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Ambulance service, demolition of Rule High School on county agenda

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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A month after extending the contract with AMR ambulance service and forgiving its late penalty fines, the Knox County Commission is being asked next Tuesday to approve a contract with a yet unnamed

firm to consult for a new emergency response provider. The resolution, deferred from the commission's December meeting, is being requested by the Knox County Health Department.

The commission's work session falls on Tuesday this month as Martin

Luther King Jr. Day is Monday. Items for discussion will be selected by the chairman and members. Those not chosen for discussion go on the regular meeting agenda as consent items which would be approved with a single vote.

The commission

members are also to consider a contract with Modern Day Wrecking for \$786,200 for the demolition of the old Rule High School. Built in 1927 and closed in 1991, the old facility has sat abandoned except for storage use since it closed. Located at 1919 Vermont Avenue,

the facility has fallen into disrepair and the county hopes the demolition will spur future development there.

At-Large Commissioner Larsen Jay wants a discussion to spur the Tennessee Department of Transportation and local state legislators to once again look

at a new highway bypass around Knoxville. A similar proposal in 2007 saw strong opposition to what was to become the "Orange Route" through Hardin Valley and died before being started. Since then Hardin Valley has grown greatly with new

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KSO to present free concert in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Knoxville Symphony Orchestra in partnership with the Tennessee Theatre will present a special tribute concert honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Sunday, Jan. 15, at 3 p.m. at the Tennessee Theatre. The performance is free and open to the public.

The KSO is joined by Knoxville poet laureate Rhea Carmon, vocalist Michael Rodgers and Obayana Ajanaku's Indigenous Vibes edutainment group and Drums Up, Guns Down ensemble to present an inspiring and powerful selection of orchestral works, spirituals, gospel music and more.

"Nearly 60 years since the March on Washington, Dr. King's dream demands our attention as urgently as ever in these turbulent times," KSO Music Director Aram Demirjian said. "It is with both joy and solemnity that the KSO joins with some of our most beloved community partners to celebrate Dr. King's life and legacy in words and music."

Demirjian will lead the KSO in an hour-long program complete with spirituals such as "My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord" and "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit;" gospels that were influential in the civil rights movement, including "We Shall Overcome" and "Precious Lord, Take My Hand;" and orchestral works by African American composers William Grant Still, Florence Price, Valerie Coleman and more.

The Boyd Foundation and Knox County Commissioner Dasha Lundy are sponsoring the performance. Visit knoxvillesymphony.com for more information.



Knox County School Board member Steve Triplett and Mayor Glenn Jacobs joins students, staff and other dignitaries cutting the ribbon celebrating the opening of the new Adrian Burnett campus Friday afternoon.

New Adrian Burnett campus opens its doors to students today

By Ken Lay

Schools throughout Knox County begin the spring semester today (Jan. 9) and when the first bell sounds, students at Adrian Burnett Elementary School will have a new campus to call home.

And it was a long time coming.

Knox County Schools celebrated the official opening of the new 94,000-square-foot building located at 4521 Brown Gap Road in the Halls Community on Friday.

The day's festivities began in the school's 7,100-square-foot gymnasium as the Halls High School band performed.

"This is a very exciting time for Knox County and this community," said KCS Superintendent Dr. Jon Rysewyk. "I want to thank the staff at Adrian Burnett and I want to thank this community for its patience."

"This community deserves this facility and it was supposed to open this fall, but we had illnesses and supply side problems. Then it was supposed to be open by

fall break and that didn't happen."

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs was on hand for the ceremony and recalled meeting with former Knox County Board of Education member Patti Bounds, who recently completed two terms on the board.

"I remember when I first took office and Patti Bounds came to see me," Jacobs said. "It wasn't like she was putting any pressure on me, but she said we've got to go out and see Adrian Burnett," Jacobs said.

"I went out there and saw the building. The building was well-loved but it was also well-worn. You had corners in the walls of rooms that were worn and coming apart so you could see into other rooms. I remember going in to see the principal and there was cloth in the air conditioning vents and that was the way they controlled the climate in the building."

The original Adrian Burnett campus was constructed in 1976 and was intended to be a temporary home for the school.

The new facility includes 34 classrooms, four teacher work areas, two special education classrooms with shared support spaces, the gym (which includes a stage), a music room, an art room, a library and a tornado shelter than can house up to 935 occupants.

The new campus can serve up to 800 students.

Bounds also lauded the community members for their patience.

"The people of the Adrian Burnett Community persevered and believed and hoped this day would come, and today, it's here," Bounds said.

Adrian Burnett principal Stephanie Prince is pleased that her students and staff will have the new facility.

"Now people on the outside can see how beautiful we are inside," she said. "I'm very humbled to be the one to be here for this."

"But we're still getting it ready and I'm thankful for my staff."

Knoxville City Council faces long agenda Tuesday

By Mike Steely
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The care of animals, police body cameras and zoning changes are among the numerous agenda items the Knoxville City Council has before it during its first meeting in the new year Tuesday.

Councilwoman Janet Testerman has a proposal on the care and keeping of animals before the body. Testerman is the Chief Executive Officer of

the Young-Williams Animal Center. A similar ordinance change to establish additional minimum requirements for animals in the city is before the council on a request from council members Lauren Rider, Seema Singh, Charles Thomas, Amelia Parker and Gwen McKenzie.

Both proposals apparently have to do with the unsupervised chaining of dogs.

The police department is asking for an agreement with Axon Enterprise Inc

to provide comprehensive body camera video capture and cloud based management system. The idea is to allocate \$280,783 for support of 66 additional body cameras for the police.

The council will also discuss various property zonings for properties at Hillwood Drive, Dutchtown Road, Tennessee Avenue, and along the Alcoa Highway Corridor. A study of the Form Based Zoning Districts is also on the agenda.

A tax break for a huge

development along Cumberland Avenue near UT is before the council as well as a similar tax break for a property on East Hill Avenue.

A donation from Visit Knoxville and the Downtown Business Alliance will be discussed and the hiring of CDM Smith Inc. for \$150,000 for grant writing services for the South Waterfront Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project will be considered.

The council is also being

asked to approve the spanning of an alley off Cumberland Avenue to connect buildings between 10th and 20th Streets.

The 2023 curb cuts contract may go to Design and Construction Services Inc. for just over \$468,000 in a request from the Engineering Department.

The board of the Knoxville Community Television (Knoxville Community Media) may get Page Travis as a new member on a nomination from Mayor

Indya Kincannon. Reappointed to that board may be Elaine McMillion Sheldon, Michael Giles and Andrew Gene Thomas. Retiring KCM members Jacklyn Lane and Beth Waters will be recognized for their service on a motion from Parker and Singh.

A portion of Mimosa Avenue between Sherrod Road and Chapman Highway may be renamed Kerebela Avenue.

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Worst, Most Wasteful Appropriations Bill

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.
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Last week I wrote about the shameful way the last Congress ended its session by passing one of the worst, most wasteful omnibus appropriations bills in U.S. history.

One of the worst parts was giving hundreds of millions of dollars to several countries in the Middle East to strengthen their borders. This was bad enough because we are so deeply in debt, it is

spending money that we do not have.

But what made it even worse was language in the bill prohibiting spending by our border control agencies to buy new technology to strengthen our own borders.

The mainstream media has covered up our problems at the southern borders for the last couple of years, but the problem has become so huge that now even the liberal newspapers and networks have been forced to report it.

People have been flooding into the U.S. from about 150 countries around the world, coming here by the millions, and if we don't start enforcing our borders, there will be many millions more.

I read one report that said almost half the people

in the world have to get by on \$4.00 or less per day, and that over 75% have to get by on \$10.00 or less each day.

You certainly cannot blame poor people in other countries for wanting to come here, and no other country even comes close to the U.S. in doing things for people from other nations.

But it has often been said that if you don't have borders, you don't have a country. And if we don't soon start enforcing our borders, this country will be destroyed from within.

With such severe poverty around the world and a worldwide population of eight billion people, it is probably a very conservative estimate to say that there may be several hundred million who would

come here in the next few years if we simply open our borders.

Several years ago, editorial cartoonist Charlie Daniel drew a cartoon for the Knoxville News-Sentinel showing a man sitting at home reading a newspaper with a headline saying Americans hired illegals to do work they don't want to do. Then the cartoon showed a little boy bringing a little Hispanic boy into school, saying he had hired Juan to do his homework.

I really laughed at that cartoon, but it is not a laughing matter today. Look at the mess in El Paso where the Democrat mayor has declared a state of emergency.

The mayor of Denver, hundreds of miles from the border, says it has stretched city services to

the limit. The new mayor of New York City says immigrants will cost his city one-billion dollars annually.

Our entire infrastructure – our schools, hospitals, jails, sewers, roads, utilities – just cannot handle a massive rapid influx of people from all over the world.

Until now illegal immigrants have been doing most of our unpleasant jobs. However, if our borders remain as open as they are now, it will not be very long before they start taking jobs that even spoiled, lazy U.S. citizens would want.

In addition, we are losing 100,000 young Americans every year – 300 a day – to overdoses of fentanyl and other illegal and/or dangerous drugs coming across our southern borders.

The Biden Administration has been great for the Mexican drug cartel, but very bad for this country.

The leaders of the Democratic Party realize that their party has become mostly black and brown.

They don't seem to care if U.S. cities are destroyed as long as they stay in control at the national level.

Their refusal to enforce our immigration laws is entirely political. They are desperate to stay in power and believe that most of these illegal immigrants will vote for Democrats, legally or illegally.

After a few years, however, they may be surprised. Most hard-working immigrants will someday get tired of voting for a welfare state.

Ambulance service, demolition of Rule High School on county agenda

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subdivisions and a population boom.

A change in the Knox County Codes involving the impoundment of animals in the county may be heard in the first of two readings. The resolution, offered by Commissioner Kyle Ward, would amend the code's section dealing with the inhumane treatment of dogs and establish new rules.

Commissioner Rhonda Lee is asking the commission to declare January as "Right to Life Month" in Knox County.

Presentations on the agenda include a report from Rural Metro, the Knox County Election Commission and the Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley.

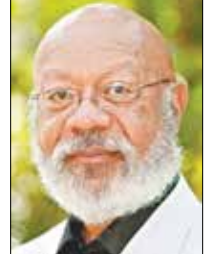
Chairwoman Courtney Durrett will name members of the Agricultural Extension Committee. Ward is resigning from the Three Rivers Golf Board and Commissioner Gina Oster may be named to replace him. The commission will also consider approving a transfer of vehicles from the county sheriff's office and the rescue agency.

On the agenda for its final approval is the resolution permitting the temporary occupancy of recreational vehicles, campers and the like on sites where a home is being built.

Commissioner Dasha Lundy wants a discussion of the incident involving sheriff's deputies and the 15-year-old employee at McAlister's Deli.

The Omnibus Spending Spree of 2023

Congress just passed the budget for fiscal year 2023 to the tune of \$1.65 trillion. Commentators on the right ranted and railed about how conservatives were betrayed by the 18 Republican senators who voted for the bill. This is because 60 were required for passage in the Senate. Some had urged the senators to vote against the bill, opting instead for a continuing resolution to fund the government until the Republicans are in the majority in the next Congress. Since spending bills originate in the House, the new Congress would have authored a bill with different priorities – or so it is argued. The Republican senators who voted for the bill insisted they did so because it contained significant increases in military spending. This shows that the Democrat leadership



By Dr. Harold A. Black
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is much smarter than the Republican leaders. By tossing the Republicans one bone, the Democrats were able to keep throwing money down the insatiable maw of social welfare boondoggles.

I view the proceedings a bit differently than the outrage coming out of most conservative observers. Much of the criticism was over the 7,500 earmarks in the bill for things such as the \$1.2 million for LGBT "pride" centers or \$2 million for a black wax museum in Baltimore. However, Republicans also had earmarks in the bill. Lisa Murkowski had 19 earmarks totaling \$60 million. She voted for the bill. On the House side even though only 9 Republicans voted for the bill, in a separate session they voted overwhelmingly 158-58 in their caucus to keep earmarks in the spending bills.

Regardless, all the attention on earmarks is Congressional rope-a-dope. Earmarks constitute less than 1 percent of the total spending bill, or \$16 billion out of the \$1.7 trillion. Therefore, instead of a discussion on budget priorities and fiscal restraint, all

the attention is on the earmarks which do not even constitute a rounding error in the budget.

During the budgetary noise coming out of Congress, it was argued that the budget had to be passed in order to avoid a government shutdown. The Republicans know that even though the Democrats are currently in control of the legislative and executive branches the media would conspire to blame the Republicans for a shutdown. It remains to be seen if the public is still that gullible. But the Republicans could have called the Democrats' bluff and insisted on a continuing resolution to temporarily fund the government. This is how the government is often funded when there is a budgetary impasse. That they did not use this tactic demonstrates that the Republicans are no more serious about fiscal responsibility than the Democrats.

Even if they were to agree to vote for an omnibus bill the Republicans could have insisted on funding their priorities such as border security. Yes, there is funding for border security in the bill but it is border security for Ukraine (\$45 billion) and for the Middle East (\$450 million to Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt). The

bill does not provide additional border security on our southern border. It explicitly funds the allocation and transportation of illegals throughout the United States. It explicitly states that funds will not be used to hire additional permanent border patrol agents and prohibits funding for the border wall. That the Republicans would agree to these provisions is an indictment. Their blustering about border security is meaningless hot air. Neither party actually cares about border security. The Democrats want more immigration while the Republicans want to keep the issue alive for political purposes. The Republicans talk a good game but do not want to solve the problem. Rather they just want it as a campaign issue to fool their base into thinking that their legislators are trying in vain to push back the surging horde. The tragedy is that the omnibus spending bill offered the Republicans an opportunity to actually do something about the illegal crisis. They could have withheld support until more funding was allocated to the border patrol and to building the wall. The fact that they did neither speaks volumes about their duplicity.



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,
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baseball stadium to fruition. Evidently, that can only be done from Maine where Welch now resides rather than by someone in Knoxville.

In another media outlet, Vreeland characterized The Focus stating her salary was \$90,000 annually as “grossly inaccurate.” First of all, that is exactly what the line item (see below) in the City of Knoxville’s 2022 salary schedule clearly states.

On 12-19-22, I received an email from Eric Vreeland clarifying exactly what has been paid to Welch to date. Vreeland was a long-time journalist before working in the Rogero administration and now the Kincannon administration. If the city was not going to pay Ms. Welch \$90,000 for five months work, then why did the city’s own salary schedule state \$90,000? I’d like to remind Mr. Vreeland that it’s not The Focus’ salary schedule, it is the City of Knoxville’s salary schedule. I’m sure Mr. Vreeland, being a former longtime

journalist, understands the use of footnotes. Maybe the City should have been more open and transparent about what they were actually going to pay Ms. Welch. But I’d like to remind Eric that it is not The Focus that has the transparency problem- it’s your boss and her administration.

That problem has already reared its ugly head with the hiring process of the new police chief. That lack of openness and transparency has already gone to court when the Knoxville News Sentinel sued the City over refusing to release records relating to the new police chief’s hire. That situation has already been in court. The court didn’t find for the city, as I recall. Now Indya Kincannon and City of Knoxville officials are subject to being deposed.

All of this actually leads to more questions. If there was no intention to pay Stephanie Welch \$90,000, why was that amount listed as her salary on the salary schedule? Why was an

explanation not provided to the public as to exactly how much the City intended to pay Ms. Welch?

All things considered, I think I was accurate based on the City’s own salary schedule. A free piece of advice would be: City administration needs to be completely and totally open and transparent.

Politico on Burchett

Last week Politico published a piece on our own Congressman Tim Burchett. The national online magazine stated what most of us already knew - - - that Burchett is “approachable and unguarded” as well as “one of the least filtered” people serving in Congress. In short, Tim Burchett is authentic. The article says Burchett routinely makes comments to reporters most congressmen “would fight to bury.” Politico acknowledges Burchett has won friends on both sides

of the aisle in Congress “despite his conservative voting record.” The online magazine, which is widely read by political types all across the country, quoted Burchett as saying, “I don’t take myself seriously. I take the job seriously” in an interview just before Christmas Eve. There are quite a few folks in the Second Congressional District who have heard Tim Burchett say that in person.

Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy described Burchett as a “constituent-focused” congressman, which is exactly the type of representative the Second District has usually kept in Congress. Both Jimmy Duncan and his father John, Burchett’s predecessors in Congress, were known precisely for that same approach to serving the people of East Tennessee.

Folks in Washington haven’t quite gotten over Burchett’s Christmas celebration in his Washington, D.C. office, which consisted of a make-your-own

peanut butter and jelly sandwich “stand” and Burchett applying cheese whiz to Ritz crackers. The Christmas music was provided, East Tennessee-style, by two fellow congressmen strumming guitars. Some in Washington thought he was kidding and were astonished to discover he was serious. What they don’t realize is Burchett went all out and they only got Ritz crackers because it was Christmas. Burchett’s Christmas party lasted all of 15 minutes.

The theme of the article is Burchett’s well-known ability to make folks laugh, yet as the Republican Leader of the House, Kevin McCarthy, points out, “He has the ability to take a serious situation, lighten the room, but also make his point.” McCarthy also acknowledges Burchett is “very smart.” None of it is news to us in the Second District, but it is kind of fun to see the reaction of folks in Washington, D.C.

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Knoxville Community Media needs your help

By Mike Steely
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Since Knoxville Community Television moved from its State Street location a few years ago, the organization has changed its name to Knoxville Community Media and planned its services and future.

The KCM offices are located in the First Horizon Plaza at 800 South Gay Street and the organization is looking for a better location. Funded by the City of Knoxville and Knox County, the free public-access channel covers government and community events on cable television and on the internet.

The new vision will help KCM become an integral part of this community’s story. Collaborations with cultural, social, arts and educational organizations and relationships with the citizens and government bodies of Knoxville and Knox County will support free thought, free expression, creativity, activism, education, and leadership. The problem at KCMs current location is a matter of the general public, producers and visitors finding parking and accessing the building. About \$ 200,000 is the goal to help relocate the station.

For 48 years the community media organization, one of the oldest

public access channels in the nation, has been growing and struggling for funds.

“We’re raising funds to move to a more accessible location,” Beth Palmer, KCM’s office administrator, told The Focus. A downtown location with easy access is the goal.

One of the ways the television-media organization is seeking funds is through the ongoing “Cup of Coffee” campaign.

“We hope our mission has been successful, becoming as important to you as you are to us,” Palmer told supporters in a recent communication. “As you know we are pursuing a new direction to enhance our ability to provide outlets for individuals in the community to tell their story.”

The Cup of Coffee campaign is asking supporters to consider forgoing the cost of a single cup of coffee and donating the \$5 to KCT.

“Will you share this with your family and friends? When multiplied by those who are impacted the \$5 can grow quickly,” she said.

Donations can be sent via check to Knoxville Community Media, 800 Gay Street, Suite P-336, Knoxville, Tn. 37929 or KCM’s PayPal link “knoxcm.org/#/”

What lies ahead in 2023

By Mike Steely
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The New Year has several events to watch for as 2023 unfolds. This includes a city election, possible changes in city and county property planning, continued growth, and upcoming trials of those accused of disrupting county and city meetings.

Growth continues along the South Waterfront in the city and in West Knox County’s Hardin Valley area. All areas of the county are expected to continue seeing a population increase and many subdivisions and apartment complex projects are planned.

The City of Knoxville hopes to relocate the police and fire departments and city court into the new Public Safety Complex at the former St. Mary’s Hospital just off North Broadway. E-911 will also be moving its emergency backup facility there.

The leadership of the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission changed last year with Executive Director Amy Brooks moving to the city’s housing office and planning veteran Jeff Welch being named by both mayors to replace her. The city appears to be moving toward creating its own planning group separate from the traditional joint planning organization.

The Knox County Sheriff’s Office Employees’ Merit System Board of Directors, reorganized by the county commission last year, will apparently begin hearing grievances from KCSO employees. Those complaints were before the former merit council but postponed during the dispute last year between the former council and the sheriff.

Protesters arrested and charged with disrupting commission and council meetings following the shooting death of Anthony Thompson Jr. will apparently face dates in Session Court after many postponements and delays.

Cumberland Avenue at UT will see some demolition and current businesses are moving to new locations in

preparation of large apartment and retail buildings planned there.

State Senator Dr. Richard Briggs and others want to revise the state’s total anti-abortion law to permit more options to preserve the life and health of the mother and exceptions for incest and rape victims.

City voters will select a mayor, four city council members and a city judge in the non-partisan primary and general elections. Three at-large and the District 5 council seats will be on the ballot and the process of qualifying petitions for those positions officially begins in March but several candidates have already named treasurers.

Knox County Republicans Chairman Daniel Herrera will not seek the office

again and Commissioner Kyle Ward and former FOP President Keith Lyon have indicated they may seek the position. Party Vice Chairman Elaine Davis was elected to the Tennessee Legislature and could leave her position with the local party as well.

The beer license for a UT sport and event vendor is before a hearing officer who could decide to suspend or end the Aramark contracts due to three sales of beer to minors. That decision may come in February or March.

The Knox County Commission members will apparently each choose one high school student to become a “Junior Commissioner” and the students will sit in on various meetings and eventually hold a

mock commission meeting.

The future of the proposed Amazon fulfillment center on the site of the former East Towne Mall may be decided this year. The corporation has been cutting back across the nation and the Knoxville facility, almost completed, stands awaiting a tenant. The city confirms the building and former mall property were sold last year but Amazon has made no public announcement about the future of the huge facility.

Construction continues on the I-640 bypass between Broadway and the Andrew Johnson Highway as the road is being widened and improved by the state.

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The Authors Guild of Tennessee will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the Faith Lutheran Church in Farragut. Social time and book exchange begins at 10:30. Published authors are invited to attend. AGT is now accepting applications for associate membership from authors who have written a book but are not yet published. Serious authors only. In the event of inclement weather, check the AGT Website for updates and information: authorsguildoftn.org.

Covenant Kids Run kick-off date races toward start

The Covenant Kids Run at Zoo Knoxville is set for Saturday, Feb. 4. The 1-mile course winds through animal exhibits and encourages East Tennessee children to be active, support their schools and get involved in one of the community's largest events.

It is the start of the student exercise challenge, which will finish with a final mile at World's Fair Park during the Covenant Health Marathon weekend on Saturday, April 1.

Throughout the two months between events, children will complete the exercise equivalent of a 26.2-mile marathon. All exercise counts, including running, walking and playing.

"The Covenant Kids Run is an exciting tradition that incentivizes being active and a chance for young participants to be part of East Tennessee's most popular road race," Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon Race Director Jason Altman said. "This is an excellent opportunity for families to set fitness goals. Register your child and yourself for races and start on the right foot together!"

The run kicks off at noon inside Zoo Knoxville. The \$20 registration fee covers the cost of the Feb. 4 event and the last lap on April 1. Sign up in advance at knoxvillemarathon.com or onsite at the zoo starting at 10 a.m. the day of the event.



The new year is a time to set goals, and organizers of the Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon are encouraging families to mark off running a marathon (or completing the exercise equivalent) in 2023. By participating in the Covenant Kids Run, students in eighth grade and younger can earn points for their schools and join one of East Tennessee's largest events.

The fee also includes free admission to the zoo for the race participant and one accompanying adult on the day of the run. Any additional guests may pay half-price for admission.

On April 1, all children are invited to finish strong in World's Fair Park. The route starts on the Clinch Avenue Viaduct near the Sunsphere, continues through the Fort Sanders neighborhood and ends next to the festival lawn, where treats will be waiting for participants.

Children in eighth grade and younger are eligible to participate in the Kids Run. Each child who participates in the Covenant Kids Run on April 1 will gain a point for his or her school in the

Fittest School Challenge, a competition among area schools.

Schools sign up for the Covenant Kids Run and provide a total student enrollment count. The top five schools in the categories of small school (fewer than 300 students) and large school (301+ students) with the highest percentage of student participation in the race win prize money and a Fittest School Challenge plaque. The prize money is applied at the school's discretion to make the most positive impact, often going toward physical education programs and supplies.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley also are encouraging participation

in the Kids Run. As the 2023 Community Partner, the clubs are incentivizing children to get active and earn titles for their club, including the club with the most participants and first club to finish the marathon challenge. Members can get involved by contacting their club.

"This event is all about inspiring healthy lifestyles and giving back to our local schools and organizations that serve students," Altman said. "We're eager to see it come full circle on April 1 and hope kids will continue to step up to the challenge."

In case of inclement weather Feb. 4, please visit knoxvillemarathon.com for updates.



To learn more about the Arboretum Society or for questions on this program, go to www.utarboretumsociety.org

'Leave No Trace program: Exploring beyond the seven principles' virtual program Thursday, January 12

Join Great Smoky Mountains National Park Backcountry Specialist Christine Hoyer as she teaches about the importance of "Leave No Trace" ethics in our outdoor spaces. She explains how the park, a place with extraordinary biodiversity and high visitation, must meet the challenges of balancing use and preservation within the park boundaries. Co-sponsored by the UT Arboretum Society and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, the virtual presentation will be Thursday, January 12, 7 p.m. via Zoom.

The program is free, but registration is required to receive your Zoom link and the recording. Closed captions are available. Register at www.utarboretumsociety.org

As the Backcountry Management Specialist, Christine manages the park's backcountry program which includes permitting,

recreational use, impacts and maintenance throughout the backcountry campsite network, important long-trail partnerships as well as park-wide wilderness management. She is passionate about the mission of the National Park Service and the role that "Leave No Trace" education can play in protecting our wilderness areas with ever-increasing visitation to these special places.

An employee of the National Park Service for 14 years, Christine has spent all of it within the boundaries of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. She has held multiple positions, in various divisions and different geographic locations through the park. Christine has college degrees in Psychology and Philosophy and graduate certificates in Wilderness Management and EcoPsychology. She is an active Leave No Trace Trainer and Master Educator.

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Resolute

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate to do.

The Apostle Paul (Romans 7:15).

Laws are like sausages; it is better not to see them made.

Otto von Bismark

Each January finds many of us considering resolutions for the New Year. The root word for resolution is resolve which means “deciding firmly on a course of action.” I have made many New Year’s resolutions, regarding fresh starts or trying to be a better person. The problem is the flesh is weak as noted by Brother Paul 2000 years ago.

Unfortunately, many of my previous resolutions have gone by the wayside. I am far from perfect and I have failed more than I have succeeded. However,

failure is often a better teacher than success. And the good news is, Grace is sufficient. As my minister says, “No matter how bad you are, God can fix it.” Our job is to keep trying and not beat ourselves up.

One of my favorite authors is Phillip Yancey. Fourteen of his books are in my library. Somewhere in one of those books, Yancey describes God’s Grace as a safety net below us as we walk the tightrope of life. This beautiful metaphor resonates with me.

Resolutions are a way to look forward, but this is only possible when you consider the past. There are things from my old life I miss, especially relationships with patients. I remember an older gentleman who was seeing me in my office after surviving a serious illness. He thanked me for taking care of him through the ICU and then the

hospital. I told him it was my pleasure and I meant it. He was doing great and our relationship was close, so I felt free to quip, “You know Mr. Jones, they say God will take you when he gets you right. I’m glad you’re still with us.” He then laughed as I continued, “Apparently, you weren’t ready, so God has sent you back for more work!” I feel that way about my own life at times. I’m still seeking, praying, thanking and trusting as I walk the tightrope of life above God’s safety net of Grace.

By the time you read this, New Year’s Day for 2023 will have passed into history. A different resolution entered the history books on New Year’s Day 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. On that day, slaves in Confederate territories were given their freedom. This was a very controversial resolution by the first Republican President. It was opposed by the Democrat Party then and for the next 100 years. Many thought the Proclamation would change the war effort from one of preserving the Union to one of freeing the slaves. The Union army might mutiny and the war might be lost. And the newly formed Republican party might be destroyed.

None of this happened. The Union was saved and soon Republicans passed the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution. It was Democrats who resisted and remained obstructionist, enacting Jim Crow laws. It continues to amaze me that the party of slavery and segregation is still perceived as the friend of the oppressed.

I am no etymologist, but I have developed an interest in words. Words are the tools of communication. Yes, we have body language, and we have tone and inflection of our voices, but words are paramount. I became keenly aware of words and their structure when I went to medical school and had to learn a new language, the language of science which is built on Latin and Greek roots. Interestingly, the word resolute derives from the same Latin root word as resolve and resolution.

Resolute means determination and connotes faithfulness and courage. As I begin this essay, the House of Representatives is embroiled in controversy as members try to elect a Speaker of the People’s House. A small number of conservative Republicans are preventing the rubber-stamp election of Kevin McCarthy as Speaker.

Too often party unity supersedes principles. Democrats never have this problem. For the first time in a hundred years, the majority party’s titular leader was not elected on the first or subsequent ballots. The tyrannical Nancy Pelosi never tolerated such deviation from the party line. She would have had recalcitrant Democrats spayed for such impertinence.

We tend to think of the words democrat and republican as referring to the respective parties. Democrat derives from the Greek word demos, meaning people, and krates, meaning to rule; the people rule. Republican comes from the Latin res or thing and publica meaning public, the public’s thing. You might be surprised, but the word democracy does not appear in the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution, nor in the Constitutions of any of the 50 states.

Our Founders studied history and knew of the abuses of democracy in ancient Greek city states. The Greek leader Solon finally proposed a fixed body of laws not subject to majority whims or mobs to protect the life, liberty and property of citizens. Our Founders gave us a republic predicated

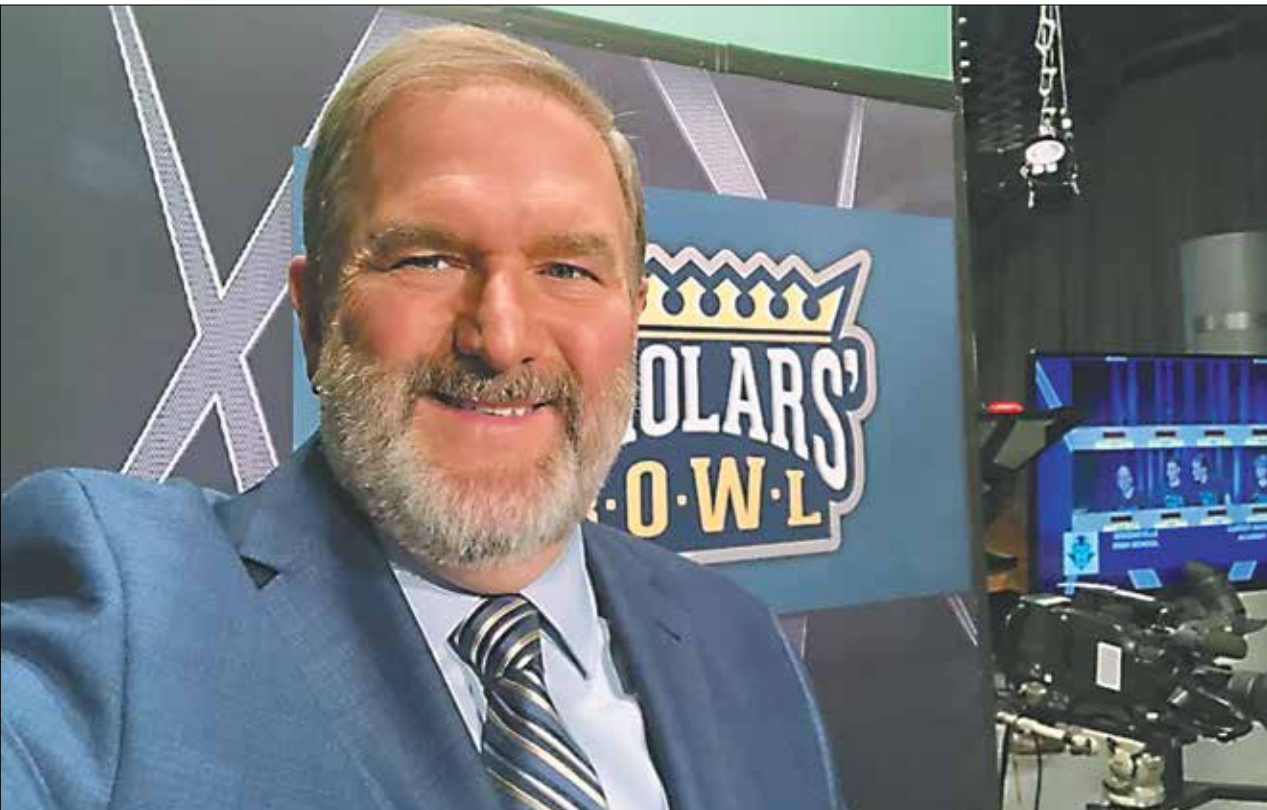
on the rule of law which limits government and promotes freedom. Samuel Adams said, “Democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts and murders itself.” And Alexander Hamilton understood that mob rule leads to anarchy and then tyranny by an oligarchy (rule by a few). He said, “We are a Republican Government.”

The Democrats are gleefully watching as Republicans joust to elect a Speaker of the House. Sun Tzu (The Art of War) advised, “When your enemy is in the process of destroying himself, stay out of his way.” Actually, I view the current internecine battle as cathartic. The old guard Washington RINOS are being forced to negotiate with the populist conservatives. This is healthy and perhaps a turning point because a deal will eventually be struck.

We are watching debate and voting made possible by our Republican form of government. Under the rule of law, the minority has a voice. Such a debate never happened under the tyranny of Pelosi. Nor is it possible under the tyranny of a majority.

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

Scholars’ Bowl starts Tuesday on PBS



Scholars’ Bowl host Frank Murphy has announced the local PBS schedule that pits high school quiz bowl teams against each other in a series of questions. The season begins tomorrow at 5:30 on public television.

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The 39th Tennessee Scholars’ Bowl begins Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. and will air until March 29, 2023, on East Tennessee PBS.

“We made a few small changes to the game that I think our viewers will appreciate,” host Frank Murphy.

The show pits two student quiz bowl teams from various high schools in the region against each other with questions ranging from history and science to math and civics. The series of challenging matches to air this year not only feature students from East Tennessee but also from places like Somerset and Bell County, Kentucky. Knoxville Central and Gibbs face each other

on January 17. Other local team competitions airing this month include Carter vs Kings Academy on the 19th, Farragut faces Loudon County on the 23rd and, on the 31st, Halls is up against Seymour.

After the first-round games are completed, the “Threshold of 32” begins airing on February 15. The “Smart 16” begins airing on March 9, followed by the “Educated 8” on March 21. The “Philosophical 4” begins airing on March 27 and the championship will be aired March 29.

Recent Tennessee Scholars’ Bowl champions include Maryville High School in 2022, Hardin Valley Academy in 2021, Cedar Springs Home School in 2020 and 2019, Webb School of Knoxville

Continue on page 2



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The Beautiful Christmas Poinsettia



Picture of a red Christmas poinsettia, by Ralphine Major.

It is one of the lingering signs of Christmas. For weeks or even months before the start of the Christmas season, many people shopped, decorated, and made plans for the Christmas holiday. It has only been a few days since the long-awaited Christmas Day, and now there is hardly a sign of the special season that many call their favorite time of the year. Gifts have been unwrapped. Christmas trees have been taken down and packed away or taken for recycling. Santa has returned to the North Pole. Life is returning to normal again as

school and work schedules are resuming. With each passing day of 2023, Christmas 2022 is becoming a more distant memory. The beautiful poinsettia is one of the few signs of Christmas that can still be seen these days. Often, a lone poinsettia can be seen proudly displaying its flowering blooms and leaves in homes and businesses late into January. These days, poinsettias come in a variety of colors such as pink or white. My favorite color of the popular flower is still the traditional Christmas red. Enjoy the simple beauty of the Christmas poinsettia while it lasts.

Words of Faith: "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people." Matthew 9:35 (KJV).

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

Don't relive diseases

It's possible that I've covered some area of this subject before, but evidently, some readers in the USA didn't see the column. So, I am duty-bound to restate my take on this subject. Some might agree with me while others might find my reasoning faulty and unconstitutional. At any rate, here goes.



By **Joe Rector**
joerector@comcast.net

First off, I'll remind everyone about the definition of freedom. The word means "the absence of coercion or constraint in choice or action." For us who aren't as refined, freedom is the ability to do as we please. The thing about my freedom is that it ends where another person's begins.

With that out of the way, I can now talk about vaccinations. Covid shots are where I could begin, but that topic has been hammered for too long. Instead, I'm bringing up vaccinations from long ago. We older people remember them, and a few others might vaguely recall those protective inoculations.

The worst of the bunch was the immunization for smallpox. That one begins with a bunch of needle sticks and ends with a scar on the upper arm that resembles a crater on the moon. A person's approximate age can be determined based on the appearance of the upper left arm.

The next worse was the series of polio vaccines. The first two were given via syringe with a needle that looked a foot long. The last one was given in a lump of sugar. Children

and adults alike were more afraid of the disease than the shots.

My generation didn't have vaccines for measles, mumps, and chickenpox. Children caught those illnesses and were ill for days. Measles

covered our bodies with bright red rashes; chickenpox blistered our entire bodies and sent us to soothing baths that temporarily stopped the itching. The mumps came with swollen glands and sore throats. Swallowing was almost impossible. Most of our days were spent in beds with fevers and completely lousy feelings.

Today's young people are luckier. They only need to receive vaccinations to prevent having any of these diseases. In fact, most of them are wiped out in this country. Wait a minute. Some place in Ohio has 82 cases of measles; outbreaks of chickenpox and even polio are occurring in the country. The culprits for this medical problem are anti-vaccines adults. A whopping 28 percent of adults say that MMR vaccines shouldn't be required for a child's ability to attend school, even if that might lead to infecting vast numbers of children.

Here is where the question of freedom comes in. Is it okay for a minority to make choices that have potentially life-threatening consequences for the majority? Before anybody answers that question, he or she should realize that as many as 500 persons died from measles and between 3-4 million were infected each year.

At its height, polio cases reached 52,000 with more than 3000 deaths. This disease was nearly wiped out in 1952 through vaccines, but now we hear cases are reappearing because some parents don't want their children to be immunized.

Common sense should push all parents to have their children protected from dangerous diseases. Present-day demands for individual choice over vaccines are nothing more than selfishness and abuse. Yes, we live in a democracy where freedom is prized; however, a democracy functions under the principle that the majority rules, especially when public health is being attacked.

No political or religious beliefs should be cited as a reason not to immunize children. In the last century, our country and its citizens subscribed to the idea of "in loco parentis" in regard to schools. That meant that during the days, the schools served in place of parents. Requiring immunizations for all students was an action taken by a good, loving parent who is protecting his family.

The time for the minority rule must come to an end, especially when the health of citizens is in the balance. Common sense decisions must once again be at the forefront of our actions in all areas. Anyone who has seen a child in leg braces or an adult held prisoner in an iron lung knows how important vaccinations are. No parent should be allowed to make a foolish and possibly deadly decision against vaccinating a child.

Farragut Community Center to host Health and Wellness Fair

Shop Farragut in partnership with the Town of Farragut will host the third Farragut Health & Wellness Expo presented by Turkey Creek Medical Center/Tennova featuring



over two dozen local businesses that specialize in the care of the human body, mind and spirit! They provide products and services for your comfort and well-being in support of a healthy lifestyle.

The Expo will take place on Saturday, January 14, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the Farragut Community Center located at 239 Jamestowne Blvd. just north of Village Green Shopping Center and Planet Fitness on Campbell Station Road.

Patrons can visit booths from a wide variety of services and retail. For example, Beltone will conduct hearing tests. American Home Pro will show new safety items and technologies for your

home. Other committed vendors include the MediSpa at Choto, plus Clean Eat, Knoxville Roling & Massage, First Watch Café, Hutchison Rehabilitation, Inc., Real Hot Yoga Farragut, Healing Hands Spa, Campbell Station Jazzercise, Courtney Chiropractic, Thrive Physical Therapy, JH HEALTH SOLUTIONS/TOWN CRAFT, Bell Family Chiropractic, Work In Progress Health Coaching, Knoxville Hair & Scalp Clinic/Garde Bien, Dementia Care Solutions of East TN, Knox Massage & Wellness and Cory Gerlach with Edward Jones Financials will even discuss your financial well-being.

This special event is free to the public. Parking is available at the Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd., and close by at Village Green Shopping Center.

Scholars' Bowl starts Tuesday on PBS

Cont. from page 1

in 2018, and Farragut High School in 2017.

The Knoxville Focus asked Murphy if the size or type of school seem to affect its success in Scholars' Bowl.

"The size or location of the school doesn't seem to affect their success. We've had excellent teams from smaller schools and from

schools in rural areas. The key to winning is to have a dedicated coach and at least four competitive players who are familiar with the Scholars' Bowl format. Many students also compete in science bowls or other competitions but the ones who binge-watch old Scholars' Bowl episodes are the ones who do the best," Murphy replied.

"We recorded the 2023 Scholars' Bowl tournament during October and November. We had 14 shooting days to record all 58 episodes.

"We would do between three and six episodes in a day, depending on the schedule. My wife helped

me keep track of the jacket and tie combinations in the hope of not repeating any," he said.

This year the show has 59 teams from 45 different high schools. Some schools put two teams in the tournament. Maryville and Science Hill both entered three teams.

The participating high schools located in Knoxville or Knox County are: Halls, Central, Gibbs, Carter, Karns, Farragut, Hardin Valley Academy, Career Magnet Academy, Temple Baptist Academy, Knoxville Catholic, Webb School, Christian Academy of Knoxville and Cedar Springs Home School.

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Daniel A. Reed of New York

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

At the time of his death, Daniel Alden Reed of New York was the senior Republican in the House of Representatives, having served forty years in Congress. Only two Democrats had served longer than Reed; Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas and Carl Vinson of Georgia. The ranking member of the powerful Ways & Means Committee and its one-time chairman, Reed was the author of the first major revision of the tax code in half a century. The St. Louis Globe-Democrat remembered Dan Reed as "an apostle of old-time Republicanism."

To grasp some sense of just what Daniel Reed saw as a member of Congress, one has to consider the Armistice ending the First World War was signed six days after he had been elected to Congress in 1918. Reed served in Congress through the misery of the Great Depression, the bloody and brutal survival for democracies in the Second World War, the Korean War, and the United States entering the Atomic Age.

A former football player and coach, Dan Reed was as interested in physical fitness as he was in the "parliamentary arts" and was even more interested in the labyrinth and vagaries of the federal tax laws. While a dedicated Republican, Reed had little interest in the GOP organization of the House. "I vote for things - - - for what I think is good for the country," Reed once explained. "If I made too many mistakes I wouldn't be here." Yet Reed likely had no peer in voting against more Democratic-sponsored bills. One congressman who served on the Ways & Means Committee with the New Yorker made a few observations about Daniel Reed. "Sincere, hard-fighting, even hard-headed sometimes, but his word is his bond. He's one of the most partisan individuals in Congress. Probably he has voted against more Democratic bills than anybody in Congress because he seems to think there is nothing fundamentally right about the Democratic Party." Dan Reed was an outspoken and unrepentant conservative. Apparently, the people of his district liked the way he represented them in the House as they reelected him twenty times.

Daniel Reed lived in the rural part of New York in the town of Dunkirk, which had a population of 12,216 in 2014. Dunkirk is bordered on the north side by Lake Erie and during Dan Reed's day, the city thrived as a steel town. The population began to dwindle with the steel industry and manufacturing in decline. Reed's district was located in the far western tip of New York State.

Reed could be equally stubborn with the leadership of his own party. Congressman Reed was a vocal advocate of protective tariffs, which he believed fended off foreign competition for goods made in America. While Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee, Dan Reed strongly pushed for a tax cut in 1953, a position contrary to that taken by the Eisenhower White House. The disagreement between President Eisenhower and Congressman Dan Reed was sharp. Eisenhower opposed a tax cut. While Reed lost that particular battle, it was a bruising affair and Reed charged the president had gone back on his campaign promises.

One newspaper editorial of the time lamented the congressional system, which helped those members rise to chair committees due to the seniority system. The editorial complained, "Chairman Daniel Reed, one member of a body of 435 congressmen, holds in his hand the power over certain tax legislation of life or death. He can turn his thumb down and the excess profits tax is dead. He can turn thumbs up, and that act survives."

The editorial in the Dayton Daily News noted the difficulties President Eisenhower was having with Syngman Rhee, the president of the Republic of South Korea, and harshly noted Eisenhower "was on his knees the other day to Potentate Daniel Reed." "Would he, in his majesty, deign to allow a vote?" the editorial wondered. "Nothing doing! The all-powerful was adamant."

The editorial said the supplicants for funding appeared before Chairman Daniel Reed "with all the humility of Queen Esther imploring King Ahasuerus." "Will the kingly Reed reach forth a merciful scepter and grant their prayer?" The editorial concluded, "Kings are eccentric; no telling what they may do." Yet the writer grumpily noted the Fourth of July anniversary approached when Americans had been done with kings.

The battle between Chairman Daniel Reed and President Dwight Eisenhower was crystalized in the debate over the excess profits tax. The president insisted the \$800 million estimated in revenue from that particular tax was needed to help reduce the federal deficit and fight inflation. Reed retorted the tax was nothing less than an "immoral" burden on many corporations and companies. Reed insisted the government would rake in more tax revenue by simply letting businesses conduct business.

The Eisenhower Administration finally resorted to threatening to have a committee other than the House Ways & Means



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Photo autographed by Congressman Daniel A. Reed of New York to his colleague Roy Woodruff of Michigan.

Committee to approve the extension of the excess profits tax. That made Chairman Daniel Reed hopping mad. It was the GOP leadership in the House which attempted to dislodge the bill from Reed's committee at the urging of President Eisenhower. Hoping to avoid a free for all, House Majority Leader Charles Halleck of Indiana announced he was "convinced" the tax measure could be managed without breaking the rules of the House of Representatives and going around the Ways & Means Committee. Another long-serving GOP congressman, Richard Simpson of Pennsylvania, who served as a member of the Ways & Means Committee, told his colleagues in the House the committee would consider the legislation. Simpson was careful to add that he believed the Ways & Means Committee would give the bill favorable consideration.

For his part, Dan Reed was ready to fight. The New Yorker expressed his unhappiness at delaying a vote to determine whether or not his committee was to be bypassed. "Let's get the vote and see where you stand!" he roared.

The Republicans in the House of Representatives lost their majority in the 1954 elections and Sam Rayburn replaced Joe Martin in the Speaker's chair. Democrats also assumed the committee chairmanships, displacing Daniel Reed and the other Republicans. Many critics dispensed numerous words marveling at how President Eisenhower frequently received more cooperation with his legislative program from Democrats rather than his own party. Indeed, Lyndon Johnson as Majority Leader won plaudits for helping to pass much of Eisenhower's legislative priorities instead of California's William Knowland, the Republican who had replaced the late Robert Taft as the GOP Leader in the United States Senate.

Reed was a formidable and fierce foe of the excess profits tax, which he

denounced as "iniquitous, unfair, unjust, destructive; a cancer on the economy of the country." Simply put, Dan Reed believed in higher tariffs and lower taxes.

One of Reed's signal achievements, along with his modernizing the tax code, was his success as chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee in revising the Social Security law, which was credited with "extending, liberalizing and improving the Social Security system." The framers of the Constitution gave the House the authority to originate tax legislation and those bills emanated from the Ways & Means Committee.

Dan Reed understood the ebbs and flows of politics, having served under Presidents Harding, Coolidge and Hoover in a House of Representatives that boasted a Republican majority during a high tide. So, too, did Daniel Reed serve during the low tide of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal and was one of only eighty-nine Republican members of the House in 1937. It did not bother Dan Reed to oppose Dwight D. Eisenhower as he had Franklin Roosevelt or Harry Truman when they disagreed about financial policy and what was good for the country.

Dan Reed didn't drink alcohol and if he was expected to attend a social event in Washington, D. C. hostesses needed to have either orange or tomato juice on hand for the congressman. Reed had given up smoking years earlier and his primary hobby was photography. Evidently, that hobby came from his love of the camera, and he was reputedly one of the first football coaches to use movies of the games so that he could point out

errors.

Born the son of a "Great Lakes captain" who died following a fall aboard his vessel, Dan Reed gave up any ideas he had of following in his father's footsteps. Reed's brothers became ship captains, however. To get through Cornell University, Reed waited on tables and worked as a clothing salesman. Reed earned a law degree in 1898 but later returned to Cornell as an assistant football coach in 1901. Dan Reed had been a talented player himself during his college years. At one time or another, Reed either coached or provided advice to the football programs at his own Cornell, Penn State, the University of Cincinnati, and Georgetown, Kentucky.

Reed began his career as an attorney for the State of New York, prosecuting violations of the liquor laws. Reed was first elected to Congress in 1918 and won better than 73% of the vote on his first outing in the general election. Dan Reed had no electoral problems inside his congressional district. The elderly congressman was challenged in the GOP primary in 1958 and won almost 73% of the vote.

Congressman Reed was in Rome, Italy, attending a meeting of the Interparliamentary Union in 1956 when he suffered a serious heart attack. It was a warning to the seventy-nine-year-old congressman to slow down. Reed was careful to follow his doctor's orders and took a nap every afternoon and curtailed his committee and social schedule. Yet he did not go to visit a doctor when his foot began to bother him. Not until he could no longer walk.

Congressman Reed went to Walter Reed Army

Hospital for treatment of an infection in his foot over a period of fourteen weeks. The eighty-three-year-old congressman had barely been able to walk, so painful was the infection. Reed had to take the oath of office while confined to Walter Reed. Speaker Sam Rayburn designated Congressman John Taber of New York to administer the oath to Reed in his hospital room.

Doctors concluded the congressman would need additional surgery because of the severity of the infection. The congressman's spokesman said Reed seemed thoroughly unconcerned about the prognosis regarding his infected foot and adopted the attitude of being positive, as he believed that would better help his eventual recovery. The congressman kept in touch with his office through constant telephone communication. A steady stream of Reed staffers appeared at the hospital daily. Walter Little, who worked as Reed's messenger on the House Ways & Means Committee, had stayed in the congressman's hospital room until 8 p.m. the night before Reed died. According to Little, Reed had been in especially good spirits.

Congressman Reed was asleep when a heart attack carried him off.

It was Congressman John Taber of New York who made the announcement of Dan Reed's passing on the floor of the House. Twenty-nine members rose to pay tribute to Reed, among them Joseph W. Martin of Massachusetts. Martin, twice Speaker of the House, had just recently been deposed in a close vote as the Republican Leader in the House. "This is a particularly sad moment for me because it marks the death of a great American whose friendship I've cherished for the 35 years I've been in Congress," Martin said.

"He was a man of great courage," Martin said, his voice breaking, "like a mighty oak never yielding to the tempest."

After his death, that courage was evident by news the ailing congressman had received while in the hospital. Major General Leonard D. Heaton, the commandant of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, had informed Reed the infection in his foot had grown worse. General Heaton told Congressman Reed there was no alternative but to amputate his foot. The operation was due to occur just a day before Reed died. Those who witnessed it recalled the congressman accepted General Heaton's news "courageously and cheerfully."

Daniel A. Reed died as he had lived. Facing toward the future without fear.

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What do you collect? *The Four Corners of a Contract*

More Than A Day Away



By Mike Steely

My wife and I collect cups and photos from the places we visited or lived, campaign and promotional buttons.. During the recent holiday break, I asked other folks what they collect.

The replies came from Focus newspaper and online readers, relatives, friends and public officials, and the answers were surprising. Here are some of the replies.

Gerald Witt: Ornaments from all over the world.

And magnets for the fridge.

Carson Dailey: Patches from where I have visited. Have 100s in my 50-plus years.

Sylvia Woods: Patches and I put them on burlap and a dowel and hang it on a wall.

Dennis Porter: Coffee

mugs. One from each city that we like. Useful, colorful and make an interesting display on our kitchen counter. And memories with each one.

Lynne Ralph Siglin: When we take a trip I often pick up a random small stone and use a permanent marker to write the name of the place and date. I bring it home and put it with the others.

Keith Hausman: Being a physical therapist I have collected interesting and unusual canes from around the world. Two of my most prized canes actually came from the Jellico area. Many reflect master craftsmanship with intricate carvings.

Jeff Smith: Shot glasses.

Connie Hoskins Brust: Blue Willow dishware and Nativity Scenes

Barry Arnett: Over the years at various times I have collected stamps, coins, gothic architectural books on cathedrals, and irons. Currently, I only have a small collection of stuffed animals I like.

Michelle Ivester: Shot glasses and Tee shirts

Dominique Oakley: License plates

Larry W. Cooper: Case pocketknives

Christine Shanholtzer: I collect quilting fabrics and tiny boxes.

Esther Berland Blevins: Magnets and snow globes. Magnets especially... they don't take up any real space and you can even find them last second at an airport gift shop.

Vickie Jordan: Rocks
Carroll Bible: Another vote for rocks--I left hundreds of pounds when I moved; starting over.

Matt James: Memories
Knoxville Community Media: Stories!

Susan Shipley: Old Phones

Misty Williams: Post Cards and shot glasses

Charlie Rhodarmer: Cool Stuff with Cool Friends that make cool memories.

Vito A. Saggiaro: Knowledge, I love learning about everything. History and rough gemstones right after.

Tasha Blakney: Cookbooks, hippopotamus figures and

Christmas ornaments from places we've traveled.

Mark Chipcase: Knives

"If it falls outside the four corners of the contract, it is generally irrelevant and inadmissible evidence." That phrase, or something along those lines, is something every first-year law student will be familiar with. But what does that phrase mean?

The four corners that are referenced are the four corners on a piece of paper(s) that contain the written terms of the contract and the signatures of the people who signed that contract.

If someone signed that contract and then tries to say that the people who signed the contract agreed to something that is not in the contract, they are going to have a hard time getting a judge to agree with them.

For example, two people get divorced and they sign a contract that says husband pays to



By Jedidiah McKeehan

jed@attorney-knoxville.com

wife \$500.00 a month in child support. That is their signed contract. They signed it because wife says to husband, "Hey, sign this contract. The lawyer said the child support has to be in there, but I will not ever try

to collect it from you." And then wife actually demands that husband pay her \$500.00 a month in child support. Husband is upset. We had an oral agreement that we would not enforce that part!

I am sorry to tell you that you are trying to introduce discussions that are "outside the four corners of the contract," and what wife said to husband about not collecting that money might be inadmissible at court (not to mention she may deny ever saying that). Could husband try to get the child support portion of the contract set aside based on some sort of fraud

argument? I am skeptical. Husband willingly signed a contract saying he would pay \$500.00 in child support. Why would husband think signing something is a good idea that does not reflect the agreement of the people signing the contract?

These kinds of hand-shake or oral modifications of written agreements are problematic in that they are inadmissible evidence in court. What does it take to change "the four corners of a contract?" Typically, the people who signed the first contract would both need to sign a new contract that accurately reflects the new contract they have reached and create four "new corners."

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

Dreaming Prayer

As we begin a new year, I think it is a good time to think about what is next for our lives. I believe God has big plans for us individually and collectively as His people. We need to dream big and commit those dreams to God. But when it comes to dreams, how do you know if the dream you have is something God has initiated? This reminds me of Nehemiah. An entire book in the Old Testament is committed to his life. When I think of Nehemiah, the word "leader" comes to mind. There are so many leadership qualities discovered in this book of the Bible bearing his name. First, who was Nehemiah? He was a Jewish man who ended up in captivity in Babylon and then the Persian Empire. He was likely born in captivity. When we hear from him, he is serving in the Persian court for the King in the city of Susa. Susa was one thousand miles from Jerusalem, which was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC. For the past few years, displaced Hebrews were returning to Jerusalem from Persia to rebuild the temple and their homes. As you can imagine, this was not a simple task.

I am sure there was much to be critical of and many things the Jews could have complained about. Probably each of you know someone that could be labeled a griper and complainer. It is easy to scrutinize and talk about all the problems in the world, but what we really need are people who will not just discuss a problem, but do something about it. Nehemiah was someone who saw a problem, and instead of bellyaching about it or wallowing in grief, he took action.

Nehemiah knew God's plan of redemption depended on the Jews living in the land of promise and having a temple where they could offer sacrifices as they awaited the coming of the Messiah.

One day, while Nehemiah was in the citadel of Susa, one of his brothers arrived from Jerusalem. Nehemiah asked him about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile and about the conditions in Jerusalem. He responded, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire" (Nehemiah 1:3). Before the exile, Israel had its own language, king, army, and identity. Now it has none of these. What the Jews lacked most was leadership, a godly leader. There was no one to show them where to start and what direction to go as they tried to rebuild their city.

When Nehemiah heard these words from his brother, he wept. But not only did he cry and fast, but he also prayed. And with those prayers came a dream, that with God's help, he would be able to return to Jerusalem and help rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. But this dream was very unlikely to happen from a human perspective. Nehemiah was the personal cupbearer of the king and thus a trusted advisor. The chances of King Artaxerxes actually letting Nehemiah leave and finance the trip were improbable. But God had planted this dream in the heart of Nehemiah just as He plants dreams into our hearts. Nehemiah did not come up with these dreams on his own. His heart was receptive to the impressions God had placed on him. A prayerful heart is a fertile heart for God's divine plans. So, as we begin this new year, pray for a fertile heart, that you might discover God's dreams for your life this year and for the years to come.

FROM THE MOUNTAINS BY JADON GIBSON Early settlers along Wilderness Road, Conclusion

By Jadon Gibson

Livingston Place was one of the most beautiful farms in southwestern Virginia. Brothers Peter and Henry Livingston lived there with their families and a large number of slaves.

War chief Bengé sought out farms with slaves and scouted them for an advantageous time to attack with the purpose of taking them north and selling them to the French in what is now Detroit.

Elizabeth, the wife of Peter Livingston, gave the following account of their ordeal with Bengé.

"It was about ten o'clock on the morning of April 6, 1794 while I was sitting in my house," Elizabeth began. "The dogs began barking fiercely and it alarmed me so much I arose to look outside. I saw seven armed Indians approaching the house and they were painted in a frightful manner. I was alone inside except for a ten-year-old and my sucking infant."

"My husband and his brother had just walked out to a barn some distance in the field. My sister-in-law, Sukey, was with the remaining children in an outhouse. Old Mrs. Livingston was in the garden. I immediately shut and boarded the door and the Indians became furious. They tried to burst the door open and demanded that I open it."

"Next they fired guns with one ball piercing through the door but doing no other damage. I then thought of my husband's rifle and took it down but I was at a loss because it was double-triggered. Finally I was able to get it to fire through the door and the Indians retired from that place. Soon afterward they set fire to an old adjoining house. "The children and I

suffered much from the smoke forcing me to open the door. When I did an Indian immediately took me and the children as their prisoners. I then discovered that they had Sukey and my remaining children as prisoners along with a wench and her young children, a black man, and a black boy of our own who is about eight years old. Our house with clothing and household furniture was then set afire."

"We were all hurried a short distance where the Indians paused to divide and put up in packs what they had taken. After I observed they weren't watching the children closely I whispered to my eldest daughter to take my youngest child and run towards John Russell's."

"They started to go and stopped to look back but I beckoned them to go on. Inwardly I felt the worst pangs. The two Indians in the rear must not have noticed this scene. That evening the Indians crossed Clinch Mountain and went as far as Cooper Creek, a distance of about eight miles."

"We set out early the next morning, April 7 and crossed Clinch River at McLean's fish dam then steered north towards the head of Stony Creek. There the Indians camped carelessly having no back spy nor did they keep sentries out. This day's journey was about twenty miles."

"On April 8, the Indians arose late and then traveled five or six miles and camped near the foot of Powell's Mountain. On this day Chief Bengé became more pleasant and spoke freely to the prisoners. He said he was taking us to the Cherokee towns."

"(Bengé) said that there were two Indians hunting so that he would have

provisions and he said that there were several other prisoners who were taken from Kentucky. He asked about old General Shelby on Holston River and said he would pay him a visit during the coming summer and take away all of his blacks. He said all the Chickamauga towns were for war and that they would be very troublesome for the settlers."

The Lee County court was in session when news came that Bengé and his band of Indians had invaded the Holston settlements. Court was immediately adjourned and a company of men under Captain Vincent Hobbs was organized to search for them."

Hobbs and his men went to a gap at Stone Mountain in what is now Russell County, Virginia through which they expected the Indians to pass. Upon arriving at the gap Hobbs could tell that some Indians had passed through not long before. The men pressed on and soon came upon and killed two Indians kindling a fire. The Indians had items that were taken from the Livingstons on April 6th. The men then returned to the gap to await Bengé and the remainder of his group."

After traveling about five miles on April 9 over Powell's Mountain and to the foot of Stone Mountain a party of 13 men under the command of Lt. Vincent Hobbs of the Lee County militia attacked the Indians. Hobbs shot and killed Chief Bengé."

"I was some distance off in the rear," Elizabeth Livingston told of her kidnapping. "The Indian who was guarding me stopped at first when he heard the firing. He then told me to run but as I did he tried to strike me in the head with his tomahawk. I warded this off with my arm. Two of

our people then came into view so it gave me courage to struggle even more. The Indian pushed me backward over a log and aimed a violent blow at my head. It laid me out for dead."

"The first thing I recall was my good friends around helping me. They told me that I was senseless for about an hour. That's when I learned that Chief Bengé had been killed."

This same year Colonel Arthur Campbell was commissioned Indian agent by the president of the United States. Campbell wrote to the Governor of Virginia on April 29, 1794, giving the details of the Indian raid along with the written statement of Mrs. Livingston."

"I have been requested to forward the scalp of Chief Bengé, that noted murderer, to your Excellency. This is proof of his death and of the activity and good conduct of Lieutenant Hobbs in killing him and freeing the prisoners. If it can be spared I beg you to give a reward to Lt. Hobbs for his service."

The Virginia General Assembly voted to honor the request and presented Hobbs with a handsome silver-mounted rifle. No further Indian attacks materialized. Bengé's final attack, which led to his death was the final recorded Indian invasion in southwest Virginia. It was recorded that many of the Indian raids against the settlements in extreme southwest Virginia were led by Bengé and Logan."

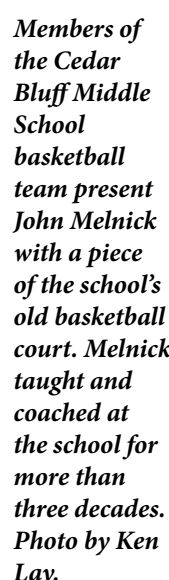
Jadon Gibson is a freelance writer from Harrogate, TN. His stories are both historic and nostalgic in nature. Thanks to Lincoln Memorial University, Alice Lloyd College and the Museum of Appalachia for their assistance.

By Ken Lay

Over the holiday break, current Cedar Bluff head coach J.T. Hicks devised the John Melnick New Year's Battle at the Bluff, a basketball tournament featuring the Giants, Northwest Middle School, Oliver Springs

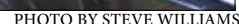
Webb School of Knoxville star and former Lady Vol Glory Johnson was on that team that lost the championship game to West Valley and legendary coach Tim Goddard, who previously coached current Webb

Continued on page 3



By Steve Williams

"We played some extraordinary good basketball teams and hopefully it showed us some areas we have to grow in, so I think there was a little more energy tonight and that was evident in how we played and made some shots. Again, we've got to clean some stuff up. But we played hard."



Fulton High Coach Jody Wright instructs his team during a timeout in the Falcons' 80-51 win at South-Doyle that ended a four-game losing streak.

"There are certain things you expect to see when you see Fulton play and we haven't been meeting the

Reserves got in some

"I thought we had a

lot of guys that impacted the game – not necessarily scorebook-wise – and that’s what you got to have,” added Coach Wright. “There’s going to be nights you don’t score a lot and I was pleased with the guys that changed the game with other facets besides scoring and that’s what good teams do.”

By Ken Lay

It wasn't easy for the Lady Hawks but they persevered and prevailed in hostile territory against one of the most experienced teams in Knox County.

"We came in here and we were without several key pieces and we faced some in-game adversity," said Hardin Valley coach Jennifer Galloway, who received a technical foul early in the game. "We faced some in-game adversity with the coach, which is me, getting a technical.

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Continue on page 2

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Cummings plans to take a year off to watch son play



By Steve Williams

It's been a little over three weeks since the surprising news came out that Scott Cummings had resigned as head football coach at Oak Ridge High School. That got me to wondering about Cummings' future plans, so I texted him last week and he replied.

Any news on where you may be coaching this year?

"Nowhere," answered Scott. "I have a son that is at Oak Ridge and he plays football and basketball. I'm not making him move again and I'm not going to coach somewhere and not see him play. So as of right now I'm taking a year off."

That's commendable on Cummings' part, I thought.

It says a lot about Scott's character and priorities in life. He's putting his love for his son and their relationship ahead of himself and what he loves to do on Friday nights in the fall.

So, Coach Cummings won't be on the sideline at historic Blankenship Field this coming season, but he will be in the stands.

Connor, his youngest of two boys, is currently a junior at Oak Ridge. Scott's oldest son, Caden, is a freshman at Tennessee Tech. He was a senior quarterback in his dad's last season coaching at Halls before he got the OR job.

"As of right now I will finish the school year at least teaching at Oak Ridge," added Cummings in the text message. "Coach teach an English class and two social studies classes."

I can't imagine how tough it must be to still be in the school building and no longer able to fulfill the main purpose you came there for in the first place. The father-son relationship between Scott and Connor must be very special.

And I would be amiss too if I forgot Coach Cummings' other boys who will return from last season.

The best way I can

tell you Scott's feelings for them is to share the statement Coach Cummings posted Dec. 16, the day he learned where he stood in the eyes of the Oak Ridge Schools administration.

"Dear Oak Ridge players, Staff and Community. This morning following a meeting with Oak Ridge Schools administration I was informed that the direction of the football program was not in the vision of Oak Ridge Schools so I am resigning. I am truly heartbroken. To my players, I in no way want to leave you. I love you all very much. Once my guys always my guys. I was looking forward to our growth beginning after Christmas break for 2023. Please know I am still here for you."

Oak Ridge lost some of its best players to injuries during the season but got most of them back prior to the playoffs. The Wildcats finished 5-5 in the regular season and 7-6 overall, after winning two playoff games before being eliminated at Powell 43-13 in a game that many felt would be much closer.

Cummings, a 1988 West High graduate, was head coach at his alma mater from 2002-2014. He guided the Rebels to back to back state title appearances in 2013 and 2014, bringing home the gold football in 2014.

He left West as the school's all-time leader in wins and playoff victories and his next two coaching stops were at Cleveland (2015-18) and Halls (2019-21).

Cummings felt Oak Ridge would be the perfect place to finish out his career. He had longed for a place that mirrored Maryville's program and Oak Ridge had just that with two middle school feeder programs and a talent-rich Boys Club youth program.

Many folks, including myself, are still wondering why it didn't work out.



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

South-Doyle's girls basketball team plans its strategy during a timeout in its game against Fulton. The contest was close for three periods, but Fulton finished strong for a 43-28 win.

Defense is 'the key' to Lady Falcons' success

By Steve Williams

Defense was the key to the Fulton girls basketball team's 43-28 win at South-Doyle Thursday and it also will be the key to the season, said Freeman Pinkney, the Lady Falcons' new coach.

Junior point guard Maiya Moore led the way with 20 points and senior Judy Taylor added 10, including eight in the second half.

"Really our second half (was the key)," said Pinkney, who previously coached at private schools First Baptist Academy in Powell and Knoxville Catholic. "We picked up the defensive intensity a lot better and communication was a lot

better and then the shots started to fall and that always helps."

The host Lady Cherokees led 8-7 at the first stop. Fulton led by one (15-14) at intermission and had only a four-point advantage (25-21) going into the final period.

Fulton outscored South-Doyle 18-7 in the final eight minutes to pull away.

The victory improved the Lady Falcons to 6-11 overall against a tough schedule. They are 2-0 in district play.

At the halfway point in the season, Coach Pinkney was asked what he thought his team's potential is.

"I think for us consistency is going to be the biggest

thing," said Pinkney. "We talk about being consistent everyday and being consistent in practice and let that trickle into what we do on game night."

"I think we have a chance to go deep in the district and region. Again, we've just got to be consistent with those things that we have to do each and every day to get better."

Pinkney said he needs his "defense and defensive communication" to be consistent going forward. "Knowing rotations and knowing where to be. On-ball pressure, deflections and steals, and boxing out and rebounding. I would say definitely our defense

needs to be consistent every night."

No question about it, Coach Pinkney thinks defense is the strength of the team. "We're really an athletic team, so if we can get after it early and play all four quarters at a high intensity, I think we'll strive and be fine."

The Lady Falcons play a lot of full-court defense.

Moore is "coming along well" on offense, said Pinkney, and is learning how to play the point guard position. She also is the team's "quarterback" and is being counted on for her scoring as well as being the point guard and running the offense.

Hardin Valley shows its toughness, rallies for win at Halls

By Ken Lay

When Andy Arendt took the reins for the Hardin Valley Academy boys basketball coach his top priority was making the Hawks a tougher team.

"We were a soft basketball team. We were a soft team last year and we were a soft team over the summer," Arendt said. "We had skill. We were a skilled basketball team but we were soft."

The Hawks have gotten tougher this year and that was on display for the second half of Hardin Valley's 79-70 victory at Halls Wednesday night as the Hawks overcame a nine-point halftime deficit.

"In the first half, they just played harder than we did and they were

tougher than we were," Arendt said. "They're really, really good and we didn't match their intensity, their tenacity in the first half."

"In the second half, we matched their intensity."

At halftime, HVA (15-3) was down 38-29. But after the break, the Hawks opened the third quarter with a 13-2 run and outscored the Red Devils 26-8 in the frame to open a 55-46 advantage heading into the fourth quarter.

Hardin Valley would lead 73-59 in the fourth quarter before Halls sharp shooter Caleb Shaffer made four late 3-pointers, including one at the buzzer to make the score a bit closer.

Shaffer had a game-high 30 points,

scoring 16 before halftime. But he didn't have a field goal in the third quarter. He made nine 3-pointers in the contest.

Hardin Valley boasted a balanced scoring attack with Hakeem Rashid leading the way with 17 points. Jack Smith added 15 (including nine after halftime and eight in the third quarter). Nic Hodge had 10. AJ Gray had nine and Armadou Sack had six, all in the second half.

The Red Devils, meanwhile, had two other players score in double figures as Chandler Gamble had 12 points, all after halftime, and Gabe Holmes finished with 11.

Hardin Valley outlasts Lady Devils

Cont. from page 1

team like us. Halls is a very good team. They're a well-coached team and they're a veteran team."

The first half of Wednesday night's contest was full of offensive fireworks as the Lady Devils (12-4) and Lady Hawks (13-5) combined to knock down 11 three-point shots over the first 16 minutes.

Hardin Valley made 10 field goals before halftime with five coming from behind the 3-point arc. The Lady Hawks converted nine shots in the first half and buried six 3-pointers. When the dust had settled, the game was knotted in a 31-31 tie at the break.

The see-saw battle continued in the third frame but the Lady Hawks outscored Halls 16-13 in the

frame and held a 47-44 advantage lead heading into the final eight minutes.

The defenses took center stage in the fourth quarter and the contest wasn't decided until the Lady Devils' Sophie Tarpe missed a potential game-winning shot as time expired.

Tarpe, who had 14 points before halftime, finished the contest with 18 points to lead all scorers.

The Lady Hawks boasted a balanced attack as Gracie Waite and Kamiyah Love scored 12 points each. Lexi Hall added 10 and Kyndra West finished with eight to help Hardin Valley avenge a season-opening 51-46 loss to the Lady Devils.

Olivia Culp finished with 11 points for Halls.

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PHOTO BY JASON CANTRELL / CADENCE CAPTURES

West's John Sartelle (No. 62) and the Rebels take the field in their Class 5A state championship game at Chattanooga's Finley Stadium Dec. 2. West rolled past Page High 47-13 for the title and 15-0 season record.

Sartelle wants to make Air Force a career

By Steve Williams

John Sartelle will never forget his teammates and high school football career at West that climaxed with a perfect 15-0 record and state championship, but not long from now he will embark on a new journey in life in which football will play a secondary role.

Sartelle has signed with the Air Force Academy, and unless something changes, he wants to make it a career.

If all goes well from an athletic standpoint, Sartelle will play four years of football for Air Force and then have an eight-year post-commitment to fulfill after graduation that includes five years of active duty and three years in reserve.

"That's my commitment, but right now I'm really looking at making a career out of the military," Sartelle said last week. "I'm not going to Air Force to be a football player; I'm going to serve my country."

John, who is now 18 years old, said he remembers wanting to join a military academy since his early years in elementary school.

"I wanted to serve my country and the Academy was a great way to do it and also get a great education," he said. "We didn't really know if I would be up to snuff to play for them. But the Lord has really opened up some great avenues for me."

"They (assistant coach

Tim Horton, who was recruiting Sartelle) called me last March and offered me and after that it became a pretty easy decision. It's a great school, a great place and I'll get to serve my country, so it was kind of a no-brainer."

One might say that was a call from out of the blue, or better yet, a call from out of the wild, blue yonder.

John knows of only one other member in his family who had ties to a military academy. "My great grandfather was a Chaplin for the Marines during World War II," he said.

Air Force, guided by Head Coach Troy Calhoun, beat Navy 13-10 in October and clinched the 2022 Commander-in-Chief's Trophy outright with a 13-7 win over Army in November. During the holidays, the Falcons defeated Baylor 30-15 in the Armed Forces Bowl.

Air Force recruited Sartelle his junior season when he was playing tackle in the offensive line. Although he got a late start due to an injury his senior year, the 6-2, 270-pounder stood out as a defensive end.

"John was a four-year starter for us and has been a very important part of our football program the past four years," said West Head Coach Lamar Brown. "He is a leader on and off the field. He is a great student and football player but an even better young man."



West High football standout John Sartelle signed with the United States Air Force Academy on Dec. 21. He will report to the academy, which is just north of Colorado Springs, in late June to begin his 40 days of basic training.

Because of his injury, Sartelle didn't really get going until the fifth game of the season. "He provided an immediate spark," recalled Brown.

In the classroom, John, who plans to major in Chemical Engineering, always made the A honor roll in high school and he's a candidate for the International Baccalaureate certificate.

In football, Sartelle was named to multiple All-Star teams and each season was an All-Region honoree. He also played on a club lacrosse team.

John is originally from Memphis and his family moved to Knoxville when he was 11.

The Rebels' state championship is clearly at the

top of his list of athletic accomplishments.

"I have to say it was incredible all around. To stick with that group of guys for four years and be so close to making it to state finals every time and then finally do it, and in a grand fashion I might add; it was amazing, absolutely amazing."

"I'm very thankful for my team and coach," added Sartelle. "They've given me everything I need to be where I am today. I want to thank the Air Force Academy for giving me the chance to serve my country and thank the good Lord that I have the opportunities and the abilities that I do."

More Fantasy Football Depression

By Mark Nagi

Folks, if there is one thing that I have learned in my 50 years on this planet, its that it is better not to care. You don't get hurt that way.

Every year I play fantasy football... in multiple leagues, and (almost) every year I lose in new and emotionally painful fashions.

Two years ago, I finally won a league, and I have been playing since the mid-1990s. That's a Derek Dooley-esque level of failure. I remember thinking before then that all I wanted was to win a league once. Just once.

Well, I did. And that wasn't enough. I got greedy and I wanted that feeling again.

I've lost when my players have done nothing and lost when my players have been great, but the other team has been simply better. I've lost when I've made awful lineup decisions. I've lost when my opponents got a miracle late game play.

This year? I found new ways to finish without the prize.

In one league I helped my friend Kate set her lineup in the quarterfinals. Was this a case of me trying to be a good friend? No, it was not. I figured if she won, I'd have a better chance of beating her team in the semifinals.

Well, it backfired. She got 29 points out of someone named Zay Jones and I lost. Zay Jones. I would have won the league title had I just kept to myself. Instead, Kate won.

There's a lesson here, kids... don't help people.

But that wasn't the worst. In another league, I made it to the finals. I had the best team all season long.

Then, before Week 17's games got underway weird things started happening.

Tennessee Titans running back Derrick Henry

has been a force this year, and worthy of my first-round draft pick. But... the Titans game against the Cowboys meant nothing in the standings... so they didn't play him.

Ok. That's bad. Not devastating but bad.

My second-best running back is Tony Pollard of the Cowboys. Figuring that they could easily beat the Titans without him, Dallas decided to give him time to heal his injuries.

Ok, things are starting to hurt.

My quarterback was Baltimore's Lamar Jackson, a living and breathing fantasy football standout. His injuries that were supposed to be a thing of the past two weeks ago stuck around, and he didn't play either.

My top three guys. Out of action.

As you could imagine, I would get absolutely throttled in the league championship game.

Writing this article serves as a form of therapy without the copay, so I appreciate you reading it. If you play fantasy football, some of these tales likely sound familiar.

What I can't figure out... is why this matters so much? Every year I do this, and (almost) every year I end up saddened. Fantasy football is a way to stay connected to friends that I never see who live a thousand miles away. It's supposed to be fun. There isn't huge money involved. Winner gets \$100 in the second league I wrote about.

I don't have an answer for why this silly pursuit takes up so much of my time and mental energy, but it does.

And now I'll stew about the 2022 season... right up until the 2023 season begins.

Sigh.

Cedar Bluff downs Northwest in holiday tournament

By Ken Lay

A fast start and a stifling fourth-quarter defense spelled victory for the Cedar Bluff Middle School boys basketball team in the John Menick New Year's Battle at the Bluff Thursday night.

The Giants opened a big early lead en route to notching a 46-33 victory over Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference rival Northwest at CBMS.

Cedar Bluff, which scored the first 11 points of the contest and opened a 17-5 lead by the first quarter's end, also held the Rangers to just three points over the final six minutes.

Despite the quick start and strong finish, things weren't all that easy for the Giants (10-8).

After a sluggish opening frame for the Rangers, Northwest came to life in the second quarter and trimmed its deficit to 24-16 by halftime.

The visitors managed to whittle four more points off Cedar Bluff's advantage, cutting the Giants' lead to 34-30 heading into the final stanza and seemingly setting the stage for a dramatic

finish.

But the Rangers saw their hopes of nabbing a comeback win dashed as the Giants opened the fourth quarter by scoring the first 10 points, expanding their lead to 44-30 and effectively clinching the victory when Nolan Miller knocked down a shot with 2 minutes remaining.

Northwest scored its final points of the game on a 3-pointer by Tyron Brabson with 1:39 to go.

Despite seeing things get close in the contest, Cedar Bluff coach J.T. Hicks was pleased with his team's effort against the Rangers.

"We let them back in the game and we're famous for that," Hicks said. "But I feel like the kids are playing better."

"Everybody's working together and when we do that, we're hard to beat."

Sam Stiles led Cedar Bluff with 17 points, including 10 before halftime. Hayden DeLorenzo added eight. Miller had six and Blake Crawford finished with five.

Zanzi Holaby scored 10 points to pace the Rangers.

Cedar Bluff rededicates basketball court to longtime coach, educator

Cont. from page 1

coach Ricky Norris, Faragut Middle head coach Lynn Allen and Karns High coach Lee Henson.

While at Cedar Bluff, Melnick taught physical education and coached golf, tennis, track and field and cross country.

He won championships and had an impact on his players, students and co-workers.

Many of his players were present for the rededication that was emceed by Josh Archer, who succeeded Melnick as Giants' basketball coach, who spoke when the court was named for Melnick the first time.

Melnick spoke and thanked his students, players and co-workers.

"It's just a great honor," he said. "I'm honored just to be here and for players, I hope you thank your parents all the time. They take

you to practice on Saturdays. Parents are a team. Teachers are a team."

Melnick, who taught in Knox County for 36 years, began his career at Vestal Elementary School, which was a tough gig.

"When I came over here, we had teachers complaining about what they didn't have," Melnick said. "I came from Vestal and those teachers had nothing," Melnick said. "That was the last school that (students) got sent to before they got kicked out (of Knox County Schools)."

It was George Perry, a principal, who recruited Melnick from South Knoxville to Cedar Bluff and Melnick began fundraising efforts for academics and athletics.

"George Perry brought me over here and I couldn't imagine being at any

other school. I have a lot of friends here," Melnick said. "There was a lot of fundraising, a lot of coaching and a lot of fundraising."

"I collected cans and I sold snacks after school. I had the kids come in and crush cans and then they could play ball."

Melnick also nearly single-handedly raised money for the bleachers in the school's gym.

KCS pitched in a bit but Melnick did much of the legwork and picked up a \$10,000 donation from Terry Douglas at Pro Vision.

Melnick has always been savvy and when KCS announced that it was opening West Valley Middle School, he was informed that he would have to tender half of the money in the athletics account to the new school.

Always one to keep his

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF GARY ALAN FREELS
DOCKET NUMBER 87112-3**
Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day
of DECEMBER 2022, letters administration in
respect of the Estate of GARY ALAN FREELS who
died Nov 19, 2022, were issued the undersigned
by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court
of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident
and non-resident, having claims, matured or
unmatured, against his or her estate are required
to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the
above named court on or before the earlier of
the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their
claims will be forever barred.
(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the
first publication of this notice if the creditor
received an actual copy of this notice to creditors
if the creditor received the copy of the notice less
than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four
(4) months from the date of first publication as
described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's
date of death.
This the 27 day of DECEMBER, 2022.
ESTATE OF GARY ALAN FREELS
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
GINGER F PRITCHARD;
CO ADMINISTRATOR
5137 WHITE WING ROAD
LENOIR CITY TN 37771
RYAN FREELS; CO EXECUTOR
7505 BLACKS FERRY ROAD
KNOXVILLE TN 37931
DUSTIN CROUSE ATTORNEY AT LAW
9111 CROSS PARK DRIVE D-200
KNOXVILLE TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF DANNELL ZIEGLER HARB
DOCKET NUMBER 87100-3**
Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day
of DECEMBER 2022, letters testamentary in
respect of the Estate of DANNELL ZIEGLER
HARB who died Sep 30, 2022, were issued
the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the
Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.
All persons, resident and non-resident, having
claims, matured or unmatured, against his or
her estate are required to file the same with the
Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or
before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or
(2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:
(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the
first publication of this notice if the creditor
received an actual copy of this notice to creditors
at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four
(4) months from the date of first publication as
described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's
date of death.
This the 22 day of DECEMBER, 2022.
ESTATE OF DANNELL ZIEGLER HARB
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
RICHARD H HARB, JR.; EXECUTOR
9822 GIVERNY CIRCLE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37922

DAVID H LUHN ATTORNEY AT LAW
310 N FOREST PARK BLVD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MARY ELIZABETH JONES
DOCKET NUMBER 87110-1**
Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day
of DECEMBER 2022, letters testamentary in
respect of the Estate of MARY ELIZABETH
JONES who died Oct 4, 2022, were issued the
undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the
Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.
All persons, resident and non-resident, having
claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her
estate are required to file the same with the Clerk
and Master of the above named Court, on or
before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or
(2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:
(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the
first publication of this notice if the creditor
received an actual copy of this notice to creditors
at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four
(4) months from the date of first publication as
described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's
date of death.
This the 22 day of DECEMBER, 2022.
ESTATE OF MARY ELIZABETH JONES
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
BEVERLY JONES JR; CO EXECUTOR
5317 BUCKHEAD TRAIL
KNOXVILLE TN 37919
BAKER L JONES; CO EXECUTOR
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JAMES A JONES; CO EXECUTOR
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KNOXVILLE TN 37919
LEE A POPKIN ATTORNEY AT LAW
1111 N NORTHSHORE DRIVE SUITE S-700
KNOXVILLE TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**BRENDA MCCORMACK KING
DOCKET NUMBER 87126-2**
Notice is hereby given that on the 28 day
of DECEMBER 2022, letters administration in
respect of the Estate of BRENDA MCCORMACK
KING who died Oct 15, 2022, were issued the
undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the
Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.
All persons, resident and non-resident, having
claims, matured or unmatured, against his or
her estate are required to file the same with the
Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or
before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or
(2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred.
(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the
first publication of this notice if the creditor
received an actual copy of this notice to creditors
at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four
(4) months from the date of first publication as
described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's
date of death.

date of death.
This the 28 day of DECEMBER, 2022.
ESTATE OF BRENDA MCCORMACK KING
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
BRANDY MICHELLE METTLER;
ADMINISTRATRIX
489 JEFFERSON LANE
CLINTON, TN. 37716
M AARON SPENCER ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 900
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF VIOLA M MASON
DOCKET NUMBER 87108-2**
Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day
of DECEMBER 2022, letters testamentary in
respect of the Estate of VIOLA M MASON who
died Sep 5, 2022, were issued the undersigned
by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court
of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident
and non-resident, having claims, matured or
unmatured, against his or her estate are required
to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the
above named Court on or before the earlier of
the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their
claims will be forever barred:
(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the
first publication of this notice if the creditor
received an actual copy of this notice to creditors
at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four
(4) months from the date of first publication as
described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's
date of death.
This the 22 day of DECEMBER, 2022.
ESTATE OF VIOLA M MASON
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
PERRY H MASON II; EXECUTOR
1104 CALAIS DRIVE
SOUTHLAKE TX 76092
THOMAS R RAMSEY III ATTORNEY AT LAW
550 W MAIN STREET SUITE 310
KNOXVILLE TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF WILLIAM CLINTON NELSON, JR.
DOCKET NUMBER 87107-1**
Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day
of DECEMBER 2022, letters testamentary in
respect of the Estate of WILLIAM CLINTON
NELSON, JR. who died Aug 20, 2022, were
issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master
of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.
All persons, resident and non-resident, having
claims, matured or unmatured, against his or
her estate are required to file the same with the
Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or
before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or
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at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four
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described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's
date of death.

described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's
date of death.
This the 22 day of DECEMBER, 2022.
ESTATE OF WILLIAM CLINTON NELSON, JR.
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
VANESSA CHESNEY; EXECUTRIX
4953 SHADY ROAD
STRAWBERRY PLAINS, TN. 37871
ADAM J CARR ATTORNEY AT LAW
109 PARKWAY, SUITE 2A
SEVIERVILLE, TN. 37862

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF DAVID G SANFORD
DOCKET NUMBER 87102-2**
Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day
of DECEMBER 2022, letters administration in
respect of the Estate of DAVID G SANFORD who
died Nov 3, 2022, were issued the undersigned
by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court
of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident
and non-resident, having claims, matured or
unmatured, against his or her estate are required
to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the
above named court on or before the earlier of
the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their
claims will be forever barred.
(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the
first publication of this notice if the creditor
received an actual copy of this notice to creditors
at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four
(4) months from the date of first publication as
described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's
date of death.
This the 21 day of DECEMBER, 2022.
ESTATE OF DAVID G SANFORD
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
AMY E SANFORD; ADMINISTRATRIX
1715 REDGRAVE ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37922
EDWARD COX, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1111 N NORTHSHORE DRIVE, SUITE N-290
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MARY GERTRUDE BIBEE
KEMPTON RUTHERFORD SEARLE
DOCKET NUMBER 87128-1**
Notice is hereby given that on the 29 day
of DECEMBER 2022, letters testamentary in
respect of the Estate of MARY GERTRUDE
BIBEE KEMPTON RUTHERFORD SEARLE who
died Dec 13, 2022, were issued the undersigned
by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court
of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident
and non-resident, having claims, matured or
unmatured, against his or her estate are required
to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the
above named Court on or before the earlier of
the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their
claims will be forever barred:
(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the
first publication of this notice if the creditor
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at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four
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described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's
date of death.

received an actual copy of the notice to creditors
if the creditor received the copy of the notice less
than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four
(4) months from the date of first publication as
described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's
date of death.
This the 29 day of DECEMBER, 2022.
ESTATE OF MARY GERTRUDE BIBEE
KEMPTON RUTHERFORD SEARLE
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
GLEN B RUTHERFORD; EXECUTOR
P.O. BOX 1668
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF CLIFFORD JACK TRAMM
DOCKET NUMBER 86864-1**
Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day
of DECEMBER 2022, letters administration in
respect of the Estate of CLIFFORD JACK
TRAMM who died Aug 12, 2022, were issued the
undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the
Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.
All persons, resident and non-resident, having
claims, matured or unmatured, against his or
her estate are required to file the same with the
Clerk and Master of the above named court on or
before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or
(2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred.
(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the
first publication of this notice if the creditor
received an actual copy of this notice to creditors
at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four
(4) months from the date of first publication as
described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's
date of death.
This the 27 day of DECEMBER, 2022.
ESTATE OF CLIFFORD JACK TRAMM
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ELAINE L KENNEDY; ADMINISTRATRIX
7723 ESTER WAY #28
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37909

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF THEODORUS VANES
DOCKET NUMBER 87114-2**
Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day
of DECEMBER 2022, letters testamentary in
respect of the Estate of THEODORUS
VANES who died Oct 8, 2022, were issued the
undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the
Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee.
All persons, resident and non-resident, having
claims, matured or unmatured, against his or
her estate are required to file the same with the
Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or
before the earlier of the dates. prescribed in
(1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever
barred:
(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the
first publication of this notice if the creditor
received an actual copy of this notice to creditors
at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four
(4) months from the date of first publication as
described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's
date of death.

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's
date of death.
This the 27 day of DECEMBER, .2022.
ESTATE OF THEODORUS VANES
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ANNEMARIE KNIEP; CO-EXECUTRIX
837 KLONDIKE WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37923
CHANTAL LEADER; CO-EXECUTRIX
849 TURNBERRY DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37923

DAVID LUHN ATTORNEY AT LAW
310 N FOREST PARK BLVD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37919

MISC. NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE 94

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

RFP 3355, After School Care Program
Services, due 2/8/23

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

The owner/ or lienholders of the following
vehicles are hereby notified of their rights to pay
all charges and claims being held on the storage
lot of Ogles Wrecker Service located at 4401
Asheville Hwy. Failure to claim these vehicles
will be a waiver of all rights and titles along with
consent to sell vehicles.

2016	Chevy	TRX	Vin#
3GNCJPSB9GL258605			
2008	Jeep	Commander	Vin#
1J8HG48K68C155151			