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Proposed city budget \$6.3 million higher, no tax increase

Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon introduced her proposed city budget Wednesday which adds \$6.3 million for the next fiscal year without a tax increase.

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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Mayor Indya Kincannon delivered her State of the City address Wednesday and announced an increase in the proposed budget. There's no property tax increase which is currently \$2.1556 per \$100 of assessed value. She spoke to a large crowd of supporters, employees and elected officials at the proposed "Transforming Western" multi-home project in the Western Heights / Beaumont community on Vermont Avenue.

The total proposed budget is \$559,516,800, which is \$6,250,180 or 1.1% above the current city budget, and Kincannon stressed the need for more affordable housing, more police and fire department employees, and infrastructure.

"The City's fiscal health is strong," Mayor Kincannon said, "and that allows us to invest wisely in core services and in strategic initiatives that will serve Knoxville well in the long run."

"I'm proud to propose this budget. It maintains our commitments to City employees and partners who help make Knoxville such a great place to live. And it reflects our priorities – public safety, building up our neighborhoods, creating economic opportunity, and becoming a greener and more resilient community."

Kincannon praised community improvements of past city mayors and surprised many by saying that former Mayor Daniel Brown will be honored with a

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Repayment plan devised for \$2.4 million CAC loan

By Mike Steely
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Back in 2008, the Knox County Commission advanced the Community Action Committee more than \$2 million to help with the Mobile Meals Kitchen program. Since that date, the loan has remained on the books, unpaid and unquestioned until the Knox County Commission April 17 work session. The motion to set up a repayment program, to stretch over 20 years at 1% interest, was passed with no recommendation but was questioned by Commissioner John Schoonmaker.

The county's missing funds, about \$2.4 million, would be repaid in annual amounts of about \$131,000 to the Knox County Trustee Department, which issued the loan.

"The loan is actually carried by the county. That was probably misidentified because the trustee issued the check," Schoonmaker told The Focus.

"The finance team has been working for a long time on trying to get this resolved. It looks like CAC will be in a position to start the repayment process," he said.

The outstanding debt was discovered by the Knox County Auditor. Barbara Kelly, executive director of CAC, acknowledged the agreement and replied that all payments will be copied to the Knox County Finance Director. She stated that if the note isn't repaid when due, the interest on the loan will then shift to the "highest possible rate of interest permitted by law."

"We have had continuous conversations with CAC about their loan and advance annually," Chris Caldwell, Knox County Finance Director, told The Focus.

"It's also discussed annually with our external auditors and the State's Comptroller's Office. Hopefully, this shows this item wasn't found or unmentioned, it's being brought to County Commission because we worked with CAC on a repayment schedule and need it formalized."

The issue was discussed briefly in the commission's work session and when the 2008 debt came before the Knox County Commission's regular meeting last week, the matter passed unanimously without any debate.

Legacy Parks Foundation broke ground last week on the Intergenerational Playspace at Beverly Park in north Knoxville. It will be the first park in the region to be purposefully designed to create active interactions between multiple generations, especially children and seniors.

The Playspace will feature an ellipse shaped central activity area surrounded by a walking track with handrail. Inside the ellipse will be the therapeutic zone and play area featuring equipment for both intergenerational play and physical exercise. The Playspace overlooks the newly added dog park and will connect to the existing paved loop. Benches and a walking Storybook Trail feature will be added to the loop encouraging visitors to walk the loop to read the story - an ideal intergenerational activity.

Legacy Parks was awarded a \$150,000 two phase grant from the Trinity Health Foundation to research, design and create the Playspace.

Humana awarded Legacy Parks an additional \$20,000 to sponsor the therapeutic zone which will feature rehabilitative physical exercise equipment and activities for low impact, body weight exercises to focus on balance, muscle tone, and fall prevention.

Hillcrest Healthcare is sponsoring the soft-surface walking path around the Playspace in honor of Mark Walker for his 16 years of service on their Board of Directors.

Siddiqi Foundation committed \$25,000 to fund the music garden which will feature chimes, drums, xylophone and other sound equipment for adults and children of all ages to make music together.

Studies show that people of all ages benefit from increased physical activity, access to vitamin D, fresh air, and the reduction of health risk factors associated with outdoor activity. Research on intergenerational play specifically, has shown that children display higher levels of language and

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Legacy Parks Director Carol Evans speaks at last week's groundbreaking at Beverly Park while Knox County Parks Director Joe Mack and Mayor Glenn Jacobs listen.

Legacy Parks breaks ground on Intergenerational Playspace at Beverly Park

Commission doesn't support Governor Lee's executive order

By Mike Steely
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Although the Knox County Commission passed a non-binding school safety resolution of support last month, a similar support resolution to back Governor Bill Lee's executive order dealing with limited gun control in the state failed.

After various citizens, including members of the Knox County Junior Commission, addressed the meeting on both sides of the gun control issue, two versions of the support proposal failed.

Chairwoman Courtney Durrett suggested a revision of the proposal that supported background checks and mental health reviews for gun buyers. Vice Chairwoman Terry Hill suggested a substitute motion focusing on the mental health crisis.

Commissioner Rhonda Lee said limiting gun purchases is "Government going down a dangerous slope." Commissioner Larsen Jay said the commission "has no jurisdiction over guns" and Commissioner Richie Beeler said he supported the substitute motion, which doesn't mention guns but generally supports Governor Lee's proposal.

Commissioner Kim Frazier applauded those who spoke, including members of the junior commission, but suggested more time is needed. She supported the substitute motion adding, "We've got to do something."

"Maybe your generation can find a way to reach across the aisle," said Commissioner Gina Oster before referring to the number of homeless people with mental health issues.

Commissioner John Schoonmaker suggested delaying any action until Governor Lee's proposal can be reviewed.

The substitute motion failed and Schoonmaker passed on the motion.

The commission then considered the original resolution, with stronger support for the governor's position. Commissioner Carson Dailey said the commission needed to wait on the language of the proposal. Lee said he plans to call a special session on the issue.

"What other rights are going to be taken away from me?" Dailey asked, adding that laws are already on the books involving gun ownership.

The motion failed 3-7 with only Jay, Lundy and Durrett voting "Yes."

In other action, the commission honored Joe and Dale Longmire for their years of ownership and public service at the Midway IGA grocery store in the Gibbs and Corryton area. Commissioner Beeler said the family-owned business created in 1947 was a "true Mom and Pop grocery."

In 1988 the Longmire store expanded when the family bought the Gibbs Center shopping plaza and would become a staple in the North Knox County community.

Both Longmire brothers spoke at the commission meeting, saying their success could not have

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What Papa Told Grandma About Scottish Kings Duncan

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.
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In 2002, I received a call in my Washington, D.C., office from a man who identified himself as Robin Naysmith, head of the Scottish Section of the British Embassy. He said they had done some research and found that I had more Scottish ancestry than any other member of the U.S. House. He asked if I would be willing to start a Friends of Scotland Caucus in the Congress similar to the very active Friends of Ireland Caucus which had been in existence for many

years. I told him I would be glad to help. To have an official caucus in Congress, it has to be bi-partisan with both a Republican and a Democrat as co-chairs. I was joined as a co-founder of the Friends of Scotland Caucus by Rep. Mike McIntyre, a Democrat from North Carolina. Because I had been a judge, I was often asked to preside over the full House in the Speaker's chair, and I frequently spoke on the Floor of the House. I did my most important work on problems of my constituents and in three main committees: Transportation and Infrastructure, Oversight and Government Reform, and Natural Resources. I also helped found and served as the Republican co-chair of the Scenic Byways Caucus (because of the Cherohala Skyway in my District) and the

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Caucus (because of Knoxville College). The Friends of Scotland Caucus was a small but significant part of my work in Congress. I served as co-chair from its founding until I left the House at the end of 2019. The caucus was set up to help establish closer business and personal ties between the U.S. and Scotland. I led congressional delegations to Scotland three times at the invitation of (and expense paid by) the Scottish government. We also hosted meetings and receptions for Scottish officials, including Sean Connery, the great Scottish actor. I give you all this background as a roundabout way to tell you that I recently was given the Tartan Day Award, the top award given each year by the Scottish

Coalition, USA. The coalition member organizations are The American-Scottish Foundation; The Association of Scottish Games and Festivals; Scottish American Military Society; Council of Scottish Clans and Association; Scottish Heritage, USA; and The Living Legacy of Scotland, Inc. The coalition held a very nice reception in John Marshall's historic residence, the DACOR-Bacon House, two blocks from the White House. In my remarks, I told the group that if they came to East Tennessee, they would see Scotland. I told them that my hometown, Knoxville, had been named for a Scottish immigrant, Gen. Henry Knox, President George Washington's Secretary of War. I also told them the sports teams of Maryville College are nicknamed the Fighting Scots and the

teams of Scott County High School, where my father was from, are the Highlanders. Most of the first settlers of East Tennessee were Scottish and Scots-Irish Presbyterians. I am a life-long Presbyterian, and my grandfather, Papa Duncan, used to say, "You could make it to Heaven if you were not a Presbyterian and a Republican, but you had a leg up if you were." I also told the group that while the great majority of East Tennesseans fought on the side of the Union in the Civil War that my grandmother, whose maiden name was Lee, used to claim she was a distant relative of Robert E. Lee. Papa Duncan got something in the mail saying he was descended from the Scottish Kings Duncan. He then told my grandmother, "Mama, you've been lording over us all these years about being related

to Robert E. Lee. Now that we know I'm descended from these kings, I don't expect you to bow down to me every time you see me, but you might curtsy every once in a while." I mentioned in my remarks at the reception that Alex Kerr, former head of security for Fed-Ex and a native of Scotland, once told me: "With a name like Jimmy Duncan, you could get elected to anything in Scotland." Scottish Heritage, USA says 25,000,000 Americans claim Scottish ancestry and 30,000,000 Americans are of Scots-Irish descent. Former Senator James Webb helped found the Friends of Scotland Caucus in the U.S. Senate. He also wrote one of the best books I have ever read called "Born Fighting: How the Scots-Irish Shaped America."

New gardening book topic of Knoxville Writers' Guild meeting

'East Tennessee Garden Stories' focuses on people, building community

Terry Shaw and Brad Lifford will discuss their new book, "East Tennessee Garden Stories: Sharing Knowledge, Celebrating Heritage, and Building Community," at the monthly Knoxville Writers' Guild meeting at 7 p.m., May 4, Addison's Bookstore, 126 South Gay St. The event is open to the public. The cofounders of Howling Hills Publishing will be joined by photographer Kelly Norrell, whose work illustrates the book, and poet Linda Parsons, who is featured in one of the 20-plus essays.

Contributing writers include Chad Hellwinkel, Eleanor Scott and Kevin Saylor. Gardening brings people together. "Visit another garden-er and see what they're doing, and you'll take away something of value," Shaw said. "Maybe a different way of seeing things. Maybe something to avoid. That's really the spirit of the book. So whether you're a master gardener or a beginner with no idea where to start, we hope you check it out." "East Tennessee Garden Stories: Sharing Knowledge, Building Community, and Preserving Heritage" is available at www.howlinghillspublishing.com.

The recurring debt ceiling 'crisis'

We have again reached another so-called budgetary crisis where the Federal debt ceiling must rise or else risk the possibility of the government defaulting on its debt payments. The ceiling currently sits at \$31.4 trillion and must rise because the government continuously spends more than it receives in tax revenue. Failing to raise the ceiling means that the government could not pay all of its obligations and would have to delay or renege on some of its debts. Currently, the House in Republican hands is threatening not to raise the ceiling unless Biden agrees to some spending cuts and shifts in spending. Biden of course refuses. We have seen this



By Dr. Harold A. Black
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Kabuki theatre before with its elaborate preening and false displays prior to raising the ceiling. The Republicans want their voters to think that they are actually trying to curtail spending while the Democrats want their voters to think that no cuts will be forthcoming – unless they are to the military. Both obviously are not being forthcoming because neither party is serious about cutting Federal spending. They want to grow spending on their priorities and not on the priorities of their adversaries while ever-growing overall Federal spending. The debt ceiling has been around since World War I and has always been raised when it has been reached. It doesn't matter who sits in the White House, the ceiling gets raised. The only difference is that when the Republicans are in office, the Democrats object to raising the ceiling and when the Democrats are in office, the Republicans object. It's all a game. Who said, "My vote against the

debt limit increase cannot change the fact that we have incurred this debt already, and will no doubt incur more?" The answer is Senator Joe Biden who voted against raising the ceiling in 2006. Biden also voted against raising the ceiling two times before. Now of course the same Biden is accusing the Republicans of playing partisan games by holding the debt ceiling hostage – just like he did on three different occasions when he was senator. Of course, he is right. Both parties avail themselves of the opportunity of playing before the cameras while not being the least bit serious about controlling government spending overall. The government always threatens a "shutdown" in case the ceiling is not raised. I think the last so-called shutdown was in 2019. Then the government picked those items to shut down, which affected the public directly, like closing the national parks and furloughing "non-essential personnel." Entitlements continued to be paid, the military and Congress got paid, air controllers, law enforcement got paid and the mail got

delivered. The shutdowns were brief, lest the public realized that they really don't miss most of the non-essential government. Also, the non-essential workers got paid vacations since they were all given back pay. Much of the doom and gloom that comes out of Washington during times of a threatened shutdown is simply theatre. Instead of the Treasury trying to inflict the most pain on the public in order to pressure Congress to raise the ceiling – which it will do anyway – there are other options. The first concerns the paying of interest on the debt. Government agencies hold about \$7 trillion of the debt and the Federal Reserve holds another \$6 trillion. The government could just defer paying interest on this debt while paying the interest on the debt to all other holders. Even in a worst-case scenario, the US Treasury can always rely on the Federal Reserve to supply the funds necessary to fund its spending. Therefore, the US government can be thought of as a contingent currency issuer who can issue the funds to spend. So in the end, the debt ceiling will be raised and the main driver of the debt, entitlement spending, will continue to grow unconstrained. I can guarantee that any agreement on the budget will not address entitlement spending and until it does, both Democrats and Republicans will continue to play this silly game of chicken as each successive debt ceiling is reached.



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,
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Kincannon's Budget And More

City Mayor Indya Kincannon sent out a press release with her budget presentation last week. If it wasn't quite revisionist history, then it was certainly rearranging the facts. Kincannon bragged about the fiscal health of the city and claimed the lowest tax rate since 1974. What she omitted mentioning was the fact she increased property taxes by 40% in the previous budget, raising rents and mortgages

across Knoxville. The city's fiscal health will probably be good for another year or two before Kincannon tries to raise taxes again.

Kincannon's budget was full of virtue signaling, as well as spending. In an administration full of bureaucrats earning \$100,000+.

As I wrote last week, Demolition Debbie Helsley wants to tear down neighborhoods and rebuild them like they would in Europe. The goal is to keep people from living in single-family homes and the city administration would much rather folks take the bus everywhere. It's the same in China; few people own a car there and most live in multiplex housing.

Kincannon brags about law enforcement inside the City of Knoxville, claiming an increased number of solved cases under the new police chief. One of those doesn't appear to be the hit-and-run death of Buddy Burkhardt's younger brother, Don. Don Massengill

was traveling home on his motorcycle when he was struck from behind. Massengill was hit so hard that he and his motorcycle were knocked to the side of the road, where he was left to die in the weeds. From the facts available, the KPD identified the driver, but she was NOT charged with hit and run and too much time had passed to tell whether or not she had been drinking or worse. The case will go to the grand jury under our District Attorney Charme Allen who was elected county-wide.

Neal And Corcoran Off And Running

Barry Neal is meeting with folks and exploring a race to succeed Carson Dailey as South Knoxville's county commissioner. Neal has worked for the University of Tennessee for more than 30 years, has long been active in the South Haven Neighborhood Association, and is a life-long resident of South Knoxville.

Dailey is term-limited and won't be running in 2024. Barry Neal should be a very strong candidate. The Democrats appear to be ready to recycle candidates. Both Dylan Earley and Annabel Henley are rumored to be considering the race. Earley, a first-time candidate, got the stuffing beat out of him last year when he challenged County Commissioner At-Large Larsen Jay. Henley ran for the board of education against Board Chair Kristi Kristy, but ultimately lost the race.

Two other candidates have emerged for county commission races as well. D.J. Corcoran is running for the seat currently occupied by Richie Beeler in the Eighth District, which is East and Northeast Knox County. Beeler is voluntarily retiring to concentrate on his responsibilities in the county clerk's office. Corcoran is retired from the Knoxville Fire Department and is well-known throughout the community for his time as a spokesman for

the department. D.J. Corcoran and his wife, Wendy, are two of the greatest people in any community locally.

Garrett Holt, who ran an unsuccessful first race for Knoxville City Council a couple of years ago, is preparing to run for the county commission next year. County Commissioner Kyle Ward, a successful businessman, and his wife, Katie, have a new baby boy. Ward announced he would not seek a second term on the commission as he felt it important to spend more time with his wife and son. Holt was an excellent student and athlete at West High School and, if elected, would likely be the youngest member of the county commission.

Boys Charter School Approved

It took two tries, but after Susan Horn returned, the Knox County Board of Education approved a new charter school for our community in a 5-4 vote. The

all-boys Knox Prep School will be our community's first single-gender school when it opens its doors next year. There have been discussions about a similar school for girls as well. Horn was absent from the first meeting where the board deadlocked 4-4 on the issue of approving the new school. At the second meeting, Susan Horn was back, and the measure was approved. Daniel Watson carried much of the water in opposing the new charter school. Watson is up for reelection next year and all indications are he will face formidable opposition in the general election. It will be interesting to see whether Watson will run as a Democrat or as an Independent. Daniel Watson has been one of the more talkative members of the board and has alienated some of the support he had at the beginning of his term.

Joe and Dale Longmire and their family were honored last week by the Knox County Commission for their many years of service at the Midway IGA in the Gibbs and Corryton communities. Photo by Mike Steely.



Commission doesn't support Gov. Lee's E.O.

Continued from page 1

happened without the support of loyal employees, customers and their families.

The commission also honored Charlie Austin for his efforts to clean up Beaver Creek. The Roy Arthur Storm Water Park Kayak Launch was renamed "Charlie's Launch" for Austin, who called the waterway "an uncovered hidden gem" and spoke of improved water quality and improved flooding along the water route.

Trustee Justin Biggs spoke briefly and announced his office is looking to increase the yearly income threshold for senior homeowners seeking a property tax freeze to \$60,000.

Senior Tax Freeze income level may be increased

By Mike Steely
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In a brief address before the Knox County Commission last week, Trustee Justin Biggs announced a possible change to aid seniors in paying their real estate taxes.

Biggs said that thanks to state legislative action the minimum amount of income of residents 65 and older to qualify for a property tax freeze can be raised from \$42,440 as adopted in 2007 to \$60,000. Anyone qualifying may apply for a tax freeze on future county taxes.

"This is an opportunity that will benefit many of our seniors in Knox County that have not been able to take part in the program. It is my honor to be able to offer assistance to our seniors who may be in a situation where Property Tax Freeze could help with some of the financial obligations," Biggs told The Focus.

"Here at the Trustee's Office, we have a wonderful team eager to greet our

seniors with the respect and courtesy they deserve and assist them with signing up for the program. We will be offering registration at all five of our branches across the county as well as our downtown location. If you are unable to travel, please notify our office and we will have a field representative assist you from your most convenient location," Biggs said.

The resolution before the commission cites the "outstanding contributions" of seniors and notes some are struggling to pay bills. It cites the state Senate and House bills allowing counties and cities to increase the tax freeze amount and notes the increase awaits

the governor's signature. The resolution may be presented at the commission's May meeting.

Biggs referred to the change as an "urgent issue" and the tax relief program in Knox County also applies to disabled homeowners, disabled veterans and their widow(er)s. A home and up to five acres can be frozen on the tax rolls and, if the property tax already has a freeze, the frozen base will be increased.

The Knox County Trustee's website has an application for the tax freeze at www.knoxcounty.org/trustee/ and the trustee office's phone number is (865) 251-2305.

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Brock Goetz chosen as new merit board member

By Mike Steely
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Brock Goetz, an attorney with the McKeehan Law Group in Knoxville, has been selected to fill the vacancy on the Knox County Sheriff's Office Employees' Merit System Board of Directors. Goetz replaces term-limited Jim Wright Jr.

He was selected from a field of six applicants and the selection took a couple of rounds of voting. Former merit council Chairwoman

Gina Oster, now county commissioner of the 3rd District, nominated Goetz.

Commissioner John Schoonmaker nominated Carl Dennis Ford and Commissioner Carson Dailey named Mike Brown. Commissioner Larsen Jay nominated Michael Crichton. Goetz saw five votes from Commissioners Oster, Courtney Durrett, Terry Hill, Rhonda Lee and Dasha Lundy, Ford had three votes and Crichton two in the first round.



Brock Goetz

In the final vote, Commissioner Kim Frazier voted for Goetz, making his total six votes. Jay joined the three Ford voters but the 6-4 vote meant that Oster's nominee won.

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Legacy Parks breaks ground

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problem-solving skills when they have lots of contact with adults. Intergenerational play also shifts play from being a competitive activity to a more playful one.

The benefits are not just for children – playful interactions can also benefit older adults, supporting better health and social engagement, preventing cognitive decline, and creating multigenerational learning opportunities. “This park

will encourage community members of all ages and abilities to come together to play, socialize, participate in physical activity and be outside,” explained Carol Evans, Legacy Parks’ executive director.

The intent of the park’s design is to create a place for rehabilitation and reflection, a place for generations to interact through activity, to stimulate the brain, body and the senses with a variety of physical, visual, audible, and cognitive experience for

all generations, and to take full advantage of all the benefits of being outdoors in nature.

The entire community will benefit from the activities provided - adults with mobility and physical rehabilitation issues, active adults, families, and children will all enjoy the recreational experiences in a beautiful public space.

The Intergenerational Playspace is slated to open by October 2023.



City council to begin budget discussion

By Mike Steely
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The city council may take a first look at Mayor Indya Kincannon’s budget when it meets Tuesday. The agenda calls for a budget ordinance on First Reading along with an ordinance for “a tax on all taxable properties, real, personal and mixed, within the corporate limits of the City of Knoxville.”

Those decisions must be made before the new fiscal year begins on July 1, 2023. The council may also look at clarifying the duties of the city’s internal auditor.

Rogers Group may be awarded a contract for \$5.4 million for the 2023

Resurfacing Phase 2 Project on a recommendation by the Engineering Department. The council will also honor the Knoxville Garden Club for community involvement over the past 100 years.

Two Sisters Ventures, doing business as Abacus Hive, may get \$130,000 for various services for the City Finance Department.

An annual action plan for housing and community development federal grants may be authorized under the HOME Investment Partnership Act.

The city and Knox County Schools may co-apply for the School Violence Prevention Program Grant from the U. S. Department

of Justice for equipment, supplies, speaker fees, travel and training for violence prevention in county schools.

The mayor’s office wants permission to revise the oath of office for members of the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority.

T. Dean LaRue is asking for a zoning change for property at 7700 Pinner Drive from RN-1 to RN-2 single-family residential neighborhood.

The council will also consider a tax break for Blue Dog Capital Partners LLC for development at 400 West Fifth Street. The plan is a payment in lieu of taxes until a project is completed.

Mayor Indya Kincannon is naming Deputy Chief David Powell to the Animal Control Board and Ashley Wells Ajinkya and Hilary Brooks to the Council on Disability Issues.

The police department is asking the mayor to apply for a \$250,000 grant from the U. S. Department of Justice to be used for technology, instruction and equipment to deal with de-escalation, implicit bias and duty-to-intervene training for officers. Also being requested is an application with the International Association of Chiefs of Police to fund a victim advocate under the city Drug Death Task Force.

Proposed city budget

Cont. from page 1

About \$9.3 million will go to roads, bridges, potholes and guardrails plus \$2.4 million to sidewalks, curbs and pedestrian and bicycle programs and a separated greenway on Neyland Drive.

She said Knoxville’s momentum is “unmistakable” and noted the number of people moving into the city. She stressed placing a high priority on public safety and spoke of the new Public Safety building and said, “We’re making sure we have the right people, policies, and training to make the Knoxville Police Department the most community-focused, trusted, and effective police department in the country. And – good news – crime is going down.”

Kincannon also spoke about the city and county’s \$4.5 million investment in the new multi-use stadium near downtown, a \$100,000 investment in the pedestrian bridge from South Knoxville to the UT campus, the funding of non-profit public groups, and a \$500,000 investment for additional housing for military veterans.

She also proposed combining two city departments to form a new Department of Community Safety and Empowerment. Two new employees are on the budget for the new department.

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Will PARC be limited?

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Tennessee legislature has passed a bill sponsored by Knoxville Representative Elaine Davis that takes away some of the power of the city’s Police Advisory and Review Committee.

Despite a recent agreement between PARC and Police Chief Paul Noel for expanded cooperation, the state bill limits PARC’s investigation powers and requires the committee to forward citizen complaints to the police for internal review within three days of receipt.

“It will cause some change but not very much. Our current ordinance provides that if the members of PARC conclude an investigation is incomplete or if they desire further investigation, they can request that (internal investigations unit) do further investigation,” City Attorney Charles Swanson told The Focus.

“If the Internal Investigations Unit declines to do the further investigation, then the PARC director can initiate and do the further investigation which was requested,” he said.

“The new state statute does not authorize this additional investigation and would permit no further investigation by PARC beyond that provided by IIU. Clearly, this is a difference which the new statute precludes but it is probably important to note than in its entire history, PARC has not requested further investigation which was declined by IIU,” he said.

“It is hard for me to imagine a circumstance in which that would occur but that is a substantive difference that will be nullified by the adoption of the new statute,” Swanson concluded.

The new law’s language states:

The executive director shall accept written, sworn complaints from members of the public regarding

misconduct of police officers and shall forward the complaints to the head of the internal affairs unit of the municipal police department within three (3) business days of their receipt. Upon receipt of a complaint, the unit shall immediately conduct an investigation of the allegations pursuant to the standard operating procedures of the municipal police department. The executive director may also accept unsworn or anonymous complaints and, if accepted, shall either attempt to resolve the complaints or, if warranted, refer the complaints to the internal affairs unit for investigation. (2) Upon notification by the head of the internal affairs unit that an investigation of an allegation of police misconduct is closed, whether the - 8 - 002070 investigation was prompted by a complaint received by the executive director or otherwise, the executive director shall

review the unit file or the referral action form and determine if the investigation is complete.

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

The Troubles

It's not progressive, it's creepy.
Kat Timpf

Biden is back from his family vacation in Ireland, but his cringe-worthy remarks in Dublin, on April 13th, confusing a rugby team and Irish paramilitary units, caused me to think of the decades-long conflict between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland.

Being a "colonial," interest in British Royals mystifies me, and English history often confuses me. I don't presume to understand "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland, but if you saw the movie, "Braveheart," you get some inkling of how conquered people fared under English rule, and how The Troubles began.

England first conquered the western province/country of Wales in the 13th century, then Ireland in the 16th century. And after fighting two wars with England, Scotland finally

merged with England in the 18th century.

The Irish so resented their English overlords that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) rebelled in The Irish War of Independence (1919-1921). This resulted in the separation of Northern Ireland from the now independent Irish Republic in the south. Historically, the north was more Protestant because England sent many settlers to the region in the 16th century, largely supplanting the local Catholic population. The enmity persists with Orangemen (after William of Orange) marching every year through Catholic neighborhoods in Ulster, Northern Ireland.

I recently complained to my wife Becky that I didn't have a topic for this week's column. And then Biden embarrasses America in Ireland, and my Methodist Holston Conference loses 30% of its congregations.

You may have read that 264 of the 842 Methodist

churches/congregations of the Holston conference recently chose to leave the Church through "disaffiliation." The Troubles for Methodism began in 1972 and were less about Christianity and more about human sexuality.

Every four years The United Methodist Church convenes to address the tenets of Methodism. At this worldwide convocation, our beliefs are refined and an updated Book of Discipline is published. It was in 1972 that progressive activists first tried to redefine human sexuality for our Protestant discipline. They were defeated, but not deterred because, every four years since, they have advocated for openly gay ministers and non-Biblical same-sex marriages.

I am not a Biblical literalist, but "the Bible was designed to change men and now men are trying to change the Bible." I believe the Bible is a compendium of wisdom and full of timeless stories. We are meant to read and wrestle with these stories and seek the truth.

Becky and I are Protestants. If we were Catholic, she couldn't be the Pope. Every organization has tenets and rules. Frankly, I don't want to know about my minister's sexuality, nor do I want Church sanctioned gay marriages. I categorically support civil same-sex

unions with equality under the law. But that's not good enough for the truly intolerant who demand I must agree with them. And although the progressive activists have been continually defeated, they have co-opted the "go along to get along crowd," and now my Church is in full schism. The same issues led to schism in the Lutheran, Episcopal and Presbyterian churches. Progressivism not only destroys secular institutions and civil society, but also damages the community of the faithful.

And the "troubles" continue. Last week we learned that the maverick Tucker Carlson is gone from Fox, and CNN canned Don Lemon.

Apparently, CNN and Lemon have different takes on who is at fault. I don't care. Speculation continues why Fox decided to part ways with its biggest star. Perhaps Fox was sensitive to Tucker's recent speech at the Heritage Foundation.

Fox and the establishment couldn't control Tucker who challenged the January 6 committee charade and the Ukraine War. Perhaps Fox was sensitive after their recent settlement in the Dominion Voting machine lawsuit. I recently read that Blackrock Investments now holds the second-largest share of stock in the Fox corporation (after the Murdoch family). I don't know, but beware of what

the media say; they "tell a story rather than the story." And you better learn about Blackrock.

We live in confusing and troubled times. Even my college freshman grandson was aware of the Tucker Carlson-Fox separation and texted me to ask what was going on. I complimented him on being aware of this important situation but told him I had no privileged information, only my own opinions. I did call Mr. Hunley to ask him if the progressive Democrats would be coming for us next. He assured me The Knoxville Focus will fight on.

These days I frequently hear people lament about America's Troubles. Often, they recall the brief period after 9/11 when Americans came together. I was recently discussing the American Troubles with an informed, intelligent, conservative woman. She said it beautifully, "We are long past coming together politically."

I think about what we need in a president and all the things Biden is not. His 2024 campaign slogan is, "Let's finish the job." Let's complete the destruction of America.

Recently, I again watched the old movie, "Patton." Patton was brash, but a warrior. He orchestrated a defeat of the vaunted German general Erwin Romel in North Africa. And although his mouth

got him into trouble with General Eisenhower, he saved the day at the Battle of the Bulge, halting the German counter-offensive in Europe. Patton was what was needed in WWII and made me think of Trump in 2024.

The Dems say there will be no debates, and Trump says they are pointless. Hallerin Hill recently asked whether debates have any merit. I think they are currently not relevant because Biden is incapable of an articulate sentence, let alone a debate. And Trump will be attacked by any moderator. I would prefer a list of priorities and plans, such as Vivek Ramaswamy's 25-Point Plan to fix the mess Democrats have created.

I admit that I am often discouraged by the troubles, and sometimes think about running away. But there's nowhere to run. And I'm not going to compromise my integrity and accept creepy progressive policies.

So, the only option left is to fight the SOB's. And then if I lose and Americans reelect the impaired one and other destructive Democrats, so be it. I will know in my heart I have done my best for God and country and those I love.

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

Catching up with Sammy 'Barney Fife' Sawyer

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

If you are a Mayberry fan from East Tennessee, you may know Sammy Sawyer, who appears as the popular "Barney Fife" character at local events. But did you know that Sammy's father was the police chief in Norris? Bet you didn't know that the pistol Sammy carries as Fife had belonged to his dad.

The Knoxville Focus caught up to Sawyer recently and he responded to several questions.

You live in Knoxville. What brought you here?

I actually grew up in East Tennessee. It was right in the middle of what I call my tri-cities. It was the Peach Orchard community with Norris, Clinton and Lake City around us. We went

to church in Knoxville. I met my wife, Dawn, there and she is from Knoxville. So, that's how I ended up living in Knoxville since 1986 other than a couple of years living in Sevierville while working at a theater as Barney Fife.

Were you a fan of Mayberry as a child?

Absolutely!! I can't remember not being a fan of the greatest show of all time.

When was the first time you realized you could impersonate Don Knotts?

I realized it probably in my late teens and early twenties. Just being around other fans and quoting and mimicking some of our favorite scenes from the show.

Did you ever meet Knotts or other The Andy Griffith Show actors?

I met Don Knotts in person

backstage at the Stevens Arts Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in 1995. It was part of a 35th anniversary celebration of the show. There were a total of 16 actors from the show at that event that were on The Andy Griffith Show. I saw Don Knotts at a couple of other shows and plays that he was participating in. He was very kind and humble. What an honor!!

Tell us about your family

My wife and I have been married for almost 37 years. We have four sons, Taylor, Logan, Peyton and Hudson; three daughters-in-law, Julia, Natalie and Jenna; two granddaughters, Layla and Scarlett; and one grandson, Anthony, due in June.

What are your hobbies or other interests?

My hobbies and interests really

consist of spending time with my family. Of course, watching reruns of The Andy Griffith Show is something I love doing. It never gets old.

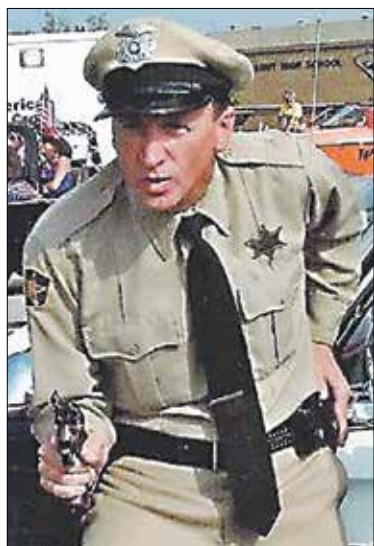
You often do Barney Fife at churches and religious events. What is the response?

I love being able to do events at churches and the response to Barney is wonderful. I have often said that my platform is Barney and my passion is ministry.

What do you think is the most memorable aspect or characteristic of Fife?

The character of Barney Fife was created and perfected by Don Knotts. Guys like me barely scratch the surface of what he did with the character. I think the most memorable aspect of Barney is that he really tried to

Continued on page 2



Sammy Sawyer's alternate ego is Barney Fife. He has the character down and the East Tennessee native appears as the character around the nation. The Focus caught up with Sawyer and got some interesting answers.



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100 YEARS of McGinnis Bus Lines

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

In a few days the school year will come to an end. But while school is in session, the big, yellow school buses that transport students are a very important part of the school day.

McGinnis Bus Lines has played a vital role in Knox County and was recently recognized by the Knox County School Board for a “century” of service! After the passing of James and Joe McGinnis (grandfather and father of Perry McGinnis), Perry bought a Thomas School Bus for his mother who continued working the family business. At her death, the family needed someone living in Knox County to run the business. The fourth generation of the McGinnis family (Perry and Carol’s sons) made a huge decision to move to Knox County, Tennessee! Throughout the series, this writer has been amazed that the McGinnis brothers chose to move to this rural area when many had

been anxious to leave and move to other places. “I wouldn’t live anywhere else,” Barron said. He has worked for nearly 40 years in the family business and continues the tradition today! Barron moved from his home in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and now sells Thomas School Buses like the one his father bought several years earlier. He sells to 25 to 30 school districts for Mid-South Bus Center. Currently, McGinnis Bus Lines runs four buses. “We have had as many as six and as few as three, depending on the driver situation,” Barron said. Roland also moved to Knox County from his home in Dallas and serves as a road technician for Mid-South Bus Center. Helping to keep the buses mechanically sound and running smoothly on the highways and country roads is so important for the safety of students.

“We were certainly not expecting such an honor and were deeply grateful for the Knox County

School (KCS) Board for recognizing our family’s long history in the school bus business,” Perry said of the prestigious honor. The McGinnis roots run deep in the Gibbs Community where their big, yellow buses can be seen transporting students. As McGinnis Bus Lines looks to the future, a sixth generation of the McGinnis family surfaces. Perry and Carol’s great grandson, young Parker Perry McGinnis, already has a remarkable knowledge of buses according to Barron. What a historic moment for the McGinnis family! Thank you, McGinnis Bus Lines, for 100 years of dedicated service to the students of Knox County!

Words of Faith selected by Barron McGinnis: “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV).

Sammy ‘Barney Fife’ Sawyer

Cont. from page 1

overcome his weaknesses by appearing to be more than he was. That is why he is so loved. We all can relate to Barney Fife.

What are your future bookings?

Currently, I do more events outside of East Tennessee. It has been an amazing experience to make appearances in, I think, about 20 states

total.

Tell us about your relationship with other enactors.

I have been honored to work with several other what we call tribute artists. My son, Logan, actually does an unbelievable job as Gomer when he’s available. I’d be afraid to name some of the others and leave someone out. Gene McKinney is always a blast as Floyd Lawson. Bo

Pierce as Briscoe Darling, Chris Monday as Ernest T Bass, and Bill and Georgia Branam as Otis and Aunt Bee are just a few that I’ve been honored to work with. I’ve also been honored to work with Rodney Dillard in about four shows together over the last few years as well. He is the last living member of the Darling family from the show.

Unusual story from the borderland

By Jadon Gibson

Indians are often portrayed as somber and introspective yet they have a wide range of emotions like all humans.

It was a beautiful spring day in April of 1782 and several residents of the Lexington Station (present-day Lexington, Kentucky) were continuing with the spring planting while others were repairing and making additions to the fort. The warmth of the sun found Alexander McConnell hunting deer. Wild game was plentiful and McConnell was an expert marksman. On this day he killed a large buck that was too big for him to carry.

He returned to the fort to fetch a horse for transporting his prize. Soon thereafter a party of five Indians passing through the area noticed the freshly killed deer. They surmised the hunter would soon return and went into hiding with plans to waylay him. The unsuspecting hunter soon returned astride a horse riding into an ambush. A barrage of shots resulted in McConnell’s horse receiving mortal wounds.

McConnell was lucky that he wasn’t killed but unlucky in that the dying horse fell on his leg. His leg wasn’t seriously injured but was caught underneath the horse preventing his opportunity to escape. The Indians took him prisoner and began a trek toward their village north of the Ohio River. They tied him with buffalo strands at night and secured a rope from him to one of their braves so they would be awakened if he attempted to escape.

The Indian party was comprised of a happy-go-lucky group of mostly younger braves. They knew McConnell must be a good hunter judging from the buck he had killed. On the second day, they allowed him to carry his own gun and supplies in order that he could hunt for their food. They outnumbered him five to one and agreed to watch him closely so they felt he wouldn’t try to escape.

After a couple of days, they reached the Ohio River late one afternoon and made camp. McConnell knew they would cross the river the following morning and decided he should try to escape that night. If he waited until crossing the Ohio River it would be much more difficult for him to return.

In that era, many Indians learned some of the settler’s jargon and McConnell could also understand much of what they said.

“The ties are hurting my wrists,” he told them that night. “We have come far and I am happy to be your friend. You don’t have to tie me. I am lost without you.”

After talking among themselves they decided to make his ties looser than previously. They then fell fast asleep as they did each night after their day’s lengthy journey.

McConnell lay quietly until after midnight. He saw the reflection of the fire in one of the Indian’s knives that lay nearby and methodically used his feet to bring it close enough for him to grasp. He was then able to cut the buffalo tug (tie) and the rope that bound him to one of the Indians.

McConnell was afraid if he fled into the night the Indians would soon be on his heels and their countenance would no longer be good-natured. He devised a plan and quietly stacked the Indians’ guns near him. He took a gun in each hand and rested the muzzles on a log within six feet or so of two Indians. He aimed at the head of one Indian and with the second he aimed at the heart of another. Both triggers were pulled in unison and both Indians were killed.

The three other Indians sprang to their feet but McConnell grabbed another rifle, aimed and fired. The shot went through one Indian’s body and struck a second brave, leaving him yelling and writhing in pain.

The fifth Indian darted into the woods pleased to escape with his life and limbs intact. McConnell retrieved his rifle and began his return to Lexington without undue delay. He arrived after two full days of travel.

Sometime thereafter Evelyn Dunlap, the widow of a settler killed by Indians, escaped from an Indian camp in Ohio and eventually found her way back to the Lexington fort.

She said that several weeks before a young Indian brave returned to the village with an unusual story. He was likely the “fifth Indian” who had taken McConnell prisoner but was fortunate to escape with his life.

“The Indian told them a large group of paleface attacked them during the night,” Dunlap said.

“They were among us so quickly with firing guns we could do nothing but run,” he said. “They killed everyone including a prisoner who we had tied to us. I was the only one who could escape.”

The brave didn’t want to explain that a lone captive, bound by leather thongs and roped to another brave no less, was able to overcome and escape from all of them.

The Indians remained pesky around the Lexington fort and Wilderness Road in the months that followed.

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Noah Mason of Illinois

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Noah M. Mason of Illinois looked like precisely what he was: an old schoolteacher. Diminutive in stature, white-haired and frequently with a stern expression etched into his face, Noah Mason served for twenty-six years as a congressman from Illinois. Mason referred to himself as “pudgy,” but he sported bushy brows and glasses which gave him a rather owlish appearance. Columnists Joseph and Stewart Alsop described Mason as a “small, brisk, genial silver-thatched” fellow who was “kindly, friendly, unassuming, and altogether sincere.” Congressman Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, a one-time Chairman of the Republican National Committee and future U.S. senator, thought Noah Mason was “likeable” and “friendly,” but also labeled the Illinois representative as an “obstructionist.” While in Washington, Mason regularly walked two miles to his office daily.

Devoted to his wife, Cora, and three children, Noah Mason disliked being away from his family. According to his biographer, Mason tried hard to make up for absences through family activities like picnics, going to the movies, walks, and sporting events. Mason liked gardening and loved raising flowers and reading. Wherever he had his home, Noah Mason surrounded it with “a variety of flowers, shrubs and trees.”

Mason was a Republican and a staunch conservative. His longevity in office gave him seniority, which was rewarded with a seat on the powerful House Ways & Means Committee. When the former congressman died, one editorial remembered Mason as, “a leader, a counselor,” as well as “a teacher’s teacher.” The Knoxville News-Sentinel published an editorial noting Mason’s passing and recalled the congressman as “an ag’iner,” but also one who “pursued an unveering course.”

When he announced his decision not to run for another term, Congressman Noah Mason told his colleagues, “I plan to become a missionary to the liberal heathen on the Hill . . . preaching the gospel of conservatism to those who will listen.”

“They may yet be saved,” Mason opined., “to a happier future in which taxes will go down

and not always up; in which the national debt will grow smaller and not bigger, in which the army of bureaucrats will get their proper comeuppance.”

When Noah Mason realized following the 1960 election that there was little possibility for the GOP to win the House and for him to chair the House Ways & Means Committee, he opted to retire. “I am past eighty,” Mason told a reporter. “I have put in 13 years. . . Maybe I have had my share. I just want a few years to myself.”

If Noah Mason regretted never ascending to the chair of the House Ways & Means Committee, he confessed to one other regret: never having returned to visit Wales, where he had been born.

Mason continued to enjoy the cottage he and his wife Cora kept on the shore of Lake Geneva and the former congressman continued swimming past eighty.

The News-Sentinel editorial acknowledged Mason was all too easily dismissed as a mere “obstructionist,” the paper noted the congressman “firmly believed in his course, and it was not necessary to agree with him to appreciate his tenacity, his consistency and his usefulness as a general opposer.”

The editorial stated Congressman Noah Mason “never got far, either” with his favorite cause, a desire to have a “clean” rewrite of the nation’s tax laws and “eliminate the discrepancies and discriminations and vagaries.” Had Mason been able to accomplish that, the News-Sentinel said “he would have deserved stature as a national hero, whatever he thought and said about other things.”

Born the twelfth of thirteen children in Glamorganshire, Wales, Mason’s family immigrated to Illinois where his father worked as a coal miner and farmer. Young Noah quit school at fourteen, but his mother, seeing something in her son, stayed after him to get an education. And education became his career. At twenty-two, Noah Mason was the principal of the Jones School in Oglesby, Illinois, a post he held for five years. Eventually, Noah Mason became the school superintendent in Oglesby where he served for thirty-two years. During eight of those years, Mason

was also a member of the Oglesby City Council. Later, he served six years as a member of the Illinois State Senate. It was Mason’s first race for the state Senate in 1926 that he lost, the only defeat he ever suffered in a long political career.

Although personally opposed to drinking, Mason’s response to prohibition was to vote to repeal it because a majority of the people he represented had voted for repeal in a referendum. Mason said he felt strongly elected representatives should “follow the Jefferson and Lincoln theories of democracy by voting in accordance with the wishes of their respective districts, setting aside their own personal views on the matter.” Noah Mason was a firm believer that representatives of the people had a duty to abide by the decision of the governed.

Mason demonstrated his prowess as a campaigner when he ran for Congress in the Republican primary and defeated a judge and popular mayor for the GOP nomination to replace an incumbent who had died. Mason won his first election in 1936, an otherwise terrible year for Republican candidates when President Franklin Roosevelt had been reelected in a landslide. Alf Landon, the Republican presidential nominee, had carried only Maine and Vermont while FDR swept everything else.

It was also during the 1936 campaign Noah Mason showed he was a loyal friend and a shrewd judge of character. While incumbent Congressman John Buckbee was ailing, other candidates openly announced or “explored” running, including Judge Harry Reck of LaSalle County. On the very same day that Reck announced his own candidacy inside the Republican primary, Mason released a blistering statement. Mason hailed the service of Congressman Buckbee and said the incumbent was one of the best representatives Illinois had ever sent to Congress. “When Congressman Buckbee feels that, because of ill health, he can no longer properly represent this district in Congress, then, and not until then, I will consider becoming a candidate to succeed him.”

After having won the primary, Mason campaigned hard throughout the district. During the campaign, Noah Mason was injured in a car accident where the car caught on fire. Mason suffered a broken leg while his driver, a doctor, had some broken ribs, but the doctor held his hand on the future congressman’s leg to prevent complications in the fracture.

Representing a more rural district where farmers were an important constituency, Noah Mason

quickly learned to tend to the needs of his people. Congressman Mason never relented in his criticisms of Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal and many of its warriors. Of Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace, Mason snapped, “Wallace and his kind” hoped to surrender “private enterprise and private initiative to experiment with some form of collectivism.”

As a congressman, Noah Mason believed in the rights of the states and opposed centralizing all power with the federal government. Mason continually assailed the New Deal program, which Harry Hopkins once described as “tax and tax, spend and spend, elect and elect.” Congressman Mason verbally assailed Hopkins, head of the New Deal relief program, as the individual responsible for taking a relief program and turning it into “the most powerful political instrument of partisan advantage ever devised in the United States of America.” During the 1944 campaign, Noah Mason accused Harry Hopkins of having condoned, if not actually encouraging “intimidation, bribery, and wanton violation of the Corrupt Practices Act.”

Nor was Congressman Noah Mason much impressed by Roosevelt’s “brain trust.” Mason thought the brain trusters were “outspoken agnostics who boast the fact that they do not believe in God.”

Mason was a constant presence on the House floor needling New Dealers in general and Franklin Roosevelt in particular for their failure to keep their promises.

Congressman Mason popped up from his seat on the Republican side of the aisle like a Jack-in-the-box to say the New Deal had failed to solve the country’s domestic problems.

The Illinois congressman noted Roosevelt had promised in his 1932 campaign to balance the country’s budget. Mason wryly said FDR had proceeded to throw the country out of balance “to the tune of about five billion dollars per year.” Roosevelt, Mason reminded his listeners, had promised to reduce government expenditures by 25% but had increased them by 75%. Instead of eliminating bureaus and agencies, FDR had created a plethora of new governmental entities. Mason said Roosevelt had devalued the dollar and gone off the gold standard while at the same time claiming to be supporting sound currency.

When FDR was running for a fourth term after twelve years in the White House, Mason campaigned for GOP presidential nominee Thomas E. Dewey and chortled “the New Deal bubble has burst.” Even though America was fighting a global war, Mason warned voters “we had



FROM THE AUTHOR’S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Autographed photo of Congressman Noah M. Mason of Illinois.

better change horses now, before it is too late.”

When Dewey began the 1948 presidential campaign as the favorite and lost the election to underdog Harry Truman, Noah Mason was exasperated with the New York governor having run as a moderate. In Mason’s opinion, Dewey was too much like FDR or Truman to suit ordinary Republicans. The congressman said he was sure a Republican could win the White House if that candidate would run and uphold those traditional values prized by the GOP and oppose New Deal “socialism.” Mason said he believed Americans wanted to enjoy their freedoms and independence and disliked the increasing dependence upon the federal government. Mason didn’t much like any “ism” save for Americanism. The congressman denounced religious and racial hatreds but also castigated those public officials who decried such hatreds while fermenting class hatred.

Congressman Noah Mason was one of those members of the House of Representatives who loudly objected to more tax money being shoveled into the maw of social welfare programs. “Our tax load will continue to be back-breaking for generations to come,” Mason warned. As to foreign aid programs, Mason pointed out the United States had spent \$12 billion during the First World War and “we kissed that money goodbye.” The Second World War had cost \$30 billion through the lend-lease program and the Illinois congressman thought that “should be world contribution enough for us to make.”

In 1953, Noah Mason complained Congress had allowed federal spending to get out of control. Mason said Congress had been too fearful to challenge the popularity of FDR for

twelve years. According to Noah Mason, Congress became accustomed to surrendering to the chief executive. “There are too many spenders in Congress and not enough savers - - too many Congressmen careless with other people’s money.”

To the last, Noah Mason continued to preach against spending money the country didn’t have, pointing out the United States had spent \$45 billion on other countries while accumulating a debt of \$300 billion, which was greater than the debt of all the other countries in the world combined.

In his farewell speech to the House of Representatives in 1962, Noah Mason pointed to the results of the 1960 election. Mason noted twenty-four new GOP congressmen had been elected to the House that year. Of those newly elected members, Mason said “23 have shown by their votes and records that they are truly conservative, almost as conservative as I.”

“This to me is the most encouraging and the most heartening thing that has happened during my 26 years in this House,” Mason told his colleagues. “The trend is there, although it is not too much in evidence as yet. But faint as the trend is, it is quite encouraging to this dyed-in-the-wool conservative.”

If Noah Mason only wanted a few years to himself, he got them. The former congressman died of heart failure on March 29, 1965, just over two years after leaving the House.

Noah Mason never broke faith with the people who sent him to Washington and after his service, he came home to live amongst the friends and neighbors who had elected him to Congress.

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ANGELIA M NYSTROM ATTORNEY AT LAW
1111 N NORTHSHORE DRIVE, SUITE S-700
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

I'm forever amazed by the differences between generations. We old folks remember our first television sets and the introduction to color television. Amy and I finally bought a color TV after we married. Our children have always had TVs, and now they and we have devices in several rooms. My childhood home had one phone on the wall in the kitchen. Now, we all have one stuck in our pockets. I remember watching the landing on the moon with my mother and brothers, and I wondered how



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

much more the feat meant to her since she was born in 1917 when planes were rare sightings. The children of today require even more spectacular things to rouse them. We used to go outside and find something to do. Sometimes sports took up our time; in other instances, we built with scrap lumber, bricks, or limbs. Some of our best times were spent inside a lean-to made with pine branches cleared from the woods. We drove imaginary jeeps made with sticks and bricks from battle to

battle. Adult supervision wasn't necessary, and the only time a parent might intrude on play was if a child needed a Band-Aid or mercurochrome for a scratch or scrape. The rules were simple: stay outside until it was time to eat supper or when daylight gave way to darkness. Playing is demanding on the entire family these days. Children join teams in leagues. They practice! What's practice? Parents pay out big bucks for uniforms and equipment, and some families spend small fortunes as children play on traveling teams. What used to be games are now serious commitments for extended periods of time.

What bothers me most about today's children is their detachment from the world. From the moment that they pick up that first controller and turn on the video games, children lose interest in the outside world. Before long, those little ones become teens, and when they obtain that first phone, their necks begin to develop that strange curvature. Instead of discovering the wonders of this world, they keep their eyes down-cast to view the latest social media nonsense. Too many young people have little ambition. They don't work a part-time job that could put a bit of extra money in their pockets; parents will dole out cash when

needed. Serving others rarely occurs unless such acts earn points for clubs or look good on a college application. Most appalling to us oldersters is how uninterested so many teens are in earning a driver's license. Those games of war or building a city are much too enticing for high schoolers. They are just as happy having parents chauffeur them to parties, friends' homes, or school activities. Kids from the 60s lived for the day they could get a driving permit to sit behind the steering wheel whenever the family car started. I can only guess how different the children of this teenage population will be.

Of course, first of all, these teens must be more interested in making a child than building the perfect society or killing the most monsters on the computer screen. I wonder if all of these teens will look for jobs where they can sit at home and work from their desks. Maybe today's kids will just continue to live with their parents and rely on their largesse for survival. We old people would rather have lived in a shack and eaten beans than live with our parents. It's a different time, and Baby Boomers are no longer in charge. In our way of thinking, the world is halfway to hell in a hand-basket. The results are still being created.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LUCIEN WELLBORN HOPE, JR. DOCKET NUMBER 87621-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of APRIL 2023, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of LUCIEN WELLBORN HOPE, JR. who died Jan 25, 2023, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 21 day of APRIL, 2023.

ESTATE OF LUCIEN WELLBORN HOPE, JR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JULIA H MIRTH; EXECUTRIX
1108 SHADYLAND
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37919

JOHN R FOUST ATTORNEY AT LAW
4641 CHAMBLISS AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CHARLOTTE I HORSLEY DOCKET NUMBER 87279-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 20 day of APRIL 2023, letters administration in respect of the Estate of CHARLOTTE I HORSLEY who died May 23, 2022, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred.

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 20 day of APRIL, 2023.

ESTATE OF CHARLOTTE I HORSLEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHARLOTTE PIANOWSKI II; ADMINISTRATRIX
2350 W HWY 11E
STRAWBERRY PLAINS TN 37871

CARIN BRID ATTORNEY AT LAW
3217 GARDEN DRIVE SUITE 1
KNOXVILLE TN 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JAYE JENKINS DOCKET NUMBER 87598-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 19 day of APRIL 2023, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JAY E JENKINS who died Dec 24, 2022, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 19 day of APRIL, 2023.

ESTATE OF JAYE JENKINS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JAY E JENKINS, JR.; EXECUTOR
3114 AVONDALE AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37917

ROBERT A COLE ATTORNEY AT LAW
2313 PULASKI ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37914

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ALIKHAN RIYAZ KHERANI DOCKET NUMBER 87595-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 19 day of APRIL 2023, letters administration in respect of the Estate of ALIKHAN RIYAZ KHERANI who died Sep 18, 2022, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred.

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 19 day of APRIL, 2023.

ESTATE OF ALIKHAN RIYAZ KHERANI

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
RIYAZ KHERANI; ADMINISTRATOR
1833 AVASHIRE LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37931

AMEESH A KHERANI ATTORNEY AT LAW
2685 ANDERSONVILLE HWY, SUITE 2
CLINTON, TN. 37716

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CLARA P KONOPKA DOCKET NUMBER 87518-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 24 day of APRIL 2023, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of CLARA P KONOPKA who died Dec 8, 2022, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 24 day of APRIL, 2023.

ESTATE OF CLARA P KONOPKA

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ADELE ELLIS; EXECUTRIX
20 ALASTAIR PLACE
COLONIA, NJ 07067

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF GLENN ALEXANDER MATLOCK DOCKET NUMBER 87565-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of APRIL 2023, letters of administration c.t.a in respect of the Estate of GLENN ALEXANDER MATLOCK who died Feb 21, 2023, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 21 day of APRIL, 2023.

ESTATE OF GLENN ALEXANDER MATLOCK

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
PEGGY R MCKNIGHT; ADMINISTRATRIX CTA
4009 19TH AVENUE NE
OLYMPIA, WA 98506

BRADLEY LEWIS ATTORNEY AT LAW
10413 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 200
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MAXIE DOVE MONROE DOCKET NUMBER 87616-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of

APRIL 2023, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MAXIE DOVE MONROE who died Dec 16, 2022, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 21 day of APRIL, 2023.

ESTATE OF MAXIE DOVE MONROE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
GREGORY CRAIG MONROE; EXECUTOR
3822 TWIN ISLAND DRIVE
MARYVILLE, TN. 37804

ROBERT GODWIN ATTORNEY AT LAW
4611 OLD BROADWAY
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LAUREL POHTO MORSE DOCKET NUMBER 87635-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of APRIL 2023, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of LAUREL POHTO MORSE who died Nov 16, 2022, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 21 day of APRIL, 2023.

ESTATE OF LAUREL POHTO MORSE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ROBERT MILES SAFIER; EXECUTOR
311 GREENHILL DRIVE
MARYVILLE, TN. 37804

JULIE EISENHOWER ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 30242
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37930

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MILDRED O NORRIS DOCKET NUMBER 87636-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of APRIL 2023, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MILDRED O NORRIS who died Mar 22, 2023, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 21 day of APRIL, 2023.

ESTATE OF MILDRED O NORRIS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
GREGORY P VANDERGRIF; EXECUTOR
298 E 8TH STREET
COOKEVILLE, TN. 38501

BRADLEY H HODGE ATTORNEY AT LAW
900 S GAY STREET, SUITE 2100
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JULIUS FRANKLIN PARKER, III DOCKET NUMBER 87533-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 24 day of APRIL 2023, letters administration in respect of the Estate of JULIUS FRANKLIN PARKER, III who died Feb 17, 2023, were issued the undersigned

by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred.

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 24 day of APRIL, 2023.

ESTATE OF JULIUS FRANKLIN PARKER, III

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
OLAN R LIGHT; ADMINISTRATOR
3306 LEADVALE ROAD
WHITE PINE, TN. 37890

ANGELA D LOWE ATTORNEY AT LAW
3814 POWERS STREET
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37917

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JAMES BRENT ROBERTS DOCKET NUMBER 87485-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 20 day of APRIL 2023, letters administration in respect of the Estate of JAMES BRENT ROBERTS who died Jan 6, 2023, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 20 day of APRIL, 2023.

ESTATE OF JAMES BRENT ROBERTS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MILTON PERRY ROBERTS; ADMINISTRATOR
9406 HICKORY KNOLL LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37931

PATRICK NOEL ATTORNEY AT LAW
1001 E BROADWAY
LENOIR CITY, TN. 37771

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JAMES D SMITH DOCKET NUMBER 87193-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 18 day of APRIL 2023, letters administration in respect of the Estate of JAMES D SMITH who died Oct 22, 2022, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 18 day of APRIL, 2023.

ESTATE OF JAMES D SMITH

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CYNTHIA R SMITH; ADMINISTRATRIX
4400 MCDONALD ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37914

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LOUISE VIRGINIA STURGEON DOCKET NUMBER 87627-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 25 day of April 2023, Letters Testamentary in respect to the Estate of LOUISE VIRGINIA STURGEON who died on February 3, 2023, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All person, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first

publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This 25 day of April, 2023.

ESTATE OF LOUISE VIRGINIA STURGEON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
RODNEY STURGEON
9208 HILL ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37938

SARAH R JOHNSON ATTORNEY AT LAW
11907 KINGSTON PIKE, STE 201
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37934

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CLARENCE VAN DER WIELE DOCKET NUMBER 87625-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of APRIL 2023, letters administration in respect of the Estate of CLARENCE VAN DER WIELE who died Nov 18, 2022, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 21 day of APRIL, 2023.

ESTATE OF CLARENCE VAN DER WIELE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
SUSAN WEIGEL; ADMINISTRATRIX
7221 HILL ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37938

THOMAS R RAMSEY ATTORNEY AT LAW
550 W MAIN STREET, SUITE 310
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ARTHUR WALKER, JR. DOCKET NUMBER 87640-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 24 day of APRIL 2023, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ARTHUR WALKER, JR. who died Nov 12, 2022, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 24 day of APRIL, 2023.

ESTATE OF ARTHUR WALKER, JR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
BETTY WALKER; EXECUTRIX
4731 IDUEMA ROAD
CORYTON, TN. 37721

MISC. NOTICES

LEGAL SECTION 94

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

LOI 3393, Professional Engineering Consultant Services, due 5/31/23;

RFP 3415, Golf Cart Lease Program, due 5/23/23;

RFP 3417, Corporate Gym Membership Services, due 5/23/23;

Bid 3419, School Instructional Supplies, due 5/25/23;

Bid 3421, Hardin Valley Road Sidewalk Extension, due 5/31/23;

RFO 3422, Consultant Services for Unified Development Ordinance, due 6/1/23;

LOI 3423, Professional Engineering Consultant Services, due 5/31/23

For additional information call 865-215-5777, stop by the Procurement Division, 1000 North Central St., Suite 100, Knoxville, TN 37917,

or visit our website: www.knoxcounty.org/procurement. To bid on Knox County surplus items, go to www.govdeals.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Knox County Ethics Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In compliance with TCA 66-14-102 thru 66-14-106 the following cars will be sold on May 19, 2023 at 2:00 PM @ Cedar Bluff Towing, Inc. 623 Simmons Rd Knoxville, TN If full bill is not paid by date of sale.

2007 Lexus LS460 JTHBL46F57009114
(Samantha Johnson/Check Into Cash)
1999 Mercedes CLK430
WDBLJ70G3XF056651 (Kennedy Cozart)
2008 Toyota Prius JTDKBR20U483309529
(Kayleigh James/ TMX Finance of TN)
2002 Lexus ES300
JTHBF30GX25033906 (Kevin Hawkins)
2007 Chevy Impala 2G1WT58K379102406
(Miranda Branson/ GreenLight Auto)
2005 Mercedes C320 WDBRN64J95A673741
(Christopher Neff-Pinsky)
2017 Ford Escape 1FMCU0G91HUF01971
(Karen or Jimmy Boles)
2005 Chrysler T&C
2C4GP54L0R601966 (Angie Dixon)
2013 Audi A6 WAUJGAF7DN021487
(Rashen or Moneka Patterson/ VW Credit Inc)
2002 Mercedes C320
WDBRF64J32F252268 (Brooklyn Leinweber)
2008 BMW 535i WBANW13568CN56600
(Chalchis Guadalupe)
2009 Chevy HHR 3GNCA13B39S570780
(Matthew Brown/ Tasha Nimeth/ TN Title Loans)
2009 Hyundai Sonata
5NPET46C69H468116 (Nancy Walker)
2015 Acura ILX 19UDE1F59FE004780
(Christopher Thomas/ Chacon Autos)

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In compliance with TCA 66-14-102 thru 66-14-106 the following cars will be sold on May 19, 2023 at 2:00 PM @ Chestnut Street Transport & Recovery, Inc. 2430 Thorngrove Pike Knoxville, TN If total bill is not paid by date of sale.

2004 Dodge Durango 1D4HB58D14F112734
(Ashton Sharp/ Titlemax of TN)
1977 Plymouth Fury 1R41G71A114055
1991 Ford F150 1FTEF15Y4MLA35072
(Steven Hopson)
2004 Buick Rendezvous
3GSDA03E74S511491 (James Floyd/ Car Connection)
2016 Sym Fiddle Scooter
RFGBS15E5XAW1757 (Tina Austin)
1986 Honda CB650
JH2CR19036M205376 (Justin Morgan)
2008 Chrysler Sebring 1C3LC45KX8N662015
(Terry Mayes/ TMX Finance of TN)
2005 Dodge Dakota 1D7HW48N4S5167679
(Lloyd Cabel/ Dons Used Cars)
2004 Toyota Camry 4T1BE32K14U328824
(Kelechi Akwataghibe)
2005 Chrysler 300 2C3JA53G15H505818
(Cordelia Bland/ DC Services)
1999 Buick LeSabre 164HP52K2XH437242
(Eric Arpl/ Wheels Auto Sales)
2011 Chevy Traverse
1GNKR6D3B141216 (Heriberto Montano)

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

TO: KELLIE DIANE OLIVER LEE FONTE, EDWARD ALVIS, LAURA CROSTIC, MICHELLE ALVIS WHITEHEAD, AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF WANDA SUE DAY

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

PROBATE DIVISION

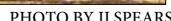
DONNA HURT, PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER/ ADMINISTRATRIX, VS. DONNA HURT; JAMES E. SIMMONS; GINA LEA DORT; KELLIE DIANE OLIVER LEE FONTE; MEGAN R. CRENSHAW WEARY; JOHN A CRENSHAW; LEWIS C. OLIVER, JR.; ANDREW GEORGE OLIVER, JR.; DELORES ANN MILLER; RAYMOND FRANCIS BOWMAN; ERIC V. BOWMAN; CHARLES WESLEY BOWMAN; J.R. LINDA MARIE IVEY; JACQUELINE LEE BRUCATO; EDWARD ALVIS; LAURA CROSTIC; MICHELLE ALVIS WHITEHEAD; SHEILA ANN RODRIGUE; ELIZABETH EUNICE LOFTON; CINDY LAY LINDSLEY; and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF WANDA SUE DAY, DEFENDANTS. IN RE: THE ESTATE OF WANDA SUE DAY, DECEASED; DONNA HURT, ADMINISTRATRIX.

DOCKET NUMBER: 86989-3

It appearing from the Petition For Sale of Real Property filed herein that Defendants Kellie Diane Oliver Lee Fonte, Edward Alvis, Laura Crostic, Michelle Alvis Whitehead, and the unknown heirs of Wanda Sue Day are all non-residents of the State of Tennessee, or their whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon each of them, it is ordered that said Defendants each file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court (Probate Division) at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Victoria B. Tillman, Petitioner's Attorney, whose address is McKinney & Tillman, P.C., 1019 Orchid Drive, Knoxville, TN 37912, Telephone (865) 525-8700, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment of default will be taken against each of them and the cause set for hearing Ex Parte as to each of them. This notice will be published in the The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

J Scott Griswold
Clerk & Master

Phone: 865-686-9970 | PO Box 18377, Knoxville, TN 37928 | Located at 4109 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912



By Steve Williams

The battle cry in the Strawberry Plains camp leading up to the District 3-3A tournament, which begins May 8, most likely is “the third time’s the charm.”

The Lady Hornets headed back home with mixed emotions

Second baseman Jenna Wilson, one of Carter's four freshmen starters, echoed Rucker's feelings: "We get a little disappointed after the game obviously, but we're also encouraged because we know we can stick with them," said Wilson. "We know we have the opportunity to play them again and we can hang

Continue on page 2

Continue on page 2

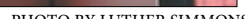
By Steve Williams

She comes into the meet, which includes all TSSAA member schools in Knox County, with this season's top times (as of April 26) in the 200 and 400-meter events. Truss posted a time of 25.29 seconds in the 200 dash on April 15 and a time of

"She is a phenomenal talent and already has broken all of our indoor and outdoor school records for sprint events. She is a hard worker and a tough competitor."

"The most exciting thing to me about Chloe is her potential," continued Coach O'Neil. "She's really just beginning to scratch the surface of what she is

Cont. on page 2



Hardin Valley Academy junior Gracie Waite cranks up a mighty throw of the discus. She has the top mark of the season (41 feet and 6.75 inches) going into this week's KIL Track and Field Championships.

By Ken Lay

Bearden then took the pitch for a District 4-3A game against Heritage. It took a little time for the Bulldogs to find their shooting touch and click their offense into high gear, but once the dust had settled, Bearden walked off the field with a 9-0 victory over

Once things got rolling, Bearden found the back of the net often as Heritage freshman goalkeeper Colby Rowland had to feel that he was swimming among a school of hungry sharks.

Harrison Schwall and Lucas Ford added goals over the first 40 minutes of the match and Bearden

his own with a pair of markers in less than a minute. He made it 8-0 in the 52nd minute before Ethan Ford ended the match two minutes later.

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Householder 'has impacted thousands' at Seymour High

Longtime coach and AD to retire June 1

By Steve Williams

After 50 years on the staff at Seymour High School, Gary Householder announced Thursday he will be retiring June 1.

"Brandi Stallings is scheduled to be our next athletic director and is assuming many of the AD responsibilities already," said Householder, who was inducted into the TSSAA Hall of Fame as an administrator in 2014.

"I had the athletic director title (starting in 1984) while I was still coaching football, but our principals had to do a lot of the AD work," said Householder. "When I quit coaching football in 2008, I took over all of the AD responsibilities." Householder excelled



TSSAA Hall of Famer Gary Householder has excelled as an athletic director and coach at Seymour High School.

as a head football coach at Seymour for 34 years (1975 through 2008).

With a won-loss record of 280-106, he is the only Seymour head football coach who has compiled a winning percentage over

.500 in school history. The school's stadium and field house are both named in his honor.

Householder also coached the school's boys golf team to runner-up honors in the 2005 Class

A-AA state tournament.

Under Householder's leadership, Seymour started programs in track, cross country, boys and girls soccer, volleyball and bowling.

Householder also became a TSSAA District Coordinator. He served in that role for District 2-AA, District 3-AA and District 2-AAA.

Seymour High's first football season was 1961 and Householder played four years for the Eagles (1963-66) under the late Jimmy Harris. He graduated from Seymour in 1967 and from the University of Tennessee in 1972. That fall he became a chemistry and physics teacher at SHS.

Mark Mobley, a Special Ed. Teacher and current Head Boys Basketball Coach at Seymour High, said he enjoyed playing

for Coach Householder throughout his four years in high school.

"I knew going to Maryville College in 1992 to play football and basketball that I wanted to be a coach," said Mobley. "Coach Householder coached me as a wide receiver, field goal kicker and occasional defensive back in end-of-game situations. He was very tough on us but wasn't one of those screamers and yellers that I had in other places. He trusted us and knew what we could do. He was super positive and had a real grasp on personalities. He knew how to motivate us fairly but differently."

"I wanted to get into coaching because of how sports and coaches impacted me for life" continued Mobley. "Things weren't always easy, but he helped us to see how to keep working and it would pay off."

Mobley said Coach Householder "has given his life" to Seymour High School and has coached some great players throughout the years. "He has impacted thousands."

"In his last years, he took that same gift he has to guide and direct coaches. I've had the privilege of working as a coach under his leadership and guidance as an Athletic Director. He steered me towards success and away from problems!"

"He will be missed for sure, but I can't imagine him not sneaking in and supporting Seymour High athletics. He will be allowed to be a fan, and I know that will be more enjoyable without all the responsibilities and stress."

"I appreciate everything he did and wish him the best along with his family!"

Gibbs and Carter aren't done yet

Cont. from page 1

with them and beat them."

Gracie Miller, Carter junior third baseman, pointed out an interesting fact. "The only difference is that in the first inning we always let them get two runs on the board. If we can stop that, I think we have a good chance of winning."

In both of their previous two battles, Gibbs scored two runs in the first inning, Carter tied the game or went ahead in the middle innings and then Gibbs pulled out the win.

Carter Coach Ryan Burkhart felt his team was "right there" for a victory in

the rematch, but their base running mistakes were costly.

"Gibbs is obviously a different animal when it comes to playing clean and doing what they need to do to win," he said. "There's a reason they've won 10 state championships."

"We've had a great year and are hoping we can get hot here and win some games in the post-season. I feel like we have a legit chance to beat anybody we play around here; I really do, if we play our game and we're swinging the bats, I think we've got a shot."

Carter slipped to 21-5

with the loss, while Gibbs climbed to 25-2.

Coach Mitchell said "timely hitting" was the key to the win in Gibbs vs. Carter II.

"I felt Carter played well," she added. "They were excited. They were enthusiastic. They didn't quit in any situation. They battled every inning and they've got a really good team."

Ella Lawhead broke the 2-2 tie with a leadoff home run over the leftfield fence in the sixth inning. Gibbs added an insurance run as Taylor Selby lifted a bloop single down the third base line, stole second and raced

home on Malyiah Smith's triple.

The Lady Eagles scored their two runs in the first when Dakota Large reached on an error and Jordann Reagan doubled. Large scored on Lacey Keck's fielder's choice. Lawhead's sacrifice fly gave Gibbs a 2-0 lead.

Carter executed a big defensive play in the second inning as leftfielder Marah Yeo fielded Emma Keck's two-out single and threw a one-bounce strike to catcher Bailee Stout, who applied the tag on Large just in time. The speedy Large had led off with a single and stolen second base.

Carter got its bats going

in the fourth as Miller led off with a hard single up the middle and Rucker drove her in with a double. Wilson's single up the middle scored Rucker to tie the game at 2-all.

A base on balls and single by Jade Bell put two runners on base for Gibbs in its half of the fourth, but Miller fielded back-to-back grounders at the hot corner and threw out both runners at first base to end the threat.

Carter's Ivey Jones led off the fifth with a double down the left field line, but Lacey Keck got out of the jam with a strikeout and a spectacular diving catch by shortstop Smith for the third out.

Carter loaded the bases

in the sixth, but with two outs, Jones hit a grounder to short and Smith threw her out on a bang-bang play at first.

Lacey Keck, a sophomore, struck out four in getting the win. Freshman Malaney Etherton took the loss, allowing eight hits, including two to Large.

THE WRAPUP: Both teams finish regular season play this week. Gibbs hosts Farragut today, goes to Powell Tuesday and is back home against Halls Wednesday. Carter travels to Jefferson County today and Central Tuesday before returning home to play Cocke County Wednesday.

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KENNY PHILLIPS, AUCTIONEER - LIC # 2385

Catholic's Truss to make debut



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

CAK sophomore Silas Fulford clears the 110-meter hurdles in the Spartan Challenge at Webb School last week and posted the top time (15.80 seconds) in Knox County this season. He'll be competing in the annual KIL meet Tuesday at Hardin Valley Academy.

Continued from page 1

capable of. She's going to be a lot of fun to watch over the next couple years."

The KIL meet is a two-night affair and starts Monday at 5 with field events and a section of 3,200-meter runners. Tuesday's action also begins at 5 with the track events and the girls' pole vault event.

Hardin Valley Academy is home to 20 KIL team championships (11 girls and nine boys) but some believe Farragut, with its depth, will leave with the boys' crown this year, while the HVA girls are favored to win.

Other teams expected to score high are the Hardin Valley and Catholic boys and the Farragut and Catholic girls.

Another individual athlete to watch will be Hardin Valley junior Maddie Archdale in the 1600-meter run. She recently ran a 4:59 in the mile run in a meet at Louisville, Ky., which is equivalent to a time of 4:57 in the 1600.

Former Farragut runner Andy Baksa currently holds the KIL record in the boys' 3200-meter run with his 9:18.69 in 2002, but Catholic sophomore standout Keegan Smith has the top time in that event (9:12.45) in Knox County this year and could set a new record if he elects to run in that race. Smith also excels in the 1600 and 800 runs.

Ethan Fulford of CAK tied the KIL boys record of 14 feet, 6 inches in the pole vault that Andy Lane of West set in 2001.

The oldest KIL meet record still in the books is the 6-feet, 7-inch boys' high jump

Knoxville Interscholastic League 2023 Track and Field Leaders (Through April 26)

BOYS

Track Events

100: Braylon Harmon (Catholic) 10.81
200: Aiden Shaw (HVA) 21.98
400: Aiden Shaw (HVA) 49.28
800: Keegan Smith (Catholic) 1:58.39
1600: Trevor Coggin (Farragut) 4:17.52
3200: Keegan Smith (Catholic) 9:12.45
110 H: Silas Fulford (CAK) 15.80
300 H: McKale Hayes (HVA) 41.80
4x100: Halls 42.90
4x200: Hardin Valley 1:29.62
4x400: Hardin Valley 3:30.20
4x800: Hardin Valley 8:09.94

Field Events

HJ: Cayden Douglas (Bearden) 6-4
LJ: Michael Conley (Webb) 22-0.5
TJ: Michael Conley (Webb) 44-4
PV: Gavin Bailey (Bearden) 14-0
D: Tyson Jackson (Farragut) 163-10
SP: Bryce Thompson (Farragut) 58-3.25

GIRLS

Track Events

100: Laila Rudolph (Bearden) 12.08
200: Chloe Truss (Catholic) 25.29
400: Chloe Truss (Catholic) 57.09
800: Maddie Archdale (HVA) 2:17.64
1600: Maddie Archdale (HVA) 5:05.19
3200: Maddie Archdale (HVA) 10:39.92
100 H: Brianna Baker (GCA) 14.89
300 H: Brianna Baker (GCA) 45.95
4x100: Catholic 49.77
4x200: Catholic 1:44.37
4x400: Catholic 4:07.31
4x800: Webb 9:44.89

Field Events

HJ: Callie Lefler (Farragut) 5-0
LJ: Lennox Langham (Webb) 18-0
TJ: Lennox Langham (Webb) 37-7
PV: Samantha Harvey (Farragut) 10-6
D: Gracie Waite (HVA) 131-10
SP: Gracie Waite (HVA) 41-6.75

mark set by Larry Clapp of Gibbs 46 years ago in 1977. Bearden's Cayden Douglas, a football and track athlete, won last year at 6-2 and owns this season's best mark at 6-4.

A look at ‘Lost Weekends’

Over the history of Tennessee athletics, there have been more than one “lost weekend,” where everything that could seemingly go wrong, did. Such a series of events tends to shatter fans’ confidence, overheat the phone lines to the talk shows, and bring the message boards to a boil.

Consider one such weekend in late March 2009.

The Tennessee men’s basketball team lost a close one to Oklahoma State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. It was a No. 8 versus a No. 9 game, the teams supposedly equally matched, where the final outcome went the wrong way.

The Lady Vols lost a not-so-close contest to Ball State University, also in the first round, the first time — ever— the Lady Vols had lost in the first round in the NCAAs. Given that it was perceived as an “upset,” Lady Vol fans certainly were.

Defending national champions were not supposed to go out this way, whether youthful or not. Former Lady Vol Kara Lawson evaluated the game on ESPN’s post-game show with her version of Pat Summitt’s famous stare. Her analysis—how teams perform during the season is how they perform during the tournament—was right on the money.

The Vol baseball team was swept in a series in Gainesville, as was the Lady Vol softball team. Losses to the Gators, particularly in three-game sweeps, are troublesome.

If you’re counting, that’s 0-for-8 in just a matter of days. Somehow, the sun still came up the next Monday morning, and life as we know it went on. There aren’t many such circumstances, but they are memorable in a strange sort of way.

Consider also one of the ultimate “Lost Weekends,” this time in football. There was a Saturday to remember, Nov. 15, 1969, at Mississippi Memorial Stadium in Jackson. That day, the No. 18 Rebels, led by junior quarterback



Preseason remarks by Tennessee linebacker Steve Kiner led to one of the longest afternoons in Tennessee football history on Nov. 15, 1969.

Archie Manning, vanquished an undefeated and No. 3 Tennessee squad 38-0.

Tennessee had defeated Ole Miss a year earlier in Knoxville by 31-0, intercepting Manning seven times. Vol fans wore orange and white “Archie Who?” buttons to the game and lived to regret it. It’s called the “Jackson Massacre.”

Haywood Harris had the shortest quote ever duly

noted by Sports Illustrated. A Rebel field goal at the first half horn hit the crossbar and bounced over to extend the lead to 24-0. All Haywood could say was: “Dang.” Not “Gosh-dang,” as he usually intoned when things went awry, but simply “Dang.”

“As I recall, there was no ‘69 Ole Miss game,” wrote Marvin West, then of the Knoxville News-Sentinel.

“The Rebels appeared, ran up and down the field a few times, and went away to celebrate their version of mule day. To the best of my knowledge, Tennessee was not a part of the festivities.”

The Vols won the final two games of the season, struggling against Kentucky and Vanderbilt. Thoughts of playing in the Orange Bowl, maybe against Notre Dame, went by the wayside. The SEC title came home to Knoxville, but no one seemed to care. The post-season prize was a trip to Jacksonville to play Florida in the Gator Bowl.

The Gators won 14-13. In early January, Dickey decided to go to Florida as head coach, leaving behind a 46-15-4 record in Knoxville.

The hangover didn’t last into the 1970 season. That Bill Battle-coached bunch went 11-1, won the Sugar Bowl over Air Force, and finished No. 4 in the nation. It was one of the most memorable seasons in Tennessee history.

The last two months of the 1969 season are now but a blur in the memory banks. Many of today’s Vol fan base hadn’t yet been

born when the Vols and Ole Miss squared off more than 50 years ago.

From the perspective of those of us who were alive back then, if the Vol program could survive the months of November and December in 1969, it could survive what happened on one specific weekend in late March 2009. And it did.

What it takes is patience, perspective, and perseverance.

IN MEMORIAM: Carl Williams, who died April 17, was WBIR’s Anchor-Emeritus in tribute to his 37 years at the station. Sometime in the early Bruce Pearl era, the station broadcast a telethon that raised money for a worthy local cause. At one of the breaks during the telecast, Carl walked into the room and immediately earned a standing ovation from everyone present. The man had a presence. Carl Williams was “Straight from the Heart” long before that term ever entered the East Tennessee vernacular.

Beaver Creek Flotilla scheduled May 20



By Steve Williams

The Beaver Creek Flotilla is one of the positive things about Beaver Creek; with the negative side being the often flooding of Powell High’s baseball and softball fields.

The 6th annual Beaver Creek Flotilla is scheduled for Saturday, May 20 at 9:30 am and will be launched by the Beaver Creek Kayak Club.

The Flotilla will start at Powell High School and will take-out at Roy Arthur Stormwater Park on Harrell Road downstream in Karns. The float is expected to take about three hours from put-in to take-out. Grounds open at 7 am for kayak and canoe drop-off. There is no alternate date in case of a rainout.

Refreshments will be provided by multiple vendors at the take-out. Transportation for you and your kayak or canoe will be provided from the take-out back to Powell High.

A \$10 registration donation will guarantee you a spot in the flotilla, transportation, an event t-shirt and drink koozie, plus an amazing day of floating fun with Knox community friends. Previous flotillas have had over 400 participants of all ages.

Since 2013, Beaver Creek Kayak Club has been integral in the rehabilitation of Beaver Creek into Knox County’s signature recreational Water Trail. With clean up performed by Knox County Parks and Recreation Department crews, over 1,000 tons of stream-clogging wood, trash and debris have been removed from Beaver Creek.

District 4-4A baseball starts Wednesday

The District 4-4A



Rebels’ ring ceremony!

West High’s 2022 undefeated Rebels get their state football championship rings at a ceremony in the school auditorium on April 19.

baseball tournament starts Wednesday and will continue through Monday, May 8, with the finals at Hardin Valley Academy.

No. 5 seed William Blount will play at No. 4 seed Maryville Wednesday at 6, while No. 3 seed Farragut will host No. 6 seed Heritage at 6:30.

Top seed HVA and No. 2 seed Bearden got first-round byes and will play Thursday night.

Play continues Friday and Saturday, with the finals slated for Monday, May 8, at Hardin Valley.

Morrison closing in on state record

Farragut softball slugger Elsa Morrison belted three home runs in a 15-5 win over Grace Christian Academy Tuesday, April 25, raising her season total to 19.

Morrison went 3 for 3 in the game and knocked in five runs. She was intentionally walked two times.

The 5-11 catcher is a transfer from Indiana and only a sophomore.

Ladd is new Central golf coach

New Central High golf coach Luke Ladd was scheduled to meet returning players Friday after school.

Ladd played golf at Farragut High and Austin Peay State.

Smokies hope to continue School Day games

Tennessee Smokies played a School Day game at Birmingham last week and when this reporter contacted the Smokies’ office that afternoon to find out when the Knox County School Day game would be held at Smokies Stadium this season the answer was there would not be one.

For around 20 years Knox County fourth and fifth graders got to attend a School Day game at the ball park in connection with the DARE games and Health and Safety games, with the last one being held in 2019.

That event was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic and has not been held since then.

“It’s a difficult approval process through MLB and honestly our schedule has not lined up with the school systems the last few years,” said Chris Allen, the Tennessee Smokies President COO. “However, yes we would like to bring them back and I am sure we will.”

When asked when he thought the Knox County School Day games would resume, Allen replied: “It really depends on our schedule, which we will not know until the fall.”

Carter’s Wilson would take Vols over all others

An open letter to Coach Heupel

I’m a longtime sports writer in this area and fan of the Tennessee Vols and I want to share some information with you about Chandler Wilson, who was the starting quarterback at Carter High in the Strawberry Plains community of East Knox County the past four years.

I’ve known his grandfather, Bobby Stanton, for many years and asked him about Chandler’s future in football last week. Bobby, by the way, was a punter for UT back in the day, but got hurt and transferred to Carson-Newman, where he finished up.

Chandler has grown up in a one-parent home with his younger sisters Jenna and Wrenly. His mother, Valerie, is Bobby’s daughter and Bobby has been like a father to Chandler over the years.

Chandler, who is 6-foot and 200 pounds, had an outstanding prep career, passing for 8,182 yards and 81 touchdowns for the Hornets, who played in Class 4A. He also ran for 988 yards and 22 TDs in Coach Justin Pressley’s wide-open offense and Pressley gave him the freedom to run it on his own the last two seasons.

Bobby told me he expected his grandson was about to commit to Tusculum University, but wanted me to get that information from Chandler. He said UT had twice shown interest in Chandler and the second time asked for his



Carter quarterback Chandler Wilson looks for a receiver during his impressive prep career. In his senior season in 2022, he passed for 2,958 yards and 32 touchdowns.

transcript and highlight film, but hadn’t gotten back in touch with him. He also said time was nearing for Class of 2023 prospects to commit.

Bobby gave me his grandson’s phone number and I called Chandler the next day. I typed out a part of our conversation (below) and I think you would be interested in it:

Chandler: “As of right now I’m mostly leaning toward committing to playing football at Tusculum in the next few days.”

Me: “I think Coach Heupel is a pretty smart guy and a good football coach and he strikes me as the type of coach that would consider bringing you in to the quarterback room at UT as a walk-on, with your credentials as a quarterback in high school, and not only that, Bobby told me you have outstanding grades. He said you had a 4.3 GPA and a 30-plus on the ACT.”

Chandler: “I don’t like to brag on myself much, but I do pretty well in school. The 4.3 GPA is correct. My ACT is 29.”

Me: “Put in words what it would mean for you to go to UT.”

Chandler: “For me, I just think back to the little guy, the little Chandler that was running around wearing UT shirts all the time and going to games and looking up to UT players. That would be a dream come true for me to put myself in those shoes and just be a part of the Vols. But if that opportunity is not on the table, I’ve got to seize other opportunities.”

Me: “Are you also saying that, if you had your choice right now, you would choose to go to UT as a walk-on rather than go to any other school on a scholarship?”

Chandler: “Yes, it was how I was raised. I was brought up on the Vols and the University of Tennessee, so I would put them first, if there was an option.”

Coach Heupel, it’s my understanding that Chandler can go to UT free because of his grades, so it would be like having a fourth quarterback for free. And who knows what’s going to happen in the future injury-wise?

He’s also a local player who would just love to wear the orange and a player who had a lot of success as a high school quarterback.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

And Chandler, best wishes to you wherever you end up.

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The Morgan Wallen No-Show

By Mark Nagi

Loyal readers of my columns/articles know that this is not typically a space for entertainment reviews. Here, we talk sports. Lots of East Tennessee related sports, some national sports, but the main takeaway is that I'm writing about sports 99.9% of the time.

Well, here is the 0.1%. A week ago, I took my oldest daughter on a college visit to Ole Miss. As part of the trip, we made plans to attend the Morgan Wallen concert, which was taking place at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium in Oxford. This was a birthday present for my kid, and a great example of my "experiences over possessions" philosophy of life that I will shout from the mountain-top for all to hear.

Morgan Wallen, of course, is a local guy. Went to Gibbs HS, sings about East Tennessee in more than a couple of his songs. Throw in Central HS grad Kelsey Ballerini and the Knoxville area has a 1-2 punch of current country music artists that takes a back seat to few outside of Nashville.

I'm not a huge fan of Wallen's. At 50 years old I'm not exactly his target audience. But my daughter was fired up, so that made me happy. I listened to his music for a couple of

weeks so that I wouldn't be clueless during the show.

I bought two tickets on Vivid Seats, cringing all the while at the exorbitant fees we are stuck paying now. We jumped in the Camry, drove 6 hours to the hotel in New Albany, Mississippi, and then another 45 minutes to Oxford.

The mood was fun with tens of thousands making the trek, most from Oxford but more than a few like us from hundreds of miles away. I saw a decent amount of Orange too, with Wallen's Knoxville roots on full display in the crowd.

We stood in line for about 30 minutes to buy an overpriced t-shirt, missing the opening act, a guy named Nate Smith. The second act was a guy named Ernest, and while watching I couldn't stop thinking about whether he goes to Camp or Jail.

The third opening act was a guy named "Hardy." I had no idea who he was or why he was screaming so much. But more people in the crowd did know him, singing along to whatever song he was singing.

Now, three opening acts is a lot. This wasn't Bonnaroo. And Hardy seemed to be on the stage a long time, longer than I remember opening acts performing. After he ended, we hit the concessions and lengthy bathroom lines...

and still no Morgan Wallen.

The temperatures were dropping, and many fans used the opportunity to stock up on alcohol during the wait.

Finally, some 3+ hours after the first notes of the night were struck, a random guy walked onto the stage and said that the show was canceled because Wallen had lost his voice.

There was stunned silence from the tens of thousands in attendance. The man said that people needed to go to the exits and depart safely. No one moved, thinking this was a joke or part of the show. My daughter gave me a look that I can only translate to mean, "What?"

So, we left, walked the half mile back to the car and drove 45 minutes back to the hotel.

For editing purposes, I won't go into extensive detail about the expletives flying from the crowd but believe me it was not a

pleasant reaction.

Wallen put out a statement, "After last night's show I started losing my voice, so I spent the day resting up, taking to my doctor, and working through my vocal exercises trying to get better. I really thought I'd be able to take the stage and it kills me to deliver this so close to stage time, but my voice is shot and I'm unable to sing. All tickets will be refunded at point of purchase. I am so sorry. I promise you guys I tried everything I could."

That apology did nothing to tone down the reactions from his fans. Rumors about Wallen's condition posted immediately, that the real reason he didn't perform was because he was inebriated. One security guard said that Wallen had to be transported to the hospital. There has been no confirmation of those allegations.

Wallen is no stranger to controversy. In 2020 he was arrested for public

intoxication and disorderly conduct after he was kicked out of a Nashville bar. In 2021, Wallen was videotaped outside a home, also in Nashville, yelling profanities and making a racial slur. He apologized but was suspended by his record label and had his music pulled by radio stations and streaming services. But he worked on his image and is now one of country music's most popular acts.

I don't know the true story, and we probably never will, but most of this doesn't pass the smell test. If in fact his voice was shot, why open the doors? Those 3+ hours weren't going to make a difference. Instead, the merchandise tents were depleted, the concession stands packed, and fans continued to get their wallets gouged. We see this in Major League Baseball often, when teams open the doors so that they can sell souvenirs and hot dogs

all while knowing the game will probably get rained out.

Fans are always the ones that pay the price, literally and figuratively.

I did get my full ticket costs refunded, but there was still the price of gas, hotel and parking. Plus, if the doors never opened, I certainly wouldn't have plopped down \$50 for a t-shirt for my daughter, nor paid \$7 for a soda, etc. All in all, that trip ends up costing me hundreds more dollars and I'll never receive restitution. And approximately 60,000 patrons have similar stories. One fan named Brandi Burcham has even filed a class action suit, accusing Wallen of breach of contract and negligence.

Morgan Wallen will turn 30 in a couple of weeks and might have a long career ahead of him, but treating fans in this manner is a pretty surefire way to have them find another singer to stream.

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