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PHOTO BY TAMMY DAVIS KREGEL

Knox County girls basketball's BEST

Bearden High's Natalya Hodge works against Bradley Central's defense in a Class 4A quarterfinal showdown in this year's TSSAA state tournament at Murphy Center in Murfreesboro. Although the Lady Bulldogs were handed their first loss of the season, 55-53, and saw a 57-game win streak come to an end, Hodge capped her outstanding freshman season with a game-high 23 points. She has been named to The Knoxville Focus / Coaches' 2022-23 All-Knox County girls team, which is featured in this week's Sports and Recreation section.

Central's Isaac Katz receives appointment to US Naval Academy

By Ken Lay

A Central High School senior recently received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

Isaac Katz is the first known student from Central to receive an appointment to Annapolis.

Katz has a school year to finish and one more soccer season to play for the Bobcats, but he's excited to be heading off to serve the country and pursue his academic and career pursuits.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the world, or at least Annapolis," he said. "I would say this is a nice chance to see the world."

Katz's appointment concludes a long process.

"First, it was heartening to know that I was mentally and physically qualified to



Central High School senior Isaac Katz recently received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. He is the first student from CHS to be so honored. Photo submitted.

get an appointment," Katz said. "That was encouraging and that was a huge part of the process."

While he's looking forward to his time at the academy and subsequent

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City police requests on council agenda Tuesday

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The Knoxville Police Department has several requests before the city council Tuesday evening including a request for a professional service agreement with 21CP Solutions.

The firm will do a department assessment and strategic planning under the proposed \$250,000 contract.

21CP Solutions public information says it is an outgrowth of many of its members' experiences on the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. That Task Force produced a pioneering report on contemporary policing, creating a new agenda for law enforcement based on input from criminal justice experts, community leaders, police and civil liberties advocates.

The police department also wants the council to amend a contract with Messer Construction to include office space construction for a Real-Time Information Center, upping the contract to \$1,022,700. The information center will include a high-tech vantage point from which to keep track of active crime and

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Cameron Brooks announcing his candidacy for Knoxville City Council at the Beck Cultural Center before a large crowd.

Cameron Brooks Announces for Council

By Focus Staff

Cameron Brooks, a former member of the Knox County Election Commission and local realtor, kicked off his campaign for an at-large seat on the Knoxville City Council on March 9. Brooks held his campaign opener at the Beck Cultural Center and enjoyed the biggest crowd of the off-year election season with somewhere around 150 people in attendance. To enthusiastic and loud applause and cheering, Brooks made it official, saying, "I'm running for City Council to be a voice for working people."

Unlike most candidates for City Council in recent years, Cameron Brooks has been laser-focused in his pitch; namely that working families need and deserve a councilman especially attuned to their needs. Brooks has been hammering home the 40% increase in the property tax passed by the

Knoxville City Council. "The average family is paying \$320 more a month in groceries, and on top of that the city passed a 40% increase in property taxes." Brooks then rang a bell one doesn't hear from other candidates. "...I'll state here tonight that increases in the property tax raise mortgage payments and rents for working families. There's no getting around that fact." Then Brooks dropped the bombshell. "Therefore, I feel very comfortable in saying that when elected during my four-year term on City Council, I pledge to vote 'no' on any increase to the property and sales tax rate," Brooks said to cheers from the crowd.

The audience was probably the most diverse of any event held for a candidate for City Council this year. Old and young were well represented, as well as black and white, Republicans and Democrats.

The kickoff was opened by Reverend Harold Middlebrook, a hero of the Civil Rights movement and local pastor. Middlebrook is the treasurer of Brooks' campaign and one of the best-known community leaders in Knoxville. Reverend Middlebrook, a speaker of renown, introduced each speaker in his typically gracious way. Sandy Hicks, who spent her entire adult life working as a custodian, paid a moving tribute to Brooks, recalling their meeting on the University of Tennessee campus. Cameron Brooks worked as an organizer and advocate for workers. Hicks, soft-spoken and self-effacing, quietly told the audience Brooks was the first person ever to tell her she had a greater value as a person than merely a woman who cleaned toilets. "I didn't know it," Sandy Hicks said softly, "but Cameron knew it."

Carmen Trammell attested to

Brooks' love for and dedication to animals in general and dogs in particular. Trammell said Brooks has raised thousands of dollars for dogs and noted he and his husband have three rescue dogs. Brooks is a member of the Board of Directors of Young-Williams.

Reverend Middlebrook then introduced former State Representative Ray Hill, noting they had been friends for better than forty years. Hill amply demonstrated he could still rouse an audience and bring them to their feet with an old-fashioned stump speech.

Brooks mounted the platform to a wave of applause and announced he has been knocking on doors and has observed how the recent property tax increase has hit working people and families. Cameron Brooks also offered the idea of partnering with local schools to rehab properties inside

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Democrats Vote To Allow Children Into Drag Shows

From a distance



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

I would like for someone to explain to me why every Democrat in the Tennessee House and Senate voted against a bill designed to keep children from being taken to a drag show.

Why in the world do these Democrat leaders want small children to be exposed to sexually-suggestive shows with men dressed like women and vice-versa? The votes were 76 to 23, and 74 to 19 in the state House and 26 to 6 in the state Senate in favor of a bill to put very minor restrictions or limitations

on these shows.

The bill did not ban these shows entirely. It was simply a good faith effort to stop the sexualization of small children.

Senator Becky Massey, who is one of my sisters, said: "We don't want to have the door open so that (minors) can go see advertent nudity and sexual acts or the depiction of sexual acts...That's not what Tennessee is about."

The bill that all Republicans voted for and all Democrats voted against will prohibit drag shows on public property or in places where minors were present.

Last year the Republicans in the Florida Legislature passed the Parental Rights in Education bill. It barred classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation from kindergarten through third grade.

This bill was falsely labeled as the "Don't Say Gay" bill although the word "gay" is not even mentioned.

Once again, as in Tennessee, all the Democrats in the Florida Legislature voted against the bill. They apparently favored government sex education as early as kindergarten.

Most liberals believe that government knows more about what children need than their own parents do. Do they really believe that government bureaucrats love children more than their parents do?

Most Republicans believe that we are making children grow up too fast anyway and that we should let children be children for as long as possible.

With Democrats today everything is about sex and race. It was both sexist and racist for candidate Joe Biden to say he would

consider only "women of color" as his running mate.

It was both sexist and racist for President Biden to say he would consider only a black woman for appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Karine Jean-Pierre, President Biden's Press Secretary, is obviously out of her league in handling that very important job. Yet she was hired by this administration in large part because she is what the Pink News, a LGBTQ publication, called "a proud black lesbian immigrant."

There are several Jewish Democrats in Congress today, but fewer and fewer Democrats who are white, male, and Protestant. It clearly helps in a Democrat primary now if you are a woman, and especially a woman who is black, brown, gay, lesbian, transgender, bi-sexual, binary, and so forth.

Unfortunately, if you want to see where we may be headed, look to Canada. There you now run a risk of being prosecuted under Canadian "human rights" laws if you speak out in favor of traditional Christian values.

Derek Reimer, a Calgary minister, was even arrested for protesting a drag queen story hour for little children at a public library.

Look up on your computer or iPad the case of the Canadian high school teacher who started wearing gigantic breasts to school after he started "identifying" as female.

The school board there stood behind him at first because of his "transgender rights" and one education official said trans people were hurt by being "under represented".

But employment lawyer, Sunira Chaudhri disagreed, saying it seems

sexist to me, because of the exaggerated nature of these breasts with nipples protruding. I think a lot of young women at the school wouldn't just feel uncomfortable, they'd feel mocked.

In 1994, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a very liberal Democrat at that time, said for many years "we have been defining deviancy down, accepting as a part of life what we once found repugnant. That is more true today than when he said it.

I don't understand why we never heard anything about drag shows, but now they are popping up all over the country. I wish we could get back to a day when everyone kept their sex lives private and where transgender people were not made out to be heroes.

Central's Isaac Katz

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"I don't end up doing that, I'm going to study physics and I'm hoping to come back and get a job at (Oak Ridge National Laboratory), he said. "I want to study nuclear fusion. Right now, everyone is studying fission and I want to do something with fusion.

Attending a service academy requires a structured lifestyle, another challenge that Katz is anticipating.

"I would like to say that I'm pretty good at that, and it is regimented," he said. "It's not my preferred lifestyle but I'm not opposed to it."

Katz said that a major appeal for him to attend a service academy is the opportunity to learn through trial and error.

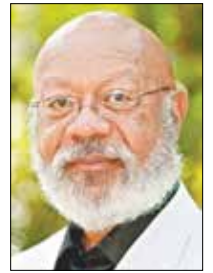
"Really, what appeals to me is failure," he said. "While failure isn't exactly encouraged, it's expected.

"Going to the Naval Academy or any service academy gives you the opportunity to learn and grow."

Governor Ron DeSantis and the teaching of woke black history

The sharp knives are out for Ron DeSantis who infuriated the leftist mob when he said that Florida was the state where woke goes to die. But DeSantis doesn't care. He obviously feels that attacking "woke" is a key to his political future. He has proclaimed "We will never surrender to the woke mob." When Disney was pushing the leftist agenda, DeSantis had them stripped of their self-governing status in their theme park in Orlando.

DeSantis' latest salvo against the left created a furor when he would not allow the AP course in black history to be added the school curricula in Florida.



By Dr. Harold A. Black
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 haroldblackphd.com

He was promptly branded as a racist. The intent of the media onslaught is to get blacks firmly against him and it has worked. Two close friends of mine repeated the narrative that DeSantis was trying to erase black history. This saddened me because it showed that even very smart people are intellectually lazy. I provided them with other evidence and they both have changed their minds. No matter, because where he now appears, there is a protest organized against him calling him anti-black. He was attacked by the usual suspects including the White House, the Vice President, the teachers' unions, the View and the liberal press.

However he opposed the teaching of *woke black history* rather than the teaching of black history. None defended why critical race theory, advocating for the abolition of prisons, queer black studies, black feminism and a laudatory section on the Marxist anti-family Black Lives Matter were

essential parts of black history. I bet that even the discredited warped view of the 1619 project was included. Headlines read "What is behind DeSantis push to erase black history?" Another accused him of altering black history. This was especially curious since the AP course was the one altering black history.

The governor's office released a statement saying the proposed course is a "vehicle for a political agenda" that leaves far too much room for "ideological material" to make its way into the curriculum. Of course this was true. There was no mention of black conservatives and the AP course was revised to include some of them like Ben Carson, Thomas Sowell, Condoleezza Rice and Clarence Thomas. Yet more revision is needed to honestly tell the remarkable story of blacks in American history.

Black American history is American history. It is a rich, diverse, compelling story of courage, resistance, emancipation, resilience and triumph over daunting odds. When the slaves were freed, most had no possessions

and little if any education. Many did not even have a last name. Yet through hard work, faith and inner strength they and their proud descendants were able to navigate through the barriers imposed by the Jim Crow south and the more subtle discrimination present in the north. What about the early black legislators, inventors, educators, scholars and entrepreneurs that are missing from woke black history? It is though the left wants to portray blacks as hapless victims rather than telling the true story of dealing with and overcoming adversity.

Governor DeSantis rejected the AP course on Black History on the grounds that the course did not relate this history but instead injected a biased, political interpretation of the American Black experience. The AP course was an exercise in promoting a political agenda rather than an accurate telling of our history. I wonder if the AP course told of the abolitionist movement that existed prior to the founding of the country and of black historical figures who defended the Constitution such as Frederick Douglass. It should also be noted that contrary to the claims that Gov DeSantis is trying to erase black history, that the governor annually awards winners of Black History Month student contests in Florida. These are not the actions of a racist. I applaud Gov. DeSantis and his Education Commissioner Manny Diaz Jr for having the courage to reject the biased historical perspective of the AP course and to insist on educating our children rather than indoctrinating them.



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

McNally Is A Victim Of Hypocrisy

The hypocritical outrage expended by the Leftists over Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally and his internet doings is much ado about nothing. A man of great integrity, McNally has been an excellent representative and state senator. Just as the Left has been scandalized by George Santos, yet refuse to acknowledge the torrent of lies that come out of the mouth of Joe Biden. Whether those same lies come from some cognitive disability or are just plain old lies, is anyone's guess. The Left has yet to be even remotely distressed about the repeated lies by national media about any number of topics, all of which they

and the mainstream media labeled "misinformation" or "conspiracy theories." They have tried their best - - - and still are trying - - - to stifle and choke free speech in this country to death. Russia collusion, Covid having come from a lab in China, the reality of Hunter Biden's laptop, the stunning corruption inside the Department of Justice and the FBI, and the government nudging social media giants Twitter, Google, and Facebook to participate in creating a narrative and suppression of the truth. Polls show the public's trust in the national media is at an all-time low. Is it any wonder?

The same people who cry and squall about an "insurrection" ignore the 750+ riots, which include deaths, that burned and looted billions, yet not a single individual in this country has been charged with insurrection. Violence and destruction on the left or the right are wrong, period.

The folks snarling and snapping at Randy McNally's heels aren't occupying the moral high ground, much as they might pretend. These are the same people who believe there might be as many as 72 genders and college-age girls wearing cat ears are walking, talking felines.

I am not on social media and know little to nothing about it and really don't want to. So much for that.

Brooks Kicks Off Campaign

Cameron Brooks, a local realtor and former member of the Knox County Election Commission, opened his campaign for a seat on the Knoxville City Council last week at the Beck Cultural Center. Brooks drew the biggest crowd of the campaign season so far with about 150 persons in attendance. The theme was working people need a voice on the Knoxville City Council and Brooks pledged if elected, he would not vote for any tax increases in the next four years. The incumbent, Lynne Fugate, voted to increase property taxes 40%. Brooks was also outspoken in his opposition to any effort by the City of Knoxville to "defund the schools." Fugate had been quoted by the Compass as saying she favored the idea of reducing the city's portion of the sales tax to the school system. Read the full story in this week's edition of The Focus.

Judge Irwin Was Right

Judge Tim Irwin of the

Knox County Juvenile Court was one of the first to signal the crisis in the Department of Children's Services. Irwin warned a legislative panel some time ago the situation was critical and getting worse. Now the problem is apparent to anyone and everyone.

Woke And Banks Don't Mix

For all the hundreds of billions of tax dollars spent on education in this country, there are clearly quite a lot of folks who never learned the basics of economics. The best tax has always been that which one doesn't pay, but does derive a direct benefit from. The Biden administration is returning taxes in every shape and form back to the highest levels since the days of Jimmy Carter. The taxpayers are now expected to bail out the failing banks, including the Silicon Valley Bank, which reportedly spent \$73 million funding Black Lives Matter and other woke organizations. Now the bank is belly up.

There is no such thing as "free" anything bought with tax dollars. The professional do-gooders always say the corporations and the wealthy will pay for such and such programs. Here's how that works,

put simply. Corporations really don't pay taxes; they increase the price of their products and goods, which consumers pay. So we tax Coca-Cola an extra dollar per carton, and the price of Coke goes up more than \$1.00 per carton for consumers, who are also taxpayers.

Prices are already headed through the clouds towards the heavens with no sign of stopping. The inept Biden administration is fueling inflation while claiming they are trying to fight it, like fighting fire with gasoline.

Leftists love the word "sustainable," yet they seem not to understand its meaning. To say none of the tax burden and inflation falls on working people is a cruel lie. The 40% property tax increase passed by the City government has jacked up rents and mortgage payments and not for the wealthy.

Thank you, Mayor Jacobs

On a happier note, kudos to Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. In a recent editorial, I mentioned the unclaimed bodies at the forensics center. Mayor Jacobs has just announced he has joined with the Dignity Memorial Homeless /

Unclaimed Veteran Burial Program, the East Tennessee State Veterans' Cemetery, the East Tennessee Regional Forensic Center and Chaplain Pat Polis in hosting a memorial for eight unclaimed veterans.

The memorial program will take place on March 22 at the East Tennessee Veterans' Cemetery and will be officiated by the Vietnam Veterans of America. Knox County Sheriff Tom Spangler will provide a motorcycle escort for the burial ceremonies.

"These are men and women who served our country in various capacities. Regardless of their current circumstance or family ties, they deserve the respect of a dignified memorial ceremony," Jacobs said. "I'm grateful that so many of our veteran community come together with the Regional Forensic Center to afford them that honor.

The event is open to the public and all are welcome. If interested, meet at Berry Funeral home at 10:45 a.m. on Wednesday, March 22.

Mayor Jacobs is exactly right about our veterans especially deserving of a decent burial and a final resting place with dignity and honor.

City police requests on council agenda Tuesday

Continued from page 1

downtown activity. The creation of the information center, which would place live cameras about the city, passed a prior council meeting 7-2, and the funding may see some debate. Chief Paul Noel said the center would help reduce violent crime, help identify perpetrators, and watch large public events.

The police department is also asking the city to apply for a \$200,000 grant from the state to provide a variety of traffic safety education programs.

Another resolution asked for applying for a state grant of \$200,000 to purchase traffic safety equipment and cover overtime costs for impaired, distracted and/or aggressive driving enforcement and traffic calming operations.

A grant reward of \$200,000 is also being sought from the federal government to support the local Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act programs and activities for the Police Department staff.

A one-year extension of the Victims of Crime Act grant from

the state is also being sought to add an additional \$150,546 to the local effort.

In other action, Councilwoman Amelia Parker wants an emergency ordinance passed to put a moratorium of 90 days on granting building permits in three South Waterfront Zoning Districts.

The council is also being asked to approve the honorary naming of a portion of Sutherland Avenue to "Home Run Alley" in a request from the Pond Gap Neighborhood Association and recommended by the Public Property Naming Committee.

A lease agreement with the Tennessee Valley Agricultural and Industrial Fair Inc. is being recommended by the mayor's office.

Also on the agenda is funding for the South Knoxville Bridge Greenway design services, funding for the Old Broadway Sidewalk Improvement Program, stormwater issues, and a zoning change for property at 1817 Frances Road, Amherst and Helmbolt Roads from Agricultural to single-family residential.

EMS Medical Service members to be appointed

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs has been asking the Knox County Commission to end the contract with American Medical Response and search for a new provider. The commission responded by extending the current contract until the end of this calendar year.

AMR responded that it supports the decision and will be among the applicants submitting bids for the new contract. In addition to extending the contract, the commission also forgave the fines against AMR for untimely deliveries of patients to the emergency rooms during the pandemic.

Today's commission work session and next week's regular meeting will see a Knox County Health Department resolution, suggested by Mayor Jacobs, to appoint five members to a new group to oversee any future emergency ambulance service. The EMS Medical Services Cost Review Board would "approve or

disapprove subsequent increases in charges contractors propose."

In effect, the new review board would set the rate homeowners and businesses pay to the new provider of response services for the county.

"Rate increases to the consumer will only be allowed following the review of the board. Rates must remain firm for the first three years of the initial five-year term. The contractor will then be able to request a rate increase every two years," the new policy says.

The commission will consider the five members of the new board and the health department request must include two active professional members of the EMS industry, one member with healthcare finance experience, one elected Knox County Commissioner, and one citizen representative.

Being considered to serve are Brad Phillips, Rick Valentine, Dr. Randal Dabbs, Commissioner Courtney Durrett and Dottie Lyvers.

Cameron Brooks Announces for Council

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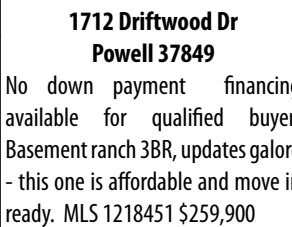
the city to sell at a price buyers could afford, which would allow students to learn trades like heat and air, construction, electrical work and the like and possibly get school credit for it. Brooks pointed out those properties would go back on the tax rolls, providing revenue for the city government while housing families.

Cameron Brooks chided his opponent in the coming election, Councilwoman Lynne Fugate, for having suggested cutting back the City's share of the sales tax to the schools from 75 cents out of every dollar to 50 cents. Brooks flatly stated he was against diminishing the city's commitment to our school system.

Brooks has been going through neighborhoods while knocking on doors and visiting with individual voters. "Crime is the biggest issue so far," Brooks said. "I don't think that surprises anyone. It doesn't surprise me."



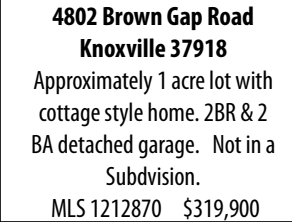
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Spring Used Book Sale to raise funds for public library

Friends of the Knox County Public Library returns to Central United Methodist Church with its Spring Used Book Sale March 23-25. The purpose of the sale is twofold: to raise funds for the Knox County Public Library and to offer affordable books to the community.

Current members of Friends of the Library will be the first to shop the sale during Members Preview Day from 3-7 p.m. on Thursday, March 23. Memberships can be purchased online or renewed at the door. The sale will be open

to the public Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., with Saturday designated as half price day.

The sale will include roughly 20,000 books in over 40 different categories of fiction and nonfiction. Books will be spread out among three different rooms: regular-priced fiction and nonfiction for adults in the main room, a room dedicated to regular-priced children's books, and a special collections area with rare and unique books. DVDS, CDs, and audiobooks will also be available for purchase. Most items, with

the exception of books in the special collections area, are \$2 or less.

Special collections items available for sale include a history of the 25th North Carolina troops in the Civil War and a multi-part set of Dante's The Divine Comedy in two languages with commentary.

Sale sponsors are the Knox County Public Library, VG's Bakery, Three Rivers Market, Perk City, WATE-TV, the Knoxville News Sentinel, and Central United Methodist Church.

Protesters' trial delayed again

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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Two protesters charged with disrupting Knoxville City Council and Knox County Commission meetings were scheduled to stand trial in Criminal Sessions Court on March 28. However, Rev. Calvin Skinner told The Focus last week that the March trial has been moved to June.

Skinner's attorney, Mike Whalen, told The Focus Tuesday that an agreement has been made to move the trial, probably to June, but that no specific date has been set. In the interim, the district attorney's office is looking at the constitutionality of a law passed by the state legislature.

Skinner and Constance Every are charged with offenses on April 19 and May 4, 2021. The affidavit of complaint charges the two with halting the meetings temporarily by "yelling and chanting."

Both incidents took place in reference to the shooting death of Anthony Thompson Jr. by police officers at Austin-East High School.

The April 2021 meeting of the Knox County Commission was disrupted, according to that affidavit, when Every led a group of about 30 people into the auditorium of the City-County Building and, shortly after, Every "utilized an electronic bull horn to sound a very loud siren." The meeting went into recess and Every shouted, "County commission meeting is now over."

The affidavit says that during a May 2021 city

council meeting, Mayor Indya Kincannon asked the protesters to cease their actions and called a recess. Every and Skinner were identified both to then-Police Chief Eve Thomas and they were taken into custody without incident.

The long-delayed trial may be the first tried under Tennessee's new law with enhanced penalties for disrupting public meetings. That law sets the punishment at up to 11 months and 29 days in jail and a maximum fine of \$2,500.

Another trial date for disrupting a meeting is set for October 2 that involves Every, Skinner and the other protesters arrested during the commission meeting in 2021. Those defendants include Mary Winter, Gavin Guinn, Kevin Andrews and Aaron Valentine. A date to hear motions in the cases is set for April 6.

The June hearing and trial may be about the city council incident and the October 2 trial may be about the county commission disruption charges where multiple protesters were arrested.

"Both of the protest cases were continued so the Court could consider the constitutionality of the statute. The March 28 trial is not going. The next date is April 6 for a continuation of the motion hearing. Every has a trial date on June 7 for Assault. The County Commission case is set October 2," Sean McDermott, public information officer for the district attorney's office, told The Focus Tuesday.

Jarrell grievance set for merit board hearing

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Sheriff's Office Benefits Coordinator under former Sheriff J.J. Jones, who was replaced in the position by current Sheriff Tom Spangler, has a grievance hearing set for April 12.

Lisa Jarrell was replaced with Amanda Kitts by Lysette Aviles, the KCSO Human Resources Director. Jarrell was transferred, with the same salary she drew as benefits coordinator, to the KCSO Corrections Department. Her grievance claims unfair treatment, warnings and reprimands, the transfer "to different work location," increased surveillance at work times, increased scrutiny at work, addition of a full-time file clerk responsibilities, taking adverse action against a family member, routinely treating her differently than other employees, changing her computer access to see benefits and personnel information, and not being allowed to do "my job as Benefits Coordinator."

The Focus asked Jarrell about her claim of "taking

adverse action against a family member" and she declined to comment.

Jarrell's complaint to the Merit System Council in January of 2021 said she has 20 years of experience in Human Resources and worked in the Benefits Department for four years. Her letter to Sheriff Spangler said that her supervisor, Chief Mike Ruble, responded to her complaint.

In her 2021 letter to the merit council, she said she felt Ruble wanted her to resign. She also said she talked with the sheriff who, she said, told her he wanted her to remain until the new human resources director was hired.

Aviles was then hired as human resources director. Jarrell claims Aviles told her that she preferred Kitts for the benefits position. She said that Kitts would not include her (Jarrell) in any of the benefits meetings and she was then assigned to filing in the detention facility.

The initial complaint was accepted for a hearing by the former three-member merit council over the objections of the Knox

County Sheriff's Office and Law Department. Since then, the Knox County Commission reorganized the group, now the Merit Board, increasing the membership to seven, and revising the rules of its operation.

Although the grievance was filed with the former merit council, it will probably be heard by the new board using the former commission hearing rules, similar to the April 1 hearing for former officer Westley Keck. Keck's grievance was dismissed in a 5-2 vote.

The Knox County Law Department replied that Jarrell's grievance had two main violations of merit council rules.

The response by Deputy Law Director Houston Havasy, counsel for the KCSO, disputes Jarrell's claims. He notes that her complaint, although accepted by the former merit council, was not filed in time to be considered. He also pointed out that her grievance did not allege any loss in pay.

"The previous Council even prevented the KCSO's attorney from speaking or raising objections prior to ruling in favor of the

petitioner and granting a grievance hearing," Havasy said in the reply, adding, "The Board had already decided to hear this case."

"The petitioner waited 51 days to file an appeal and the Merit System Rule requires an appeal to be made within seven days." He said that Chief Ruble's decision "is now final and no longer reviewable by this body or any court, as it lacks subject matter justification for failure to timely appeal."

He also noted that Jarrell's pay from 2017 until 2022 increased each year with a current salary of \$86,945.56.

His response says that there is no back pay due because her pay has never gone down.

"In short, illegitimate, untimely and improper grievances should not be set for a hearing. Such events amount to a waste and are a distraction from the Board's scope and purpose."

Havasy is asking the merit board to dismiss the grievance.

What's the Location of Birth When Someone is Born in a Car?

For some reason, babies are being born in cars all of the time in movies and TV shows, but I have yet to meet anyone who was born in a car.

I am sure if you are born in a car it makes for a great story to tell for the rest of

your life, but when the birth certificate is getting filled out for that baby, there is a line that requires that you put down the city, county and state in which the child was born.

If the child was born in a car (or train or airplane), what location do you put? In fact, there is a Tennessee law that tells us what to



By Jedidiah McKeehan
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do if this incredibly unlikely event occurs.

Tennessee Code Annotated section 68-3-304 states, "When a birth occurs on a moving conveyance within the United States and the child is first removed from the conveyance

in this state, the birth shall be registered in the state and the place where it is first removed shall be considered the place of birth."

When a birth occurs on a moving conveyance while in international waters or airspace or in a foreign country, and the child is first removed from the conveyance in this state, the birth

shall be registered in this state; but the certificate shall show the actual place of birth insofar as can be determined."

What is the takeaway here? If your child is born in a car, and it somehow matters to you where their place of birth is, then do not take the child out of car until you arrive at the location you wish to put down as the place of birth.

Jedidiah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knoxville 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.



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Nice to meet you! I'm **LULU**, a senior border collie searching for a forever home with my best bud Bandit. Bandit helps me feel more comfortable around new people, however, sometimes I still need my space. If you have a child-free home where I can relax and enjoy my golden years, see us at Young-Williams Animal Center, 3201 Division St.

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Northside Kiwanis Club's 50th annual Pancake Day is Saturday

The Kiwanis Club of Northside Knoxville will hold its 50th annual Pancake Day Saturday, March 25, 2023, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 544 N. Broadway. Time is 7:30 a.m. until noon. Tickets are \$5 (\$2 and under free) and will be available at the door.

All proceeds go to support the service activities of the Kiwanis Club of Northside, Knoxville, which include, but are not limited to: Key Clubs at Bearden,

Central, Fulton and Halls High Schools and L&N STEM Academy, Key Club Service Awards, Camp Eagle's Nest, Knox County 4-H, East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Knoxville Children's Theater, Word-Players and other worthwhile local causes. Northside also supports the Kiwanis International service project EliMiNaTe, to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus worldwide.

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Wake Up, America!

Fools are put in many high positions.
Ecclesiastes 10:6

When did it begin? I'm not talking about the banking collapse, Biden's latest crisis. We've come to expect a weekly crisis from the sock-puppet president, his progressive handlers, his incompetent Cabinet and Congressional Democrats, as well as squishy RINOs.

Recently, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders nailed it. In her response to Biden's January State of the Union address, she described our choice: we either choose normal people, or we embrace the crazies.

It is obvious what crazy now looks like. We are living with the results of a broken election system and a media manipulated electorate which gave us an impaired POTUS and Fettermans. Apparently, the First Lady has chosen "crazy" by honoring, not

a woman on International Women's Day, but a trans dude from Argentina. I cringed - as did Biden's Secretary of State Blinken - when he had to kiss the dude.

With the failure of multiple banks in the last few weeks, I thought of a memorable line from Ernest Hemingway's 1926 novel, *The Sun Also Rises*. The character, Mike, is asked how he went bankrupt. He replied, "Gradually and then suddenly." Perhaps bank regulators and Biden's clueless Treasury Secretary, Janet Yellen, should have been paying more attention to the balance sheets of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and Signature Bank rather than claiming climate change a danger for the banking industry.

I am not a financial wizard. I'm just a doctor with a modicum of common sense. I read widely and I'm not afraid to consult trusted experts when I'm out of

my league. Last week I discussed the SVB collapse with several trusted investment bankers. What follows is my layman's explanation or hypothesis for the bank failures, the opening question of this essay. My hypothesis does not justify theory status, which mandates objective testing. Nor does it rise to the status of an immutable law which has stood the test of time. My hypothesis is based on my own research, common sense and the track record of liberal progressive Democrats.

So, when did our "bankruptcy" begin? We could go back to the Frankfurt School communists who fled Europe after WWI and brought their Marxist critical race theory to American universities like Columbia, Harvard, etc. (Focus essay May 16, 2022). Or we might begin with the Baby Boomers who did not want their kids to struggle. So, eventually God was evicted from public discourse (the Warren court), and all our children would get a trophy (equity). But I'll be pragmatic and begin with the Housing Bubble in the George Bush years.

Democrats passed Barney Frank's and Chris Dodd's legislation which mandated "red line" housing loans in disadvantaged neighborhoods to people incapable of paying back the bank loans. The

worthless loans were subsequently "bundled" and sold as junk bonds which led to the 2008 financial crisis. The government had to step in with taxpayer dollars to prevent a financial collapse, a catastrophe they had orchestrated.

It's hard to keep track of events with the 24-hour news cycle where one crisis is quickly replaced by the next. Becky and I complement each other, but she does not fancy history as I do. A friend asked how I keep events straight, especially historical timelines. Ancient raconteurs used the memory technique of attaching events and dates to familiar places, like one's house plan. The metaphor of a Christmas tree may be helpful. Boughs provide the framework for ornaments. Similarly, I hang historical events on the timeline of creation anchored by key dates. My timeline uses BC (before Christ) and AD (after Christ's death) because Jesus was the most important person and event in humankind. However, in modern terms, Becky and I now often consider events as PC or AC (pre-Covid or after-Covid).

So fast forward to 1/2020 when the China virus spread to the world. Our country went into a shutdown which was supposed to be for two weeks, but lasted for years. Instead of sheltering high risk people,

our titular leaders kept everything shut down and decimated the economy. To try and fix their mess the government began to print and spend money to pump up the economy. Through four rounds of quantitative easing (a euphemism for money printing) and Keynesian expansionary fiscal policy, additional trillions of dollars of government debt were racked up. Remember, when money supply increases, more dollars are chasing the same or fewer products and inflation results. Even a doctor can understand this.

Inflation makes your dollar worth less, so to counter inflation the Federal Reserve started raising interest rates (many say far too rapidly) to dry up the money supply. However, rapidly raising interest rates caused the bond market to tank and this is what killed SVB. The bank was rich in investor capitol (\$189 billion in the last three years) and bought bonds apparently without considering the consequences of rising interest rates. SVB was very woke and gave \$73 million to BLM and related causes. Apparently, woke causes were more important than banking because the bank had no financial risk management chief for much of the last year and only one banker on their board of directors.

But don't worry, Biden

is coming! SVB was full of good liberals who donated to Democrats and espoused woke and DEI philosophy (I prefer the DEI acronym). As a result, Uncle Joe just bailed out his techy donors and the Democrat ATM with your tax dollars through a manipulation of FDIC insurance. As a result, future poorly run banks will be protected - as long as they tithe to Democrats. In so doing, Biden effectively nationalized the American banking industry.

And while everyone is distracted, Biden just attacked the 2nd Amendment with another executive order which will limit the purchase of guns by law abiding citizens. It will do nothing to stop criminals' access to guns because current laws already prevent felons from buying a weapon. And the executive order is another step toward a national gun registry and confiscation.

People want to be safe. President Trump gave us a secure border. Biden destroyed it. Democrats and Biden denigrated and defunded the police and crime has become rampant. I have a licensed carry permit, but now Biden is further endangering my personal safety.

The radio comedian Earl Pitts used to end his broadcasts with, "Wake up, America!" You should.

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

Alice Bell neighborhood believes in proper planning

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The Alice Bell / Spring Hill Neighborhood Association was officially created in 1990 as a grassroots group. Over the years, the group has grown and become officially recognized by the city of Knoxville and has been effective at maintaining positive growth for the area. Known by the abbreviation "ABSHNA" the residential community is very active in neighborhood events and city issues.

The neighborhood is popular for new homeowners looking for moderate priced houses.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each

month at 7 p.m. at the New Harvest Community Building. When early voting is going on at New Harvest, meetings are held at Alice Bell Baptist Church on Alice Bell Road. The public is free to join the meetings. The membership fee is \$5 per household per year and when a vote is required, one vote is granted per household.

The board of directors consists of nine individuals elected by the membership. This group serves as a steering committee and brings issues before the entire membership for information, a vote (if required) or for ongoing discussion.

The Alice Bell community is located in the northeast

section of the City of Knoxville. It is the area where the former East Town Mall, and the current Amazon Center, were and are located. Alice Bell is the East Center business district of the City of Knoxville. It is a large mix of commercial and residential areas. Commercial businesses include Walmart, Sam's Club, Target, Kohl's, Lowe's, Home Depot, McDonald's, Krystal, Sonic, Burger King, O'Charley's, Cracker Barrel, Applebee's, Marshalls, Old Navy and many more businesses.

The area west of the commercial district is mostly residential.

"The Spring Hill community is located

south of the Alice Bell community. It borders north by Buffat Mill and South by Rutledge Pike. It is mainly a residential area except along Rutledge Pike. The two neighborhood organizations joined together approximately 25 years ago," ABSHNA President Ronnie Collins told The Focus.

Currently within a half-mile radius of the Amazon Center, there are proposals for over 1,000 new residences, some already under construction.

"When the Alice Bell Neighborhood Association was formed over 30 years ago East Town Mall was here, and Home Depot was being built. All the other businesses have been



The Alice Bell Spring Hill Neighborhood Association during one of its "National Night Out" meetings. The neighborhood believes in the careful planning of the land in its North Knoxville area. Photo courtesy of Ronnie Collins.

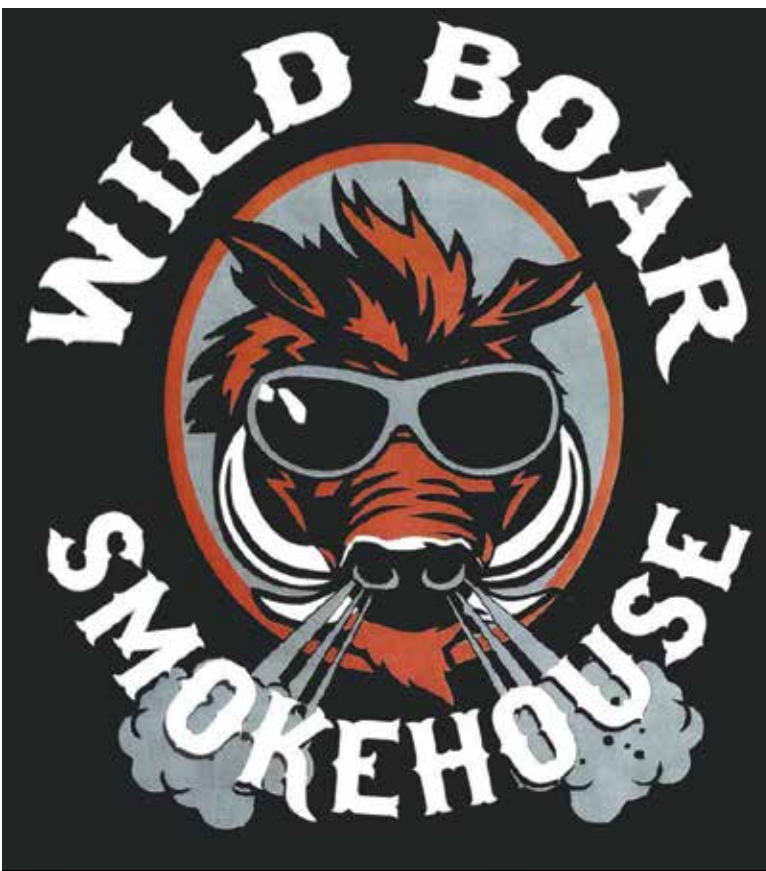
opened while we have been here," he said.

"We went through many battles over where development would be built. Most were still opened" Collins said.

"We weren't against development, just (for)

proper planning," he said.

"We still are very adamant about proper planning. Our city council representative is Lauren Rider, and our county commissioner is Courtney Durrett," Collins said.



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Daydreams

One of my favorite songs from my teenage years is "What a Day for a Daydream" by the Loving Spoonful. It was mellow and light enough to bring a feeling of "all's right with the world." In opposition to that positive feeling, I remember teachers squawking at some students as they told them to "pay attention and quit daydreaming."



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

Recently, I heard Lily Meola's song "Daydream." It is an anthem for people to go for the things in life that mean the most, to turn those dreams into reality.

I don't remember having ever daydreamed. The reason for that is my inability to sit still for any length of time. Neither have I ever considered daydreams to be thoughts of what a person really wants from life. However, after listening to Meola, I've changed my mind.

I've wanted plenty of things in this life. As a teen, I wanted to be popular; I didn't want a girlfriend to break up with me. I planned to be a choir director in high school, but when I reached college, I was further required to take advanced

French since I had two years of it already. In the high school classes, I made B's, and in the second year, D's and F's were my grades. The chances of my passing advanced classes in French were slim and none. I gave up my dream and decided that I'd be

an English teacher instead, a decision that proved to be a good one.

The late Reverend Bill Menees pushed me until I asked Amy out. After our first date, I knew that she was the girl I would marry. I daydreamed about her constantly and spent so much time at her home that her mother said every time she opened the door. I was standing there. I refused to let Mary Alice run me off, although years later I understood why she was so put out with me. Still, being with Amy was the most important thing to me. We've had rough times, but we stuck together and worked them out. Our rewards for surviving those first years were two wonderful children and a full, happy life.

The writing bug hit me late in life. I found an itch

that I could never scratch. Even to this day, I love to sit down and try to create something that has at least a bit of value. When I first began, some people in the profession told me to forget about finding someone to let me write on a regular basis. I wasn't giving up on my daydream, and thanks to some luck, kind publishers and editors, and the good Lord, I am still banging out things twenty years later.

The song "Daydream" tells listeners that what we want the most should scare the hell out of us. I know that the thoughts of not being with Amy, not teaching, and not writing shake me. I've given my best to keep those blessings healthy and major parts of my life.

I hope that if nothing else, those who read this think of the things that are important in their lives. Then I hope they go for those things and become fearless during the pursuit of them. Don't settle for something less than the ideal thing for you. That will make your life fuller and happier. The struggle won't be a burden; it will be a journey toward what you're meant to have.

The Treasured High School Yearbook

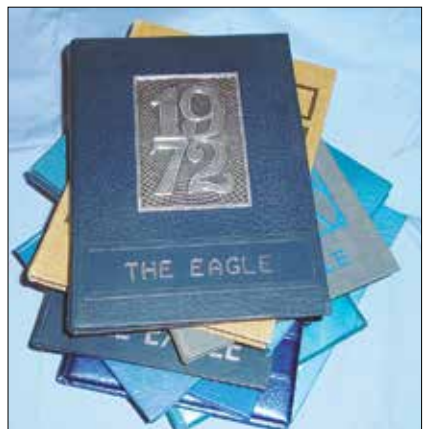
It was a special day in spring when the yearbooks arrived at school!



By Ralphine Major
ralphine3@yahoo.com

Often, orders for the long-awaited books had been placed in advance of the big day. The school yearbook was a treasure trove of pictures--students and teachers, group pictures of clubs and organizations, sporting events and school activities, and candid moments during the school year. Scenes in the hallway, at the water fountain, or by the lockers were often captured on film and included on the pages of the yearbook or "annual" as it was often called. Clean, blank pages at the end provided space for handwritten notes from students and teachers. Especially for seniors, it was one of their last keepsakes from their school years. As the end of the school year approaches, I wonder how treasured the school yearbook is for students in 2023.

There was a time when the school yearbook was the main source of pictures for students as many families did not own a camera, cell phones and smartphones did not even exist, computers were just starting to make their appearance, and there was no social media like today. Sometimes, I must



Picture of school yearbooks through the years, by Ralphine Major.

go way back in my memory to recall a time when picture making was not at our fingertips. Perhaps that type of scarcity is what made the yearbook--full of special moments and memories--so cherished. Over time, the yearbook may take a back seat to more current books and photo albums. They often end up on bookshelves and in storage chests to be retrieved only on rare occasions to look up someone's picture. While the school yearbook may have been an exciting treasure during the school years, it is surely treasured even more today.

Words of Faith: "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:6 (KJV).

FROM THE MOUNTAINS BY JADON GIBSON

Beware the Harpes, Part 1

By Jadon Gibson

If Micajah and Wiley Harpes were alive today and relived their exploits of the late 1700s, their names and pictures would be plastered in post offices and bannered on television newscasts across the nation.

Micajah was born in North Carolina in 1768 and Wiley was born about two years later. Their father fought for the British in the early years of the war before changing coats when it appeared it would prove beneficial. Those who knew the senior Harpe turned him into authorities and he was forced to flee for his life. Micajah and Wiley stayed behind with their mother.

The boys were outcasts as they grew up poor and were frequently embroiled in fistfights. They stooped to thievery instead of gainful employment. Micajah grew up to be a large, dark-skinned, unkempt man. He seemed to always have a bad disposition.

Wiley was smaller, fair-skinned and looked to gain his advantages in life by deception. Their upbringing

and lack of social skills and employable talents tied them together for life even though it was short-lived. Wiley was always available to come to Micajah's aid and to do his bidding.

They left Carolina in the mid-1790s. Somehow, they had befriended two sisters and those who dealt with them said they were a good match for the Harpes. It is unknown if either ever married although the taller rawboned sister often said she was married to Micajah. Actually, he never differentiated between the two nor a third female who joined their traveling family.

The foursome made their way into Tennessee where they became friendly and lived with a group of Cherokee Indians. After a year or so they moved on and began preying on isolated pioneers and defenseless travelers on the wagon roads of early America.

In the spring of 1797, a young Methodist preacher by the name of William Lambuth was riding along the Wilderness Road, perhaps thinking about an upcoming sermon. The trail was only wide enough for wagons to pass and little more.

Lambuth was surprised when a tall stranger appeared in front of him, commanding him to stop and get down from his horse. Micajah's speech wasn't precise but the preacher knew immediately that he was in danger and

that he had best do his bidding. By the time he dismounted and looked up another shorter man (Wiley) had appeared from the thicket. Both were dressed in fringed buckskins commonly worn by Indians at the time.

Generally, men of the clergy could pass without harassment since they seldom had money. The Harpes took the clergyman's horse and a pistol that he kept in the saddle holster for protection. They leafed through his Bible where many travelers hid paper money.

The Harpes were having their way, yet Pastor Lambuth was becoming less uneasy and no longer feared for his life. It was a false assumption as the Harpes killed many men letting very few survive.

"Take my money but leave me with my horse and gun for protection against the bears and panthers," he begged.

Micajah looked bothered as he looked up and into his eyes. He said nothing but the preacher shuddered, feeling he had just met the devil himself.

"Just go," he thought to himself. "Take what you will but leave me with my life and let me do God's work."

He was surprised to see three women approaching. They were poorly dressed. The women began helping the men bundle various items before disappearing back into the woods.

"We're Harpes," Micajah uttered before he, Wiley and the women followed with the preacher's horse in tow. They soon disappeared into the forest.

Lambuth then realized that was the only words they had uttered except for the initial words to stop and dismount.

Eventually, the young preacher arrived at his destination and told others about the encounter. It was probably the first crime the Harpes committed on their extended spree and the only one that didn't end in murder.

The Harpes traveled on to Knoxville, a wild and booming young town at the time. They started a business but soon reverted to thievery and had to make a quick exit on stolen horses. A posse followed but when the Harpes feared they would be overtaken they released the horses and somehow escaped into the brush.

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Editor's note: Read more about the dreaded Harpes next time. Gibson is a widely read Appalachian writer from Harrogate, TN. His writings are both historical and nostalgic in nature and can be read frequently in newspapers in your area.

Thanks to Lincoln Memorial University, Alice Lloyd College and the Museum of Appalachia for their assistance.

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Independent J.P. Kimbrell

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Virtually anything can happen in politics. The fight for one man, one vote had finally brought about a change in reapportionment, giving urban counties more representation, since districts were drawn according to population. The rural domination of Tennessee's legislature was over. Still, the rural bloc in the legislature would remain a potent force, largely because those legislators tended to stay in office, accrue seniority and many of them made themselves experts on parliamentary procedure. Urban legislators, for the most part, tended not to serve as long and did not bother to acquaint themselves with the rules.

With reapportionment, political change came with more Republicans being elected to the state legislature. As the 1969 session of the Tennessee House of Representatives opened, a great deal of attention was focused upon a seventy-three-year-old freshman legislator from West Point, Tennessee. West Point is a hamlet in Lawrence County with a population of 151 people. It is the 439th most populated city in the State of Tennessee out of 499 municipalities. The 1968 election saw Richard Nixon and Hubert Humphrey running for the presidency, along with Governor George Wallace of Alabama seeking election as president as a third-party candidate. Richard Nixon had carried Tennessee in 1960 against John F. Kennedy and had been on the GOP ticket when Dwight D. Eisenhower had carried the Volunteer State in 1952 and 1956. Nixon carried Tennessee once again in 1968. The surprise was Humphrey ran a poor third with Governor Wallace carrying much of West Tennessee. Four Republican congressmen, Jimmy Quillen, John Duncan, Bill Brock and Dan Kuykendall, were all reelected. So were Democrats Joe L. Evins, Dick Fulton, Robert "Fats" Everett, Bill Anderson and Ray Blanton.

While every election brings along a surprise in an outcome, most observers were shocked when the state legislature appeared to be literally split down the middle. Republicans had won their greatest legislative victory in Tennessee's history up to that point, winning 49 seats. The Democrats also had won 49 seats and immediately people began speculating the balance of power was held by J. P. Kimbrell, who had been elected to office as an Independent.

One ultra-ambitious freshman legislator, Charles Howell III of Nashville, announced his candidacy for Speaker of the House almost before all the votes had been

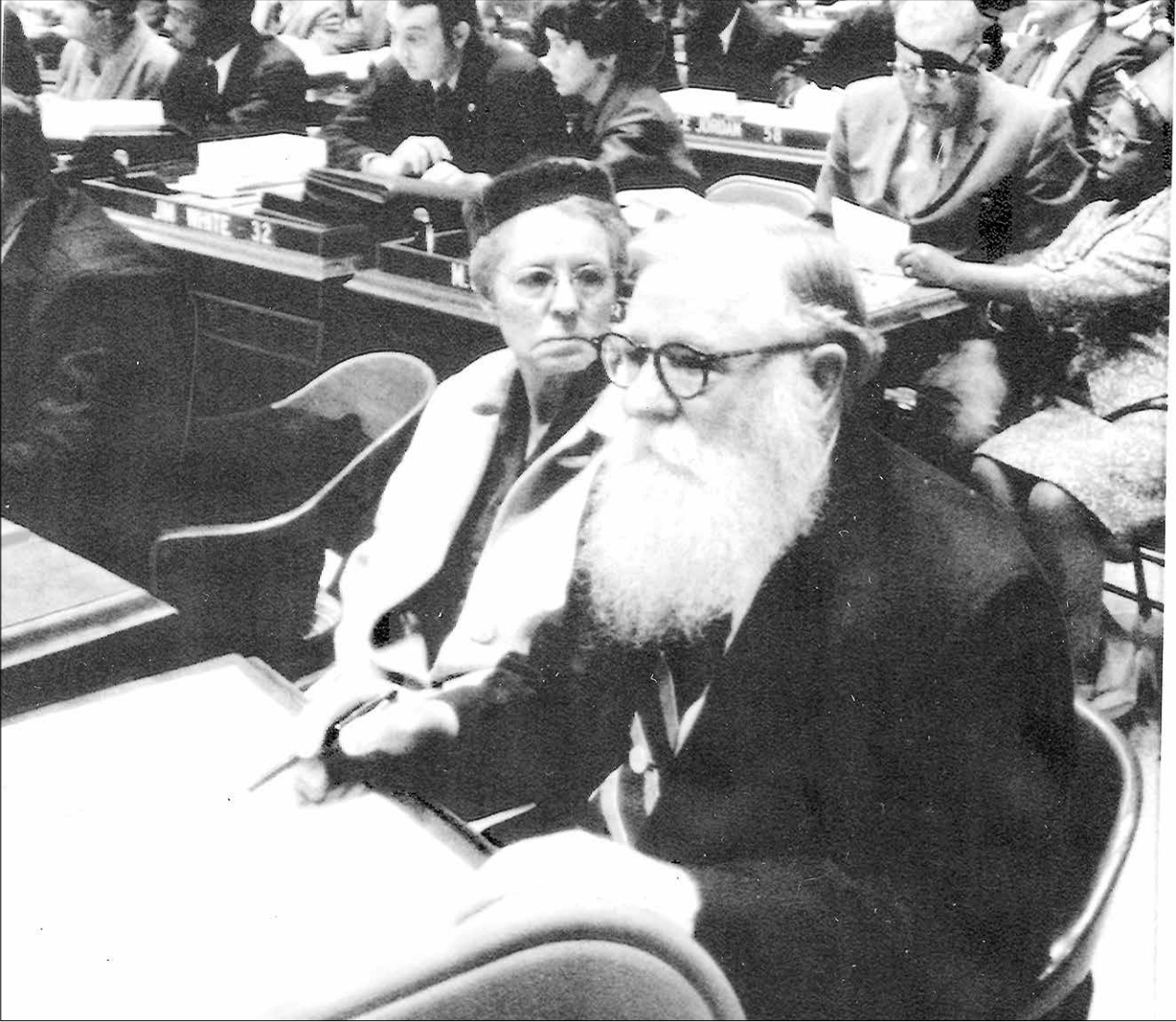
counted. Should Kimbrell vote with the Republicans to organize the House, it would be the first time since Reconstruction the GOP had enjoyed a majority in the lower chamber. Tennessee had not elected a Republican governor since Alf Taylor in 1920 and Democrat incumbent Buford Ellington faced the possibility of shuffling his legislative program to one which could get the necessary votes from a chamber dominated by the other party.

Howell eagerly told a reporter for the Nashville Tennessean, "I have been in touch with Mr. (J. P.) Kimbrell of Lawrence County and he has indicated to me that there is a possibility he may join us in organizing the House of Representatives." As to his own candidacy for the speakership, Howell modestly said, "This may seem a presumptuous honor for a freshman legislator to aspire to, but I think I have broken some precedents before and I want to try again."

J. P. Kimbrell was a farmer by vocation, 5'8 and carried 225 pounds on his small frame. Bespectacled, Kimbrell wore a beard that vaguely gave him the appearance of an Appalachian Santa Claus. Kimbrell was no stranger to politics, having been elected twice to serve as judge of the General Sessions Court and twice barred from assuming the office because he was not an attorney. That was a serious point of contention for Kimbrell who had run for the legislature on a platform of allowing non-attorneys to serve as judges of the General Sessions Court, which was the case in most of Tennessee.

John Haile, a reporter for the Tennessean, hurried to Lawrence County to meet the newly elected legislator. Kimbrell, according to Haile, wiped away a coffee stain from his beard with the back of his hand and poked the surface of the table "with a stubby finger." "Put your pen down," Kimbrell commanded, "this is off the record."

Haile quickly concluded J. P. Kimbrell was no crank or kook. While the farmer sported a "shaggy beard" the newspaper reporter discovered the man who quite possibly held the fate of who organized the coming legislature in his pudgy hands was sharp of mind and possessed "the desire of a young man to change the world around him." J. P. Kimbrell was the solitary Independent in a House of Representatives divided between the Republicans and the Democrats. John Haile found Kimbrell's "independence is not limited to a party label." "He is a man independent in thought, action and outlook," Haile wrote. The



Newly elected Independent state Representative J. P. Kimbrell and his wife at the opening session of the 1969 legislature.

question in the mind of everyone who followed the doings of the Tennessee General Assembly wondered what the "philosopher-farmer" would do come January 1969.

J. P. Kimbrell cheerfully admitted he had been raised as a Republican and had voted accordingly, supporting every GOP nominee for president since the 1920 election. Yet Republicans could not be heartened by Kimbrell's conversation with John Haile. "I owe the Republican party nothing," Kimbrell snapped. "The Republican party has deserted its own principles." Elected from a district comprised of Lawrence, Giles and Wayne counties, Kimbrell had deliberately set out to run as an Independent rather than as a Republican. Acknowledging he had been contacted by "a couple" of prospective GOP candidates for speaker, Kimbrell was quick to say he had made "no commitments to anyone."

"I'm just letting every day take care of itself," Kimbrell explained. "I'm just keeping my mouth shut. I'll make my decisions at the last moment."

Kimbrell did say he certainly intended to introduce a bill to repeal the requirement a person must be a lawyer to serve as the judge of the General Sessions Court in Lawrence County. Kimbrell had sued in the courts and had failed. Otherwise, J. P. Kimbrell really said very little about himself and his background. John Haile wrote little was known of Kimbrell's personal life other than he had apparently been a teacher prior to 1931 when he worked his farm full-time. Yet the farmer had a stubborn streak that was well known. Kimbrell challenged his having been fined \$25 for assault and battery all the way to the Tennessee State Supreme Court, where he was his own lawyer. To the surprise of virtually everyone, Kimbrell won his case. Kimbrell had shot and wounded a stranger who had trespassed on his farm eighteen years earlier.

Yet Kimbrell was a farmer who didn't farm. There were no chickens, cattle

or pigs on his farm. J. P. Kimbrell's grandfather had lived to be 107 years old and his father 93. As to his beard, Kimbrell told a reporter from the Memphis Press-Scimitar, "My grandfather had a beard. My father had a beard. It's the dignity of my family tradition."

Kimbrell said there was not much of interest about his personal life. "Let me give you some philosophy," Kimbrell told reporter Null Adams. "All the power a man has is his personal life. If he starts telling about it, it's like a leaking tire on your car. Soon it's all gone and you are flat just like a flat tire."

Evidently, Kimbrell had inherited enough property and money to get by. He still lived on the same farm where he was born. Kimbrell cheerfully described himself as a "drop out" from most everything, including farming and teaching. Kimbrell had no hobbies except for reading and shunned "hog meat," which he proclaimed "unhealthy."

At the root of Kimbrell's quarrel with the legal system was a fundamental distrust of lawyers and judges. Kimbrell's campaigns for judge of the small claims court was precisely because he felt the voice of the people was being ignored. The fact he won twice and was denied the office to which he had been elected by the people only reinforced his belief. "Justice is now just a word you find in the dictionary," Kimbrell said bitterly.

J. P. Kimbrell pointed to the "Warren Court." "The decisions of the Supreme Court have ruined this country. The Earl Warren Court has no respect for the people."

John Haile noted, likely with some surprise, J. P. Kimbrell had a nimble mind, and the reporter wrote the farmer could quickly recall "points of law, statements by Thomas Jefferson, Neville Chamberlain and Will Rogers, events of the Constitutional Convention and, more recently, returns from boxes in his legislative district."

Haile wrote J. P. Kimbrell was outwardly calm of demeanor and his eyes

"keen" and while he talked to the reported, the farmer had a napkin in his hands, which soon "became only shreds of paper."

"There's no such thing as quitting as long as there's anything to stand on at all," Kimbrell told John Haile.

Unlike every other freshman legislator, J. P. Kimbrell received enormous attention from the news media of the day. Kimbrell even turned down an interview with CBS, but his likeness appeared in most Tennessee newspapers. The speculation of the Republicans and Democrats having exactly the same number of legislators kept Kimbrell and his whims in the headlines. In late December, Kimbrell made additional headlines when he raised the possibility he might not vote at all in choosing a speaker for the House. "I'm not saying I will not vote when the matter comes before the House," Kimbrell said. "But I am saying there are pitfalls either way I vote and I'm turning over the idea of not balloting on the issue." Both parties had chosen their nominees for Speaker; the Republicans had chosen William L. "Bill" Jenkins while Democrats settled on Pat Lynch.

As Republicans assembled in caucus immediately prior to the legislative session, Kimbrell braved icy roads to attend, where he was the center of attention. Kimbrell was asked to speak and he was rewarded with laughter when he quoted William Jennings Bryan, saying, "I ain't got nothing agin nobody." The GOP legislators gave him a round of applause as J. P. Kimbrell took his seat.

The drama ended with the election of Bill Jenkins as the first Republican to occupy the Speaker's chair since 1865. Yet J. P. Kimbrell proved not to be the deciding vote in the choosing of a GOP Speaker. That honor (or infamy depending upon the observer) fell to Knoxville state Representative Robert "Bob" Booker of Knoxville. Booker was the only Democrat in the Knox County Legislative delegation, and he was the only member to switch and vote for the other party's

nominee for Speaker of the House. As expected, J. P. Kimbrell voted for Jenkins as well, but the East Tennessean was already elected due to the vote of Bob Booker. The final vote was 51 for Bill Jenkins and 48 for Pat Lynch.

Oddly, the peak of J. P. Kimbrell's notoriety occurred prior to his taking the oath of office. Kimbrell served his term in the House of Representatives and ran for reelection as an Independent in 1970 against both a Democrat and Republican. Once again, the law conspired against J. P. Kimbrell. As required by the law, Kimbrell filed his original petition in his own Lawrence County, but he had filed copies in Wayne and Giles Counties when the law required original petitions to be filed there as well. As a result, Kimbrell's name was not on the ballot in two of the three counties he represented. J. P. Kimbrell lost the 1970 election.

Undaunted, J. P. Kimbrell ran again in 1972 to reclaim his seat in the Tennessee House of Representatives. Yet again, Kimbrell ran as an Independent. This time the election was won by the Republican candidate.

Kimbrell's political activity was diminished by old age and infirmity. The former legislator suffered a stroke and spent time in and out of the hospital. The eighty-one-year-old J. P. Kimbrell died in Crockett General Hospital in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee.

Suffice it to say, few freshman legislators have ever enjoyed basking in the limelight as did J. P. Kimbrell.

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TIME

Board play 'huge' in Fulton's state opener

Fulton rolls in semifinals

Fulton blasted MLK High of Nashville 72-32 in the TSSAA Class 3A state semifinals Thursday and was scheduled to play the winner of Haywood County vs. Ridgeway in Saturday's championship game in Murfreesboro.

Denaj Kimber led the way with 24 points as the Falcons outscored MLK 45-10 in the second half. Marcellus Jackson and Tyler Lee added 15 points each. Taj Kimber didn't score but contributed 10 rebounds.

Saturday's title game was played after press time, but The Focus will have coverage of the finals in our March 27 issue.

By Steve Williams

Fulton's blue collar guys Tyler Lee and Dexter Lewis went to work on the boards to offset a below-par defensive performance and lead the Falcons to a 69-55 win over Volunteer High last week in the BlueCross Basketball Championships at Murfreesboro.

The victory advanced Fulton (30-5) into Thursday's Class 3A state semifinals against Martin Luther King (23-7) of Nashville.

Lee and Lewis each collected 10 boards as Fulton outrebounded Volunteer 40-21 in the quarterfinal round. Nine of Lewis' rebounds and four of Lee's came off the offensive glass, which gave the Falcons plenty of extra chances to score.

Fulton Coach Jody Wright said the board play was "huge for us." The Fulton coach praised Lewis' play inside and said Lee had one of his "usual night's work for him. He had a fantastic game for us as well.



PHOTO BY OLIVIA MUTHERT / FUL.COM

Fulton's Tyler Lee guards Volunteer's Cason Christian in the opening game of last week's TSSAA boys state tournament at Murphy Center in Murfreesboro. Lee's play on the boards was one of the big reasons Fulton won 69-55 and advanced to the semifinals.

"Dexter has always been a really solid rebounder for us and he was active today, and we needed every one of them."

Taj Kimber was Fulton's leading scorer with 18 points, while Lee tallied 16, Denaj Kimber 14, Marcellus Jackson 10 and Lewis nine in another balanced attack.

Taj and Tyler had good shooting nights. Taj swished in 7 of 12 from the field and 3 of 4 at the FT line. Tyler made 7 of 9 FGs and 2 of 2 at the stripe.

Volunteer, making its first trip ever to the state tournament, got 16 points from Joltin Harrison and 15 from Bradin Minton. Also nicknamed the Falcons, the upper East Tennessee team from Church Hill

finished the season with a 24-12 record.

Volunteer came into the game with the reputation of being an excellent shooting team and had scored 95 points in its sectional win at Halls.

"We knew we would have our hands full shutting those guys down," said Wright.

Volunteer shot 46 percent from the field against Fulton but made only 4 of 16 from behind the arc and 13 of 21 at the line.

Both teams got off to a slow start but Fulton led 16-11 at the first stop. With Volunteer committing five turnovers in the second period, Fulton increased its lead in the second period and Taj Kimber's 3-point basket just before the

buzzer made it 30-19.

A layup by Minton pulled Volunteer within eight (46-38) at the end of the third period.

Harrison opened the final eight minutes with a 3-pointer to pull Volunteer within five and all of a sudden the Church Hill faithful sensed a comeback.

A Volunteer steal led to another 3-point attempt by Harrison, but good defensive play by Fulton helped produce a miss.

The 6-4 Lee then took over on the boards and made three straight rebound baskets to keep Fulton on top 53-44 before picking up his third and fourth personal fouls.

Scoring by the Kimber twins in the final three



minutes kept Fulton at a safe distance.

A LONG WEEK: Fulton made the trip to Murfreesboro Monday and played at 10 (CDT) Tuesday morning in the first game of the tournament. Its second game wasn't until Thursday afternoon.

"We're trying to do a good job of managing all that time," said Coach Wright.

Fulton had a practice session set up for Wednesday and Wright said the team would probably go see a movie Wednesday afternoon. He said his Falcons would have another practice Thursday morning.

"Of course too, you've got all those basketball games coming on here with the NCAA tournament."

But Wright admitted it was a "challenge" when a team has to come down on Monday. If you make it to Saturday, that's six days and a long, hard week.

"You've got to manage your rest and eating habits and all that," he added. "That's always a challenge with young guys. But our guys have been very focused and driven, so they have handled this process so far. I have no complaints. They've handled it very well.

"Nine or 10 of these guys did it last year, so they know the drill."



PHOTO BY OLIVIA MUTHERT / FUL.COM

Twin brothers Denaj (left) and Taj Kimber congratulate each other after Fulton's win over Volunteer. The Kimbers, who are juniors, combined for 32 points in the state quarterfinal game.



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

The Knoxville Catholic Lady Irish celebrate the school's first-ever girls state basketball championship after a 64-59 win over defending champion Nashville Ensworth on March 4 at Tennessee Tech's Eblen Center in Cookeville. The celebration is expected to continue this week with a trip to Dollywood!

Trip to Dollywood slated this week for Lady Irish

By Steve Williams

What's the first thing you're going to do to celebrate, a reporter asked

Knoxville Catholic High Coach Travis Mains after the Lady Irish captured the school's first-ever girls basketball state championship this season.

"We're going to Dollywood," answered Mains with the same enthusiasm as New York Giants quarterback Phil Simms when he was the first to say "I'm going to Disney World" in a TV commercial after winning the Super Bowl in 1987.

Over the years, that's become a traditional saying after a championship win in any sport on any level.

Mains just localized it.

It's been 15 days since Catholic defeated Nashville Ensworth 64-59 in the Division II-AA finals and the Lady Irish haven't made the trip to Dollywood yet, but they're going soon.

"The school is going to send them Wednesday

(March 22)," said Coach Mains. "Mr. (Dickie) Sompayrac (the Catholic High principal) is making it happen for the girls."

Mains had a few other entertaining one-liners in the post-game interview room that day at Eblen Center on the Tennessee Tech campus in Cookeville.

This reporter brought up the fact Mains predicted Catholic would win the state title after his team's first win over rival Webb this season, despite having a 12-10 record at the time.

"You thought I was crazy," he replied, sparking more laughter from Sydney Mains, Amaya Redd and Jaz Williams, who were representing the Catholic team in the interview.

But the coach knew at Webb that night what he was going to get out of his players, including the freshmen, the rest of the way. And that was a seven-game win streak to end the season.

As far as the Lady Irish's alarming start in the finals

and falling behind 10-0, Coach Mains said, "We were playing like dead people there for a little while."

Redd, a 5-11 sophomore forward, finally got Catholic on the board with a strong drive to the basket.

"She's just a brute force," said Mains. "She looks like Charles Barkley out there sometimes."

The Catholic coach's last one-liner summed up the Lady Irish's new found success.

"We got a silver ball (in 2021) and turned that silver into a gold."

Future continues to look bright

Catholic's 15-player roster this season included 11 sophomores and freshmen and Coach Mains said "all played a huge role."

He pointed out that junior Caroline Krueger and soph Maggie Frana got rebounds and "set screens for Sydney. Those 3s look pretty and the passes look

pretty, but the person doing all the work is screening. Those two do all the little things."

Williams "started" the program's success when she arrived at Catholic, said Mains. The only other senior this year was Kate Pettinger, who played a lot her first three seasons. She's been happy with the team's success this year.

"All of these kids have been willing to sacrifice and show up for each other," added Mains. "When you're in that type of environment and culture, it's special."

Freshmen have contributed too. Evaiya Mitchell, a 5-4 guard, had the seven-point scoring surge that erased Ensworth's four-point lead in the third period. Freshman teammate Logan Connatser, a 5-8 guard, was the team's leading scorer the first two months of the season.

Coach Mains sees these returning underclassmen being problems for the opposition next season as they continue to grow.

Tennessee Baseball Preview

By Mark Nagi

It's officially baseball time in Tennessee.

Yes, I know that the Vols played their first game of the year more a month ago, but last weekend UT opened the SEC schedule with a three-game series at Missouri. And when conference play begins... that's when things really get fun.

At last glance, Tennessee was ranked second in the nation, which seems about right for this program, which has become one of the nation's best... and most despised.

Things started to finally turn around for Tennessee baseball when Arkansas assistant Tony Vitello was hired as the Vols head coach in June 2017.

Now in his 6th year, Vitello has turned UT into a team to be reckoned with. In 2021 the Vols reached the College World Series for the first time in 16 years. In 2022 they had one of the most dominant regular seasons in SEC history. They were ranked number one for most of the year, winning 57 games, plus the SEC's regular season and tournament titles before being upset by Notre Dame in the Super Regionals.

The Vols led the SEC in home runs with 158, a .308 batting average, and RBIs with 574. Critics scoffed at the cozy confines of Lindsey Nelson Stadium, but Vols pitchers didn't seem to mind. They led the SEC in strikeouts with 695 and a 2.51 ERA, while opponents batted an SEC low .199.

Yeah, they were good.

Really good. The Vols likely won't match that level of dominance, but it isn't like this team will be scraping the floor of the conference either.

Let's look at the pitching staff. Chase Dollander, Chase Burns and Drew Beam make up the best 1-2-3 rotation in the country. In 2022, they went a combined 26-3 with 273 strikeouts while giving up only 59 walks.

Dollander, a junior, was the SEC pitcher of the year in 2022, posting a 2.39 ERA while holding hitters to only a .175 batting average. He could be the top pick in the 2023 MLB Draft.

Burns was National Freshman of the Year in 2022 with an ERA of 2.91 and a unanimous Freshman All-American with an ERA of 2.72.

Outside of the starters, Camden Sewell is using an extra year of eligibility due to the shortened 2020 COVID season. He appeared in 26 games a year ago with a 2.52 ERA and 42 strikeouts in 50 innings in 2022.

Vitello has few pitching issues.

In terms of the batting lineup, the Vols said goodbye to seven players who hit at least 11 home runs in 2022. Six position players were drafted, including the entire starting outfield of Drew Gilbert, Jordan Beck, and Seth Stephenson. Cincinnati transfer Griffin Merritt gets a lot of playing time, as does sophomore Kyle Booker. Christian Scott is becoming an everyday player.

Cont. on page 4

‘Don’t you all take your football seriously?’

These “rivalry games” in the SEC sure are fun, even though they are very intense from start to finish, 365 days a year. The banter on the chat boards, supposedly uninhibited, wild, and wooly, is part of the contentiousness of today’s society. It does, however, attract a bunch of thin-skinned people. There’s no slight or remark that can’t be blown up into something way out of proportion, bulletin board material as some people say. The language can get colorful, far beyond the bounds of a family newspaper.

As an example, Tennessee people have often called the University of Memphis “Tiger High,” even the 1970s-era fan who once suggested that a new Memphis mascot be called the “High Tiger of Tiger High.” Things also get particularly heated in the Bluff City, with Memphis, Arkansas, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, and the Vols having substantial fan support in Shelby County and West Tennessee.

Over the years, Bear Bryant called Auburn “Cow College.” He once called the Auburn football office early, early, early in the morning. When he was told nobody was there, he said, “Don’t you all take your football seriously?”

When Alabama and Auburn were slated to play in Auburn in 1989 for the first time ever, bumper stickers appeared on autos owned by Alabama fans, saying simply, “Your ass on your grass.” Since that day in 1989,



After the 1969 Alabama-Tennessee game, Bear Bryant said Steve Kiner was the best linebacker in the SEC since the Tide’s Lee Roy Jordan.

Alabama has won multiple times in Auburn, and Auburn likewise has won several times in Tuscaloosa.

When Auburn blocked two punts late in the fourth quarter to win 17-16 in 1972, the Tigers achieved some measure of revenge with bumper stickers reading, “Punt, Bama, Punt.”

As head coach at Auburn, Tommy Tuberville, now U. S. Senator Tommy Tuberville, once held up five fingers, supposedly symbolizing five straight wins over Alabama, part of a streak that reached six before it finally ended.

Tennessee linebacker Steve Kiner, proud possessor of three wins over the Tide during his 1967-69 Vol career, chastised

Alabama players for not playing better for Bryant in the 1969 game at Legion Field. The final was 41-14, and it really wasn’t that close. That was also the day Vol fans chartered a plane to fly over the stadium, pulling a banner that said, “Welcome to Big Orange Country.”

“Look over there at that poor old man,” said Kiner late in the game. “He looks pitiful. Can you see him? You should be ashamed of yourselves. I remember when there was some pride in wearing those red jerseys.”

(For the record, Tennessee won the next year in Knoxville, then Alabama won each time out between 1971 and 1981, before the Vols won four in a row between 1982 and 1985. Such

are the vagaries of history.)

We’ll probably learn very quickly what the Texas and Oklahoma people call their opponents when they come into the SEC next season. Get used to “Boomer Sooner” and “Hook ‘em Horns” and no telling what else.

Steve Spurrier once said, “You can’t spell Citrus without U.T.” and “God sure smiled on the Gators today.” Winning players or coaches invoking the Deity is always cause for some grumbling from the losing side.

Vanderbilt students have always considered themselves among society’s elite, suggesting that U.T. students will be working for them in their post-collegiate lives. Gerry DiNardo wouldn’t say “U.T.” when he was head coach

at Vandy, calling it, “That university in the east end of the state.” “There were once signs in Memorial Gym that called Vandy “THE University of Tennessee.”

Other SEC schools, except Georgia, saw Auburn as too small, too country, too whatever, to host a major college football game. All they did in response was beat people’s socks off on a regular basis. Other schools now regularly go to Auburn, even Alabama, the folks who once said “Never” about a trip to the Plains.

Nebraska players and fans weren’t exactly enamored with Tennessee when they played in bowl games in 1998 and 2000, and that was when the Cornhuskers were winning. Tennessee talked a good game about being tough, they said, but didn’t back it up on the field. The Vols did manage a win over the Cornhuskers in the 2016 Music City Bowl, but that somehow didn’t seem to matter to many Vol fans.

In any event, there’s something special about the ambience of college football, on and off the field. The venues are special, as are the rivalries. Gen. Neyland told Lindsey Nelson he would prefer the games be played in empty stadiums, unburdened by the presence of fans. Those of us who have followed the SEC over the years can’t imagine that would ever come to pass. That would be the ruination of weekends in the fall. What would we ever do without college football?

Mozingo accepts position with Maryville College

By Steve Williams

Travis Mozingo wasn’t out of the coaching business for long.

The former Christian Academy of Knoxville head football coach has joined the Maryville College Scots.

“I recently accepted a position on the Maryville College football staff,” said Mozingo on March 9. “Spring ball starts in a couple of weeks, so I’m looking forward to having a whistle around my neck again!”

Mozingo learned in late February that he was no longer the CAK coach. He had been the Warriors’ head coach for seven seasons.

At Maryville College, he will coach outside linebackers for Head Coach Ben Fox.

In a letter sent to CAK families by Head of School Rich Fulford on Feb. 24, Fulford said: “As we begin preparing for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year, the Leadership Team would like to share the following organizational changes within the CAK Athletics Department.

“Ried Estus has tendered his resignation as Athletic Director effective June 30, 2023. After 14 years at CAK in a variety of roles, Mr. Estus has elected to pursue new and different opportunities. We respect his decision and wish him the best.

“Further, both Travis Mozingo and James Logan will no longer serve in their coaching positions with the high school and middle school football programs. Both will continue in their current teaching positions.

“We are thankful for the time, talents, and effort that Ried, Travis, and James have poured into the lives of our students and players during their tenure within the CAK Athletics Department.”

After hearing he would not be coaching at CAK, Mozingo said: “I’ll definitely miss the players and football staff and spending Friday nights with them.”

On March 12, Mozingo said: “At this point my plan is to continue teaching at CAK. And coach at MC.” He teaches contemporary issues - a social studies elective and Dual Enrollment U.S. History - a college class.

CAK Defensive Coordinator Bart Kareken has been serving as the Interim Head Coach for both football programs.

CAK went 2-8 overall and 0-6 in region play under Mozingo last season. Three seasons before that his teams went 8-3, 11-1 and 8-3 overall and had a combined region record of 15-3. Mozingo’s seven-year record at CAK was 43-35 overall and 23-18 in region play. His 2020 Warriors posted an 11-1 record and reached the state quarterfinals.



PHOTO BY DAN ANDREWS

Travis Mozingo on the sideline of a passing league competition at Bearden High in July, 2016, his first year as head coach at CAK.

Mozingo’s first season at CAK was 2016. He replaced Rusty Bradley, who left CAK after the 2015 season to go to University School of Jackson.

Walls and Treadwell are Mr. and Miss Basketball

Webb School’s Lukas Walls and Avery Treadwell of Bearden High were named Mr. and Miss Basketball March 13 in an awards presentation at Murphy Center on the MTSU campus in Murfreesboro.

Walls received his title in the Division II-AA boys’ classification, while Treadwell was the Class 4A girls’ recipient. It is the second year in a row that a Bearden Lady Bulldog has received the award, as former Bearden standout Jenn Sullivan was the recipient last season.

A statewide committee of sportswriters selected the winners based on performance during the 2022-2023 regular season. High school head basketball coaches and members of the media nominated the finalists.

“This is such an outstanding honor for all 36 of the young men and women recognized this evening at the Mr. and Miss Basketball Awards,” said Mark Reeves, Executive Director of the TSSAA. “They were here not only due to their athletic ability that they displayed on the court throughout the season, but just as much for their outstanding character and academic achievements.”

This was the 38th year that the Mr. and Miss Basketball Awards have been presented to Tennessee’s best high school basketball players.

Other Miss Basketball honorees named were Angelica Velez of The Webb School (Division II-A), Jaloni Cambridge of Ensworth (Division II-AA),

Continue on page 4

Knox County Girls Basketball Leaders

(Regular Season Averages Per Game)

SCORING

Sydney Mains, Catholic 18.0
Avery Brewer, Central 17.0
Avery Treadwell, Bearden 16.7
Maiya Moore, Fulton 16.2
Reese Roberts, Karns 15.0
Madelyn Ladd, Webb 14.5
Keira Leffew, CAK 14.5
Natalya Hodge, Bearden 14.3
Sophie Tharpe, Halls 14.0
Raleigh Jack Walker, CCS 13.6

REBOUNDING

Avery Treadwell, Bearden 10.2
Cadence Horner, Central 9.0
Dee Williams, Fulton 9.0
Keira Leffew, CAK 7.5
Ava McSwain, Carter 7.3
KJ McNealy, Farragut 7.1
Jadyn Parker, Gibbs 7.0
Amaya Redd, Catholic 7.0
Kyndra West, HVA 7.0
Megan Biliter, Halls 6.3
Lily Lampkin, Carter 6.3

ASSISTS

Kyndra West, HVA 6.0
Jaz Williams, Catholic 6.0
Dakota Large, Gibbs 5.0
Natalya Hodge, Bearden 4.4
Meeyah Green, Webb 4.0
Emily Wilson, CAK 3.5
Annie Priest, Farragut 3.3
Adisyn Smith, Powell 3.2
Maiya Moore, Fulton 3.1
Madelyn Ladd, Webb 3.0
Reese Roberts, Karns 3.0

STEALS

Natalya Hodge, Bearden 3.6
Dakota Large, Gibbs 3.5
Reese Roberts, Karns 3.0
Azyua Blair, Webb 2.7
Raegan Corvette, Halls 2.2
Keira Leffew, CAK 2.2
Alaina Schroeder, Powell 2.1

Knox County girls basketball’s best

Continued from page 1

She recently was announced the Class 4A Miss Basketball in Tennessee, an award that also is based on regular season play. In the post-season, Treadwell led the defending champion Lady Bulldogs back to the state tournament, where they lost to Bradley Central 55-53 and saw their 57-game win streak snapped. After an outstanding prep career, the Florida State signee now wants to see how she can do at the next level.

SECOND TEAM:

Keira Everett, Halls senior point guard; Meeyah Green, Webb freshman guard; Cadence Horner, Central 5-7 junior; Lindsey McDaniel, Grace Christian senior shooting guard; KJ McNealy, Farragut 5-10 freshman wing; Amaya Redd, Catholic 5-11 sophomore forward;

Alaina Schroeder, Powell junior guard; Kyndra West, Hardin Valley sophomore point guard; Dee Williams, Fulton 5-11 sophomore; Jaz Williams, Catholic 5-9 senior guard; Emily Wilson, CAK senior shooting guard.

HONORABLE MENTION:

Amanda Parker, Rachael Wilhoit, Lindsay Wilson, Bearden; Marah Yeo, Carter; Raleigh Jack Walker, Concord Christian; Logan Connatser, Maggie Frana, Caroline Kreuger, Catholic; Avery Brewer, Central; Madi Jones, CAK; Annalise Bishop, Annie Priest, Farragut; Judy Taylor, Fulton; Dakota Large, Jadyn Parker, Gibbs; Megan Biliter, Raegan Corvette, Halls; Lauren Martin, Karns; Adisyn Smith, Powell; Damoni Kpana, South-Doyle; Azyua Blair, Webb.

Hoffmeister posts solid performance in return to the mound against Gibbs

By Ken Lay

For the first time in more than a calendar year, senior Carson Hoffmeister took the mound in a high school baseball game. He posted a solid performance en route to picking up a win.

Hoffmeister pitched four innings, surrendering one hit and two walks.

He struck out six as Hardin Valley Academy blanked Gibbs, 14-0, Tuesday afternoon in the Playing for a Cure Tournament at Bearden High's Phil Garner Ballpark.

Hoffmeister fell behind some Eagles hitters early but retired the side early in the bottom of the first inning after the Hawks plated five runs in the top half of the frame.

HVA coach Tyler Roach said that Hoffmeister took a big step forward on a cold afternoon.

"He's still a little shaky," Roach said of Hoffmeister. "You could tell that it was

his first start.

"He didn't pitch for us last year because he had some arm troubles and we're looking to get the Carson of old. And today was a step in that direction."

Hoffmeister also chipped in with his bat as he went 2-for-4 with a home run, two RBIs and two runs.

The Hawks took control of the game early as Jacob Dillon came up with a three-run double and Mckeen Maas drove in a pair with a single.

Hardin Valley (2-0), which opened the 2023 season on Monday, March 13, with a 6-0 win over Karns in Sevier County, extended its advantage to 6-0 on a sacrifice fly by Caden Channel that plated Austin Bolding, who drew a walk, stole second and advanced to third on an error.

It was an inning of small ball for the Hawks, who terrorized the Eagles on the base paths, as they stole 10 bases and swiped home

in the fifth on a double steal.

"We did a good job running the bases," Roach said. "We've done a good job running the bases over the past couple of games and in the preseason too."

"That's something that we preach because that's something we can control."

The Hawks added another run in the fourth when Hoffmeister homered before scoring six times in the fifth.

Roach was pleased with his team's effort as HVA kept the pressure on Gibbs throughout the contest and forced the Eagles into five errors.

"That's something that we tell the kids, to keep the foot on (the opponent's) throat," he said. "We want to try to put a team away when we can."

Brandon Wright pitched the fifth and struck out the side after issuing a two-out walk to Caleb Beach.

Tennessee Baseball Preview

Cont. from page 2

Incoming freshmen Reese Chapman and Dylan Dreiling will also be in the outfield mix. Jared Dickey should split time between catcher and the outfield after hitting .380 last season.

The infield sees some familiar faces despite fan favorites Evan Russell, Lipscomb, and Luc Lipcius

leaving Knoxville.

Charlie Taylor, JUCO transfer Cal Stark and Ryan Miller are each available behind home plate.

Kansas transfer Maui Ahuna is the man at short-stop, after finally getting cleared by the NCAA. Christian Moore will start at second base after hitting .305 as a true freshman and playing in 51 games a

year ago.

Alabama transfer Zane Denton, a Brentwood native, is at third base with sophomore Blake Burke at first base.

The Vols are locked and loaded. Expect to see them in Omaha.

Mozingo accepts position with Maryville College

Continued from page 3

Blair Baugus of Wayne County (Class 1A), Jada Harrison of Westview (Class 2A) and Ti'Mia Lawson of Jackson South Side (Class 3A).

Other Mr. Basketball winners were Isaiah West of Goodpasture (Division II-A), Rodgerick Robinson, Jr. of Middleton (Class 1A), Jaylen Jones of East Nashville (Class 2 A), Damarien Yates of Fayette-Ware (Class 3A) and Jarred Hall of Lebanon (Class 4A).

It's pro soccer time in Knoxville!

Knoxville's first pro soccer team, One Knoxville Sporting Club, was scheduled to begin its inaugural season this past Saturday night at Regal Soccer Stadium against Lexington Sporting Club.

Regal Stadium (2317 Stephenson Drive) is the pro soccer club's home venue for 2023 and the permanent venue for UT women's soccer. Seven of the first nine One Knoxville games between March and May will be at Regal Stadium.

Prior to the opening match, One Knox Head Coach is Mark McKeever said: "One

Knox's pro legacy will start at Regal and we can't wait to 'wow' our faithful fans! I believe we have the best team in our league. Now it's up to us as a team to entertain our fans, our stadium, our city."

One Knoxville SC's next match will be at home against Omaha at 7 p.m. on April 1.

Smokies to host Fandemonium 2023

Professional baseball time is almost here.

The Tennessee Smokies will host Fandemonium on April 1.

The event will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. and is free for the fans, with many activities to take part in.

"We're excited for another season and looking forward to seeing all of the best fans in baseball," said Chris Allen, Team President/COO.

One interesting part of the festivities will be longtime PA guy George Yardley speaking about the Smokies' history.

There will be many new concession foods to try and sample as well.



Knox County had two of its own to receive major TSSAA awards last week. Lukas Walls of Webb School, the Division II Class AA Mr. Basketball, is second from the left on the top row. Bearden's Avery Treadwell, the Division I Class 4A Miss Basketball, is at the far right on the bottom row.

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