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## Golden memories!



PHOTO BY JOHN VALENTINE

Tommy Schumpert, coach of the 1973 Central High state baseball champions, acknowledges the cheers from the crowd when being introduced at a pregame ceremony to honor the team for its accomplishment 50 years ago. Behind Schumpert (from left to right) are Mike Huskisson and Jim Atchley, players on that team. The recognition took place at Tommy Schumpert Park, which bears the highly successful and longtime Central coach's name. Please see more pictures and a story of the Bobcats' path to Knoxville's first-ever TSSAA state baseball championship in Sports and Recreation, Section C.

## Callahan Flats development approved by City

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

As Knoxville wrestles with a housing shortage its city council on Tuesday voted to approve extending two large grants for the proposed Callahan Flats development. The first grant, \$900,000, comes from the Affordable Rental Development Program for 30 affordable rental units for low-income citizens.

The second sum, \$2.9 million, comes from the HOME American Rescue Plan for the development of 58 affordable housing

units. Callahan Flats will be located at 1511 Callahan Drive.

The council also voted to provide the Community Action Committee with a Community Development Block Grant for homeless services. The \$105,000 will come from the federal Housing and Urban Development CARES Act.

Councilman Tommy Smith spoke and praised individual agencies involved in housing the homeless but said there is a need to coordinate efforts.

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## Halls Alumni Association to hold annual banquet

By Ken Lay

The Halls High School Alumni Association will host its annual banquet on Saturday, April 29, in the school's cafeteria.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and dinner begins at 6 p.m. It's a covered dish dinner and drinks will be provided.

The event dates back to 1924 and is normally held on the final Saturday in April. Admission is free but attendees are encouraged to donate to the association's scholarship fund.

The Class of 1973 will be honored as it celebrates the 50th anniversary of its graduation.

At the 2023 banquet, two Halls High graduates will be inducted into the school's Hall of Fame. D. Allen Butcher (Class of 1957) and Harold Carter (Class of 1982) will be honored.

While a student at Halls, Butcher was involved in multiple sports and activities including band, cheerleading, Glee Club, Beta Club, science club, football, basketball and as a delegate to Boy's State.

After graduation, Butcher attended the University of Tennessee. During the summer of his sophomore year at UT, he was hired as a manager at the Beaver Brook Pool. He worked as a lifeguard while in high school, but this was a new level of responsibility, which helped him prepare for his future career.

Butcher found his niche in the Air Force ROTC where he would qualify for the Undergraduate Pilot Training Program. He graduated at the top of his class and also earned his private pilot's license.

In the Air Force, he completed the Pilot Training Program and worked as a transport pilot and had some "heart-pounding" wartime experiences in



D. Allen Butcher  
Halls High Class of 1957

Vietnam. He received several awards for his military service including the Vietnam Campaign Service ribbon, the Air Medal-with service Silver and Bronze Clusters representing the combat missions he flew and the Outstanding Achievement Award for a special "Rescue Mission."

After his military service, Butcher worked for Delta Airlines, where he had a stellar 30-year career. After his retirement from Delta in 1998, he wrote "Sixty Years in the 20th Century: A Pilot's Memoir."



Harold Carter  
Halls High Class of 1982

Carter, a 1982 graduate, was a four-year letterman in both football and baseball. He was a team captain for the Red Devils football team.

He was Key Club president, class president and

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## Merit board applicants answer commission questions



Former Knox County Commissioner Mike Brown was one of the applicants interviewed for a seat on the sheriff's merit board. Brown told the commission meeting he could serve on the board without a prior opinion.

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
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Several applicants for the open position on the Knox County Sheriff's Office Employees' Merit System Board of Directors appeared before the Knox County Commission's work session last week. All six applicants but one, Tina Watts, spoke to the meeting and were interviewed by Commissioners Gina Oster, Rhonda Lee and Larsen Jay.

Mike Brown, who served on the county commission for 10 years, applied for the board seat and was quizzed by Oster, who had served on the former merit council and left

it last year after gaining a seat on commission.

Oster seemed frustrated by the new board's decisions. In questioning Brown, she said the new board "is supposed to be an apolitical committee. I don't believe anything is apolitical."

Oster went on to say, "You should not bring your opinion prior to a grievance. That has happened recently and has been a concern to me."

Two of the applicants mentioned a member should investigate a grievance and Oster replied that "It is not their role to investigate," noting that each merit board member is

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## Commission approves secure schools initiative

By Mike Steely  
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Although several students from the junior commission asked the Knox County Commission to pass resolutions in support of two pieces of state legislation dealing with school safety and background checks for firearms last Monday, the commission split on the voting—approving one and sending the other to today's meeting.

The public forum portion of the work session meeting last week sent members of the junior commission pleading for support. Late in the meeting the commission unanimously voted on Lt. Governor Randy McNally's idea to secure schools.

It included securing windows and glass in school buildings, magnetic locks on doors, centralizing and modernizing camera systems at schools and placing an armed guard at each school in the state. The idea of mandatory shooter drills at schools was also mentioned.

Although Commissioner Carson Dailey said he would like to wait until the legislature meets and Commissioner Larsen Jay said that a formal recommendation would not reach the legislature before it meets, Commissioner Dasha Lundy said, "We've got to do something."

The governor's idea of an executive order for a

stronger "Order of Protection Law" that would require background checks when purchasing a firearm hit some opposition. In order to go on the "consent" list today, the matter had to pass with all commissioners voting for it. That didn't happen and the item is back on today's agenda as it moved forward with no recommendation. Commissioner Rhonda Lee was the sole "No" vote.

In other action the commission today will honor Joe and Dale Longmire on their retirement from the Midway IGA Grocery. The commission will hear the Knox County Engineering and Public Works

Department's proposal to raise fees for building inspections and could approve a transfer of property between the Knox County and the Industrial Board involving the sheriff's impound Lot on Bernard Avenue.

Commissioner Schoonmaker raised some questions about the repayment of \$2.5 million from the Community Action Committee to the county. The large sum, held on county books since 2006, was initially to help the CAC fund its Mobile Meals Kitchen. The loan will be repaid over a period of 20 years at about \$130,000 each year starting this year at 1% interest.

# Ben Byrd Did Not Like Bobby Knight

## From a distance



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

When my fellow Focus columnist, Tom Mattingly, wrote recently about Ben Byrd, the longtime sports editor for the Knoxville Journal, it brought back some memories for me, too. I knew Ben well from being around so many Knoxville sports events and also because I worked full-time as a reporter for the Journal during my senior year at UT, 1968-69. For younger readers and the many thousands who have moved here since the '90s, the Knoxville

Journal was our morning daily newspaper. It closed in 1991. Ben Byrd was named Tennessee's Sportswriter of the Year five times and worked at the Journal from 1947 until it closed. He was always nice to me and seemed to like (and be liked by) almost everybody. However, one man he did not like was Indiana basketball coach Bobby Knight. I saw this firsthand at a UT basketball banquet at which Knight was the featured speaker. I had been invited to present an award at the banquet and my late wife and I sat at the head table next to Ben Byrd and his wife. Bobby Knight was basketball's version of Donald Trump, and that night his speech was a colorful, lengthy, and sometimes obscene blast at the media. Ben was clearly disgusted. I could tell because he

shook his head a couple of times and made a critical comment or two to me. At the end of Coach Knight's speech, everyone stood to give him a standing ovation. Ben and his wife remained seated. The next morning Ben wrote a story about the event telling which players got awards and about some of the comments made and stories told. He did not mention Knight in his article until the very last paragraph. My memory of what he wrote is as follows: "The featured speaker for last night's dinner was Indiana basketball coach, Bobby Knight. It is unfortunate that the high caliber of speakers at previous basketball banquets was not reached by last night's performance." When I was a boy and not yet old enough to get hourly-pay jobs, I sold programs

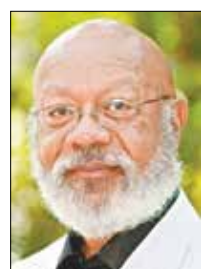
at UT football games and popcorn and Cokes at the basketball games. When I was 12, I saw Tennessee play West Virginia in a basketball game on Dec. 29, 1959. Jerry West wore number 44 for West Virginia and scored 44 points. His team was behind 41 to 37 at halftime, but came back to win 76-72. The Knoxville Journal the next morning reported it this way: "The old basketball maxim that one man can't beat you holds up 99 times out of 100. Last night was that 100th time. Make no mistake about it. Jerry West IS West Virginia. He is unstoppable...impressive as they are, the statistics still do not tell the full story. You have to see this boy to appreciate him." West that night hit 17 for 25 from the field (68 percent), 10 of 11 free throws, and had 12 rebounds. It

was a game I have never forgotten. Another impressive player I saw in person was Pete Maravich when Tennessee played LSU. He averaged 44.2 points a game during his college career and had an amazing 28 games in which he scored 50 points or more. What makes all this even more amazing is there was no such thing as a three-point shot at that time. I got to go with my father and brother to an NCAA Final Four Championship game at the University of Maryland in 1966. That game has gone down in history because it was the first time an all black team, Texas Western, played and all white team, Kentucky, for that championship. The Texas team beat the Kentucky team coached by the legendary Adolph Rupp by a score of 72-65.

Four years later, Boydson Baird, the longtime Maryville College coach and athletic director, let me go with him to see another Final Four Championship game at the University of Maryland. UCLA was led by Lew Alcindor, who later became Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and Jacksonville State was led by Artis Gilmore. UCLA won the game 80-69. I thought I knew quite a bit about basketball until I sat with Coach Baird that night. He pointed out little things to me that I never would have noticed. More importantly, he was just a really nice man. If you want to read about the complete opposite of these great players, look up the March 13, 2021 issue of The Knoxville Focus and the column I wrote entitled "My Pitiful Basketball Career."

# Are we all going crazy?

Remember the joke about the guy tasting Bud Light for the first time and thought it tasted funny and sent it to a lab? The report said, "I am afraid your horse has diabetes." Well, now Bud Light - the fake beer - has a new spokesperson who is a fake woman. So a drink impersonating beer has a man impersonating a woman. The news reported a man whose job offer was withdrawn because he sent an email to two women with "ladies" as a greeting. One woman said calling her a "lady" was a "microaggression." I think the left has conspired to get Donald Trump the Republican nomination because the only way that the Democrats can get re-elected is if Trump is the



By Dr. Harold A. Black  
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Republican nominee. Hence the indictment. I don't understand how anyone can advocate gender surgery for kids and why gender issues should be part of the curricula for K-12. The national debt is over 100% of GNP. The Democrats want it to be higher and the Republicans aren't much better. On the opposite spectrum, Finland just voted out its leader because its national debt had surged to only 40% of its GDP. It used to be that the Federal Reserve was the only adult in the room. Remember when it was said that the Fed removed the punch bowl after the party had just gotten good? Now the Fed is spiking the bowl. Sadly, the Fed is saddled with the same incompetence

that runs through the Biden Administration. Its regional presidents are ill-equipped to do their basic job of overseeing the banks in their region. Rather some of the regional banks such as Atlanta, Minneapolis and San Francisco seem to be spending more resources on DEI than on bank regulation. Mary Daly at the San Francisco Fed is the embodiment of incompetence. The Fed Board's seven members lack the foundation of monetary economics. Only two of them even have a modicum of training in the field. Jay Powell is a lawyer, not an economist. It's like the Supreme Court having a bunch of economists as justices. The Knoxville NAACP has "demanded" that the application for a boys' only charter school be withdrawn. This is in sync with the national organization's opposition to charter schools. Guess

all the hundreds of thousands of dollars given to the NAACP by the teachers' unions are paying off. I loved the Babylon Bee's story of a Chinese army training video showing how to attack the American army by using the wrong pronouns. Is transgenderism just part of a national mental health crisis? I bet most kids questioning their gender reside in liberal states. I just finished reading Siddharth Kara's "Cobalt Red: How the Blood of the Congo Powers Our Lives." It is a sobering and frightening account of the appalling conditions in mining cobalt in the Congo. That such conditions are allowed to continue is almost unimaginable. Everyone should read this book. Kara tells the story of the people of the Congo who have been dealt perhaps the

planet's worse poker hand. From slavery to the genocide by the Belgians to exploitation by the Europeans and now by the Chinese, the Congolese have never profited from the rich minerals in their soil. More personally, one of my 13 DNA strains is Congo, so these are stories about my relatives. We now have in power a government that seems to conspire with the Chinese. It lets a spy balloon sail across the country unimpeded until after it finishes its mission. It denies domestic mining permits for minerals used in smartphones and EVs that are currently dominated by the Chinese. It is trying to destroy fossil fuels and replace them with more expensive and less reliable sources of energy while the Chinese are building more coal-fired plants. Why should we make China better off while we make

ourselves worse off and more dependent upon our main adversary? The Biden Administration is coming after your gas ovens, your small appliances, your light bulbs, your internal combustion engines, banning natural gas buildings, diesel and gas heavy trucks - everything it seems other than John Kerry's private jet. All of the above points to a country in decline. I think it is a product of all the propaganda spewed by the left that has taken over media, "culture," education and politics. It's no wonder that most Americans think that their children will be less prosperous. It is also no wonder that fewer Americans are patriotic, love the country, are religious and believe in the American dream. It's truly sad because this malaise is of our own making.

# Halls Alumni annual banquet

**Cont. from page 1**  
was named Mr. Halls High School. After graduation, Carter attended the University of the Cumberland where he double majored in chemistry and mathematics. He was a four-year letterman and All-District standout in

baseball. He received the T.J. Siler Campus Leadership Award. After graduation, he began his career with General Dynamics in Fort Worth, Texas. He worked as a research and development engineer focused on nonmetallic structures

and materials. He earned a master's degree in engineering from the University of Texas-Arlington in 1992 and an MBA from Texas Christian University in 2001. He has developed and integrated technology to advance on the F-111, F-16, F-22, F-35, F-117 and other classified programs. Carter has been awarded two classified patents.

While in the aerospace industry, he has held various roles in engineering leadership and program management. He has dedicated his career to making the United States stronger against its adversaries and delivering the most advanced weapons solutions for the country's warfighters. For more information, contact Chris Vandergriff at (865) 924-4600.



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# Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher  
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## Demolition Debbie

Debbie Helsley, candidate for city council, wants to start tearing down neighborhoods inside Knoxville. That's the inference in a social media post last week by Helsley's campaign for city council, which featured a drawing of Europe with a few tall buildings and all kinds of multifamily properties. In contrast below was a landscape of America with a few skyscrapers surrounded by single-family homes; a 5-year-old child could spot the difference. According to Helsley's post, "In Knoxville, we've made housing like duplexes, fourplexes, and mixed-use multiplexes illegal in too many parts of our city. On City Council, I'll fight unnecessary regulation to rebuild our city and work to make Knoxville affordable for all."

Those "unnecessary regulations" to which Helsley's campaign refers are called zoning laws. For instance, industrial uses of property are not allowed in residential areas and so on. Bars and strip clubs aren't allowed next to schools. The bottom line is the Left doesn't believe in single-family housing and when did the Left ever think any regulation was bad? Naturally, everything in Europe is far superior to anything in the United States of America, which is why we've had to save democracy for them twice now.

Of course, Debbie Helsley lives in a spacious single-family home all by herself. If she means what she says, why not seek to turn her house into a nice fourplex? Lead by example, Debbie. Nor is Helsley right that multiplex housing is banned in too many locations inside Knoxville.

Tearing down neighborhoods and "rebuilding our city," as Helsley puts it, is going to cost a ton of money, to make "Knoxville affordable for all." The Knoxville City Council took a first step in supposed affordable housing by increasing the property tax by 40%, which had the effect of raising rents and mortgages for tens of thousands of residents.

Driving up rents and mortgages doesn't really make things more affordable for everyone, especially in the midst of the worst inflation this country has seen in 40 years.

Meanwhile, the city government spends millions on a bridge to nowhere for UT and took \$9 million of property off the tax rolls. Still, the very same people bankrolling such projects and blabbering about "affordable housing" haven't done a thing in the world to make living affordable for anyone except perhaps themselves. Retirees from the city government enjoy some of the best pensions around, paid for, in large part, by the taxpayers, most of whom don't have such good pensions. The city government continues to tax and spend.

If homeowner associations and neighborhood organizations still exist inside the City of Knoxville, Demolition Debbie Helsley should be Public Enemy Number One as she seeks to change zoning laws and turn over single-family homes for wreck and ruin. Demolition Debbie's vision to make housing affordable for all will be a paradise for developers and landlords.

## City Elections Changed By Legislature

The Tennessee General Assembly has just passed legislation changing general election law inside the City of Knoxville. Presently, there are three at-large districts that are elected citywide. There are six other seats that, at least in theory, are supposed to represent specific districts. In the past, candidates from the primary election move into the general election and are forced to run citywide, meaning the choice of the district in the primary can be overturned in the general election.

City of Knoxville officials have howled that to be so rude as to make district representatives actually representing districts is disenfranchising the rest of the city. That is not only a bogus argument, but a silly one. First of all, every voter inside Knoxville lives in a particular district; secondly, every voter can vote in the three at-large races for city council. The notion that folks in Sequoyah Hills should be able to pick who represents the residents of Vestal is patently absurd on the face of it. One size does not fit all and why should the folks in Bearden select the council member from Mechanicsville? Should Shelby County

and Memphis have veto power over who we select for our own congressmen from East Tennessee? Of course not.

In fact, electing all city council members citywide has diluted the influence of people living in neighborhoods. Is every neighborhood exactly alike? Not at all. Is the crime rate the same in every neighborhood? It is not. Is the infrastructure the same in every corner of Knoxville? Not hardly. Neighborhoods and homeowner associations are put at a distinct disadvantage when facing bad zoning fights or issues particular to a certain area. Council members can afford to ignore their own constituents by making up the votes needed in a different area of town they don't represent as a district representative.

Of course, the truth is the "people" are conspicuously absent in selecting their members of the city council. The vote has been spiraling ever downward in recent years and it is not an uncommon occurrence when a candidate for the Knox County Commission or Board of Education receives a bigger vote than all the candidates running in a council race citywide. Electing representatives from a district should encourage participation by

voters. The members of the General Assembly deserve praise from the people of Knoxville and Knox County.

## More Leftist Hypocrisy

The Justins — Jones and Pearson — were barred by the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives from carrying child-sized caskets onto the floor in their latest stunt to make a point about gun violence. Now if those legislators against aborting babies right up to the moment of birth were protesting by carrying coffins made for children inside the chamber, I wonder if the folks on the Left would still be oohing and aahing? Probably not so much.

## Good Job, Larsen

Kudos to Commissioner Larsen Jay who developed a program to allow local high school students to participate as "junior commissioners." Anything that encourages young people to participate in local government in such a positive way is a good thing. Several other communities across the country have picked up the idea. Jay deserves praise for an innovative idea and for working to implement it.

## Merit board applicants answer commission questions

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supplied information by the sheriff and the person making the complaint.

Brown said that his years on the commission will serve him well on the merit board and he would listen to both sides.

Michael Crichton, a retired California police officer, said he has 30 years of experience.

Carl Dennis Ford, a pastor, said he is the former chairman of the 911 Board. Ford was asked if he would vote to keep Paula Taylor as merit system director and Ford replied, "As long as she does her job."

"She is a great asset to that office," Oster said.

Brock Goetz said he is an attorney and wants to "preserve respect for our men in blue."

Oster replied, "I don't know if grievances are handled the way they need to be."

"That's something we will have to discuss later on."

Gerald Weller told the commission he served 10 years with the sheriff's office and 23 years with the Department of Energy.

One commissioner noted that one applicant is the vice chairman of a local Republican Club. Jay, who was instrumental in drawing up the rules of the new merit board, said that would be permissible as long as no particular candidate was endorsed by the new member.

Each applicant was asked if they had a family member working for the sheriff or city police and if they understood the duties of the merit board.

The commission will choose the new member to replace Jim Wright Jr., who was term-limited on the merit board, in their regular meeting today.

## Taking the Somerset Loop

### A Day Away



By Mike Steely

Somerset, Kentucky, is located west of London and Corbin and is the county seat of Pulaski County. The county is named after Polish Count Casimir Pulaski who served during the American Revolution under General George Washington.

The Bluegrass State city sits at the intersection of the Cumberland Parkway and Highways 80 and 27.

My wife and I have been to and through Somerset many times over the years, sometimes on our way west to Bowling Green or elsewhere. There are lots of things to do and see there and on the way

from Knoxville. We usually drive up Interstate 75 to the Royal Blue exit, turn west, and follow Highway 297 to Huntsville, the home of the late Senator Howard Baker. The small town has a unique and historic jail and a museum at the school there.

From Huntsville, we take Highway 297 to Highway 27 and turn north through Oneida and into Kentucky. There are several interesting small towns along the way including Pine Knot, Whitley City and Sterns. At Sterns, you can visit the former coal mining headquarters and catch a train through the Barthell Mining Camp and back.

Continuing north on Highway 27 you soon come to one of two towns named for William Whitley, an early settler and militia leader. Williamsburg and Whitley City were both named for the patriot. Whitley City is the county seat of McCreary County but, oddly, is not

incorporated.

Continuing north on Highway 27 you'll come to Burnside, a roadside community named for General Ambrose Burnside. He was the Union commander that assembled troops on the island there in preparation for the march that captured Knoxville, East Tennessee and Cumberland Gap.

General Ambrose Burnside State Park has a golf course, boat ramps, a picnic area, fishing, and a 94-hookup campground. It is worth a side trip off the highway to visit the historic spot.

A bit further north you come into Somerset, a small city with about 12,000 residents. You'll find just about anything available in most cities including retail stores and restaurants. My family



The Historic Marker at Burnside Island tells of when Union Soldiers were camped there and preparing to capture Cumberland Gap and East Tennessee.

has always stopped by the Gold Star restaurant there and bought their special Cincinnati-style hot dogs and chili.

You can loop back to Knoxville easily by taking Highway 80 east to London, Kentucky, and taking Interstate 75 south back to Knoxville.

You can get information on Burnside State Park and Somerset online and you can call the park campgrounds at (606)561-3625.



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# Old home on Oklahoma sold through Homemakers Program

By Mike Steely  
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The sale of an old house on Oklahoma Avenue saw some questions from the Knoxville City Council Tuesday. The regular meeting of the council saw many housing items but the transfer of the structure for \$110,500 to a couple was discussed.

Sean Bolen and Alison Hardy put in a bid for the old corner lot home at 523 East Oklahoma Avenue through the city's Homemakers Program. The purchase approval was requested by the Housing

and Neighborhood Development Department.

Mayor Indya Kincannon told the council the house has sat empty since 1978 and was "falling apart, an eyesore and a hazard." She also said the historic home was a "hidden jewel" and a "grand ole home."

"I have some concerns about this program," Councilwoman Amelia Parker said of the Homemaker Program. She said the program was created to house low-income residents. "I am unsure we are creating affordable housing," she added,

charging the city is making the Homemaker Program available to "for profit" developers.

One estimate to restore the old home was \$400,000.

Councilman Charles Thomas said the program is a "boost to neighborhoods" and doesn't hurt affordable housing but added he has no opposition to making the program more affordable.

"We might need to change the program," Parker said. Despite her questions, the sale to the couple passed unanimously.

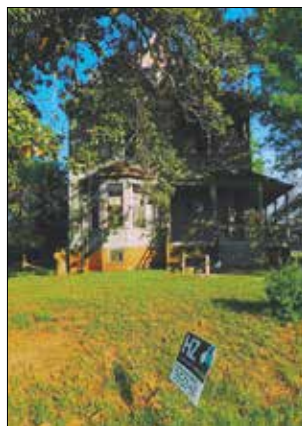


PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

*The purchase of this old house at 523 E Oklahoma Avenue was discussed at Tuesday's City Council meeting in regards to the Homemakers Program policies.*

# Callahan Flats

Cont. from page 1

"We are below par on inter-agency communications," he said. Smith spoke of his recent unsuccessful experience in trying to help a woman find housing. He said there is no communication between the agencies.

"When I called a bunch of agencies they started communicating with each other," Smith said, adding that the city "has the pieces but not the glue" in dealing with the homeless.

Councilwoman Amelia Parker successfully got a resolution passed to give an additional two weeks when considering the city's budget, if after first reading the council votes to extend

the dates.

Zoning changes were approved for properties on Pinner Drive, Washington Pike, Dowell Spring Boulevard, North Middlebrook Pike and Western Avenue. Most requests were to increase the houses per acre.

Several appointments were approved last week by the council. Jeffrey Hagood and Rosalyn Tillman were reappointed as directors of the Sports Authority. David Bocangel was approved for the Industrial Development Board. Courtney Bergmeier and Kristin Farley were named to the Visit Knoxville Board of Directors.

# City looking at options after election legislation passes

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

A major change in the way council members in Knoxville are elected was introduced by state Representative Elaine Davis last week. Davis sponsored House Bill 0817.

The legislation passed the state House and Senate and will change the ways registered voters can select their district council members if approved by the governor.

City Councilman Andrew Roberto lamented the lack of a local public referendum and said that fifty years of Home Rule choice has been taken away.

He mentioned the city should consider "all options on the table to protect Home Rule."

Roberto sent the

following statement to The Focus Thursday:

"I call for seeking judicial relief and considering all available options to protect home rule in Knoxville.

"The ease at which the will of the people of Knoxville was disregarded and dismissed was shocking and should serve as a wake-up call to all home rule cities in Tennessee. Simply put, what happened here is the election system adopted by city voters in a public referendum was overruled, an action neither requested nor supported locally. Even those who think making a change might be worth considering, believe that this is a decision for Knoxville voters.

"This represents an unwarranted and unacceptable intrusion into our

local elections. Apparently, partisanship has now gone so far as to be a force in violating basic principles of democracy. I believe in respecting the vote of the people, acting with the consent of the governed, expanding—not limiting—voting rights, and the freedom to make local decisions locally. I urge the Governor to veto this bill, but, if it becomes law, we must seek judicial relief and consider all available options to protect home rule in Knoxville," Roberto told The Focus.

State Representative Davis, who does not reside inside the city limits, proposed the change claiming it would enfranchise more minorities. Representative Sam McKenzie disputed the claim noting that the city council has more

women and minority members than ever.

City Attorney Charles Swanson told The Focus that his office is looking into the options and if the legislation violates Knoxville's Home Rule status. He said that if the legislation only applies to one municipality, it may be a violation.

He said that Home Rule may not be used if the legislation applies statewide. He said that since the legislation will only apply to elections from 2025 forward, the city has lots of time to look at the law and consider its options.

"I'm not aware of any decisions being made at this point," replied City Council Attorney Rob Frost.

"This is an infringement of our Home Rule," Councilman Charles Thomas told the meeting.

"We are able to govern ourselves," Mayor Indya Kincannon said, adding that this year's upcoming city election will not be affected by the change in voting policy.

## List grows in city mayor and council races

Incumbent Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon filed her completed petition for re-election last week. She has several opponents in the city's nonpartisan race.

Jeff Talman seems to be the Republican pick for the seat but Kincannon also has others trying for her seat. Community activist Constance Every, who addresses both the council and the Knox County Commission on issues, is

a candidate for mayor as is Kerry J. Williams.

The top two winners of the primary on August 29 go on to the general election on November 7. May 18 is the deadline for candidates to file and May 25 is the final day to withdraw. Early voting starts August 9 and ends August 24.

In one of the three at-large council races, Cameron Brooks is challenging Seat A incumbent Lynne Fugate. Janice Testerman, the current Seat B holder, has announced she will not seek re-election and Debbie Helsley, Scott Schimmel and Wade Seifert are vying for that seat. So far, Seat C incumbent Amelia Parker will face Matthew Best.

Incumbent District 5 council member Charles Thomas has no opponent.

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## The Doctor is in

a weekly column by  
Dr. Jim Ferguson

### The American Brand

Religious belief has the potential to become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Andy Stanley

Will Americans awaken to wokeness? Do people realize that this Marxist philosophy is everywhere? And yet I sing,

This is my Father's world: O let me ne'er forget that, though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.

I wonder if we are on the cusp of another Great Awakening. I believe historians will someday label our time as the Information Age. However, the zeitgeist of the 1700s was the Enlightenment. This philosophical, political and scientific movement, also known as the Age of Reason, was underway in Europe and soon spread to the American colonies.

Enlightenment thinkers questioned traditional authority and thought it might be possible to perfect humanity through rational means. If the masses

could be educated and fed, a utopia might be possible (John Jacques Rousseau). These are noble intentions, but have never worked.

The recent disastrous marketing campaign of Anheuser-Busch's Bud Light reminded me of other utopian visions (diversity, inclusion, equity) and the reactions they often invoke.

A Great Awakening of spirituality occurred in the American colonies of the early 1700s, perhaps as a response to The Enlightenment's reasoned secularism and the de-emphasis of personalized religious concepts. Evangelists like Jonathan Edwards and George Whitfield led a revival in America that fostered meaning in people's lives and led to the spread of Protestant churches like Methodists and Baptists.

A second Great Awakening occurred in the 1790s, which led to the formation of numerous "colleges, seminaries, and mission societies." Some historians

note a third Awakening after the 1840s, coinciding with the transcendental movement that emphasized the "essential unity of all creation, the innate goodness of humanity, and the supremacy of insight over logic and experience for the revelation of the deepest truths."

Today, I see striking similarities to the 1700s in the current day mistrust of virtually all institutions, failing secularism with drugs and crime as well as an outright hostility to spirituality. "Belief systems define a life" (Andy Stanley). Government can never replace God and has been a failure everywhere it has been tried.

Godless leftists use tolerance as a euphemism. Mr. Webster defines euphemism as the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant.

I am NOT tolerant of pedophilia and drag queen shows for children. And I am NOT tolerant of the CEI (corporate equity index) developed by the George Soros-funded Human Rights Campaign. This bunch uses their score as a cudgel to force companies to adhere to their "protection racket" (presidential candidate, Vivek Ramaswamy). There is a proverb about allowing the tail to wag the dog. The Disney Company acting despicably and Budweiser

making business decisions that cost them billions of dollars are the results of trying to appease activists.

And just when you thought it couldn't get any worse or more perverse, we have the attack on children. In 1981 James Fowler published a book chronicling the stages of spiritual development. He observed that 3-7-year-olds live in the Magic Kingdom and see their parents as god-like. In grammar school, the Magic Kingdom is gradually replaced by reality. Teenagers are increasingly defined by conformity, groupthink and the influences of teachers, professors, and, hopefully, ministers. In our 20s and 30s one's "own truth" emerges, and after age 40 tolerance is acquired, where paradoxes can be balanced. According to Fowler only rare people achieve the final stage of spiritual development, which might be described as selflessness or agape. Perhaps Mother Teresa would be an example.

Recently, I read a disturbing paper by the eminent scientist and researcher Dr. Robert Malone, the inventor of mRNA technology. Recall that this technology made Covid vaccine development possible and may someday be used to treat cancer. Like me, Dr. Malone is worried about the assault on our children by leftists and policies embraced by the Democrat party. The following are what I consider

salient points from his analysis which can be found online at [rwmalonemd.substack.com/p/rapid-onset-gender-dysphoria-rogd-entitled](https://www.rwmalonemd.substack.com/p/rapid-onset-gender-dysphoria-rogd-entitled), "Rapid-onset Gender Dysphoria (ROGD)" April 16, 2023.

A disturbing rise in gender confusion among young people has occurred since 2013. Data from the DSM-5 (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition) showed that approximately 0.5% of young people believed their gender was different from their biological sex (XX or XY). However, a 2022 analysis by the PEW research group put the rate of gender dysphoria at 5%! This is an unprecedented change in demographics which is being attributed to groupthink, social media pressures and what some are calling "mass formation" psychosis. Perhaps a less controversial term or example might be the delusions of mob mentality.

And even more disturbing is the gender affirming surgery being advocated by for-profit hospitals and doctors, and promoted by the Biden administration as a civil rights issue. Sex change operations average \$132,000, and if just 30% of non-binary people get surgery, the cost would be over \$100 billion. Pharmaceutical companies love the idea of \$2000 a year for lifelong hormone treatment. And think of the pain and suffering, as well

as supplementary costs, from additional operations for "incontinence repair, painful urination, infections, failed grafts, penile implants or cancer from hormone replacement therapy."

The pseudo religions of transgenderism, the climate-change cult and Marxist woke philosophy are pervasive and are destroying everything that is the American brand. "Gather enough people who believe the same thing about anything and the next thing you know you have a movement. Or a new religion" (Andy Stanley).

America must awaken to the perverse ideology of wokeness and all of its iterations, including ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance), CEI, and LGBTQ activism, etc. Nineteenth century Marxist class warfare has morphed into 21st century racial, gender and diversity warfare.

Appeasement of the left will only bring more demands and more evil. We are in "political trench warfare" (Dan Bongino). We cannot submit to evil, nor is there any place to escape. Our only alternative is to stand firm and resist. We must "choose normal instead of crazy" (Sarah Huckabee Sanders). We are fighting for our children and the soul of America.

You may email Dr. Ferguson at [fergusonj@knoxfocus.com](mailto:fergusonj@knoxfocus.com)

## Legacy Parks Foundation breaks ground on Angora Frog Farm

By Ken Lay

The Powell Community will soon be home to the Angora Frog Farm.

Legacy Parks Foundation officially announced the project Wednesday morning as the American Rental Association Foundation and Toro Company presented a \$20,000 check to fund the park's walking trail.

FirstBank also made a matching grant for the park. That donation was part of the financial institution's celebration to mark the opening of its Powell Branch. FirstBank's grant will fund storybook panels that will be featured throughout the park.

Legacy Parks received the land from Arvin and Sabra Brown in 2020. The 14-acre parcel is located across from the Powell High Landing boat launch on Beaver Creek. It will be converted into



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Chris Parrott, Carol Evans, Marcy Wright, Ed Shouse and Brent Ball celebrate the groundbreaking at the new Angora Frog Farm in Powell Wednesday morning. The project is being supervised by Legacy Parks.

the Angora Frog Farm. The project was inspired by Brown family folk tales about hairy frogs that live

only in Powell, Tennessee.

"This land has been owned by the Brown Family for years," said

Legacy Parks Executive Director Carol Evans. "They wanted to do something for the kids.

"We want the kids to get out and have fun and get some exercise."

The Angora Frog story was written in partnership with local children's author and illustrator Daniel Wiseman. Wiseman has illustrated more than 20 children's books and his two authored books are slated to be released later this year.

The Angora Frog Farm story was written with play features selected to accompany the storyboards that chronicle the adventures of Arvin the Frog as he makes his way through the park.

Following Wednesday morning's check ceremony, volunteers began construction on the walking trail and beautifying the grounds.

The Legacy Parks Foundation continues to seek donations to develop the park.

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# School Bus History of the McGinnis Family

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

I often wonder what it is that draws younger generations to continue working in a family business such as the McGinnis Bus Lines.

In the mid-1920s James A. McGinnis started the McGinnis Bus Lines with his very first school bus. Upon his death, his son, Joe P. McGinnis, took over the bus contracts and continued the service until his passing in 1985. After Joe's death, his wife ran the buses until she passed away in 1990. The next generation of the McGinnis family was Dr. Perry McGinnis. Perry lived out of town as his outstanding career had taken him to Memphis, Oklahoma, and Mississippi. Perry and his wife, Carol, had two sons who had grown up in Memphis. Barron McGinnis lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Roland McGinnis lived in Dallas. But the bus contractors were required



Picture of the McGinnis family on their day of recognition for a "century" of service in providing bus transportation for Knox County Schools (KCS), photo credit Knox County Schools, used by permission. L-R: Caroline McGinnis (Barron's wife), Dr. Perry McGinnis holding the certificate of service, Carol McGinnis (Perry's wife), KCS Director of Transportation Ryan Dillingham, KCS Assistant Superintendent of Operations Dr. Garfield Adams, Barron McGinnis holding the trophy specifying the century of service, Roland McGinnis who with Barron keeps the buses rolling, Linda McGinnis (Roland's wife), Alyson McGinnis (Josh's wife), Josh McGinnis (grandson), Ashleigh McGinnis McGill (granddaughter), Ryan McGill behind Ashleigh, and in front is Parker Perry McGinnis (son of Josh and Alyson and great-grandson of Carol and Perry) who represents the future of the bus contracts.

to live in Knox County, and both the third and fourth generations of the McGinnis family lived far from the rural roads that the McGinnis buses

traveled. The upcoming final segment will share how the McGinnis family remarkably kept those big, yellow buses running while keeping the family

business together.

Words of Faith: "Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10 (KJV).

## What is Exoneration?

Let me start by saying this, you never want to be in a position where you are exonerated, because if you need one, something really bad has already happened to you.

Exoneration is the legal process through which a person who has been wrongfully convicted of a crime is cleared of all charges and declared innocent. Exonerations do not happen very often. When you do hear about them, the headline in the newspaper is typically something like, "Man is exonerated by new DNA evidence after serving 20 years in prison for murder he did not commit." Yikes! The process of exoneration usually begins with a motion for post-conviction relief. Typically the motion will rely on new evidence that has been discovered such as DNA evidence or a previously unknown witness.

At some point there will likely be a hearing on the new evidence. If the judge



By **Jedidiah McKeenan**  
jed@attorney-knoxville.com

sides with the defendant, the court may issue the defendant's release from prison, order a new trial, vacate the conviction, and/or dismiss the charges.

Beyond that, if someone is exonerated, they will almost always, and justifiably, seek monetary compensation for their wrongful conviction. In order to be eligible for compensation, the person must have been imprisoned for at least one year. The person may also receive up to \$50,000.00 for each year they were wrongfully incarcerated as well as compensation for lost wages, attorney's fees and other expenses.

Seeking exoneration through post-conviction relief is a long shot, but on rare occasions, there will be a basis for exonerating a defendant.

Visit [attorney-knoxville.com](http://attorney-knoxville.com) for more information about this legal issue and other legal issues.

FROM THE MOUNTAINS BY JADON GIBSON

## Beware the Harpes, Part 5

By **Jadon Gibson**

Wiley Harpe escaped during the shooting that led up to the final confrontation when his brother Micajah was killed. The Harpes always seemed to have a penchant for escape. Wiley

Harpe did so on this day.

Wiley was alone for the first time in his life and he had little working skills. He decided to rejoin Captain Samuel Mason and his gang of river pirates at Cave-In-Rock, a huge shelter cave

on the Ohio River in what is now southern Illinois.

Captain Samuel Mason was born in Norfolk, Virginia, and began his unsavory career by stealing the horses of Col. John Hite. He was chased and

caught by his pursuers who dealt with him harshly. Later he served admirably in the Revolutionary War and was recommended to Virginia Gov. Patrick Henry as one with leadership qualities and became a captain.

After the war, Captain Mason began using his leadership abilities to lead a band of pirates. Their murder, assaults and thievery caused much heartache and financial loss along the Ohio River, a primary North American waterway then and still today.

In 1803, Mississippi Territorial Gov. C.C. Claiborne announced a reward of \$2,000, a huge amount in that era, would be paid for the capture or severed head of Captain Samuel Mason. Wiley got wind of this and thought he had the perfect opportunity to kill Captain Mason for the reward money. He and his big brother Micajah had sized up many such opportunities before. Wiley felt he still had the knack to do it.

He decided an

accomplice was needed and a fellow pirate whose last name was May was the man. They sought the best opportunity to kill Mason and collect the reward. They lured him to a secretive site, caught him off-guard and killed him. Then they cut off his head before turning it in for the reward money. That was much easier than trying to deliver the complete Captain Mason. That would be practically impossible.

Wiley Harpe and co-conspirator May made their official claim for the reward money. It had been four years since the death of Micajah and Wiley could never be found... until now, that was. One of the soldiers recognized Wiley and he had no chance to get away. He and his accomplice were caught. Several times in the past Wiley had escaped incarceration. Could he do it again? Nah!

Guess again! The two were arrested but Wiley escaped as he was smartly dressed and had taken a fictitious name as he

had done several times before in his checkered life of crime. He slipped away even before his first meal but they were able to nab him before he left the area.

A speedy trial followed and Wiley was found guilty and sentenced to hang. His severed head was placed atop a stake along the Natchez Trail to warn would-be felons of the perils of wrongdoing.

Increased interest led to research into the Harpe family and revealed that Micajah and Wiley were not brothers at all but cousins. They were the sons of brothers John and William Harpe who immigrated to North Carolina from Scotland in the early 1760s.

Micajah and Wiley Harpe left their homes together in the spring of 1775 to work as overseers of slaves in Virginia. Just as their fathers were Tories, loyal to the British, the younger Harpes were also favorable toward the British and soon became members of gangs that terrorized those seeking independence for America.

Later it became necessary for them to take flight to evade prosecution. It led them to Cherokee country and to their eventual murderous spree. Their wrong-doing resulted in both brothers' heads being used to mark pioneer trails in early America.

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# James W. Wadsworth of New York

## Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

The name James Wolcott Wadsworth Jr. is rather reminiscent of "Gilligan's Island" and Thurston Howell III. To say that James Wadsworth was well-connected is likely a gross understatement. His grandfather, James S. Wadsworth, was a general during the Civil War; his father, the elder James Wolcott Wadsworth, served as a congressman for twenty years, as well as the comptroller of the State of New York. His wife, Alice, was the daughter of John Hay, Secretary of State to Presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt and one of President Abraham Lincoln's two personal secretaries. John Hay was also Lincoln's biographer. Wadsworth was the father of James Jeremiah Wadsworth, who became the United States Ambassador to the United Nations; he was also the father-in-law of United States Senator Stuart Symington of Missouri, who was married to Wadsworth's daughter, Evelyn. Through his daughter Evelyn, James Wadsworth was the grandfather of Missouri Congressman James Symington. The Symingtons were Democrats while Wadsworth was a Republican.

James Wadsworth lived in the family home in Geneseo, New York, where he had been born. A year after graduating from Yale University, Jim Wadsworth volunteered as a private in the Volunteer Army during the Spanish-American War. Elected to the New York House of Representatives, Wadsworth was elected speaker with the support of President Theodore Roosevelt at age twenty-eight. Yet Wadsworth fought with Roosevelt and New York Governor Charles Evan Hughes as the speaker was adamantly opposed to the idea of instituting primary elections to select nominees for offices. At the time, Jim Wadsworth was the youngest person to be elected Speaker of the House in New York.

Wadsworth spent several years in Texas after his service in the New York General Assembly. Wadsworth's aunt, Cordelia, was the widow of Irish magnate John "Black Jack" Adair. Mrs. Adair asked her nephew to come to the JA Ranch, located near Amarillo, and become the general manager. Years later, Wadsworth recalled his time on the ranch and joked that he had not been able to change clothes for twelve days "and fully expected the Board of Health to be after me."

By 1912, Jim Wadsworth had returned to politics, running for lieutenant governor, but lost. In 1914, New Yorkers cast their votes for the first time to popularly elect their own United States senator. James W. Wadsworth Jr. was the Republican nominee for

the United States Senate in a three-way and beat Democrat James W. Gerard and Bainbridge Colby, who was the Progressive nominee and would later serve as Woodrow Wilson's last Secretary of State. Wadsworth was reelected to the Senate in 1920.

Wadsworth sought a third six-year term in the Senate in 1926, facing Democrat Robert F. Wagner. Wagner was a stalwart member of the Democratic Tammany Hall political organization and was elected. Bob Wagner became one of New York's most popular elected officials and passed some of the most significant legislation during the New Deal years under Franklin D. Roosevelt. Wadsworth's defeat was due to a split inside the Republican Party over prohibition. An ordinarily Republican state senator ran as an "Independent Republican" in the general election, siphoning off 231,000 votes while Wadsworth lost to Wagner by 116,000 votes.

Wadsworth did not pine away from being out of office, rather he farmed 7,000 acres of his estate himself. He rented out an additional 5,000 acres and directed the work of thirty-five men. The farm had been in the Wadsworth family since 1797.

James W. Wadsworth was out of public office for the next six years, but when the incumbent congressman from the upstate Rochester district retired in 1932, Jim Wadsworth ran and was elected. Wadsworth is one of a handful of men who have been elected to the United States Senate and left that body to return to Congress as a member of the House of Representatives.

Isaiah Berlin, who was reporting back to the British Foreign Office, wrote a number of brief word portraits of senators and congressmen, especially those on the committee on foreign relations and foreign affairs. Berlin wrote Wadsworth was "one of the most forceful and independent-minded men in Congress and a highly skilled parliamentarian." Berlin noted Jim Wadsworth was "highly respected and well-liked." Unlike many of his Republican colleagues, Wadsworth was quite supportive of much of President Roosevelt's foreign policy initiatives. FDR's domestic program was entirely another matter and Congressman Wadsworth fought the most of the New Deal ardently.

Wadsworth most certainly did not approve of the tax and spend program of Roosevelt's New Deal. The congressman wondered, "What of the men and women of tomorrow? Is it not inevitable that taxes will absorb all their savings?" Standing on the floor of the House, Congressman Wadsworth had received a



Autographed photo of Congressman James Wadsworth of New York made out to his colleague Roy Woodruff.

telegram from the manager of his farm. Wadsworth grinned and told his colleagues, "This great bureaucracy of ours has given me permission to sell my own wheat. Eventually maybe we will learn that we never get anything for nothing. For every handout, we yield up a right, a freedom."

Much of the success of the passage of the Lend-Lease program owed its success in the House to Jim Wadsworth. Congressman Wadsworth had supported Lend-Lease

Wadsworth was routinely reelected until his retirement from the House in 1951. The Troy Times Record noted Wadsworth had a contrary streak in his political makeup, not fearing the public's wrath. It seemed beneath the notice of Jim Wadsworth to deign to acknowledge a particular position was contrary to the popular thinking of the moment. One such case was prohibition, the issue that had most likely cost Wadsworth his seat in the United States Senate. When the former senator and congressman died, the Troy Times Record published an editorial stating Wadsworth "was close to the top echelons in statesmanship." "Had it not been for a disposition to oppose strenuously men and measures which threatened to overturn traditional mores he would have come even nearer the apex." The Times Record marveled at Wadsworth's opposition to giving women the right to vote when women's suffrage was "on the very eve of its success." Yet the editorial readily acknowledged Jim Wadsworth believed in what he stood for. Senator Wadsworth was no hypocrite; he did not drink "wet" and vote "dry."

It had to be a source of satisfaction one of his first actions as a newly elected member of the House of Representatives was to vote to repeal prohibition.

As a member of Congress, Jim Wadsworth was frequently concerned about the spending of taxpayer dollars. Wadsworth liked to recall the story of when he had visited Washington in

1905 to see his father, who was then a congressman and chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. Upon arriving at his father's office, "Young Jim" found his worried father pacing. "When I asked him what was the matter, my father replied:

"Boy, do you realize no matter how hard I work, I can't get the Agriculture Department appropriation below \$15,000,000?"

At the time, the Agriculture appropriation before then-Congressman Wadsworth was \$764 million. Slowly, Wadsworth told his colleagues at the conclusion of his story, "If there is any such thing as turning over in graves, my revered father is doing so now."

Wadsworth retired from Congress due to failing health, but the former congressman was recalled to duty by President Harry Truman, who asked Wadsworth to serve as the Chairman of the Nation Security Training Commission, a new entity created by Congress to draft America's first universal military Training program. Wadsworth worked hard to come up with a workable proposal, which was sent to Congress. The former congressman watched helplessly as his one-time colleagues smothered the proposal to death in committee and buried the body in a bottomless hole. That occurred the day after Wadsworth had entered the hospital. Wadsworth readily admitted his greatest disappointment as a congressman had been his failure to pass universal military training. Wadsworth thought politicians burying such legislation was an insult to the intelligence of the American people.

Even during his service in the U.S. Senate, Wadsworth had been a strong advocate of military preparedness. It was Senator James W. Wadsworth Jr. who had exposed a serious defect in the mobilization of the National Guard in 1916, just prior to America's entry into the First World War. Wadsworth remembered his own service during the Spanish-American War, stating, "How wretchedly trained we were!" Wadsworth liked to say he was the only person in Congress who entered the Army as a private and came out with the same rank.

It was during his tenure as a member of the United States when Senate Wadsworth first introduced a national defense bill proposing universal military training while chairman of the Military Affairs Committee. While a majority of the committee favored Wadsworth's proposal, it was pared from the bill before it reached the floor of the Senate. Apparently, the leaders of the Senate had told committee members universal military training had no chance of passing the full Senate.

Congressman James W. Wadsworth Jr. was the House sponsor of the legislation that allowed the first peacetime draft in American history. Wadsworth had been a proponent of Selective Service even before President Franklin Roosevelt. Wadsworth had consistently voted against the neutrality bills pushed by the large bloc of isolationists in Congress. Along with Senator Edward Burke, a Nebraska Democrat, Wadsworth was responsible for passing the draft bill, which had expanded America's training program before the Japanese

attacked Pearl Harbor. It was as timely as it was wise.

Originally, the Roosevelt Administration was quite cool toward the Wadsworth-Burke Bill, giving little notice to the legislation and showing even less interest. Developments across the globe quickly changed the administration's thinking. The Roosevelt Administration even tried to horn in on the credit for having had the foresight to pass the Wadsworth-Burke Bill. On the day of the first Selective Service drawing, it was President Franklin Roosevelt himself who drew out the pellet with the fateful number. While a goodly number of Washington elites had been invited to attend the ceremony and the drawing, Congressman Jim Wadsworth and Senator Edward Burke had pointedly not been asked to attend. As that began to become commonly known amongst reporters, the White House hurriedly acted to cover up its mistake by pleading with Wadsworth and Burke to come to the ceremony.

Jim Wadsworth had hoped to return to his farm, where he raised vegetables, beef and dairy cattle, sheep, as well as producing milk and wool. Yet for all his love of farming, Wadsworth would not permit photographers to take a picture of him in his overalls, not even in election years.

The congressman was suffering from cancer and underwent abdominal surgery in 1951. The operation did not stop the relentless advance of the cancer and James W. Wadsworth Jr. died June 22, 1952, at age seventy-four.

The Rochester Democrat & Chronicle remembered James W. Wadsworth Jr. as a man with an excellent sense of humor who had played first base on the Geneseo town team. The editorial concluded, "Above all, we shall remember James W. Wadsworth as a warmly human individual -- of rare charm --- a gentleman unafraid, who served his country well."

President Harry Truman sent out a statement saying, "Mr. James Wadsworth, who died last night, was a man to whom the country is greatly obligated. He was a man of independent thought and action who believed strongly in military preparedness." Truman readily acknowledged it had been Jim Wadsworth who had "promptly and effectively" moved "to alert his associates in the Congress to the importance of military training in the country's defenses." Truman praised James W. Wadsworth Jr. as "a patriot and an outstanding public servant, not only of his state but of the whole country."

That is a mighty fine epitaph for any American.

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# Safety Patrol

I made a quick run through Facebook this afternoon, and in one post, someone had placed a photo of an orange plastic mesh belt and a metal piece pinned to it. Do you know what it



By Joe Rector  
joerector@comcast.net

donned their uniforms and moved toward their stations. We would never again feel so close to being superheroes as when that time came in the morning and afternoon.

is? If you do, you're probably an older person. I doubt that schools still allow students the privilege to serve as members of the safety patrol, at least the way we did in the '60s.

Ball Camp School had a patrol of which every student wanted to be a member. However, eighth graders were given preference. It was a matter of seniority or pecking order although good grades in classes and in conduct (yes, we had a conduct grade) in some way factored into the equation, and believe it or not, I had both. Those on patrol had ranks, although I don't remember what mine was.

The most precious thing in my possession was that safety patrol belt and badge. It gave anyone who wore that neon strip a feeling of power. More to the point, students on the "force" were released from class early each day. They

I remember that my station was at the entrance of the school. There the new building had been opened just that year. It replaced the portion of the old school that burned in 1963. Two of us waved buses into the parking area. At times, we walked out into the middle of Ball Camp Pike and held out the flags, we'd been assigned. All cars in both lanes stopped. Oh, the power of that flag was intoxicating. With things at a standstill, children could cross the road and go into Silvey Brothers Store, and to the dismay of irate drivers, several buses left the school to begin the routine of stopping every half minute or so to let young'uns off. Cursing under their breaths, drivers knew that their journeys would be slow and time-consuming.

At times, we faced some dangers. The only yellow raincoat I ever wore belonged to the school. I

wore it when the weather was damp and raw. Patrol officers never thought much about cars sliding on slick streets and banging into one another or into one of them. On one occasion, the rain fell in buckets, and the ditch in front of the school failed to carry the runoff. Before long, the water backed up into the street, and my concern shifted from traffic to my survival from a raging river of ditch water.

Are safety patrol officers from the schools still around? I seriously doubt that the overly protective schools of today would allow children to stand at the intersection of a school and step out to stop cars or

to allow students to cross the road. I feel sorry for the kids of today because they have no idea how exhilarating it is to play that kind of real-life game. Besides, not as many buses are needed since nearly every child has a personal chauffeur to take them to school and pick them up.

Maybe a section in the elementary school history book should be devoted to safety patrol members who served bravely during the 1940s-60s. On second thought, that might not be wise since such a chapter might offend some folks. The patrol members from back in the day will remain unnamed heroes in school zones across the country.

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PHOTO BY JOHN VALENTINE

Central High's 1973 baseball team was honored April 18 for the state championship it won 50 years ago. The Bobcats were the first Knoxville team to capture a TSSAA state baseball title.

## Central baseball in 1973 had a golden tourney run

By Steve Williams

High school baseball teams of this era can learn something from the Central High team's story of 1973. Coach Tommy Schumpert's Bobcats were 10-8 in the regular season that spring, but got on a roll and won the TSSAA state championship with an 8-2 victory over Tullahoma at Engel Stadium in Chattanooga. With that triumph, Central gave Knoxville its first state crown in baseball since the tournament started in 1947. Fifty years later, that

team was honored April 18 on the field that bears their former coach's name – Tommy Schumpert Park – and Coach Schumpert was there with his former players and received the loudest applause when the team was introduced. "I just remember our record was around .500 because he played everybody in non-region games," recalled Mike Huskisson, a senior righthander who was named the MVP of the 1973 state tourney. It was Coach Schumpert's way of getting

everybody prepared for the post-season. "You never know when one of them needed to be playing," said Schumpert. "And that non-league game never meant a thing really." "Then, as we baseball people know," said Huskisson, "you can get on a roll in baseball." And that's what happened. "We came back when we were down," said Huskisson. "We shut people out. Mark Boggs (a tall sophomore righthander) and I pitched every

game (the rest of the way) and we ended up winning the state championship. We were very blessed and just had a great bunch of kids that refused to lose and that was it. I mean, we were the same team when we were 10-8, but it's something that only baseball can do. We took it up to another level so to speak. Coach Schumpert was great and we just jelled." Lee Beeler, the Bobcats' senior shortstop that season, added: "We were all good friends. A lot of us

**Continue on page 8**

## Quinn 'honored' to coach soccer players headed to Naval Academy

By Ken Lay

A rare occurrence happened on the soccer pitch recently when Central High made the trip to Sevier County to play the Seymour Eagles. Sure, it was just a non-league match. And the Bobcats notched a 2-0 win, but the game represented more as each team had a player that recently received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Both Isaac Katz of Central and the Eagles' Brysen Kraft are (or have been) coached by Chris Quinn. Quinn, the current Bobcats' coach, has coached Katz in Fountain City during his high school career. The coach, himself

a service veteran, has mentored Kraft, who recently finished his stint with Blount United soccer club. It was a special but bitter-sweet night for Quinn, who might've seen Kraft play for the last time, "Brysen is a great young man. He was on the (club) team when I took over," Quinn said. "They're both selfless young men and they're both great leaders and I'm excited to see what they're going to do. "You don't have to micro-manage (Katz). He always has so much going on, but you know that he's going to make the right decision. "I know that they're both going to do great things." Katz (who scored one of Central's goals against the Eagles on Thursday, **Continue on page 3**



Central coach Chris Quinn with Seymour's Brysen Kraft and the Bobcats' Isaac Katz. Quinn has served as a coach for both players, who will each attend the Naval Academy this fall. Photo Submitted.

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# A-E looking for ways to grow tennis program

By Steve Williams

Co-Head Coach Tomere Clark is seeking a solution to end “the difficulty of fielding a tennis team” at Austin-East High School. Last week he requested The Focus to come out and cover his team’s match at Carter to stir up interest in the sport and maybe carry over to next season. At that time, he thought Carter had “a total of five players (boys and girls),” while A-E had two players (one boy and one girl).

As it turned out, Carter had 10 players (six boys and four girls), enough for a full boys team to play six singles matches and three doubles matches.

Lainey Corum, who is in her second season as head coach at Carter, was gracious to provide two of her players to play A-E in singles and a male and female to play a mixed doubles match.

“They don’t have mixed doubles in high school,” said Clark, “but we do it for fun for the kids and keep them involved in the sport.”

Clark said Austin-East last had tennis teams in the late 1980s. “Last September, we started with 12 players (and then) it started going downhill.”

This season the two A-E players are sophomore Carmella Darling and freshman DaJohn



Upshaw. Darling played a half-season of tennis last year before moving to Knoxville from the state of Washington.

“I believe these two players are going to be the restart of our program,” said Clark. “We started with our first (abbreviated) match against Union County and basically they took off with it. Since they practice together, they wanted to play together. We’ve been having fun ever since then.”

In addition to Carter, Austin-East has played

abbreviated matches against Union County, Samuel Everett, Northview, Pigeon Forge and Rockwood. A-E will end the regular season against Fulton Tuesday and then will participate in the District tournament on May 5 at Tyson Park. Our two players will compete in the singles tournament.

Clark said the Emerald Youth Foundation plans to help start a tennis program at Vine Middle, which is a feeder school for A-E. Sanford Miller Jr. is the East Knoxville sports



PHOTOS BY STEVE WILLIAMS

**LEFT:** Austin-East’s DaJohn Upshaw makes a shot in a match against host Carter last week. A-E’s tennis team has only two players this season and is trying to build more interest in its program. **ABOVE:** Olivia Willard of Carter defends the net as boys’ partner Julian Wampler prepares to serve in a mixed doubles match against Austin-East. Olivia and Julian both offered some tips to help A-E stir interest in its tennis program.

coordinator for EYF.

Austin-East can play its home matches at Harriet Tubman Tennis Courts near Vine.

Having to forfeit two singles matches and one doubles match in girls’ play has contributed to a 0-5 team record at Carter, but its program is in much better shape compared to A-E.

Carter’s team effort gets high marks.

“They are really eager to learn,” said Coach Corum. “This is a good team to rebuild with this year, hard-working and very

coachable, which I’m very grateful for.”

Two Carter players commented on the positives of playing high school tennis in an effort to help stir interest in the sport at A-E.

Olivia Willard, a junior in her first year playing, said things she’s enjoyed are: learning about the sport, the team we’ve put together, making new friends and being out in some beautiful weather.

She also said it’s a great feeling to score a point. “I get excited every time. I run to Lainey and like, ‘Yes, I

got a point,’” she laughed.

Carter sophomore Julian Wampler said he joined tennis for the social aspect of it, but has learned that there’s more to it. “Tennis is about focus and hand-eye coordination and as a multi-sport athlete; this sport helps me to stay in shape and to keep my body right.

“Spending my days out here whenever I’m not practicing for other sports also has taught me to influence my peers by just being a leader out here on the tennis court.”



PHOTO BY ANDREW FERGUSON / TENNESSEE ATHLETICS

**Karns High product De’Sean Bishop looks for running room against the Orange defense on a sun-splashed Orange and White spring intrasquad game April 15 at Neyland Stadium. The White won, 17-14.**

## Bishop ‘made something out of nothing’

**Karns product leading rusher in O&W game**

By Steve Williams

Pat Ryan has always been a straight shooter as the color analyst on UT football radio broadcasts. And Bob Kesling, who will be in his 25th season as the Vols’ play-by-play broadcaster this coming fall, doesn’t get carried away in his role as some do. Instead, he pretty much tells it like it is, too.

So, you can take their on-air comments to the bank on how Karns High product De’Sean Bishop did in this spring’s Orange and White game.

“Bishop’s first carry picks up two yards,” said Kesling on the Vol Network broadcast early in the contest on April 15, adding that De’Sean had totaled 8,300 yards rushing and 102 touchdowns in his prep career.

After a 32-yard pass by quarterback Gaston Moore, Kesling told the listeners: “Bishop gains seven yards around right end on first down (and then on the following play) Bishop gains four yards for a first down.”

Ryan: “Bishop hits the hole quick.” Kesling: “Sure does.”

Moore went on to throw a 6-yard slant pass for a touchdown.

On the next possession Bishop was in the game and carried the ball, Ryan said: “It didn’t look like there was much room, but he hid behind the guard, slid to his right side and caught that little crease and got the first down.”

Kesling: “He runs with patience. He did that at Karns and turned out a bunch of big runs.”

Late in the first half, Kesling announced: “Second down and 15, Bishop makes the first man miss and gets up to the 42-yard line before he’s tackled. That’s a pickup of eight. There was nothing on that play Pat and he made something out of nothing.”

Ryan: “Yeah, he put a nice move on the first defender and went right around him.”

The second half moved by quickly, but De’Sean had one run that was impressive.

Kesling: “Bishop makes the cut and picks up five. You know Pat, he just stays behind the offensive linemen and waits for his cut, either left or right.”

Ryan: “Yes he does. That’s what they call ‘pressing the hole.’ And he presses the hole very well.”

This reporter contacted Bishop last week to ask him how he felt about his performance in the game,

which the White won 17-14.

“I think I did pretty solid,” said De’Sean, who rushed for 90 yards on 24 carries and was one of 18 freshmen in the game. “I had a lot of yards after contact, running downhill. I made a few good cuts, but there’s always room for improvement. I just take it day by day.”

De’Sean didn’t miss attending a UT home game last season, so he was already aware of what a great fan base the Vols have at Neyland Stadium.

“They support the program very well, watching us play,” said Bishop. “They’re rowdy and stuff like that, so it’s a good feeling when you’re playing in that environment and hearing them cheer you. You want to play in that kind of atmosphere.”

“Just imagine a real game,” he added. “The spring game (attended by over 58,000) is just a little taste of how loud they are going to be.”

Before preseason camp starts in August, Bishop, who is listed as 5-10, 195 on the UT roster, said he “wants to try to get faster and a little bigger. I want to try and get in some route running, too.”

“Just mainly getting faster and stronger and staying on top of that. Try to stay healthy and just work.”

## Notes from the scorecard

# West, Bearden take control in district standings

By Ken Lay

The 2023 boys high school soccer season has kicked into high gear and teams were embroiled in some exciting matches. Here’s a look at some of the top action last week.

In District 3-3A, West High School has all but wrapped up the league’s regular-season title and the top seed in the postseason tournament next month.

The Rebels, who have played all of their league games on the road this season, notched a big road victory as they outlasted Oak Ridge 2-1 Thursday night. West won in overtime in a match that took 99 minutes.

Jackson Novinger scored off an assist from Tobias Hageltorn. Then Novinger returned the favor by feeding Hageltorn with an assist on the game-winning marker in extra time.

Also in District 3-3A Thursday, Central High had to work a little overtime to get past Powell 2-1.

The Bobcats’ Alex Ndayikengurukiye celebrated his birthday by scoring two goals against the Panthers at Dan Y. Boring Stadium in Fountain City.

**Bearden notches two wins at home against Blount County foes:** The Bulldogs passed a pair of stiff tests last week as they edged Alcoa 2-1 and outlasted District 4-3A rival Maryville by the same count Thursday night at Turner-Allender Field.

Against the Tornadoes, Bearden tallied twice in the first half as Ethan Ford and Lucas Nordin found the back of the Alcoa net.

The Tornadoes tallied a late marker in a valiant comeback attempt that came up short.

Bearden also notched a 2-1 victory Thursday in a District 4-3A match against the Maryville Rebels.

This time, it was the Bulldogs who fell behind as the Rebels, coached by former Hardin Valley Academy head coach Nick Bradford, took a 1-0 lead.

Nordin and Hayden Tate had the goals for the Bulldogs, who can all but wrap up the league title with victories against Heritage Tuesday and at Farragut Friday night.

**HVA knocks off Farragut:** The Hawks ran past the Admirals 4-1 at Farragut.

Hardin Valley took control of the match early as it found the back of the Admirals’ net three times before halftime.

Nathan Holbrook and Ben Brophy scored early for the Hawks, who also benefitted from an own goal in the opening 40 minutes. Brady Hammer had the second-half goal and dished out an assist for the Hawks against Farragut (1-9-1), which continues to struggle on the pitch this season.

Austin-East played the Admirals to a 0-0 draw Tuesday night in West Knoxville.

**Red Devils edge Fulton:** Halls outlasted the Falcons 3-2 Tuesday night in a District 4-2A match.

Chase Burnett scored twice for the Red Devils while Ben Ritchie also tallied for Halls.

# Enhancing the fan experience

As the powers-that-be look to further improvements to the atmosphere at Shields-Watkins Field/Neyland Stadium for the 2023 season and well beyond, fans seeking perspective might want to think back to a long-ago day, when a much-smaller greensward first opened for Tennessee football games.

That day was Saturday, Sept. 24, 1921, when Tennessee played its first game in the new arena, sometimes referred to in the early days as Shields-Watkins Stadium or The Shields-Watkins Field. Emory & Henry helped christen the new arena.

The new field was located on 15th Street (as it was known then, since then as Stadium Drive and now Phillip Fulmer Way) a block or so south of the team's previous home on Wait Field near Cumberland Avenue. That latter venue was too small and was replete with "rocks and hard places," said Roy "Pap" Striegel, captain of the 1922 team and the man who convinced coach M.B. Banks to outfit the team in orange jerseys.

Tennessee authors Barry Parker and Robin Hood ("Neyland: Life of a Stadium") called the area "a forlorn sight: an unmarked, upgraded expanse of mounds and gullies that turns into a quagmire in the rain."

The stadium's name came from its primary benefactors, Knoxville banker and Grainger County native Col. William Simpson Shields and his wife, Alice Watkins Shields.

In 1919, Shields, a new member of the board of trustees, donated \$22,453, a figure matched by the university, for the seven-acre tract of land. The field area included a large ravine that Dean Nathan Dougherty ordered filled with dirt during the construction of Ayres Hall.

According to one University of Tennessee history authored by professors James Riley Montgomery, Stanley John Folmsbee, and Lee Seifert Greene, Shields contributed more than \$40,000 for the field, equivalent to a \$674,493.85 contribution today.

In 1912, University Realty was formed and held an option on seven acres of land until the university could complete the purchase and develop a "physical

education-athletic field."

As of 1917, financing had not been completed and contributions were solicited from the community. Checks averaging \$10 were received, and UT students pledged \$2000 in cash and 2000 days labor.

There was a "Campus Day" held on March 16, 1921, to prepare the field.

"I remember that Dr. H.A. Morgan, the university president, called a student holiday so that the student body and faculty could pitch in and help complete the field," said Striegel.

"There was everybody out there working, and right beside us was Dean James D. Hoskins, who later became the university president."

It took quite an effort to get the field ready.

"Students in the home economics department prepared lunch," wrote Montgomery and colleagues. Sophomore surveying classes laid out the track, the diamond, and other features. Ditch digging became a competition, with a prize awarded in the 100-yard ditch-digging contest.

The whole process ended up taking two days, allowing a baseball game to be played March 19 against Cincinnati. Shields threw the first pitch to Morgan,



An aerial view of the University of Tennessee campus from 1921, when Shields-Watkins Field (middle right) made its campus debut.

who promptly whiffed. The Vols lost, 7-6.

Later, a crown of additional dirt and a "strong stand of Bermuda grass" were added to the field.

The capacity of the new stadium was 3,200 initially, all on the west side. A crowd estimated at 1,200 watched under a persistent drizzle, with the Vols winning 27-0. The initial seating area of Shields-Watkins Field met the wrecker's ball before the start of the 2022 campaign, part of another modernization of the famed arena designed to enhance the fan experience.

A 21-point third quarter proved decisive as Coach

M.B. Banks cleared the bench. Rufe Clayton scored the first TD in the new stadium on an 11-yard run. Reporter H.I. Leyshon had the game story byline.

The Vols finished 6-2-1 and, in four home games, did not give up a point. Even in those days, defense ruled.

Carson-Newman earned the first opponent points on the new field, but that was in the second game of the 1922 season. The Vols won a total of eight in a row on the new home field in 1921 and 1922, before Vanderbilt scored a 14-6 victory on Nov. 4, 1922.

The stadium has grown

from these humble beginnings, with a capacity of more than 100,000 today, but these early days helped establish the program and what it has become over the years.

"If you build it, they'll come," was the famous line from the movie "Field of Dreams."

And come they did to the stadium by the river. Over the years, as the stadium has been expanded, Vol fans have come from every nook and cranny of the state of Tennessee and from as far and wide as the term "Big Orange Country" will allow.

## Quinn 'honored' to coach soccer players headed to Naval Academy

Cont. from page 1

April 6) and Quinn still have some unfinished business together as the young Bobcats continue their 2023 season.

And the farewell between coach and player will be an emotional one when the 2023 campaign comes to an end.

Quinn had an emotional goodbye with Kraft and his mother.

"We hugged after the game and I knew it was goodbye," said Quinn, who served in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2002. "The commitment that both of these young men is making to serve their country is impressive. I'm so proud of both of them and I'm honored to have been their coach."

*"The commitment that both of these young men is making to serve their country is impressive. I'm so proud of both of them and I'm honored to have been their coach."*

- Coach Chris Quinn

"I'll probably look to serve 20 years and then become a commercial pilot, he said. "I've always wanted to be a pilot."

Katz is looking at going into the nuclear energy field.

"I'm entering to study nuclear engineering and if I don't do that, I'm going to study physics," Katz said. "I'm hoping to come back and get a job at (Oak Ridge National Laboratory). I want to study nuclear fusion. Right now, everybody is studying fission and I want to do something with fusion."

## Vols finish Spring Practice

By Mark Nagi

Spring practice is officially complete for Tennessee's football team.

Now... the long 4+ month wait is underway.

The Vols ended things in front of over 58,000 fans at the annual Orange and White Game, a contest won by the White team 17-14. Congrats to all of you that took the Orange +4.

"It was a great opportunity to see a lot of our young guys show up in front of a crowd like this for the first time and get a chance to see what it's like inside of Neyland Stadium and the landscape of college football," said Tennessee head coach Josh Heupel, now in his third season at the helm. "There are a ton of things we're going to learn from, but I'm really proud of the effort and energy they showed today and throughout the course of spring ball. These guys have been very intentional in the way that they've worked since January. They have great comradery, energy, and connection. They care about one another. They compete extremely hard

with each other, and that's showing during 14 days of spring ball that we've had up to this point."

As is par for the course in a scrimmage like this one, Tennessee did not have its full allotment of players. The Vols' top two running backs (Jaylen Wright, Jabari Small) and top three wide receivers (Ramel Keyton, Bru McCoy, Squirrel White) were among more than 20 players that did not dress.

But that gave players like DeSean Bishop a chance to see a lot of action. Bishop graduated from Karns HS and was a late flip from Coastal Carolina to Tennessee for the Class of 2023. Bishop has had an impressive spring and picked up 88 yards on 24 carries in the Orange and White Game.

Heupel had all sorts of nice things to say about the true freshman. "DeSean Bishop, for a freshman that's coming on campus,

should be going to his prom here next week or the following week. He's been really good, man. He has great vision, great pace, and he's handled spring ball as a newcomer extremely well."

While Gaston Moore had the best numbers of any quarterback in that scrimmage, if he is taking significant snaps in the Fall something has gone drastically wrong. Veteran signal caller Joe Milton will be the starter come September with five-star freshman Nice lamaleava working as the backup.

Despite being the presumed starter, Milton says that nothing much has changed in terms of his approach. "I kind of go every day as I was last year, just preparing and getting ready because you never know when your time is called," said Milton. "Just like last year, I didn't know my time was called, just

kept repping it, kept getting better and pushing Hendon (Hooker)."

The friendship between Hooker and Milton turned into one of the feel-good stories of the Tennessee football program in the last couple of seasons. It's early, but there seems to be a bond with the top two guys on the depth chart this year as well.

"I've always looked up to Joe (Milton III) on my recruiting visits," said lamaleava. "When I met him, I always knew he was going to be there for me when I got in here. It's been tremendous, he's been a real big brother helping me out with the offense and everything, the playbook and stuff. Off the field too, we're like brothers. It's been a cool ride with us."

Next time we see the Vols play it'll be for real, when they play Virginia on September 2 in Nashville.

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# Schall interested in seeing Beavers' overall impact

By Steve Williams

Prior to his first job as a high school head baseball coach this season at Karns, Clay Schall experienced considerable success as an assistant in his first three stops.

He grew up playing ball in Florida just north of Orlando in a beautiful town called Lake Mary, which is 35 miles from Daytona Beach.

"After graduating from the University of Alabama and a 6-year stint in the U.S. Army, I began teaching and coaching in the Orlando area as an assistant coach for Ocoee High and the team captured its first district championship," he said.

Schall went on from there to work under Mike McDaniel at Olympia High, which has a program with a rich history of successful talent. "I look forward to bringing that brand of baseball to Knoxville," he said.



Clay Schall

After moving to the Knoxville area, Schall was welcomed into the baseball program at Lenoir City under Coach Aaron Simmons and said, "While there, I was blessed to be a part of last year's district and regional championship

run."

Karns got off to a .500 start in district play in March and Schall said then the players had adapted extremely well to the changes this year. "They are a great group of young men who work hard on and

off the field," he added.

The Beavers have slipped record-wise in April and were 3-7 in the district and 4-14 overall through April 18 play.

Schall says his focus for the Karns program will be aimed at developing young players into people of great character. "As a coach, seeing that change has always been the highlight of my career," he said. "I am looking forward to seeing the impact they will make on and off the field."

#### OTHER NEW COACHES:

Mark Allen Bounds (West), Buzz McNish (Fulton) and Brent Walsh (Grace Christian) also are new on the Knox County diamonds this year.

#### IN SOFTBALL:

Casey Humphreys (West), Justin Mitchell (First Baptist Academy) and Michael Spain (Karns) are new head coaches in Knox County.

# Farragut's Revenge: 7-0 over Bearden after earlier loss

## Wide open 4-4A district baseball tournament looms

By Bill Howard

The "any given day" gauntlet that is District 4-4A baseball was on display yet again last Wednesday night at Farragut High School. The district tournament next week should be something to watch.

After losing 2-0 to Bearden on the road on Apr. 3, the Admirals avenged the loss with an emphatic 7-0 win at home Wednesday.

"When we play good, we're a lot to handle," said FHS skipper Matt Buckner. "We have speed, we have power. We just haven't done things real well, especially in district games."

Wednesday night Farragut was good both at the plate, and, especially, on the mound. Starting pitcher Ashton Sulack threw six shutout innings, and allowed only four hits. He issued no walks and struck out 11.

"The guy's coming into his own," said Buckner. "He was pretty dominant. Just scratching the surface of what he's gonna be."

"My fastball command was definitely one of the best it's been," said Sulack, a UT commit. "I think (tonight is) the team we've always been. Just had to show it; we just had to come out and do the job, get wins in the district."

"He was good; he was better tonight than he was at our place," said BHS coach Dave Prichard.

Farragut took a 1-0 lead in the first when Landis Davila scored on Jett Johnston's infield single. Davila got on base on a fielder's choice, then advanced on Jake Merrick's infield hit and a passed ball.

The Admirals made it 4-0 in the third. First, Johnston's double brought in Eli Evans, who got on on a fielder's choice, then advanced to second on a passed ball. After Michael Delph walked, Johnston scored

from second on a passed ball when the ball got away from the catcher trying to recover.

Delph advanced to second, then scored on Mark Underwood's single.

Wild pitches and passed balls were a problem for the Bulldogs all game.

"It wasn't real clean," said Prichard. "But if you put up a zero it doesn't matter. You gotta score."

Three more runs in the fourth - on a walk, three hits, a sac fly and a sacrifice bunt - by the Admirals put the game long out of reach. FHS out-hit the Bulldogs 13-5, and pulled within one game of both them and Hardin Valley Academy, who each have a district record of 6-2.

FHS is now 5-3. Maryville is a contender too.

It could be argued that Farragut, a perennial state power and defending 4A state champion, has had something of a subpar season thus far. Prichard doesn't see it.

"I had somebody ask me the other day 'what's wrong with Farragut and I said nothing,'" said the second-year coach. "They're good. They played well, we didn't."

For Buckner, his squad Wednesday played up to his permanently high expectations. It hasn't always been so this season.

"We need to start doing things a little better," he said. "We've played better out of district against really good teams than in district." The Admirals lost both games to Hardin Valley.

"I've always felt we're very capable of doing very good things," Buckner went on. "We have talented players. Early on we've lost focus. We have a lot of weapons, just haven't used them so well. (Tonight) looked more like what I've expected us to be."

Prichard took the loss in stride. "We control our fate," he said "This game's over. Flush it. We can still win this district. The tournament's gonna matter."

# 'Selfish' Lady Devils fall to Clinton at home

By Ken Lay

It became crowded atop the District 4-3A softball standings Tuesday night as Halls High School has a little company in first place.

The Lady Devils lost their first league game in two years as they dropped a 1-0 decision to the up-and-coming Clinton Lady Dragons at home.

Despite seeing his team's long district winning streak come to an end, Lady Devils' coach Bryan Gordon put a positive spin on things.

"This is probably good for us to tell you the truth," Gordon said. "This is what happens when you get selfish."

It was only the second loss of the 2023 season for Halls (18-2-2 overall, 4-1 in the district), which hadn't lost a league game since joining District 4-3A in 2022.

The Lady Devils might have suffered a loss Tuesday night. But they didn't stay down long and the coach's comments might've been prophetic. Halls knocked off two-time defending Class 4A State Champion Farragut, 3-0, Wednesday night.

And Halls had its chances against the Lady Dragons (15-6, 4-1) as the Lady Devils' Atiana Stamper and Clinton's Taylor Sherwood were locked in a 0-0 pitchers' duel for seven innings.

The Lady Dragons, who defeated Oak Ridge, 17-2, Wednesday night, scored the go-ahead and eventual winning run in the top of the eighth when center fielder Marissa Eccles slid into home, avoiding a tag when Bree McKamey reached base on a fielder's choice.

The Lady Devils nearly won the game in the bottom of the seventh with two outs.

Makayla Hutchinson walked and advanced to third when Emery Bales reached on an error. The Lady Devils, however, were turned away when Sherwood induced



Halls pitcher Atiana Stamper delivers a pitch Tuesday night in a District 4-3A game against Clinton. Stamper struck out 11 Lady Dragons but the Lady Devils fell 1-0 in eight innings.

a groundout from Gracie Gregory.

After the Lady Dragons scored, Sherwood retired the Lady Devils in order in the bottom of the eighth.

"This was a big win for us," said Clinton assistant coach Annabelle Jackson, who ran the team in head coach Leonard Sams' absence (bereavement leave). "Taylor pitched a great game and when these girls play defense like this, they can compete with anybody."

Sherwood, who threw a three-hit shutout, struck out three and walked seventh. She escaped damage

in the sixth when Halls had two runners in scoring position with no outs. The Lady Devils also left the bases loaded in the fourth after the first three hitters reached base.

Gordon was obviously disappointed with his team's offense. He noted, however, that Stamper, who allowed one run, four hits and one walk while striking out 11, deserved a better fate.

"You hate to see a pitcher pitch that well and get beat," Gordon said. "But sometimes, that's the way the ball bounces."

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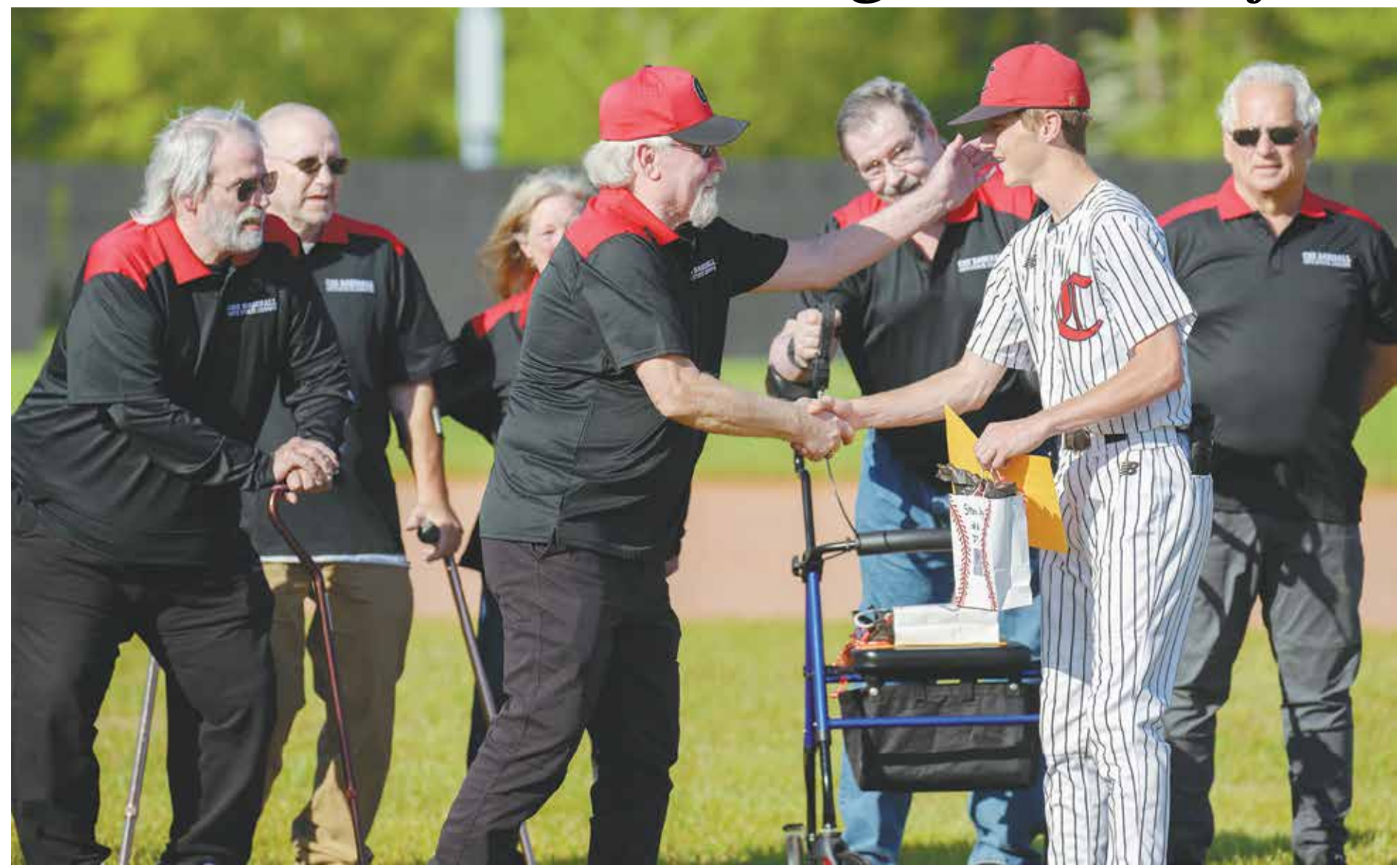
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# Central baseball in 1973 had a golden tourney run



The 1973 State Champion trophy reads Won 20, Lost 9. Teammates listed on the trophy include Jim Atchley, Lee Beeler, Mark Boggs, Greg Cunningham, Jeff Duncan, Jim Flemming, Steve Griffin, Dennis Hill, Dan Housley, Mike Huskisson, Stan Loy, Bob McGee, Drew McTeer, Phil Payne, Randy Trusley, Don Walton and Kemp Wynn. Photos by John Valentine.



Stan Loy, who played second base on Central's state championship team in 1973, shakes hands with Justin Davis, a current member of the Bobcats' team. Davis helped pass out gift bags to members of the '73 team. After the pregame ceremony last week, Central defeated Powell 5-3 in a district game.

## Cont. from page 1

were from the Inskip area and played ball all our lives together. I think it was just destiny for us – something we really worked for.”

Members of the 1973 team who were introduced on the field prior to Central's game against Powell (Two of the players are deceased but were represented by family members) are: Jim Atchley, Lee Beeler, Mark Boggs, Greg Cunningham, Jeff Duncan (represented by brother Ronnie Duncan), Jim Flemming, Steve Griffin (not present), Dennis Hill, Dan Housley, Mike Huskisson, Stan Loy, Bob McGhee, Drew McTeer (represented by brother Will McTeer and sister Elaine Neubert), Phil Payne, Randy Trusley, John Walton, Kemp Wynn and Head Coach Tommy Schumpert. The team's scorekeeper, Amy Hawkins, also was introduced.

Each player was presented a gift bag by 1973 classmate Mike Blankenship.

Fate, it appeared, brought Chris Freeman to the ceremony last Tuesday. A pitcher on Central's 1990 state title team who was born in 1973, Freeman had talked with the current Central team earlier in the day and heard about the recognition, “so I wanted to see some of these guys

and support them.”

Chris had heard about the team growing up and playing Little League ball at Inskip Ball Park himself. “We knew that they had won the state, and were a great bunch of guys,” he said.

“By the time we got to Central, (our mindset) was we got to get a state championship, so it's not the last one from '73. Pride and Tradition was already established by these guys, so it's always been that way.”

Freeman became one of Central's greatest pitchers. He made it to Double A with the Smokies when they were part of the Toronto Blue Jays organization. He played at UT in 1993 and '94 and pro ball in 1995, '96 and '97.

Team scorekeeper Amy Hawkins was a junior in 1973 and didn't make it to the state tourney, but she found a way to celebrate the state title when the team returned to Knoxville.

“Coach Schumpert had a little white Dodge Dart,” she said, “and I wrote ‘State Champs’ all over it in black shoe polish, which did not wash off.”

Amy laughed at the memory. “He never got angry with me at all. He said, ‘I thought it was good advertising.’ And he loves

Ad space donated by The Knoxville Focus.

to tell that story to anybody that will listen.”

Huskisson, who now lives in Canton, Ga., expressed his appreciation for Central Athletic Director J.D. Lambert organizing the event to honor the 1973 state champs.

“I'm so thankful to be a part of this and for J.D. bringing us older guys back,” he said. “This is a really special moment for high school sports. I love Knoxville and am sorry I moved away a long time ago. It's just great to be here, a beautiful night.”

The 1972-73 school year at CHS had a lot of success in sports. The football team was undefeated and advanced to the state quarterfinals. The basketball team won the district championship and advanced to the regional semifinals. And the baseball team capped it off with the state championship.

Schumpert changed hats and became the Bobcats' head football coach in the fall of 1973 and Bud Bales took over the baseball program and kept it rolling for many years.

Schumpert said, “It was a great time to be at Central and in Fountain City” during his coaching career.

The '73 CHS baseball team was a big part of it.

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