coaching in high school, Boles was a TSSAA umpire.

After close calls in semis, Gibbs is region champion

Continued from page 1

in on Bailee Stout’s double.

Gibbs Coach Carol Mitchell felt her team hit the ball well with runners on base. “And I felt like we stayed up the whole game.”

Mitchell thought Carter had gained a lot of confidence just in the last week. “In the district tournament, we beat them in five innings, so that win over Halls has given them confidence and they played with a lot of confidence today. I look for them to go up and compete with Tennessee High for a chance to make it to the state tournament.”

In regard to its close win over Clinton, Mitchell said: “They played good defense just like Carter did today. Carter’s centerfielder (Ivey Jones) made a couple of good catches – and if she doesn’t catch those – we’re scoring runs and Clinton did the same thing.

“I thought Clinton played a great game,” added Mitchell. “They struggled a little bit offensively, but their pitcher pitched well and their defense played well. We didn’t particularly hit well. We hit the ball in the air a lot and those are easy to catch.”

Clinton’s Sarah Burton, better known as a Miss Basketball finalist this year, came close to scoring for the Lady Dragons. She had a leadoff hit early in the contest but was stranded at second base. She also had a two-out triple in the sixth inning but couldn’t get any farther.

Clinton’s defense threw out a Gibbs runner at the plate in the fourth.

Looking back on the win over Halls, Carter Coach Ryan Burkhart said: “It was a great effort by our pitcher (Haylee

Richards) and defense. We made zero errors and some plays when they had to be made. A couple of innings Halls had the bases loaded and we were able to fight through and make a couple plays to keep the game at zero to zero.

“We found a way to score in the top of the fifth and were able to hold on and win. It was a really good team effort. The girls really played hard and we fought to the end and found a way to win.”

Burkhart also saw bright spots in his team’s loss to Gibbs in the region finals.

“That’s our fourth time playing them this year and we’ve not gotten out of the fifth inning anytime until this game. I just feel like we’ve grown up. I’m starting six freshmen, three sophomores and a senior. It has taken a little while for us to jell and I felt like they showed that tonight because Gibbs only ended up with three earned runs. So realistically, that could have been a 3-2 game.

“Gibbs has a class program and I got all the respect in the world for Coach Mitchell and what she does. If you’re going to come over here and win, you’re going to have to play great. We just didn’t do enough at the end of the day, but played well and got better all year. And we’re still alive.”

THE WINNING RUNS: A bases loaded walk allowed Selby to score from third for Gibbs’ lone run in the third inning against Clinton.

Carter’s Maddie Lewis reached on an error in the top of the fifth at Halls and scored that game’s only run on a double by Lauren Chamberlain.

Local athletes hoping to score big at state

Cont. from page 2

Four girls’ relay teams – Hardin Valley’s 4x100 and Farragut’s 4x400 and 4x800 – also hope to post top times.

FULFORD TAKES THIRD: Ethan Fulford, CAK senior and ETSU signee, placed third in the Division II-A state decathlon last week with 5,611 points.

Fulford placed second in the 400, 110 hurdles, pole vault and discus and was third in the shot put among the decathletes. In other events, he was fifth in the 1500, ninth in the 100 and 10th in the high jump, long jump and triple jump.

HVA SWEEPS: Hardin Valley boys and girls swept the team titles in the Section 1 Class AAA meet May 14. Here are the Top 10 point totals:

BOYS: Hardin Valley 139.5, Maryville 116, Farragut 80, Daniel Boone 74, Dobyins-Bennett 68, Science Hill 48, Jefferson County 34, Knoxville West 29, Bearden 26, Sevier County 23.

GIRLS: Hardin Valley 123.5, Maryville 103.5, Farragut 95.5, Dobyins-Bennett 70, Knoxville West 56, Jefferson County 45, Karns 43, Bearden 36, Morristown West 36, Science Hill 30, Oak Ridge 30.



PHOTO BY BARRY HOUCHEIN

Bearden’s Cayden Douglas clears the high jump bar at 6 feet and 6 inches to take first place in the Section 1 Class AAA meet May 14 at Hardin Valley Academy. Douglas will be among several Knox County athletes who should do well in this week’s TSSAA state meet at MTSU in Murfreesboro.

Notes from the scorecard: The postseason rolls on

Cont. from page 2

you’re not still too spent after a game like this when you play 98 minutes and give up that goal. It was a great goal and I don’t want to take anything away from it.”

In Region 2-AA: Austin East claimed a second consecutive title as it defeated Halls, 4-1, Thursday night.

The Roadrunners, the defending Class A State Champion, hosted were slated to host Tennessee High at press time while the Red Devils traveled to Greeneville for sectional

matches.

In Division II-A: Christian Academy of Knoxville defeated University School of Jackson 4-3 Tuesday in the state quarterfinals.

The Warriors played Grace Christian Academy of Franklin on Saturday. Results were not available at press time.

In Division II-AA: Webb School of Knoxville played at Christian Brothers School in West Tennessee in a state quarterfinal. Results were not available at press time.

Kim Frazier, Vivian Shipe Answer Focus Questions

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The August election will see at least three new members chosen by voters to take a seat on the Knox County Commission. In the race for the At-Large Seat 11, three candidates will face off to replace Justin Biggs and become one of the new faces on the commission. Republican Kim Frazier and Democrat Vivian Underwood Shipe know and respect each other, both having been involved in various community organizations and causes. Donald Bridges is also on the ballot as an Independent candidate but didn't respond to Focus questions.

The Knoxville Focus asked the candidates to answer a series of questions and here are the questions and replies:

What do you see as Knox County's largest needs or problems?

Kim Frazier: Inadequate and/or aging infrastructure, lack of affordable housing options, citizen disengagement, mental health/opioid epidemic, homelessness, retention of officers and teachers and career exploration for students

Vivian Underwood Shipe: I see the growing lack of affordable housing, mental health, the growing number of homeless, and the educational disparities as Knox County's most pressing issues.



Kim Frazier



Vivian Shipe

Tell us about your family, please.

Frazier: I grew up the daughter of two working class parents on a 120-acre family farm in Alabama. From a very early age, I was taught the value of hard work and the importance of faith and family. I had the childhood that everyone deserves, but few get to experience and that is not lost on me. I attended the University of Alabama in Huntsville on an academic scholarship where I balanced my studies with two, sometimes three, part-time jobs. I moved to Knoxville in 1996 after I met and married my husband, Russ Frazier, a lifelong public servant who is the current chief of Knox County Rescue, president of MMC Anesthesia, and a tactical physician contractor.

We are a family committed to serving others and try very hard to do our part in our community. In my 25 years here, I have worked as a healthcare administrator, HR director, nonprofit consultant and a spokesperson. Russ and I have served and continue to serve on numerous boards, committees, and

stakeholder groups advocating on behalf of service organizations, citizens, and communities. Russ recently returned from a mission in Ukraine with a non-governmental organization, Global Surgical Medical Support Group, where he provided both direct medical care and training for the military and civilians.

We attend Fellowship Church where our two teenage sons serve on the worship team for the high school ministry. We made Hardin Valley our forever home over 25 years ago and our boys, Jackson and Maddox, attend Hardin Valley Academy.

Shipe: I am the oldest of five siblings. We were born and raised here in Knoxville. I have three children, two sons and a daughter, eight grandkids and five great-grandkids. I come from a family of public servants. My mother taught school in a one-room schoolhouse in the mountains. My uncle Paul Underwood was one of the first 12 Black US Marshals, my father, George Underwood was a WWII and Korean War vet and was one of the first African Americans hired into the postal

service. My son-in-law is in the Air Force and he and my ex-husband both served as county police officers and my godson currently serves with the city police department.

What qualifies you to represent the entire county as an at-large commissioner?

Frazier: Both my professional and civic experience have prepared me to represent all citizens in Knox County. In my almost 26 years in Knoxville, I have worked as a healthcare administrator, human resources director for a global company, a non-profit consultant and a spokesperson. I have been an active volunteer in a number of organizations in Knox County over the years, and I have a good understanding of the capabilities and limitations of local government. As a community advocate, I have initiated discussions on behalf of communities countywide for intentional growth with coordinated infrastructure, road improvements, building new schools and updating existing ones, expanding utilities, enhancing recreational areas, and advocating for better land use and planning processes. I have helped educate dozens of neighborhoods in every corner of our County on zoning and development processes and have built relationships with many county department staff and elected officials, including current Knox

County Commissioners and the Knox County Mayor, as well as many members of his administration. I have been showing up when it was about people and community, not a campaign or an election and that is what local government should be about, serving the people.

I currently serve on the Advance Knox Advisory committee as a representative of a countywide community group that I co-founded, Knox County Planning Alliance. Advance Knox is an 18-month effort to define a vision and create a plan that will guide growth, land use, transportation, economic prosperity, and quality of life in the county for years to come.

In addition, I have served on the Knox County Ethics Committee, founded Hardin Valley Planning Advocates, completed service on the Knox Education Foundation and Knox County Schools Ford Next Generation Learning Program Stakeholder Committee, currently serve on the High School Advisory Board, and recently helped organize and launch the Hardin Valley Business and Community Alliance. I was a member of the Community Action Committee Leadership Class 2020, and attended The University of Tennessee, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, Elected Officials Academy, a four-week professional educational program focusing on municipality foundations, charters, ethics, open meetings, public records, conducting effective meetings, finance, human resources, risk management and

strategic planning. These experiences and the knowledge that they have provided me have equipped me for this job, and in order to best serve the people of Knox County this would be my full-time occupation.

Shipe: My belief in the power of relationship and partnering has given me success in many of my endeavors to help others. As a lifelong citizen of Knoxville, I have been a community advocate for over 50 years. My community and board activities over five decades have given me great awareness of the needs of the county. I have long been aware of the needs and issues. (I have been) a public servant for 35 years with the postal service, 25 of those years as union president. I also served as a recruiter and supervisor with the 2020 census. Our efforts to make sure everyone was counted resulted in an 8% rise in the number of citizens enumerated in the city and county through a special zip code concentration I created. I founded a nonprofit - I AM The Voice of the Voiceless - 15 years ago to provide resources and serve as an advocate for those most vulnerable of our population; many of those being the elderly, abused, mentally ill and homeless. Many of the issues on my platform I am personally aware of, especially in the areas of mental health with family members suffering from the disease. I am currently raising two of my grandchildren, [Continue on page 4](#)

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