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Smoky Mountain Guns & Ammo celebrates Grand Opening

By Jamie Schnell
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With a large crowd waiting outside their doors, Smoky Mountain Guns & Ammo welcomed the community into its second location Friday morning. The new Smoky Mountains Guns & Ammo is located at 6221 River-view Crossing Dr. in Knoxville. Their first location is located inside of Smoky Mountain Knifeworks in Sevierville.

U.S. Congressman Tim Burchett and Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony, hosted by the Knoxville Chamber. State Sen. Richard Briggs and Rep. Dave Wright and Knox County Commissioner Justin Biggs also participated in the ribbon ceremony.

Congressman Burchett started off the ceremony by thanking the veterans in attendance and for "defending the 2nd amendment."

"I owe you everything but my salvation," Rep. Burchett told the veterans and then introduced Mayor Jacobs, who said he "loves talking about guns." Mayor Jacobs thanked the patriots in attendance and Smoky Mountain Guns and Ammo for



U.S. Representative Tim Burchett, Smoky Mountain Guns & Ammo President and CEO Tyler Pipes and Mayor Glenn Jacobs celebrate the newest location's grand opening.

"bringing in 50 jobs with their new location."

Smoky Mountain Knifeworks and Smoky Mountain Guns & Ammo CEO and President Tyler Pipes described the new location as a "40,000 square foot

facility that includes a retail store with over 1,600 different firearms and 200 different bows, a distribution center, indoor archery range and an outdoor archery range."

Pipes thanked the enthusiastic

crowd, "Thank you all for doing what you do, for supporting our 2nd amendment and securing our freedom. Thank you to Knox County for being so welcoming here today. We hope to have a great impact on the community."

Should part of Old Tazewell Pike be closed?

By Mike Steely
 Senior Writer
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A part of Old Tazewell Pike stretches between Murphy and Luttrell Roads. The Knox County Engineering Department is asking the county commission to close the narrow street in two places to solve the "problematic intersections."

The 12- to 14-foot wide road serves the houses and a church between Murphy and Luttrell. Jim Snowden, senior director of engineering, approached the commission last month with the closure request. In his letter to the body, he wrote, "A recent development has been proposed in the area and we would like to take this opportunity to partner with the developer to make safety improvements in the area."

Engineering is proposing a cul-de-sac near the First Comforter

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Judge Chuck Cerny seeking re-election

By Jamie Schnell
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Knox County Judge Chuck Cerny is campaigning for re-election to his General Sessions Division 1 seat. Cerny, a Republican, can certainly boast of experience on the bench. Elected as a judge in 1998, Chuck Cerny has been serving Knox County for twenty-four years. These years also included 10 years of prosecution, civil and government practice. Judge Cerny told The Focus that a judge should be a "student of the law, well informed, always."

A sessions judge requires a special level of compassion, and to be a good judge, one must be able to discern who needs "health or who needs punishment." According to Cerny, behaviors can be "motivated by addiction" and the vast majority are just making bad decisions and can be helped. And it is that discernment that allows Judge Cerny to help provide resources to help those to not re-offend.

Judge Cerny believes that resolving differences through "appropriate and passionate problem solving" shows people that they can elect to get out of



Judge Cerny shows a photo of his team of judges throughout the years including Andrew Jackson, Retired General Sessions Judge Geoff Emery, Tony Stansbury and Patricia Hall Long.

the criminal system. There are phases in place in the court process to address mental health, addiction recovery, random drug screens, sober living, and reunification with families.

One of the ways Judge Cerny helps problem-solve addiction cases is through serving the Knox Recovery/Drug Court. Judge Cerny runs this recovery court after his regular docket

hours with no additional compensation.

"I passionately believe that problem-solving courts are the future of criminal justice," Cerny told The Focus.

Knox Recovery Court helps the community by keeping it safer when the participants do not re-offend. It helps save the taxpayers money from the decrease in incarceration and allows the participants to become productive members of the community.

After starting Knox Recovery Court, Judge Cerny created the Knox County Veterans Treatment Court in 2013. KCVTC started from an instance of one veteran's experience within the criminal justice system. KCVTC has a group of volunteer veteran mentors who help provide veterans with additional support and guidance. Since this program began, the original veteran and many others have been free of alcohol and drugs for years

and have not re-offended. The recovery and veterans courts have been tremendous successes. Both problem-solving courts make our community safer by preventing relapse, re-offense and recidivism, saving taxpayer dollars by minimizing incarceration.

Participants' success has been shown through financial success, success in their chosen professions, and being able to reunite with their families and communities. Judge Cerny is currently in the beginning stages of starting a mental health court as well. "I am grateful for these programs, as they aid in stopping the revolving door of offenses. These programs recognize these are human beings, treating each individual

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Biden Blames Everybody But Himself

From a distance



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

President Biden a few days ago blamed high gas prices on everyone but himself, and he has done this repeatedly over the last few months

His latest attack was on those who own gas stations and another blast blaming it on Putin and the war in Ukraine.

After Biden said these things, Jeff Bezos, a liberal who founded Amazon and now owns The Washington Post, said: "Ouch, inflation

is far too important a problem for the White House to keep making statements like this. It's either straight ahead misdirection or a deep misunderstanding of basic market economics."

The misdirection going on now is the Democrats effort to talk always about Ukraine, abortion, or the great exaggeration of the Jan. 6th events at the U. S. Capitol.

The White House and Democrat leaders in Congress know they have to get everyone's mind off of high gas prices, inflation, crime, the human flood at the border, the economy, the Afghanistan withdrawal and on and on.

As to the war on Ukraine, my sympathies, like almost everyone were with the Ukrainians. And I really believe Putin would

never have gone there if Trump had been re-elected because he had made it clear he would not add Ukraine to NATO.

Also, Putin knew he could not overrun a strong man like Trump, a man very much like himself.

The Democrats used Covid to help them politically, as Jane Fonda admitted. Now they are doing the same with the war in Ukraine.

Before this war started, the Ukraine government was rated as one of the most corrupt in the world. Yet, the President and the Congress voted to send so much money so fast, it will be scandalous how much of it will be wasted.

We first sent \$14 billion and then all the Democrats and over half the Republicans voted to send \$40

billion more.

I was very pleased that our two senators and four of the nine House members from Tennessee all voted against the \$40 billion.

Lt. Col. Daniel L. Davis, a senior fellow at the Defense Priorities Institute, said on television that there is almost no chance Ukraine will win this war in the end unless the U.S. and other NATO countries go all-in in a full-scale war with Russia.

In a report he wrote Davis said, "If Russia defeats Ukraine in the Battle of Donbas, Kiev will face a difficult choice: 1) to dig in and continue fighting, even though much of its most effective fighting force will have been captured or killed, and risk losing even more territory, or 2) negotiate with Russia to trade territory lost since

2014 for peace to stanch further losses of Ukrainian lives and land."

Thus, most of this \$54 billion will be money down the drain except for the profits going to big defense contractors.

Our sanctions have hurt Putin very little because he has just increased his sales of oil to China and India, and other countries to the tune of almost \$100 billion over the past year.

Democrats have shown time and again all over this country that they have no qualms about, and in fact seem to enjoy, spending money we don't have.

Thus, every Democrat-run city and state is deeply in debt, and Congress has increased our national debt to over \$30 trillion.

The President very falsely says he is for 10 new oil

leases off the Gulf Coast and Alaska, while his Secretary of the Interior says they may approve 10, 5, or 0. Trump had advocated 47 new leases.

Meanwhile, environmentalists have kept us from building any new refineries since the late 70s, and the administration puts so many restrictions and requirements on oil permits to make them economically unfeasible.

Meanwhile, Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm is still laughing about high gas prices.

And the administration keeps pushing for electrical vehicles when our electric grid is already at, near, or above capacity because everyone is using too many computers, iPads, and other electric-powered devices.

I like Elon Musk

I like Elon Musk. I appreciate his genius from his pioneering work with Tesla -daring to start an electric car company when none of the basic fundamentals made sense - to rescuing America's space program with SpaceX, to

providing internet access to Ukraine so the world would know what's going on. I also like the fact that Musk is not one of those gutless billionaires who make clucking noises to appease the left. Quite the contrary. He has engaged in Twitter spats with Elizabeth Warren who probably is in shock that someone would dare question her rants calculated to score points with the lemmings on the left. He has also had a very public feud with AOC which begs the question whether she will get rid of her Tesla. Speaking of which, in virtually every circumstance where a



By Dr. Harold A. Black
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business or prominent individual has stood up to the left, the reaction has been to call for a boycott. Obviously, Musk is not afraid of the left and to date all calls to boycott Tesla have been mere whimpers producing a collec-

tive yawn. Some wanted to boycott Tesla when it moved its headquarters from California to Texas. There have been cries that Tesla's labor policies are "racist" and anti-labor. The company has been accused of promoting genocide in China by opening a store in Xinjiang province, home of the Uyghurs. However, isn't it interesting that the media won't accuse Nike and Disney of the same thing? But then the left has always contradicted itself and its devotees have pretended not to notice.

Now Musk has bought Twitter and the left is atwitter making a collective fool

of itself. It is accusing Musk of going to do what the left has been doing for years. The left is threatened that its hold on popular media is being infiltrated by someone not beholden to the left's ideas of repression and collectiveness. It has railed at Musk being a billionaire even though Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook is several times larger than Twitter and Zuckerberg spent over \$400 million in the last election trying to elect democrats. Likewise, Jeff Bezos is a friendly billionaire who bought the Washington Post and caused it to move even more to the left. Steve Jobs' widow owns the Atlantic which once was a readable literary and cultural commentary magazine with diverse opinions and is now unreadable for those not on the left.

I find it interesting that the hysteria over Musk's buying Twitter has accused him of being a racist and anti-transgender. Yet, those on the left are the consummate racists intent on keeping minorities

on the government plantation while condemning their children to schools that I think are deliberately rigged to fail. True to their playbook no evidence of Musk's "racism" has been forthcoming. I did not know freedom of speech was only favored by white straight males.

I am not on Twitter but will do so once I determine how Musk is going to transform it. I also do not own a Tesla and likely never will. I think Tesla's are homely looking and too limiting. If I used a vehicle solely for commuting and had a garage charger, I might consider it, provided the manufacturers figured out how to make a dependable vehicle without such high frequencies of repair. However, I do not commute. I take long trips in my diesel Ford F250 often towing a fifth wheel. Even at 12 MPG when towing I can go almost 400 miles before refueling and refueling takes only minutes rather than hours. An EV simply can't do that. I also have a large SUV and am proud of my carbon footprint. Again, trips in the SUV with bags and two German shorthaired pointers require few fill-ups and less time wasted at some charging station.

Given Musk's track record, I am confident that he and his engineers will figure out solutions. One is to make the awful lithium-ion battery obsolete. There is new and exciting battery technology that utilizes sulfur rather than rare earth minerals and produces a range of almost 900 miles rather than a few hundred. That will be a game changer. Musk is already developing long range semi-tractor trucks with long haul capabilities with the ability to tow heavy loads.

Musk embodies capitalism and the innovative spirit, so to him I say "go on with your bad self."

KTA approves KAT additional service reductions with minor adjustment

Knoxville Transportation Authority (KTA) approved proposed KAT service reductions at Thursday's specially called public hearing, with one adjustment recommended by KAT staff. After hearing from the public, KAT staff recommended adding back in one weekday 10:15 p.m. evening trip on Route 42 - UT/Ft. Sanders Hospital, due to the consistent nature of several employees from both hospitals whose shifts end during that time.

The service reductions are as follows:

- Elimination of Routes 10 - Sequoyah and 19 - Lakeshore/Lonas
- Reduction of all Sunday service schedules, with the last downtown departures at 5:15 p.m.
- All weekday and Saturday evening service ends earlier, with the exception of core routes 11, 12, 22, 31 and 41 continuing through an 11:15 p.m. line-up.
- Reduced hours on Route 13 - Beaumont
- Reduced weekday frequency on Route 42 - UT/Ft. Sanders Hospitals
- Reduced frequency on Orange and Green Line trolleys

The paratransit Lift service area will remain the same, as well as weekday and Saturday hours. Lift service will end on Sunday at 6:30 p.m. in conjunction with fixed route service reductions.

In addition to these service reductions two route changes were approved:

- A new proposal to serve West Town Mall (outbound only) via Gleason Drive
- A proposal for a route change on Route 12 - Western to use 5th Avenue to University (rather than Arthur and Boyd) through the Mechanicsville area

The full details of these approved changes are posted on KAT's website, www.katbus.com

Recognizing the spiraling effect this could have on those using KAT for work-related transportation, KAT and Knox County CAC Transit are partnering to provide work-related transportation to fill in the gaps left by these reduced service levels. KAT passengers can call Knox County CAC Transit at 865-524-0319 to check availability. Knox County CAC Transit will do their best to work with passenger schedules to provide work-related trips. KAT will cover the costs of the CAC fares for these passengers until a return to normal service levels on that route."

KAT has had to reduce service levels during COVID twice - once in early 2020, returning to regular levels in July. But those same reductions had to occur again in November 2020. Increasing workforce allowed a return to some previous levels of service, but not all, in March of 2021. However, since that time, workforce levels have continued to fall and are now lower than at any time during the pandemic.



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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about defunding police" with reference to the events of January 6, 2021. So the supposed push poll is evidently suggesting Katherine Bike supports defunding the police. Who would have thought it following her retweeting such things?

According to the article, Bike is outraged and now says she doesn't support defunding the police. Will Edwards is quoted quite directly stating he and his campaign have had nothing whatever to do with a poll of any kind, push poll or any poll. "I am not running polling of any kind whatsoever, have not authorized it and have not directed it. And my campaign will not be running any polling," Edwards told the Compass. That's about as definition a statement as one gets in politics.

Still, "Potty Mouth Kate" says she is "personally" offended and referred to the push poll as a "lie." She still demands an apology from Edwards. Bike says "even if Edwards was not directly funding the attacks, unless he repudiated them he was complicit in the effort." Clearly, "Potty Mouth Kate" doesn't accept Edwards' word he had nothing to do with the poll. Yet like most Leftists, "Potty Mouth"

doesn't extend the same courtesies she demands herself. Why does someone retweet something she doesn't agree with without criticizing it? "Potty Mouth" doesn't take Will Edwards' word for it, but everyone is supposed to believe her now when she says she's not for defunding the police. As far as I can tell, she doesn't say she supports the police and providing the necessary funding to keep the police department fully staffed.

Bike is quoted in the article as saying, "Let's talk about our kids' education - - not a smear campaign." Apparently, "Potty Mouth" doesn't stop or more likely, doesn't care, that her expletive-laden post about the recent Supreme Court decision was personally offensive to a number of other folks. Now the shoe is on the other foot and "Potty Mouth Kate" is stomping her feet. Her own post didn't have a thing to do with her campaign or educating children for that matter.

It looks like what went around in the Fourth District has come around and "Potty Mouth" doesn't like it very much. What she's saying now seems much less plausible than Will Edwards having anything to do with a push poll. Boo hoo.

More "Potty Mouth"

Lori Lightfoot, probably the worst mayor in America now that Bill DeBlasio is out of office, is now saying she's worried about "toxicity in our public discourse." This is the same woman who was recently using the "F" word about Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

Bass-Ackwards

Twitter continues to ban conservatives from its social media platform. The satirical website The Babylon Bee was banned when it published a headline reading, "The Babylon Bee's Man of the Year Is Rachel Levine." Twitter howled and pointed to its policy against "hateful content."

Conservative commentator Dave Rubin was banned from Twitter simply for showing a screenshot of a Tweet from Jordan Peterson, who has also been banned.

Twitter said it would restore the Babylon Bee's Twitter account 12 hours after it deleted the post. Seth Dillon, CEO of the Babylon Bee, refused to delete the offending post, saying, "We're not deleting anything. Truth is not hate speech. If the cost of telling

the truth is the loss of our Twitter account, then so be it."

Charlie Kirk got banned from Twitter for wondering where the feminists disappeared to after Rachel Levine was named "Woman of the Year" by USA Today. "Richard Levine spent 54 years of his life as a man," Kirk tweeted. "He had a wide and a family. He 'transitioned' to being a woman in 2011. Joe Biden appointed Levine to be a 4-star Admiral and now USA Today has named 'Rachel' Levine as a "Woman of the Year" where are the feminists?"

Saying Levine is a man got the Christian Post's Twitter account suspended, which is still apparently in effect.

Reacting to USA Today's having named Levine as one of its Women of the Year, Ken Paxton, the colorful attorney general of the Lone Star State, got banned from Twitter by simply noting, "Rachel Levine is a man." Paxton infuriated the woke when he responded by stating, "Yesterday I cited an irrefutable scientific fact: Rachel Levine is a man." Paxton pointed out his post had been hurriedly labeled as "hateful" for simply stating a scientific fact. He was following the science, he said. Ken Paxton issued a fiery statement, saying, "...Big

Tech is not only anti-conservative and anti-Republican. It is now apparently anti-truth and anti-science." Paxton claimed it was another episode in the Left's continual "war against biology" and "especially against women."

Rachel Levine's promotion to four-star Admiral also helped to get Indiana congressman Jim Banks banned from Twitter. Banks observed the irony of "the title of first female four-star officer gets taken by a man."

Matt Walsh of The Daily Wire got his Twitter account suspended for his observation, "The greatest female Jeopardy champion of all time is a man. The top female college swimmer is a man. The first four-star admiral in the Public Health Service is a man. Men have dominated female high school track and the female MMA circuit. The patriarchy wins in the end."

Apparently pretending isn't faring as well with many members of the Left. Entertainers Macy Gray and Bette Midler have recently drawn the ire of some by saying only women are women.

What have things come to when a woman is denounced for making the statement only women are women?

Judge Chuck Cerny seeking re-election

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with dignity. And my actions as a judge have a profound effect on these people."

Recently celebrating thirty years of marriage with his wife, Kim, Cerny prides himself on the joy he also has for officiating weddings. It is a "reminder that folks keep falling in love. Our creator hasn't given up on us if we keep falling in love."

Judge Cerny chooses to continue because it is exciting and he continues to enjoy the trial process.

"I have learned through my father, hard work, perseverance, and patience.

"To have the continued awareness and the same caring compass. To be a decent human being, to be the same on the bench as I am in the hallway, exhibit the same aspects as what I say and what I



Sessions Judge Chuck Cerny shows off his yard sign at last month's 8th District Republican Club meeting. With Cerny are (from left) Lisa and Chuck Frazier, Republican leaders from the Ramsey community, and 8th District Republican Club President Alan Branch. Chuck Cerny is running for re-election in the upcoming August Knox County General Election.

pray on Sunday, to have the same voice. And just doing the best that I can."

To learn more about Chuck Cerny or to donate to his campaign, visit his

campaign website, www.chuckcerny.com.

Voter registration numbers up

By Mike Steely
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July 5th was the deadline to register to vote in the August 4th election. Registration appears to be up a bit.

Back in November two years ago there were 291,118 registered voters. As of last week's registration deadline, there are now 294,629 voters.

"Registration is up," Christ Davis, Administrator

of the Knox County Election Commission. He went on to say that much of the increase in the number of voters is "more people moving into Knox." Davis went on to explain that the new voters are not listed by voting districts.

The May county primary election saw a turnout was only 13.3% of the eligible voters. Four years ago in the county general election, only 20.66% of the 240,299 registered voters voted.

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E-911 space at Safety Complex may increase

By Mike Steely
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As the renovations and construction continue at the former St. Mary's Hospital just off North Broadway one of the future inhabitants, Knoxville-Knox County E-911, has a request on the Knoxville City Council Agenda Tuesday for an increase.

The design and construction of the altered portion of the future Safety Center have cost about \$4.2 million and the council may vote to increase the project's budget by \$647,000. E-911 will apparently pay the cost and plans to establish a backup facility to assist their current facility on Bernard Avenue.

The council may also vote on transferring a piece of property in the Sharps Ridge Veterans Memorial Park to the E-911 district to create better access and security for the current facility there.

The Old Broadway Sidewalks Improvement Project may get an additional \$121,666 in an agreement with Barge Design Solutions for a contract total of \$464,300. The new funding agreement extends until April 30th, 2023. The idea is to bypass the current access to Old Broadway

above and around the railroad bridge and offer safer access to bikers and walkers.

The council may also vote on two city code changes, upping the amount that can be spent without a bidding process and upping the sealed bidding on projects from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Council members may also vote on amending the city code to change some wording, from "dog" to "small animal" within the Neighborhood Commercial districts and updating standards for Animal Care Facilities.

Regulations on accessory structures may be amended throughout the city on a recommendation from the planning commission as well as amending the code dealing with specific sign types and the minimum footage from a street for a sign.

Portions of North Twenty-Third Street and Chimney Top Lane may be closed and the Alcoa Highway Corridor Study could be adopted excluding a 1.2-acre triangle at Martha Washington Heights. Three zoning change requests are before the body including properties at 4050 Sutherland Avenue, 1419 Woodbine Avenue and Zero McElroy Avenue.

LWVKKC to host forum for Knox County Board of Education candidates July 14

To enable voters to hear the candidates respond to questions about important issues in the Thursday, August 4, Regular Election, the League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox Co. is sponsoring a candidate forum in partnership with American Muslim Advisory Council, East Tennessee Society of Professional Journalists, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public

Policy UTK, Knoxville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Knoxville Area Urban League, Knoxville Branch of the NAACP, YWCA of Knoxville and the TN Valley. Candidates include:

- John Butler (D, District 1)
- Breyana Holloway (I, District 1)
- Reginald Jackson (I, District 1)
- Will Edwards (R, District 4)

- Katherine Bike (D, District 4)
- Betsy Henderson (R, District 6)
- Phillip Michael Sherman (I, District 6)
- Steve Triplett (R, District 7)
- Dominique Oakley (I, District 7)
- Kristi Kristy (R, District 9)
- Annabel Henley (D, District 9)

The candidate forum will be held Thursday, July 14, 2022, 6:30-8:00 p.m., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee, 37919.

Early voting will take place July 15-30, 2022, and election day is Thursday, August 4, 2022.



Detail from KGIS map showing the section of Old Tazewell Pike between Murphy and Luttrell Roads. Knox Engineering Director Jim Snowden is asking that this section of Old Tazewell Pike be closed to make way for a proposed subdivision there. Knox County Commission may discuss it in work session on the 18th or in their regular meeting on July 25.

Should part of Old Tazewell Pike be closed?

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Church and removing all asphalt to the north. No more through traffic between Murphy and Luttrell would result.

Citizens in the area are saying that if that portion of Old Tazewell Pike is closed, local residents would have to travel 4.1 miles to reach a left turn onto Murphy Road. The creation of a traffic light on Ridgeview has been suggested.

Snowden recognized the current problem of turning left during rush hour and said he was meeting with the state on the issue of a light and a traffic study.

Commission Chair Richie Beeler successfully suggested postponing a decision until the body meets again next Monday or at

their regular meeting on July 25.

"I don't oppose the closure but there are other factors including a dialog with the community," Beeler said.

The proposed development, by Jenkins Builders Inc., would create 25 subdivision lots on 8.5 acres and rezone the Agricultural area to Planned Residential. The proposal calls for the reworking of Old Tazewell Pike.

"It is possible it will be postponed another month to allow TDOT time to do a traffic study on the Ridgeview-Tazewell Pike intersection," Beeler told The Focus.

"They would prefer to wait until after school starts in August to collect their data," he said.

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Recovering

Considering how common illness is, how tremendous the spiritual change that it brings, how astonishing, when the lights of health go down, the undiscovered countries that are then disclosed, what ancient and obdurate oaks are uprooted in us in the act of sickness...
--Virginia Woolf

I think we appreciate rain more after its absence, and the same with almost everything else, including illness. Virginia Woolf's haunting prose alludes to the appreciation of health by its absence, just as I revel in the return of health after my own illnesses.

I recently watched a TED talk about health and the attributes associated with long life. Interestingly, of the top attributes, treatment of hypertension,

keeping your weight down, and exercise ranked 9th, 8th and 7th in the order of importance. Even getting a flu shot was more important at #5 on the Top 10 list. Quitting tobacco ranked 3rd on the list. But in this scientific study and analysis, the two most important predictors of long life were (#2) having close relationships such as family and friends and (#1) social integration, like attending church, being in a book club or talking with others in the grocery line.

It's not surprising our country is no longer healthy. We have been the victims of a fear campaign and have been locked away from each other, church and social interactions. Humans are social creatures and we wither without connection.

It is human nature to

take things for granted. I love summer storms, and we got good ones last week, relieving the pains of heat and drought. Becky and I live in the UT hospital area and storms often seem to pass north of us or south towards the mountains. I have a hypothesis, which is little more than an idea rather than a theory supported by testing or some immutable law that has stood the test of time and study. My hypothesis is that storm systems moving west to east are often deflected by rising heat from the interstate highways and city blacktops. Consequently, storms are often diverted north or south of downtown. It is just a thought, but perhaps others have made similar observations. I know what I am. I am not a meteorologist, although I can define one, just as I can define a woman.

I love the colloquial language of the South. Last week we had a "gully washer." How descriptive! My west coast son-in-law was amazed to experience a gully washer when visiting some years ago. Apparently, they don't have violent rainstorms in the Pacific Northwest. Typically, they have light rain - almost like a mist - on a regular basis rather

than Southern intermittent torrents of rain. Some years ago, on descending through the clouds over Ireland, I saw a beautiful kelly-green landscape. And as we drove around Ireland, misting rain occurred frequently, almost like grocery mists designed to keep produce from drying out. I came to understand why the Emerald Isle is so named.

As my readers know I'm interested in language. I trained in a big city hospital in the South and learned many new colloquialisms. I was introduced to a "bealed" ear, translated as a middle ear infection (otitis media). A "risen" on the pajama" was a boil in a... very private area. "High blood" was hypertension, "low blood" was anemia and "bad blood" was sickle cell disease. And "shots on the green" was a historical vignette of public health doctors giving injections of antibiotics on rural village greens to treat syphilis.

Although there is much on the Internet that is wrong, dangerous and disgusting, there is also a lot that is quite good. I have been thinking about leadership after watching another TED talk entitled How to Start a Movement by Derek Sivers. You can easily find this on YouTube.

Years ago, I wrote about the attributes of leadership which include someone with bedrock principles, the ability to formulate policy and then gain consensus to achieve goals. The TED talk emphasizes the courage of leadership and the willingness to be criticized for your ideas. It then shows consensus building where first and then second followers are added and promoted as co-equals in the growing movement. And as the group grows it becomes less risky for others to join and soon, we have what Malcom Gladwell described as the "tipping point," where everyone is all in. The human dynamics in this three-minute video are fascinating.

I now realize what we have lost and why we are sick. We replaced the ultimate leader (God) with government. Then we replaced a penultimate leader with the old man manipulated by evil people. The oft circulated meme of President Trump's face and the caption "Miss me yet?" is so impactful.

I miss President Trump's energy policy where America was energy independent, rather than begging dictators to pump more petroleum. Gasoline has more than doubled in price on the old man's

watch. I miss Trump's border wall and immigration policy, and decry the southern invasion of our country. I miss Trump's economy rather than the old man's inflation, product scarcity and stock market decline. And I am horrified by the Democrats' war on the police, with rising murder, robbery, drugs and human trafficking. No, I don't miss Trump's Tweets, but I have never been targeted for destruction as Trump and his family were. I might have challenged my accusers to mortal combat!

I now recognize what we have lost. But America has faced terrible challenges in the past and prevailed. And as the saying goes, "It ain't over till the fat lady sings."

We aren't done yet. There is a way out of this mess. I have voted for Democrats in the past, but those relics have long since gone. All that is left are progressives, socialists, wokesters and party apparatchiks. And I have held my nose and voted for RINOs, but no more. I will brook no compromise.

It is time for the modern "citizen soldier" to stand up and fight. Join me and throw the bums out of office, and Make America Great Again!

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

How to get a neighborhood sign

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

There are more than 120 neighborhoods in Knoxville and each one wants some type of recognition. One of the most visible ways to welcome visitors and brag about the community is a neighborhood sign or two.

The process of designing, building and placing signs at the entrances to a neighborhood is more than just deciding to do it. Whether it's a brand new sign or replacing an existing sign the process involves some planning and some approval from the city.

The South Woodlawn Neighborhood residents were the latest to gain such approval, according to Neighborhood Coordinator Debbie Sharp, and placed four signs. Sharp said the



neighborhood used funds they received from the Neighborhood Small Grant Program funds to help with their effort.

The Knoxville Office of Neighborhood Empowerment can help neighborhoods navigate the process and the applications involved for

approval. The first step in acquiring a sign permit is to be recognized by the city as an official neighborhood.

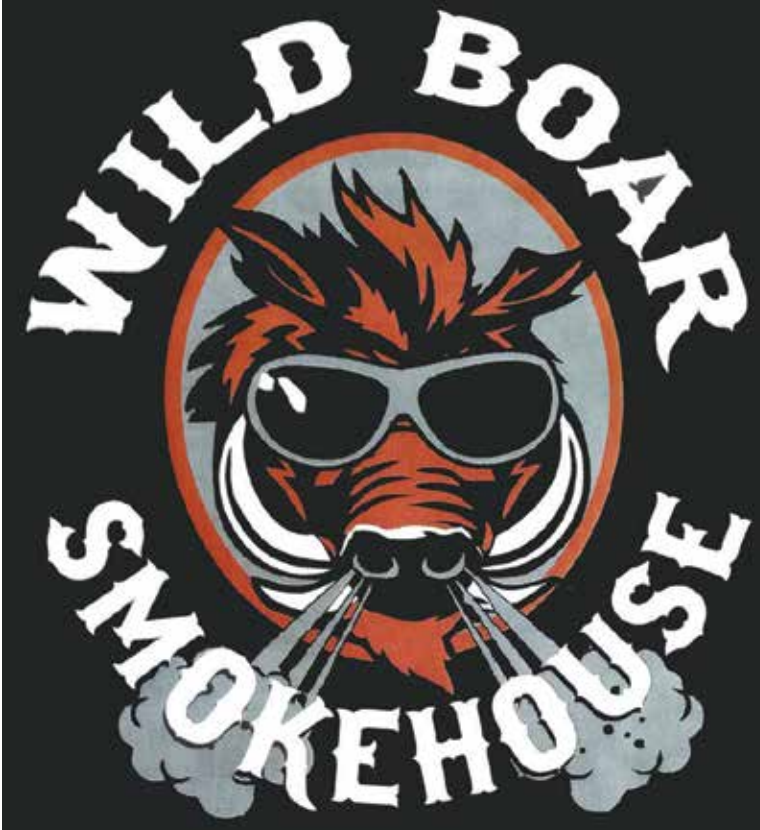
Signs within an H-1 Historic Overlay area must receive a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Zoning Commission.

Where the neighborhood signs will be located determines the steps needed for approval. Will the sign be on private property or on a city right-of-way?

Most neighborhood signs are placed on private property, outside the city's right-of-way. Those permits must **Continue on page 2**



The residents of South Woodlawn neighborhood are proud of their new signs and Knoxville Neighborhood Coordinator Debbie Sharp said they were they were the latest to comply and place the signs—not just one, but four. Photo by Betsy Pickle, courtesy of the South Woodland Neighborhood Association.



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Construction begins on Historic Kern's Bakery building in South Knoxville

Eclectic Mix of Culinary Tenants Announced for Food Hall

Real estate investment and development firm, Four Stones Real Estate, has commenced construction on Phase II of Kern's Bakery, a 16-acre mixed-use development inclusive of a food hall, market and event lawn located on the Chapman Highway near the Henley Street Bridge in Knoxville's New South Waterfront District. Phase I, Flagship Kerns, a 310-bedroom apartment community is now open and 100% leased.

"Kern's Bakery is unlike anything else in Knoxville and we are thrilled to take this next step to realize our vision," says Alex Dominguez, partner, Four Stones Real Estate. "We've been working closely with the City of Knoxville to ensure that our project will be a welcome and well-executed amenity for residents and visitors alike, and we're grateful for the support of the city and the community."

Phase II includes the transformation of the 75,000-square-foot historic bakery building originally built in 1931 into a thriving

18-merchant food hall along with boutique office space, specialty retailers, rooftop bars and outdoor entertainment areas. The food hall features an eclectic mix of chef-driven concepts including: Ava Italian, Awaken Coffee, Biscuit and Bird, Captain Muchacho's, Drop Zone Distilling, Hey Bear Café, Lanai, Milk + Honey Creamery, Myrtle's Bakehouse, The Donut Theory, Won Kitchen and Zukku Sushi.

Beloved local Flourish Flowers was the first to join the tenant line-up at Kern's and will have a small shop near the main entrance. Archer Paper Goods, a notable stationery and gift retailer will occupy a 2,949-square-foot space facing Chapman Highway. F45, a growing brand of functional fitness featuring a mix of circuit and HIIT style workouts will open a 2,034-square-foot facility near the event lawn. Mae Lee's Boutique, a style-forward women's boutique will open a 1,419-square foot storefront facing Chapman Highway. Drop Zone Distilling will have the largest presence with 5,400 square feet of space and an outdoor patio along Chapman Highway.

"This building is such a historic masterpiece full of character and authenticity", says Timothy Martin, owner and broker, TMA Real Estate. "Kern's Bakery Food Hall is building upon Knoxville's deep food heritage and is the perfect place for our family of chefs and entrepreneurs to share their unique brand with the Knoxville community. With the variety of concepts, there truly is something for everyone."

In addition to food, retail and service offerings, social gathering and entertainment is a significant component of Kern's Bakery. A small, indoor stage will be home to live performances while communal tables and intimate seating pods offer gathering choices for working or socializing. Two bars serve the indoor stage and food hall guests while the main bar serves the event lawn patrons as well as the food hall consumers. Other amenities include free high-speed internet, patio seating, indoor/outdoor bar, a dedicated dog park, direct access to the proposed three-mile trail along the G&O Railway tracks and close proximity to Knoxville's Urban

Wilderness.

Outdoor entertainment options include multiple rooftop patios and bars with spectacular views of Downtown Knoxville. The event lawn features a performance stage for concerts and a jumbotron screen for movies and other entertainment. The greenspace has ample area for lawn games, gatherings, pop-up events, food trucks, retail carts and festivals.

On the second floor, one-of-a-kind office space offers internal views of the food hall below and outside views of the Knoxville skyline. The lower level features 3,800-square feet perfect for a special event space or speakeasy.

Limited space remains available including two food hall stalls and a 5,000-square-foot space ideal for a full-service restaurant, 775 square feet for specialty retail or boutique office and a 3,800-square foot event space. Kern's is seeking a unique burger concept and authentic international cuisine brands.

The third and final phase of Kern's Bakery is still in the planning stage.



Picture of black bear seen recently in the Gibbs Community in Corryton, Tennessee, by Ralphine Major.

Which Way to the Smoky Mountains?

"Bring your camera!" he shouted. "There's a bear out here!"

"A bear?" I questioned. This was the first-ever sighting of a bear at our place, though it is highly possible bears have been in our area before. But we have never seen one.

Our schedule had changed that day. We were expecting a package to be delivered and had arrived home earlier than usual. While watching to see if the package would be delivered, my brother spotted the bear. We stayed safely distanced from the bear and used the camera's zoom feature to get a close-up picture. The black bear did not appear aggressive. It



By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

walked slowly the way down the length of our yard and never stopped. Finally, it wandered off our property into the road and out of sight. Later, other people in the community shared videos

and still photos they had captured of the bear. In years past, there have been reports of bears seen in South Knoxville, Powell, and other surrounding areas. This one time, we saw a bear in Corryton! We have not seen the bear since. It must have heard the Smoky Mountains calling from a distance!

Words of Faith: "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." 1 John 5:11 (KJV).

How to get a neighborhood sign

Cont. from page 1

organization must call 811 to have the area marked for underground utilities. The telephone number for the inspection is (865)215-4830.

The steps for a sign on a right-of-way are different. Signs cannot block the sight distance of vehicles and cannot be placed on state or national routes. Adjoining land owners must give permission and only wooden posts may be used. The maximum height is six feet and the total sign can be no more than 36 square feet. Signs must be at least 10 feet from the right-of-way and can be externally lighted.

A rendering of the sign is required along with a notarized permission of the land owner. A \$75 application fee is charged along with a \$5 fee for every \$1,000 of construction cost. Permits expire one year after being issued.

Once approved the

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Hiding Files

I'm perplexed right now. Things are bouncing around in my head that have me so confused that I feel like screaming. Of course, any time I use some electronic device, I make a mistake that brings on panic and frustration.

I wrote a column on Monday. I felt proud that for once I'd completed my work so early in the week. I left the piece on my Chromebook and turned the machine off. I always go back to read my work and make changes in wording and grammar. I finished that today and sent it on to my editor. She wrote me back this afternoon to suggest I look at my work because the one I'd sent had already been published. Well, DUH! I felt like an idiot and opened



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

Word to get the right piece for publication.

When I looked for the correct column, I had no idea what I'd titled it. That's my age showing, isn't it? My next action was to go through the most recent pieces that the program listed. This unknown titled column didn't show up at all. For a couple of hours, I've searched to find the darn thing, but I've had not even a close call in locating it.

The only thing I can think of is that I didn't save the work. Why would I do something so ridiculously stupid? Yes, I struggle with using Word on this Chromebook. Things are much different from my old computer. I've not found a way to write pieces in Chrome and then send them to my editor, whose

technology is set up in Word.

The same problems arise when I use my phone. To be honest, all I want from a phone is that it allows me to make or take a call, that I can send a text message, that I can check email, and that it plays my music. I'm not much into all the grand apps that others use. Games don't grab my attention, and I don't really care how many steps I take; if I take enough, I'll be tired.

Of late, I am struggling to sync my phone with my watch. It seems as if any time I do something to one device, the other one goes haywire. Instructions on what to do to fix problems on either one baffle me. Most of the time, I can't even begin because I don't know where the right button to push is. Some people have watches that can serve as phones. All I can ever think of when I

see someone talking to a watch is Dick Tracy.

I am concerned that many of the problems I have with these items are the result of my age. I just don't think in the same ways as younger people do. My grandson asked for a graphics card for Christmas a few years ago. He and his dad were building a computer. We gave him the money for the part because neither Amy nor I had the slightest idea what the thing was. My grandson is building computers, and I can barely use one.

If anyone out there knows how to write in Google Docs and then send them as Word documents, please get in touch with me. That would make life so much easier. Oh, and if anyone sees a column running around, grab it and send it to me, or please tell me how to find the thing on this Chromebook.

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WOMEN IN POLITICS

Emma Guffey Miller

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Political parties are not successful simply because of the candidates running to represent those parties, but rather because of issues and those people working hard in the background. The infrastructure of a political party is very important to overall success. In reflecting back, it is all too easy to overlook the differences between then and now. History cannot be accurately viewed through the prism of today, but only through the spectrum of the times.

Emma Guffey Miller was a pioneer for the rights of women. Mrs. Miller was a Democrat in a state that was, throughout much of her life, solidly Republican. Emma Guffey Miller is one of the longest-serving members of the Democratic National Committee, serving from 1932 until her death in 1970, a remarkable thirty-eight years. "I was born to politics," Mrs. Miller often said. The year before her death, she told one visitor, "I've gone to every Democratic convention since 1924." Indeed, Emma Guffey Miller was also the first woman nominated for president at that same convention. One reporter recalled Emma Guffey Miller "took pleasure in shocking people with her frankness and her youthful manners."

Reporter Frank M. Matthew remembered Emma Guffey Miller as "sharp-minded, sharp-tongued, demanding, witty, full of remembrances that ranged across two centuries. . ."

Mrs. Miller could trace back her own participation in Democratic politics to the 1880 election when she was six years old. The Guffey family was then living in Greensburg, Pennsylvania and there had been a torchlight parade held for General Winfield Scott Hancock, the Democratic nominee for president. "My father was chief marshal," Mrs. Miller remembered. "He rode in front on a beautiful bay horse with a red sash and a silk hat, and our house was on the main street."

"I was waving like mad, and one of the marchers brought me a Roman candle - - - I'd never seen one before - - - and my brother said 'Hold it high.' But I didn't and it shot balls of fire right across the street into the front of a Republican house." Emma Guffey Miller paused. "I've been shooting at Republicans ever since."

Professionally, Emma Guffey Miller was a school teacher, although her real vocation was politics. Throughout her life, Mrs. Miller would wield considerable influence in both Washington, D.C. and Harrisburg, the capitol of Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Miller made no pretense of being bipartisan; indeed, by the time of her death, she was described as "Mrs. Democrat." Emma Guffey Miller was a highly partisan Democrat. Frank Matthews recalled Mrs. Miller as having been "triumphant with her party's winners and compassionate with its losers and forever unforgiving of the Republican party, its men and its works."

At the 1968 Democratic National Convention, Mrs. Miller recalled when delegates largely traveled by train rather than flying. "We used to go by special train. It would start in Philadelphia and pick up delegates and spectators all along the way," Mrs. Miller said. "I remember once there was a woman from one of the eastern counties who fainted or had a heart seizure, or something, and somebody asked if anybody had any whisky."

"Well, sir, a flask came out of every berth. I never laughed so much in my life. That's what prohibition did." Needless to say, Mrs. Miller was a highly vocal and active opponent of prohibition.

Mrs. Miller was and remains the oldest person to serve on the Democratic National Committee, dying when she was ninety-five years old. Emma Guffey Miller laughingly referred to herself as the "old gray mare" of the Democratic Party. That particular nickname came when Senator Joe T. Robinson of Arkansas, then the vice presidential running mate of Al Smith in 1928, had toasted Mrs. Miller, saying, "Here's to the Old Gray Mare - - - Emma Guffey Miller. She's better than she used to be."

While she liked to say she was averse to candidates backed by political machines, in truth her brother Joseph F. Guffey was the Democratic "boss" of Pennsylvania while he occupied a seat in the United States Senate from 1935-1947. Joe Guffey was one of the most ardent supporters of President Franklin Roosevelt to sit in the United States Senate. One contemporary assessment of Senator Joe Guffey was written by Isaiah Berlin, who provided confidential reports about the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to Britain's Foreign Office. Berlin wrote Senator Guffey was "a noisy supporter who wraps himself in the Roosevelt flag and has been advocating for a fourth term for some time." Berlin described Guffey as a "very typical Pennsylvania politician who has decided to throw his lot in with the President and has thus become an obedient party hack not of the



WORLD PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Two old warhorses of the Democratic Party, former Postmaster General James A. Farley poses with Pennsylvania's National Committeewoman, Emma Guffey Miller at the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

purest integrity."

Emma Guffey Miller's prominence inside the Democratic Party was through her own persistence, hard work and accomplishments rather than any reflected glory from her brother. One editorial at the time of her death noted there were a large number of people who liked Mrs. Miller, yet who could not stand Senator Guffey "for a variety of reasons." Mrs. Miller seconded the nominations of Alfred E. Smith and Franklin D. Roosevelt for the Democratic nomination for president in 1928 and 1932, respectively. Once the Democrats came back to power, her husband Carroll was appointed to serve on the Interstate Commerce Commission by President Roosevelt. Carroll Miller was chairman of the ICC in 1937.

One could easily discern the relationship between Emma Guffey Miller and her brother, as there was a distinct family resemblance. Emma Guffey Miller was plainspoken and fought for what she believed in, especially for the rights of women. One of eight children, Emma Guffey Miller's political career practically began at birth. The Guffeys were a political family and her father was elected sheriff of Westmoreland County. Indeed, Emma Guffey was born at Guffey's Station along the Youghiogheny River. The Guffey family later moved to Pittsburgh when Emma was a teenager.

"We've been around western Pennsylvania a long time," Mrs. Miller once explained. "Patrick Campbell was in the Black Watch at Fort Duquesne. But you never know what will turn up when you trace your ancestry."

"We found one whom Charles II had executed and (had) his head posted on London Bridge because he was the lawyer who prosecuted Charles I for treason."

Like many people who have participated in politics for a long time, Emma Guffey Miller had a wealth of stories she liked to share. Mrs. Miller enjoyed recalling elections in Westmoreland County after the votes had been counted and those counting the ballots had put aside partisan differences to have a drink of "Old Possum Hollow."

"That's how we knew the count was finished," Mrs. Miller laughed. "Old Possum Hollow was the most famous rye whisky ever made, long before Overholt. My father always said it was because of the water they had."

At a time when most women did not attend college, Emma Guffey was a member of the Class of 1899, graduating from Bryn Mawr. Mrs. Miller graduated with a degree in history and, of course, politics. Emma Guffey Miller taught briefly in the Pittsburgh area and in Japan, where she lived for a time. She later married and had four sons. Mrs. Miller was able to indulge her interest in politics due to the fact she, along with her brother Joe and sister had invested in oil, which provided them with a comfortable annual income.

Described as "an engaging, but tough minded woman," politicians dismissed Emma Guffey Miller as simply another nice old lady and soon discovered their mistake. One officeholder who was defending his stance of opposing women driving automobiles, pointed out it would not be safe for them to drive at night. "Hire more policemen," Emma Guffey Miller snapped.

During a meeting of the Democratic National Committee in 1967, in anticipation of the 1968 convention, a rule was proposed that no candidate for delegate to the national convention would be discriminated against because of "race, religion

or national origin." Emma Guffey Miller immediately insisted the word "sex" be added to the statement.

For years, Emma Guffey Miller had been the head of the National Women's Party, which sought an amendment to the Constitution stating the "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied by the United States or any state on account of sex." Emma Guffey Miller lived at Wolf Creek Farm near Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, maintaining a home there from 1920 until her death. She also shuttled back and forth between Pennsylvania and Washington, D. C. where she lived in the spacious home occupied by her bachelor brother, Joe.

Mrs. Miller backed Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson over Senator John F. Kennedy in 1960. As she passed ninety, Emma Guffey Miller remained active and alert; in fact, the only concessions she made to aging were her acknowledgments that she was hard of hearing and needed a cane. Mrs. Miller was the guest of honor at the 28th anniversary of the Democratic Women's group in Lancaster County. Her estimation of Lyndon Johnson remained consistent, saying, "I'm 100 per cent behind him." When Johnson was challenged by Eugene McCarthy for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1968, Emma Guffey Miller said of the Minnesota senator, "A fine man but he's not getting anywhere."

Although she had ardently supported the Catholic Al Smith in 1928, some were puzzled when she voted for Lyndon Johnson rather than John F. Kennedy. Mrs. Miller explained she didn't believe a Catholic could win the general election. When reminded of her support for Al Smith, Emma Guffey Miller coolly replied, "Well, young man, Al Smith was different because he was

against prohibition." Mrs. Miller's personal contempt of prohibition knew no bounds and she simply ignored it until she helped to place a plank in the 1932 Democratic platform promising to repeal it. Commenting upon her ferocious opposition to prohibition, Mrs. Miller said it caused everyone in Slippery Rock to think "I was a drunk."

Mrs. Miller was credited with helping a woman win the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate seat her brother had once occupied. Genevieve Blatt, the State Secretary of Internal Affairs, won the nomination over Judge Michael Musmanno in 1964 in what was described as a "cliff-hanger" of an election.

When she died, the press in Pennsylvania took note. One editorial began by reminding its readers of the old adage, "Never underestimate the power of a woman." The editorial stated while that same adage "may not have been intended to fit Emma Guffey Miller" yet "it fit her precisely." The Pittsburgh Press wrote "Emma Guffey Miller lived a life of immense usefulness, constant activity and sparkling experience. Her drive helped push many a good cause toward completion." The editorial concluded by stating, "Mrs. Miller will be long remembered by the many people who worked with or against her. Or just knew her for the good fighter she was."

Contemporary newspaper reports gave conflicting causes of death for Emma Guffey Miller; she had been admitted to a local hospital following either a heart attack or stroke. Mrs. Miller slipped away a few hours later. Frank M. Matthews, a writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette scoffed at the notion Emma Guffey Miller had suffered a heart attack. "Every politician in the country knows that this grand old woman of the Democratic party would not go that way," Matthews wrote. "She wouldn't suffer a heart attack; she'd fight it until she ran out of breath."

"Just like she didn't suffer arthritis," Matthews added. "It made her walk all bowed over and with a cane, but Mrs. Miller herself declared that she didn't suffer, and the cane was always handy to rap for attention." Frank Matthews thought since Emma Guffey Miller had been around longer than anyone else, it simply seemed she was a fact of life.

By any measure, living a life of "immense usefulness" is a fitting and fine epitaph for any reasonable human being.

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ETHS honors eleven Knox County initiatives with Awards of Excellence in East Tennessee History

The East Tennessee Historical Society's annual Awards of Excellence were presented at the organization's Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, June 7, at the Museum of East Tennessee History in Knoxville. Since 1982, the Society has annually recognized individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the preservation, promotion, programming, and interpretation of the region's history. Eleven Knox County initiatives were among the 41 awards presented.

Steve Cotham was the recipient of a Ramsey Award for Lifetime Achievement. For 35 years, Steve Cotham was the guiding force for the growth of Knox County Public Library's Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, a premiere local history and genealogical research library in the Southeast. Cotham was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate in Liberal Arts and was awarded the Bachelor of Science in History in 1971, the Master of Arts in History in 1975, and Master of Science of Library Science in 1978, all from the University of Tennessee. During his tenure, the McClung Collection expanded both in holdings and physical space. For example, during the county's 200th birthday celebration in 1992, Cotham oversaw the creation of the "Knox County Two Centuries Photograph Collection." His involvement with historical and civic organizations has—and continues to be—wide-ranging. Cotham is the author of "The Great Smoky Mountains National Park," published by Arcadia Press (2006). He served as guest curator for the exhibitions Louis E. Jones: Artist of the Smokies (2001) and Mountain Splendor: Art and Artists of the Great Smoky Mountains, 1850-1950 (2009), both at the Museum of East Tennessee History.

Annette Anderson was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award for Historic

Preservation. Anderson was recognized for outstanding efforts as Executive Director of the East Tennessee Community Design Center, for support of numerous projects that promoted East Tennessee's past, and for a lifetime of tireless advocacy for historic preservation.

Stephen Dean was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award for Media. Dean was recognized for the preservation and promotion of East Tennessee history, especially through his work on the popular and beloved "The Heartland Series," which fostered a lasting awareness and appreciation for the region's past.

Don K. Ferguson was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award for Research & Preservation. Ferguson was recognized for lifelong contributions to the preservation of East Tennessee's judicial history, for actively working to engage East Tennessee citizens, and for his efforts to document rulings that convey the spirit and culture of East Tennessee.

Georgiana Vines was the recipient of an Award of Distinction for the book "East Tennessee Newsmakers-Where Are They Now?," which provides insight into prominent East Tennesseans and their contributions to politics, culture, and daily life.

Dwight Wade was the recipient of an Award of Distinction for the book "Unfinished Journey: Methodism Comes to America, the Tennessee Frontier, and to Church Street United Methodist Church," which contributes not only to the understanding of religion but also settlement, enslavement, family history, and the evolution of Methodism in East Tennessee.

John Romeiser & Jack McCall were the recipients of an Award of Distinction for the book "The East Tennessee Veterans Memorial: A Pictorial History of the Names on the Wall, Their Service, and Their Sacrifice,"

an exhaustive compilation of photographs, documents, and personal recollections that provides insight into the East Tennesseans who served the nation during wartime.

Joseph Longmire was the recipient of a Community History Award for the promotion of local history in Corryton by way of engaging community tours and student and adult public education.

Cynthia Tinker was the recipient of a Community History Award for a myriad of efforts to preserve and share East Tennessee's rich military history through the production of oral and written histories of local veterans.

WBIR-TV was the recipient of a History in the Media Award for exemplary coverage of the anniversary of the Scarborough 85 and the desegregation of Oak Ridge and Robertsville Junior high schools in 1955.

Karen Peterman was the recipient of a Teaching Excellence Award for commitment to community engagement and ongoing educational experiences through local history interpretation, teacher workshops, and public and museum programming.

Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society is widely acknowledged as one of the most active history organizations in the state and enjoys a national reputation for excellence in programming and education. For nearly 200 years, the East Tennessee Historical Society has been helping East Tennesseans hold on to our unique heritage—recording the events, collecting the artifacts, and saving the stories that comprise the history we all share.

For more information on ETHS, exhibitions, or programs, call 865-215-8824 or visit www.EastTNHistory.org.

Local history advocate Cherel Henderson with "Heartland Series" star and regional author Bill Landry at a Christmas-time event in years past. Knoxville Focus file photo by Mike Steely.



In Memoriam

Cherel Henderson

Cherel Jean Bolin Henderson, 77 of Knoxville, passed away Sunday, July 3, 2022.

She grew up in Jefferson County, Tennessee, and attended Rush Strong High School where she graduated as class valedictorian. She was fascinated by history from an early age and often preferred the company of her elders at family gatherings, listening on the front porch as they discussed the "old ways." These discussions awakened something deep inside her, not simply a love for genealogy, but also an understanding of how her life had been shaped by those who came before her.

Cherel worked at JCPenney in downtown Knoxville for several years, but her passion for history eventually led her to join the East Tennessee Historical Society staff in 1987. She was promoted to associate director in 1995 and became executive director in 2003, retiring in 2020. In the 17 years Cherel served as executive director, her warmth, sincerity and love for all things East Tennessee were driving forces for ETHS's success and growth. She was the founding director of the ETHS Tennessee Bicentennial family heritage program, First Families of Tennessee, which now numbers almost 17,000 members from all over the world, and was editor of the book "First Families

of Tennessee: A Register of Early Settlers and Their Present-Day Descendants."

Other highlights of her career include the 2004 completion of the East Tennessee History Center's renovation of the Old Custom House and addition that houses the Museum of East Tennessee History. She also oversaw design and construction of the museum's signature exhibition, "Voices of the Land: The People of East Tennessee," that opened in 2008.

Cherel loved to travel and fondly recalled her visits to Ireland, Scotland, and Germany. She had a compassionate heart for animals and doted on her beloved cats, looked out for neighborhood strays, and often carried birdseed and peanuts in her car in case she ran across birds or squirrels looking for food.

Preceded in death by husband, James; parents, Hobart T. and Lillie (Bell) Bolin; brother, H.T. Bolin; grandson, Easton Henderson; and son-in law, Donald Hodnett. Survivors include: children, Kristie and Gareth (Jan) Henderson; sister, Becky (Charles) Anderson; brother, Frank Bolin; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A private family graveside service was held Friday at Pleasant Grove Piney Baptist Church in New Market.



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The Return of the V-O-L-S at Neyland Stadium

By Mark Nagi

If you've been around the UT campus lately you've likely seen a lot of construction taking place at Neyland Stadium.

Phase one renovations are expected to be complete in time for the season opener on September 1 at home against Ball State. Those improvements, which will cost a reported \$180 million, include two new videoboards on both ends of Neyland Stadium. There will also be a lower-west premium club, enhanced chairback seating in some lower sections on the west side of the stadium, as well as a party

Continue on page 6



Last week iconic V O L S letters returned to the top of the south end zone at Neyland Stadium.

Meet the Knoxville Focus All-County Baseball Team

By Ken Lay

The recently completed 2022 high school baseball season was full of excitement as Farragut High School won the Class 4A state championship, the Admirals' 11th state title in their storied history.

Powell continued its dominance in District 3-4A, going undefeated in league play. The Panthers also made it to Spring Fling in Murfreesboro.

Catholic, which went 26-14, made a run to the Division II-AA state tournament.

Halls and Carter also won district championships while Gibbs and South-Doyle each qualified for the state sectionals.

The Knoxville Focus honors some of the top players on its 2022 All-County baseball team.

Coach of the Year: Matt Buckner, Farragut High School: Buckner guided the Admirals to a Class 4A state championship, the 11th in Farragut's storied baseball history.

Player of the Year: Lukas Buckner, sophomore, Farragut High School: Buckner, a shortstop and University of Central Florida commitment, was the District 4-4A Player of the Year as the Admirals won both the district regular-season title and tournament championships en route to claiming a state title.

Buckner batted .451 in 2022 and hit .500 at the state tournament in Murfreesboro.

Other selections

Brooks Wright, sophomore, Bearden High School: A University of Tennessee commitment, Wright was an all-district standout and the District 4-4A Offensive Player of the Year as

Continue on page 2

Nearly 7,000 attend Smokies' Independence holiday game

By Steve Williams

The colors were Red, White and Blue and the action was baseball and fireworks for the Tennessee Smokies' Independence Day Extravaganza July 3.

A turnout of 6,769 fans was on hand at Smokies Stadium in Kodak for the Sunday evening Southern League game that got underway at 6:30.

The Smokies, a Class AA affiliate of the Chicago Cubs, lost 4-2, but they certainly had their chances against the Rocket City Trash Pandas, a Los Angeles Angeles' minor league team.

Third baseman Jake Slaughter was a bright spot for the home club with a 3-for-4 performance at the plate that included a run scored and one RBI.

Tennessee twice had the bases loaded but couldn't connect with a clutch hit.

The Smokies return home Tuesday night for a six-day homestand against the Biloxi Shuckers.

Thursday and Friday will be Fireworks Nights and it will be Grateful Dead Night on Saturday. Smokies baseball T-shirts will be given away free to the first 1,000 fans to cap off the week on Sunday.

For more information, go to smokiesbaseball.com or call 865-286-2300.



GO CUBS, ER UH, SMOKIES! Standing and leading cheers at the moment for the Tennessee Smokies is 1-year-old Emily Robbins, who gets a little support from her mom, Alicia. Meanwhile, sister Addison, 3, and dad Austin Robbins spot something of interest to their left. (Maybe it was Homer the mascot). The Robbins family, Chicago Cubs fans from Indianapolis, was on a vacation trip and chose to come and support the Smokies, a Chicago Cubs' minor league team. Also at the July 3 game with them is aunt Kellie Davis (far left) from North Carolina. Incidentally, Addison, according to her father, was named after Addison from the famous street corner Addison and Clark that borders Wrigley Field.

Homer, the Tennessee Smokies mascot, mingles among a large turnout of fans in patriotic attire for the Independence Extravaganza at Smokies Stadium. A crowd of close to 7,000 watched the game and the traditional fireworks show, too.

Photos by Steve Williams.



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College sports leaders need to pull back on the reins

If it doesn't make sense, you can bet it's making dollars.



By Steve Williams

I can't take credit for the introductory sentence to this column. I heard veteran sportscaster Chris Moore say it during one of the shows he was working for CBS Sports Radio during the July 4 weekend.

You may have guessed it was in reference to the craziness college football is going through across the nation.

Moore said he came up with that comment a few years ago, but it never caught on. It should gain some traction now. It's right on, the way I see it.

By the way, one of the younger sportscasters, who had gotten an opportunity to fill in for one of the regulars, was excited and thrilled about the recent news that UCLA and Southern Cal were moving from the Pac-12 Conference to the Big Ten over 2,000 miles away. He said those college athletes won't have to be concerned about their classes because they won't be going to school anymore; they'll just be players in this new era of college sports.

I've even heard some say the players will be university employees.

Can you believe that?

What is this sports world coming to on the college level? New and improved definitely is not the correct answer.

Somebody please call a timeout and let's revisit the latest shocking developments. Leaders that are respected and can see what college athletics should be for our teams and student-athletes are much needed. Yes, even for those players on the Power 5 level.

The NCAA should not go out of business, like some are saying it will. Instead, a governing body with strict rules, severe penalties and quick enforcement is needed to keep play and recruiting fair and square.

Let's get back to the basic fundamentals of what college should be, please!

Learning how to live on your own and getting an education that will open doors to a profession and making a living have been top goals for decades.

The "name, image and likeness" concept is a great addition to the college scene for those who can benefit from it, but it needs to be utilized in a way that is reasonable and not a replacement for the main goals.

Television coverage also is good for college sports, but TV executives shouldn't be calling the shots to the point that the almighty dollar has taken away the basic fundamentals of what college sports should be.

Those that are talented enough will get their opportunity to make millions at the professional level. But it should be noted that only 1.6 percent of college-level players will get drafted into the NFL, based on a 2021 report.

In the meantime, let's keep our traditions in college sports. Let's keep the games close enough for fans to be there. Let's keep the college rivalries alive.

Conference expansion, if necessary, should have reasonable boundaries.

Sure, this world has changed over the decades. But what is important has not.



Wet and wild! CAK

Head Coach Travis Mozingo celebrates with his fist in the air, while his son Maddox gives a thumbs up behind him as they conquer the White Water at the New River Gorge in West Virginia. Also doing their part are daughter Mackenna (front) and Travis' wife Beth on the back end of the raft. The Mozingo team also picked up another paddler, Ally (far left), a teacher from California. "She was rafting solo, and we had room, so she got thrown in with us," explained Travis. "We called her Ally from Cally." Also on the ride is River Guide Garrett (orange helmet).



Far left: New Halls High football coach Brent Hughes and wife Heather enjoy family time with their daughters Sutton (left) and Ava Brooke in Santa Rosa, Fla., during the TSSAA Dead Period.

Near left: "Mays Family, all the way from.....downtown Knoxville, TN. Enjoying July 4th with some cool drinks." - Antonio Mays, Austin-East Head Football Coach. From left to right: Coach Mays, daughter Kyndall Mays and wife LaToiya Mays.

Refreshed and ready to get to it after Dead Period

By Steve Williams

It's time to go back to work, particularly for high school football coaches after the recent 14-day TSSAA Dead Period that ended Sunday.

Halls' Brent Hughes is one of the new coaches in Knox County who will be back on the turf this week.

"What excites me about this team is these seniors are special to me," said Hughes, who was the Red Devils' defensive coordinator the past three seasons. "We came in together and now to be their head coach and have a chance to finish this journey together means everything to me."

Hughes, 32, graduated from Halls in 2008 and played four years for the Red Devils before going on to play at Cumberland University in Lebanon.

This is his 13th season in coaching and first as a head coach. He had previous coaching jobs at Central and Campbell County, where he was defensive line coach. But Brent also has experience on the offensive side of the ball as he was the offensive line coach for Central's 2018 state championship team.

He returned to Halls in 2019 and served as defensive coordinator for three seasons under Scott Cummings, who took the head job at Oak Ridge after last season, opening the door for Hughes.

"We have some experience coming back, but we will be counting on a lot of young talent to give us the depth we need to be a good football team all around," said Hughes, looking ahead to the 2022 campaign. "Our challenge is being able to put it all together and learn to finish games. We were a young team last year and came up short.

"I look forward to the next coming weeks because it won't be perfect and it will be tough, but it will shape our football team for this coming season."

Hughes will be seeing Coach Cummings Thursday as his Halls Squad competes in 7 on 7 at Oak Ridge against the Wildcats and Alcoa. Those two traditional state powers should give the Red Devils plenty of good opposition to work against for sure.



Josh Jones, Bearden's new head football coach, and his wife Wendy at Murrells Inlet Boardwalk while vacationing at Garden City Beach (SC) during the TSSAA Dead Period.

JONES IMPRESSED: New Bearden Head Coach Josh Jones also is back from vacationing at the beach and his Bulldogs will be competing in two 7 on 7 events this week - the first Tuesday at Campbell County and then in Powell's tournament Thursday. The latter will be somewhat of a homecoming too for Josh, who was offensive coordinator last year for the Panthers' Class 5A state title team.

"Work ethic and taking coaching are two of the most impressive things about our team I've seen so far," said Jones in regard to his new job at BHS.

"We made the offseason really hard and made it about competing. Most everything we did had a competitive component to it (we rewarded winners and made sure it wasn't fun for the loser). The kids showed up every day and got after it."

BACKATIT: Somewhat known for his fun and adventurous vacations, CAK head coach Travis Mozingo spent a good part of his time last summer helping his in-laws prepare for a move from their home in Illinois.

Travis and gang were back at it this summer, maybe catching up on some lost time (but goodwill time) from last year.

"Just got back in town this morning," emailed Travis Thursday. "Of course we went traipsing around the country-side. I've enclosed a photo of one of the days ... White Water Rafting at New River Gorge in West Virginia."

Coach Mozingo was asked to tell us more about his vacation and he was kind enough to do that:

Day One - Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky (Cave Hiking). Day Two - Historical stops on the way to West Virginia - (Abe Lincoln Historical Trail, General Patton Leadership Museum, Marshall University (1970 Team Memorial)). Day Three (it's worth repeating) - New River Gorge National Park (White Water Rafting). Day Four - Shenandoah National Park (Skyline Tour and hiking).

Meet The Knoxville Focus All-County Baseball Team

Cont. from page 1

the Bulldogs reached the Region 2-4A tournament. He was an all-state selection by both the Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association and the Tennessee Sports Writers Association. He filled many roles for Bearden as a pitcher, catcher and infielder.

Logan Ozias, senior, Hardin Valley Academy: Ozias, another versatile player in the area, was an all-district selection for the Hawks, who finished second in the District 4-4A regular-season standings. Ozias pitched and played both third base and in the outfield for Hardin Valley.

Logan Poteet, senior, Powell High School: Poteet, a catcher and Vanderbilt signee, led the Panthers to the Class 4A state tournament in Murfreesboro. Powell also won the District 3-4A regular-season and tournament championship. He batted .415 with six home runs and 26 RBIs.

Luke Lawson, junior, Halls High School: Lawson, named an all-state standout by the Tennessee Sportswriters Association, helped the Red Devils win the District 4-3A regular-season and tournament championship. He batted .506 with 10 doubles last season.

George Davis, senior, Carter High School: Davis helped the Hornets win the District 3-3A regular-season and tournament championship. He earned all-state honors from both the TBCA and the TSWA. As a pitcher, he won 10 games and was named District 3-3A MVP.

Reilly Byers, junior, Gibbs High School; Byers, a pitcher for the Eagles, helped his team reach the sectional round of the state playoffs. He was named all-state by the TSWA.

Jaxon Pease, senior, Farragut High School: Pease was the Admirals' ace in 2022, helping Farragut win the Class 4A state title. He

was an all-state selection by both the TBCA and TSWA after being named District 4-4A Pitcher of the Year.

Garrett Brewer, senior, Farragut High School: An all-state selection by the TSWA, Brewer was a leader for Farragut. He recently played in the state tournament with a torn hamstring. He recently signed with Walters State Community College.

Daniel Parris, junior, Catholic High School: Parks, a two-way player for the Irish, shined both on the mound and at the plate as Catholic reached the Division II-AA state tournament. He earned multiple all-state

accolades and has committed to play for Tennessee.

Ian Hubbard, junior, Catholic High School: Another two-way player for the Irish, Hubbard, a left-handed pitcher and outfielder, played a key role for Catholic in its state tournament run.

Wes Alig, sophomore, Christian Academy of Knoxville: Alig batted .462 and clubbed 11 home runs and totaled 33 RBIs. He scored 55 runs and stole 20 bases. He was an all-state selection by the TBCA and TSWA.

Simon Tesh, senior, Christian Academy of Knoxville: A top pitcher in the area, Tesh made the TSWA's Division II-A all-state team. The

Belmont University signee helped the Warriors have a successful regular season. He went 6-2 in 2022.

Austin King, senior, Hardin Valley Academy: A starter for the Hawks, he was an all-district standout as HVA finished second in the District 4-4A regular-season standings.

Ty Denton, senior, Hardin Valley Academy: Denton batted .386 and clubbed eight home runs for the Hawks.

Braden Graves, junior, Gibbs High School: Graves hit .440 for the Eagles while stealing 26 bases and legging out seven triples.

A short trip between 'them' and 'us'

Here's a question for all the armchair historians.



By Tom Mattingly

Name an opposing quarterback who helped defeat Tennessee in a

and having four passes intercepted.

The Chicago Tribune Press Service wrote that "A bruising band of Baylor Bears came out of Texas today to tear to shreds the reputation of All-American Johnny Majors and his hapless gang of Tennessee Volunteers."

A staff writer for Baylor's official athletic department website called the win "perhaps the greatest victory in Baylor football history."

In Jones' brief time on staff, the Vols had defeated Army and South Carolina and tied Auburn and Alabama. Better days were ahead. There was a renewed spirit around the football program and among Vol fans. Vol fans began to believe that "Tennessee was back."

Dickey was selling a dream to Vol players and prospects, and the tie with the Crimson Tide was a significant step forward. Tennessee earned a two-page color picture spread in that week's Sports Illustrated. It was as if the football gods had ordained it. The Vols, dressed in orange jerseys, were slugging it out on Legion Field with Alabama, dressed in their crimson shirts. By any measure,

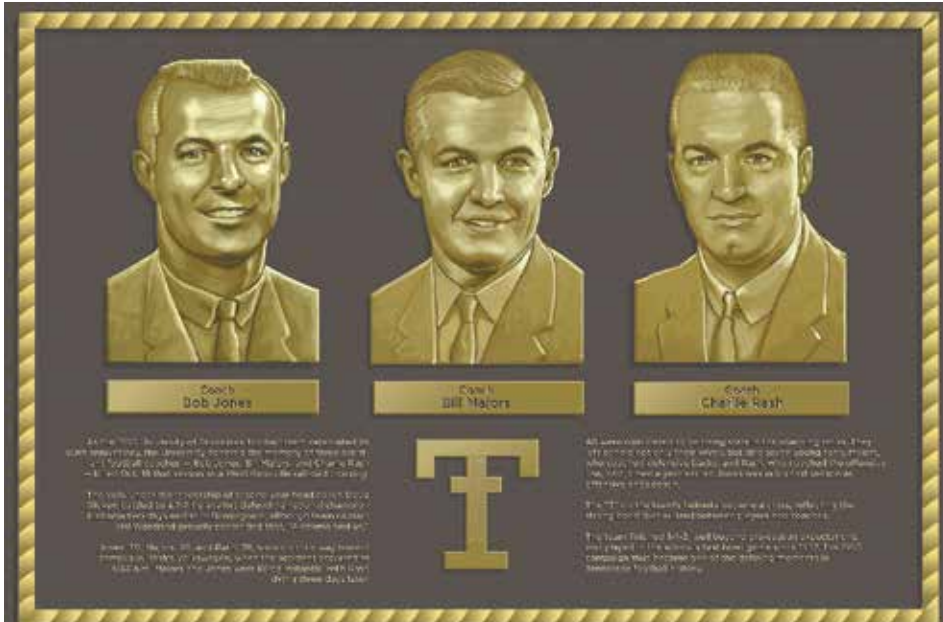
such a photo spread provided instant credibility for the Vol program.

"But in this season that ran the gamut of emotions, real-life despair was just around the corner," John Shearer wrote in the Chattanooga on Dec. 5, 2005.

"On the following Monday morning, offensive line and kicking coach Charlie Rash, 28, left his Forest Oak Drive home in Knoxville in his Volkswagen Beetle, stopped to pick up end coach Bob Jones, 30, at his Deane Hill Apartment on Gleason Drive (which today borders West Town Mall), and then headed to pick up Coach [Bill] Majors at his Cessna Drive home a mile or so to the southwest."

They were undoubtedly looking forward to continuing the assignment of bringing the Vols "back" to national prominence. They were no doubt overjoyed with the progress of the Vol squad, with the 7-7 tie with Alabama two days earlier being the most recent example.

Crossing the Southern Railway mainline at Cessna and Westland Drives in the early morning fog, their car was broadsided by an eastbound passenger train barreling toward Knoxville. Majors and Jones were



Bob Jones (left) was one of three Tennessee assistant football coaches who died in a car-train wreck in Knoxville on October 18, 1965, and who have been memorialized on campus.

killed instantly while Rash survived until early the next Thursday.

Three young wives became widows, and seven sons, all under the age of 10, were left fatherless. It was a stunning moment, one unmatched in Tennessee football history.

There were those who were convinced that the coaches killed in that accident were each destined to become head coaches.

"All three were great young men and talented coaches," wrote Haywood

Harris. "I imagine all of them would have become great head coaches. They worked hard. They had worked harder than usual in preparation for our game against Alabama."

Police found Jones' Sugar Bowl watch, stopped at 6:53 a.m., near the scene of the accident, helping investigators to pinpoint the time of the crash. Dickey recalled that he went to Jones' home after the accident, given that Jones and family had been in Knoxville for the shortest amount of time.

When you think about it, Bob Jones made two impacts on the Tennessee football program, the first when he helped disappoint Vol fans in the 1957 Sugar Bowl.

He got a chance for a make-up call eight years later, being part of the Vols' resurgence on the gridiron, coaching the Vol receivers.

He went from being a part of "them" in 1957 to being a part of "us" in 1965 very quickly.

He wasn't here long, but he remains a part of the Tennessee family.

TSWA ALL-STATE TEAMS

Area baseball players honored by TSWA

By Ken Lay

Twelve area baseball players were recognized for their stellar 2022 season recently by the Tennessee Sports Writers Association.

The organization released its all-state teams early last week.

In Class 4A: Five local players received all-state honors.

Farragut, which won the Class 4A state championship in Murfreesboro recently, had three players selected to the squad.

Shortstop Lukas Buckner, a sophomore and the District 4-4A Player of the Year, was selected along with fellow Admirals Garrett Brewer (senior, catcher) and Jaxon Pease (senior, pitcher).

Powell senior catcher Logan Poteet, a Vanderbilt signee, was selected to the all-state team after helping the Panthers reach the state tournament. Powell also won the District 3-4A regular-season and tournament championships.

Bearden sophomore utility player Brooks Wright was selected. The Bulldogs qualified for the Region 2-4A Tournament after finishing fifth in the District 4-4A regular-season standings.

In Class 3A: Halls High catcher Luke Lawson received all-state honors after leading the Red Devils to both the District 4-3A regular-season title and tournament championship.

Carter's George Davis was selected as a utility player after helping the Hornets win the District 3-3A regular-season and tournament championships.

Gibbs High reached the state sectionals and pitcher Reilly Byers was named to the TSWA's all-state squad.

In Division II-AA: Catholic reached the state tournament and was represented on the TSWA's all-state team by two-way player Daniel Parris, who is a pitcher and an infielder and by left-handed pitcher Ian Hubbard.

In Division II-A: Christian Academy of Knoxville had two all-state selections in infielder Wes Alig and pitcher Simon Tesh.

Local softball players honored by state's sportswriters

By Ken Lay

Eight area high school softball players were honored by the Tennessee Sports Writers Association when the organization released its all-state teams Thursday.

In Class 4A, the Farragut Lady Admirals won a second consecutive state championship in 2022 after winning the Class 3A crown in 2021.

Farragut had three players named to the TSWA's Class 4A All-State Team, including seniors Avery Flatford and utility player Lauren Brakovec and junior Ava Guzowski.

Flatford, a Tennessee Tech signee and left-handed pitcher, was the District 4-4A Pitcher of the Year as she posted 267 strikeouts during her senior season and had a 1.16 ERA. She had more than 600 strikeouts during her stellar career with the Lady

Admirals.

Brakovec was one of the premiere power hitters in Knox County as she clubbed 12 home runs as a senior en route to being named District 4-4A Player of the Year. She leaves Farragut as the program's all-time leading home run hitter as she had 28 round-trippers during her career.

Guzowski, an infielder for the Lady Admirals, batted .424 and slugged 10 home runs. She drove in 48 runs and scored 48 more. She was also one of the area's top defenders, recording a .950 fielding percentage.

In Class 3A: Gibbs was the state runner-up in Murfreesboro and the Lady Eagles had three players named to the TSWA's all-state squad.

Outfielder Malyiah Smith and shortstop Gracie Palmer received all-state honors along with freshman pitcher Lacey Keck. Smith, a junior, batted

.468 and stole 24 bases. She also scored 56 runs and had 23 RBIs.

Palmer led the Lady Eagles with five home runs and five triples while batting .400.

Keck went 26-4 as she emerged as one of the area's top young pitchers. She also batted .338.

In Division II-A: Grace Christian Academy reached the state quarterfinals and the Lady Rams had a pair of all-state selections. Outfielders Hailey Brooks and Ella Brooks earned recognitions.

Hailey, a sophomore, emerged as a table-setter for Grace as the team's leadoff hitter.

She had nine triples and 43 stolen bases. She batted .462 and scored 47 runs.

Ella, a senior, batted .449 and scored 43 runs. She also swiped 40 bases for the Lady Rams.

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Preseason mags pick Vols from No. 9 to 25

By Steve Williams

This is the time of year when preseason college football publications hit the news stands.

Most of these slick, shiny and colorful magazines first came out in the 1980s.

Some of the more popular ones are Athlon Sports, Lindy's, ESPN and The Sporting News.

Right here in the heart of Big Orange Country, Knoxville also are very familiar with Football Time in Tennessee, which is celebrating its 35th annual issue this year, having started in 1987.

Old-timers haven't forgotten the Peek' Size Football Guide that will fit in your shirt pocket. Folks at Fisher Tire Company said this year's 83rd edition should be arriving in August. This publication has the college pennants on the front and also features the SEC schedule inside plus includes information on high school teams in Knox County and the vicinity. And they are free!

Perhaps the most wanted of all the college football preseason magazines is Phil Steele's College Football publication. It is known for its thorough information.



Head Coach Josh Heupel of the Tennessee Volunteers during the 2021 game between the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles and the Tennessee Volunteers at Neyland Stadium in Knoxville, TN. Photo By Caleb Jones/Tennessee Athletics

Steele was a featured guest on Tony Basilio's radio show last week and has been a regular preseason guest on Tony's show since starting his magazine in 1995.

"I really liked what happened with Tennessee last year; the way the offense performed," said Steele on WJBE. "In fact, the Vols had a tremendous offense, going from 21 points per game up to 39.3. Head Coach Josh Heupel and

offensive coordinator Alex Golesh, and what they did once Hendon Hooker took over the offense was remarkable.

"You look at them this year - Hooker is back at the quarterback spot," said Steele. "They've got their top running back returning in Jabari Small. I loved what he did late in the season, especially in the bowl game. The receiving corps looks strong as does the offensive line. I rank the

offensive line in my Top 25 as well. And defensively, I think that's where we are going to see the biggest improvement for Tennessee."

Steele also is big on special teams and has the Vols rated No. 10 in the country in that category.

"Tennessee is really going to be a complete team this year," he added. "And if anyone is going to knock off Georgia I think in the East, it would be

Tennessee that would have the best shot."

Phil had the Bulldogs favored by 10 Between the Hedges.

As far as second-year head coaches, which Heupel is at UT, Steele said: "Everytime a coach is in his second year, how much better along they are, how they know the players, the players know the system. They now have their first real full recruiting class that is coming to



Quarterback Hendon Hooker #5 of the Tennessee Volunteers during the TransPerfect Music City Bowl game at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, TN. Photo By Andrew Ferguson/Tennessee Athletics

the school. Second-year coaches almost always see a good size improvement."

Predictions on Tennessee varies among the preseason publications - from a high of No. 9 by ESPN to No. 25 by 247Sports. In between, Athlon Sports has the Vols at No. 18.

Steele told listeners that he expected his publication to be out by July 8 (last Friday) at Barnes and Noble.

The Return of the V-O-L-S at Neyland Stadium

Cont. from page 1

deck on the upper deck of the north end.

But the most noticeable change came last week, as the iconic V-O-L-S letters have returned to the top of Neyland Stadium.

Before there was a Jumbotron on the top of the upper deck in the south end, before there was even an upper deck, the V-O-L-S letters were there. Fans and foes alike saw them when they made their way to their seats.

People on either side of the Tennessee River could see them as well, 365 days a year. They were a simple yet effective form of advertising. After all, what other college team has a VOLS nickname?

When the Jumbotron was constructed in the early 2000s, the V-O-L-S went into storage. This was a perfect example of gone, but not forgotten.

Last season, Tennessee Athletics Director Danny White brought the old letters outside Gate 21 before the South Carolina game. Fans flocked to the location to take pictures.

Now, the new version of those letters has been installed on the top of the upper deck on the southwest and southeast sides, flanking the Jumbotron.

I took a recent trip to

campus to check them out once they were in place on the southwest side and let me tell you... they're real, and they're spectacular. Take a right turn onto Phillip Fulmer Way, pass Thompson-Boling Arena and as you approach the stadium you are greeted by those letters.

Now orange with the lettering in white (the previous letters were in white with orange lettering), they give the grand old barn a very different look from both inside and outside their walls.

This was a big win for Danny White, the latest in a growing list of accomplishments made during his short tenure. On the fields/courts/stadiums of play, Tennessee's basketball teams, baseball teams and non-revenue squads like women's soccer and swimming/diving are bringing home trophies. The football team appears to be on the uptick. These are the

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good times in Tennessee athletics.

But why do we care so much about these letters? I have a theory.

Those letters are a remembrance of a simpler time for many of us, a better time when

Tennessee was dominating in football. You can see the letters from the YouTube clips right after Jeff Hall's kick beat Georgia in 1995.

Those letters are in the background in one of the most well-known pictures of fans tearing down the

south end zone goalposts after the overtime win over Florida in 1998. You see those letters in different spots from videos and pictures as Neyland Stadium grew and with it the UT campus itself.

Time waits for none of

us, but those letters bring us right back to those fleeting moments.

I can't wait for the 2022 season (less than eight weeks to go!). I bet those letters will look even better with a full stadium to go with them.

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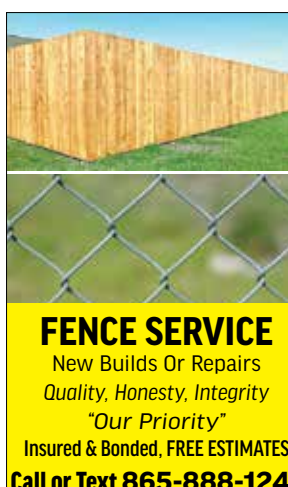
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