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Farragut celebrates Independence Day with annual parade

The Town of Farragut celebrated America's 247th birthday Tuesday with its annual parade, an Independence Day tradition in West Knox County.



By Ken Lay

The Town of Farragut celebrated America's 247th birthday Tuesday morning with its annual Fourth of July Parade.

The parade began under overcast skies but that didn't dampen the celebration as local politicians, candidates and business representatives marched the streets of Downtown Farragut, along with area students, robotics teams, bands and color

guards.

Marchers along the parade route handed out candy and various souvenirs as spectators lined the curbs and sidewalks.

The 2023 Grand Marshal was no stranger to local high school sports fans as Farragut High School's longtime head football coach Eddie Courtney was tapped to represent the town's Independence Day celebration that was preceded by the Farragut Freedom Run and was nearly

one-and-a-half hours in length.

Among the political office holders to appear at the festive event were Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, U.S. Representative Tim Burchett and state representative Jason Zachary.

Courtney, a state championship winning football coach, said that it was an honor to be the parade's grand marshal in 2023.

"What an honor for such a special day," Courtney said. "We

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KFD Hosts Open House at Station 11



On Friday afternoon parents brought their children to the Open House at Fire Station 11 on Whittle Springs Road to tour the station and climb aboard the fire engine. Above, Assistant Fire Chief Carla Jones helps children try on kid's fireman helmets. Mayor Indya Kincannon and Fire Chief Stan Sharp came to visit and everyone had a great afternoon. Representatives of Knox 911 and UT Medical Center had tables with mementos. The next Open House will be at Station 5, 419 Arthur Street, on Friday, Aug. 11. - Mike Steely

New mental health court community committee to meet today

By Mike Steely

Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Mental Health Court Advisory Board's Community Coordinating Committee meets for the first time today at 2 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building. The committee is to help the board navigate, research, identify and provide information for public awareness of mental health, resources and programs in the community.

The nominees will hear from Knox County IT on teams and SharePoint information from Peyton Slinger, web services specialist. The first meeting is an in-person meeting

and future meetings, according to Kasey Stone, mental health court coordinator, will be held online in a Zoom format to get as many people involved as possible. She noted that the initial membership of the committee may grow as needed.

The next monthly meeting is set for August 8.

Invited to serve on the Community Coordinating Committee at Monday's first meeting are:

- Mental Health Court representatives: Kasey Stone, court coordinator; Mary O'Neill, court case manager; and Cheryl Daugherty, detention facility nurse practitioner.

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Programs in the Park, Axle Logistics property and Trane agreement on commission agenda

By Mike Steely

Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Commission work session agenda is a hodgepodge of requests, resolutions, and honors to citizens. The meeting starts at 5 p.m. in the main assembly room of the City-County Building.

Most of the items will probably go on the consent calendar and be passed without public reading with one vote. The chair or members may place items on that list or pull items from that list to discuss. Most of the discussed items will move on to the regular commission meeting next Monday.

New Parks and Rec program

One of the more interesting agenda items is the authorization and acceptance of "Programs in the Park." The new program offers a process for the use of Knox County parks and greenways by a variety of commercial and non-profit groups including health and fitness providers, dog trainers, yoga instructors and other outdoor professional service providers.

The City of Knoxville already has such a program with similar language including its policy and procedures for events

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Mayoral candidates asked about possible future city-county department mergers

By Mike Steely

Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com

The election and planning commissions, the Stadium Authority, and the Emergency Communications Board are combinations of Knox County and City of Knoxville functions and departments. Now there is a developing discussion about possibly creating a county and city parks department and eventually a county-wide fire department.

The Focus gave the five candidates for Knoxville Mayor this example

and asked: "Should some city and county programs or departments be combined?" Their answers are listed in the order received.

JEFF TALMAN: My view is that community leaders bear the burden of continually seeking efficiencies everywhere they can be found, including but not limited to the possibility of merging City/County functions/departments. I have confidence that either the City of Knoxville or Knox County would manage such a merger in a responsible way and that they

would be accountable to their new constituents.

R. C. LAWHORN: By adding a park department, what are we going to get that we don't already have other than a bigger government and more salaries? As for combining the fire department, I would support that if it meant that we are saving money by combining them to a County-Wide Fire Department. In order to support it I would need to appoint the appropriate people to look into the cost to ensure that we are

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Sutherland Avenue to see an active shooter exercise on Wednesday

By Mike Steely

Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com

Residents and businesses along part of Sutherland Avenue are being notified and warned of a University of Tennessee "Active Shooter Full-Scale Exercise" from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 12.

A letter from Ian A. Sinclair of UT's Office of

Emergency Management said that the exercise will involve the Knoxville Police and Fire Departments and UT Police at the Sutherland Avenue Intramural Field Complex at 3620 Sutherland Avenue. The activity would last beyond 4 p.m. for the cleanup of the field. "This communication will prevent any unnecessary alarm or undue

inconvenience," Sinclair said in letters to those residents in the area. He said the event will include some response by emergency personnel and the use of "simulated gunshots."

"Exercises like this allow us to work toward the highest level of preparedness and safety reasonably achievable and, moreover, they work toward an overall

well-being of our community," Sinclair wrote to the residents.

"We fully expect all the activities will be confined to within the boundaries of the Intramural Field Complex," he said.

Anyone with questions or concerns is asked to contact the Office of Emergency Management at (865) 974-9347.

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Elvis And I Sound Great Together

From a distance



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

Several months ago, the book I wrote about my career, "From Batboy to Congressman - Thirty Years in the U.S. House," was one of the books featured in the Southern Festival of Books at the State Capitol in Nashville.

At a dinner in honor of all the authors, we had been asked in advance to send in our answers to several unusual or humorous questions. The answers were to be shown on a big screen to use as "icebreakers" for conversation with dinner guests. One of the questions was "Who is your favorite character from literature?" and I responded that mine was Rumpole, the criminal lawyer from the

Rumpole of the Bailey books and TV series on PBS. If they had asked my favorite TV character of all time, it would definitely have been Barney Fife of the Andy Griffith Show. My late wife used to tell people that I did not like change or modern fads and that I still lived in Andy of Mayberry days. Thus, I busted out laughing one day several years ago when I saw that I had the same birthday (July 21) as Don Knotts, although he was a few years older. I guessed that my wife had been right about me living in the 50s.

Anyway, at the festival dinner, I got the biggest response to my answer to the question, "What is something no one knows about you?". I answered that "My voice meshes perfectly with Elvis Presley when I'm driving down the interstate." My son John once told one of his friends that he had learned all the Elvis songs by listening to tapes or CDs on our long drives to Florida.

I once came in third place in a talent show at

Eastminster Presbyterian Church doing an Elvis impersonation. I came in third behind my son John and Matt Kinsey, who were five years old, singing "Take Me Out To The Ballgame," and Clarence Roach and his talking dog. My wife said I came in third only because she was one of the judges and she didn't want to embarrass the family.

I told this story one of the two times I was interviewed by the late DJ George Klein on the Elvis Channel on XM Radio. Klein went to high school with Elvis and claimed to be his best friend. Each time I was on that channel, Mr. Klein asked me to pick out an Elvis song to close the program. I picked out Elvis's version of "My Way" the first time and "Tomorrow Never Comes" the second time.

In Congress, I was called Elvis's biggest fan, and I really am a fan - especially of his later years and his versions of "The Impossible Dream," "You'll Never Walk Alone," "Unchained Melody," "An American Trilog," "How

Great Thou Art," and many others. Japan at one time had a prime minister who was a big fan of Elvis, and President George W. Bush brought him to Memphis to see Graceland. Later during that trip we were at the Rendezvous Restaurant and the prime minister and I sang "What Now, My Love" with the band.

At my son, Zane's, wedding party, I got all the groomsmen to sing "Let It Be Me" along with the Elvis version. You can't go wrong with Elvis as your backup singer. I introduced the performance as a song by a group soon to be famous - or infamous - Zane Duncan and The Groomsmen, with Zane as the lead singer. His bride, Hallie, loved it.

I love music and sang for about three years with a Congressional quartet led by Rep. Collin Peterson, a Democrat from Minnesota. Collin played the guitar and was really good and had toured a little with Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Porter Wagoner.

Our group sang once on the Grand Ole Opry. The News-Sentinel ran a nice article about that and I told the reporter, "I don't sing well, but I sing enthusiastically!" We also sang at the opening of the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame at Renfro Valley with the governor of Kentucky and a big crowd present.

This was all many years ago. We sang many places, but finally our schedules just were too busy with much more important things. However, Collin and I did one last brief performance in a show in Washington, D.C., in 2018, my last year in Congress. The show was by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame from Cleveland, and we sang Roy Orbison's song "Pretty Woman" and "You Are My Sunshine." which was always a crowd favorite.

In our quartet, we usually sang "Silver Wings" (the song we sang on The Opry), "Act Naturally," "Welcome To My World," "You Are My Sunshine," and one other I have forgotten at the moment.

People have several times

over the years asked me what part did I sing. I would always tell them "Backup - way back," similar to the Andy Griffith Show episode in which they told Barney several times to sing softer so that eventually he was just moving his lips so as not to mess up the rest of the choir.

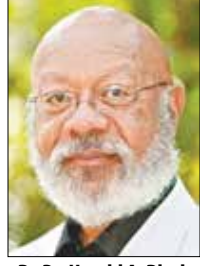
One of the Capitol Hill newspapers used to ask people, "If you had to give up TV or music, which would it be?" For me, it would have to be TV. Music has been a very big part of my life - both for enjoyment and for inspiration.

During my first term in Congress, the D.C. newspaper Roll Call asked me, "If there was ever a statue of you in the Capitol, where would it be and what would it say?" I said it would probably be in the basement, and it would say "Lucky To Be Here!"

As in any job, some days were more pleasant than others, but there was never one day in my 30 years in Congress that I was not grateful for my job.

No more race-based admissions

I found it interesting that the immediate reaction to the Supreme Court striking down affirmative action in university admissions was to render dire predictions regarding student body diversity. It is as though all the pundits have forgotten that the group being discriminated against was a historically oppressed minority - Asian Americans.



By Dr. Harold A. Black
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As I wrote on these pages in November 2022, the first admissions offices at "elite" universities were established in the early 1900s to curtail Jewish enrollment. It worked with the percentage of Jews at Harvard falling

by 50 percent as a result. Like today's Asian Americans, Jews historically invested in what economists call "human capital" - the investment in education. Given their history of persecution,

the Jews knew that when the next pogrom occurred it was a whole lot easier to grab the kids and family and run rather than try to grab the apartment building and run. So the Jews invested in human capital rather than physical capital. Much the same is true today, resulting in a disproportionate number of Nobel Prizes being awarded to Jews. One person has written "Jewish

cultural values based on family upbringing, dedication to education, self-motivation, persistence, resilience in the face of adversity, and just plain hard work" undoubtedly contribute to their success. It is likely that the same can be said about Asians. Ironically, the same is true for the segregated society from which I came in Atlanta during the Civil Rights era. I grew up in a totally segregated middle-class neighborhood made up of highly educated two-parent households. All of us went to college and to my knowledge all of us graduated. Among my high school classmates are doctors, lawyers, a hedge fund manager, teachers, businesspeople and other professionals. Of the kids growing

up with me only three went to predominately white institutions. The rest went to HBCUs. I believe that most of the kids in my neighborhood would have been admitted under affirmative action to many of the elite universities and most would fare well once admitted.

However, I am not so certain if most would be admitted if the process were colorblind. Why? Many of the "elite" universities reject over 95% of all applicants. One highly ranked public university said that it could fill its freshman class with only students with GPAs of 4.0 and higher and still would have to reject thousands more who had the same grade point average. There are those who say that standardized tests should be excluded from admissions criteria because such tests - outside of math - are culture bound. However, all GPAs are not created equal because all high schools do not provide the exact same education.

Surely a 4.0 in a Chicago public school does not equal that of a 4.0 from an elite private school. Recall that in Chicago precious few minority students can read, write or do arithmetic at grade level.

Admissions offices at universities exist for the sole purpose of discriminating among applicants for admission. If that were not true then there would be no reason to have such offices. Looking at the admissions requirements at Harvard, the average admitted student has a GPA of 4.18 and an SAT score of 1520 (1600 is "perfect"). There are other requirements as well such as submitting a written essay and listing extra curriculum activities such as sports, clubs and civic involvement. Moreover, Harvard rejected Asians because they consistently scored lower on "personal quality" ratings - a purely subjective evaluation. I presume that the people making that judgment were

not Asians. However, any admission requirement is discriminatory, with race seemingly being the only one considered unconstitutional.

What can be done? When I was in graduate school, one state obligated its universities to accept all in-state applicants with a certain minimum GPA. The flagship university in that state had a huge freshman class and did not have the resources to maintain that class size through all four years. It therefore had a stringent first year curriculum that required calculus and science designed to whittle down the class. It worked, with the sophomore class being almost half the size of the freshman class. I suggest establishing criteria for admissions that are race-neutral for a certain percent of the class - say 70% - and then admitting the remainder of the class via a lottery. But of course, the sports programs would be exempt.



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New mental health court committee

Cont. from page 1

- Pre-Trial Release representatives: Lieutenant Stoney Gentry and Laken Conley, pre-release coordinator.
- Probation representative: Lori Russell, PPO II, TN Dept. of Corrections.
- Knox County Probation representative: Jack Dennis, program manager.
- District Attorney General's Office representatives: Sam Lee, chief deputy district attorney general; and Justin Pruitt, assistant district attorney general.
- Public Defender's Community Law Office representatives: Eric Lutton, district public defender; and Megan Newman, assistant public defender.
- Private Defense representative: Jonathan Cooper, attorney at law.
- Knox County Health Department representative: Kevin Parton, senior director.
- Knox County Recovery & Veterans Treatment Courts representative: Ron Hanaver, director.
- Knox County CAC representatives: Misty Goodwin, social services director; and Marisa Moazen, VP, Policy & Strategic Partnerships.
- Volunteer Ministry Center representative: Gabrielle Cline, chief clinical services officer.
- Treatment Provider representatives: McNabb Center's Candace Allen, Sr. director of adult intensive mental health services; Cherokee Health System's Kate La Grange, regional director of behavioral health services; and Covenant Health Peninsula's Mark Potts, director of clinical health.



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

Housing Crisis For Whom?

For the better part of two years, building slowed during COVID. That caused a housing problem in this country. We hear a lot of rattling about a "housing crisis" inside the City of Knoxville especially. We'll hear more as the city election approaches.

We need to define just exactly what we mean when we are talking about a "housing crisis." There seems to be some vague notion that the City of Knoxville is somehow morally obligated to provide housing for every person who wanders into our midst. So, if 200,000 people want to move and live in Knoxville, we must provide housing for them? The fact is we don't. The differences between Knox County and the City of Knoxville

prove this statement. Knox County has lived off of natural growth and has encouraged responsible development and business. It's been 25 years since Knox County's property taxes have been raised, and keep in mind, the City of Knoxville already annexed virtually every big sales tax-producing area inside the county. The county operates the school system (the City went out of the school business), the Health Department, libraries, etc. Now, the City increases taxes "every four years" according to one councilwoman. The City hasn't encouraged natural growth or been as friendly to business and manages to spend more than it has, raising taxes constantly. Knox County is well managed while the City of Knoxville, during the last 12 years, has been about tax and spend.

First of all, to do what some of the City poohbahs want, we would have to literally tear down existing neighborhoods and replace them with high-rise apartments. Of course, there are several candidates running in this year's election who, truth be told, have a vision of Knoxville where everyone walks everywhere or rides a bicycle, and everyone lives in cubicles. Except for them, naturally. And as is always the case with the Left, this is another

example of "For Thee, But Not for Me." Many of those who espouse those views live in a single-family home; in some cases, those candidates and influencers live alone in single-family homes.

The cost to rebuild Knoxville to fit their vision would be astronomical and every aspect of the local infrastructure would become instantly outdated. Taxes would skyrocket (even more) and they have been raised in the City of Knoxville regularly. Those who could leave probably would.

"Affordable housing" is a reasonable-sounding phrase, but let's pare it down to what that means. It's housing subsidized by the taxpayers for people who aren't paying their fair share of that tax burden. It's NOT taxing the rich to pay the way of the poor, it's taxing the dickens out of the lower and middle class to pay the way of a great many folks who aren't working. That raises yet another question. If 100,000 or 200,000 people show up on the doorstep of the City of Knoxville, where are they going to work? Where are the jobs they intend to fill?

Let's also pare down what "affordable housing" DOESN'T mean. It doesn't mean rent controls and keeping things affordable for middle-income or working-class families.

That much was clear when Indya Kincannon and the city council raised property taxes by 40% in the middle of the worst inflation this country has seen for more than 40 years. **Raising property taxes also raises mortgages and rents for working people. It is a fact and is indisputable.**

So, while Kincannon and the city council try and hide behind the skirt of "affordable housing" they are directly responsible for making homes and apartments less affordable for working families.

Nor has the City of Knoxville used the properties that sit and decay that it already owns. Those same sites could be used to build more housing if needed. Not everyone can live in a particular city or location. Suburban counties in this country have boomed precisely because failed cities have caused people to flee to the suburbs to avoid the high crime, high taxes, and flawed policies imposed by the same kind of mismanagement which raises mortgages and rents in the name of affordable housing in a time of crippling inflation. That same lack of good management skills made things worse, not better. That's how so many once-great cities in America became much less attractive to live in.

There are quite a few suburban counties touching Knox County. Folks can live in Jefferson, Union, Sevier, Loudon, Anderson and Blount counties and work in Knox County. As is usually the case, one has to accept the premise of an misguided notion for one of the Left's ideas to have any basis at all, although it rarely has any credibility. No, Knoxville doesn't have to provide an apartment for anyone who shows up on our doorstep.

Most Knoxvilleians have no idea the notion is even being discussed and likely we will be lucky to see 10% of the electorate bother to vote in the city elections. Just how anyone can claim that is a mandate of anything is beyond me.

Look for candidates who will be careful with your tax dollars and have a responsible vision for the future. Under the current vision advocated by the present establishment of the City, it is landlords and developers who will profit off the hard work and taxes paid by working-class families and the middle-class folks.

Where We Get Our News

Eight in ten Americans say they get their news through a smartphone, computer or tablet most of the time. That's 86% of the

people. That represents a far higher figure than those who get their news from TV. Still, 68% of people say they get "some" news from the television occasionally. Digital devices have become the face of delivering news to Americans, at least according to a study by the Pew Research Center. Most newspapers, including The Focus, can be read online. The days when people sat on the couch and watched the evening news are becoming fewer and fewer.



Congratulations to Amy and Buddy!

The Knoxville Focus family is glad to report Amy and Buddy Burkhardt have tied the knot. We wish to congratulate the bride and the groom. It is our wish that every day your decision to get married will be reinforced by greater love and understanding. We wish you all the happiness in the world.

Programs in the Park, Axle Logistics property and Trane agreement on commission agenda

Continued from page 1
at city parks.

A property swap

An agreement with Axle Logistics is on the agenda that involves swapping the current sheriff's impound lot for property on Wheeler Street. Axle will buy the Wheeler site, commonly known as the Cell Tower Site according to Finance Director Chris Caldwell. Then the county would swap the current impound lot just east of 911 headquarters.

Caldwell said the county plans to put \$1.4 million into constructing the buildings and structures needed on the Wheeler Street site. The idea is to work with Axle who will create employee parking and move the sheriff's impound site. Caldwell said the funds are not in the budget but will be designated later this year.

In other parking lot agenda news, the commission may vote on the county and Visit Knoxville sharing parking spaces in Fritts Lot on

Summit Hill Drive at the UT Towers.

AC and Heating for county buildings

The commission may also vote on a contract with Trane U.S. Inc. for energy savings and updates for several facilities including the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, libraries, parks and recreation properties, the sheriff's office and the Public Building Authority.

Honors and appointments

Commissioner Rhonda Lee may honor Autry O.V. "Pete" DeBusk for his efforts to promote volunteerism, jobs, education and giving back to the community. Lee and Kim Frazier want to honor Laura Bailey for her volunteerism, support, love and work in the Powell Community.

Someone may be appointed to replace Ray Jenkins, who retired as Judicial Magistrate of Knox County Seat A. Janis Terpeny resigned

from the Tennessee Technology Corridor Development Authority and an unknown person may be appointed to that position by Mayor Glenn Jacobs. Two other appointments may also be named to that agency.

What is a Swimming Pool? and other business

The commission may also agree to a lease agreement between the county and the Community and Senior Center in Corryton for the use of the 9391 Davis Drive facility.

The commissioners are also being asked by the planning commission to revise the county code on First Reading to classify any hot tub or pool installation as a "Swimming Pool" if the water is more than 24 inches deep.

A resolution involving BlueCross and Blue Shield is on the agenda to administer employee medical insurance benefits; Epiphany Rx, LLC may get approval to administer employee pharmacy benefits.



Eddie Courtney greets the crowd at the annual Town of Farragut Fourth of July Parade Tuesday. Courtney, Farragut High School's longtime head football coach, was Grand Marshal of the 2023 parade.

Farragut celebrates Independence Day

Conf. from page 1
guard also participated in the parade and instructor C.J. McCrory said that she and her students enjoyed helping Farragut celebrate Independence Day.

"The parade was amazing," she said. "We had such a wonderful time."



Ad space donated by The Knoxville Focus.

Young-Williams Animal Center

Hi, I'm **TOES!** I am a 4-year-old male Hound mix that is full of love. I have never met a stranger and greet everyone with adoration. My affectionate nature and eagerness to please make me the perfect companion for anyone seeking a loyal and loving best friend. I love constantly exploring and sniffing out all the exciting things around me. When it comes to making friends with other dogs, I prefer a slow introduction but will warm up to being the life of the doggy party. Come meet me and other adoptable animals at Young-Williams Animal Center, 3201 Division St.



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Hubert Smith, Pamela Canalla Treacy, Professor Dr. Bruce Wheeler and Robert (Bob) Booker attended the History Project Luncheon.

Local history supporters honor Fred Moffatt in History Project Luncheon

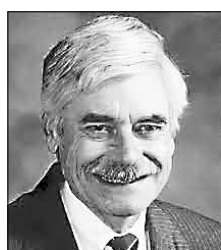
By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Professor Frederick Moffatt was honored recently during the 7th Annual Knoxville History Project Luncheon at the Foundry in World's Fair Park. Moffatt has been documenting the cultural history of the area and has written articles on art history and texts for exhibits at the Knoxville Museum of Art. His recent books include "The Life, Art, and Times of Joseph Delaney" and "Paintbrush for Hire: The Travels of James and Emma Cameron."

Past honorees of the History Project include Steve Cotham, Dr. Charles and Terry Faulkner, Dr. Jim Tumblin, Robert Booker, Professor Bruce Wheeler and Bradley Reeves, and Louisa Trott.

The luncheon is an annual fundraiser for the Knoxville History Project and generates more than \$30,000 toward its budget.

KHP speakers at the event included Paul James, director of publications and



Professor Frederick Moffatt

development; Jack Neely, executive director; Professor Moffatt; and Dationa Carter Mitchell, board president.

The Board of Directors includes Linda Billman, Dan Brown, Eric Dawson, Dr. Warren Dockter, Charles Fels, Scott Fugate, Duane Grieve, Mark Heinz, Dasha Lundy, Rosa Mar, Dationa Carter Mitchell, Nicki Russler, Professor Pat Rutenberg, Erin Slocum, Georgiana Vines and Finbarr Saunders.

Affordable housing, zonings and buses on city agenda

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Housing and housing-related issues seem to be the majority of the Knoxville City Council's business when it meets Tuesday evening.

The council will vote on purchasing — by condemnation if needed — a home located at 205 Spruce Street. The old home, believed to be owned by the late Warren E. Hodge, would be bought for \$77,800 and is recommended by the Abandoned, Blighted and Vacant Properties Committee.

Zachary Tetley and Nexus Partners LLC are asking for a zoning change from RN-2 Single Family Residential to RN-4 General Residential Neighborhood for lots at 1909 and 1915 Hoitt Avenue.

Gordon Smith is asking to change 3705 Valley View Drive from RN-1 Single Family to RN-3 General Residential Neighborhood. He's also asking to rezone 1902 Forest Avenue from Office to RN-6 Multifamily Residential.

Developer Victor Jernigan is asking for a Sector Plan Change and a zoning change for property at 522 and 524 Victory Street. He's asking to change from RN-4 General Residential Neighborhood to C-G-2 General Commercial.

Franco Irakoze is before the council to request rezoning a lot on Sterchi Street from I-G General Commercial to I-MU Industrial Mixed Use and David Buckner wants the council to approve a zoning change at 112 Shipman Drive from RN-4

Residential to an Office designation. Portions of two city streets, Eakers Road and Riverside Drive, may be closed and revert to current property owners.

Three Knoxville Transit matters are on the agenda. One is seeking state and federal funds of \$1.5 million to purchase electric buses and charging stations with a city match of \$375,000. The second resolution seeks federal and state funds of \$1.04 million in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act-Highway Infrastructure Programs funds with a \$261,231 match and the third one asks for federal and state grants of \$2.3 million from the Local Surface Transportation Block Grant with a local match of \$582,769.

The city may enter into an agreement with the National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform to get technical assistance and training for Group Violence Resolution Strategies.

New sidewalks along North Broadway could be funded in an application to the state's Multimodal Access Grants for \$1.1 million with a city match of \$125,000.

Cynthia Deitle and Saadia Williams may be named to the Police Advisory and Review Committee. The council may also discuss nonconforming lots to provide additional flexibility in limited situations in a request from the planning commission and might give \$3,000 to Canvas Can Do Miracles to support summer arts programming for youth.

Mayoral candidates asked about possible future city-county mergers

Cont. from page 1

saving money. Otherwise, what are we getting other than a bigger budget?

INDYA KINCANNON:

Access to nature and recreation is fundamental to our health and prosperity. In a second term, I will continue to invest in our beloved parks. I talk to Knoxville residents all the time, and not a single person has suggested a merger between city and county parks. A city-county parks merger is not something I'll be exploring in a second term.

The City of Knoxville maintains over 90 parks across the City. We have 10 community centers that operate free after school programs and very affordable summer camps. We operate and staff pools, ball fields, and recreation programs for kids through seniors. Multi-million dollar improvements are in the works at Morningside Park, Urban Wilderness Gateway Park, Lakeshore

Park, to name a few.

Best of all, most Knoxville residents are within a 10-minute walk of a city park, which is pretty amazing accessibility. I'm very proud of our parks and know Knoxville residents consider parks essential to our quality of life.

CONSTANCE EVERY:

Reports show that there is not enough data to prove one way or the other that city-county functions are effective. However, depending on the department, there is a range of opinions of residents that have been both positive or negative. For example, consolidated fire departments have received a favorable rating from most of its residents compared to a much lower percentage of finding services that are "good" in smaller city jurisdictions, according to a 2021 report from the University of Tennessee and Municipal Technical Advisory Service.

As mayor, I believe it takes special

consideration and careful study to determine how to proceed with departmental consolidation. With the possibility of consolidation of the Parks and Recreation as well as the fire department, I would want to know what has already been done to determine paths forward. Ultimately, I am able to be fiscally responsible and maintain overall Public Benefit; as it should not come at the cost of delivering essential services such as the Fire Department. As it concerns the Park and Recreation, I have been in conversations with employees and they have expressed we can do better to maximize the resources that are already available and implement strategies that better support accessibility/outreach. I have heard from some insiders there is little attention given by the current administration towards many park and recreation programs. As mayor, I would want to put a focus

on how to best utilize this department as it is vital to our community. I see how parks and recreation can play a great role in violence interruption and youth enrichment. This is just one example of what

could be done.

Overall, my campaign has a vision of delivering solutions directed by the People such as Light Rail to increase efficiency and green energy initiatives that would absolutely need

to be in partnership with the county and the region. These sorts of projects are necessary to further propel us to be a rapidly growing, 21st Century city and metropolitan area.

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The Doctor is in
a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Civil War 2.0

It is time to stand up, step up and speak up; we have a country to save. General Michael T. Flynn

What a relief that "pride" month is over. I do not celebrate the exhibitionists and activists who have unfortunately become the face of the gay community. You have a right to define yourself in private, but there is nothing prideful about cavorting in the public square, especially in front of children. The recent marchers in NYC who chanted, "We're here, we're queer and we're coming for your children," was the last straw for me. I say, "Hell no!" to these dysfunctional people and the NYTimes and the coven of The View that defended them.

The transgender movement has furthered political division, caused confusion in language, is erasing women's rights (example: sports and public bathrooms) and is targeting youth with sexual mis-education (twerving drag

queen shows in schools and libraries). It has even led to derangement of the medical community promoting gender reassignment surgery and medications for children.

I am a man, but the trans movement has provoked revulsion and the "mama bear" in me. And let me be perfectly clear: heterosexual or homosexual persons are not the problem. The perverted sexual zombies and their supporters, who demand that we accept and celebrate their gender dysphoria, are the problem.

I began this essay on the July 4th weekend, thankful for those who served and are still serving for our freedom. Apparently, I am among the 73% of Baby Boomers who are proud of our country. Unfortunately, only 16% of Gen Zs are proud to be an American. One can see what leftist mis-education in schools, media and edgy bohemian culture is accomplishing. Again, I pledge to pick up the American flag which

has been hurled to the ground by leftists.

Among historians, there remains a great debate. Do great leaders bring about history or does history cause great leaders to arise? I'm reading Jon Meacham's book "And There Was Light, Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle." I find it more compelling than Gore Vidal's novelized "Lincoln." But more importantly, President Lincoln's story and the crucible of the American Civil War are again playing out in our current era.

I don't fancy myself prescient, but in 2010 I wrote an essay entitled "The Barely Civil War." And I have to admit that we were more respectful of each other and civil in our discourse then, than we are now. We are at war with each other.

There are stunning similarities between Lincoln and the American Civil War, and the civil war that is raging today between President Trump's populist MAGA movement and progressive Democrats and Washington elites. I am not trying to make the case that President Trump is comparable to President Lincoln or our verbal assaults on each other can be compared to armed conflict that killed 700,000 American soldiers. However, in reading about Lincoln in his era and America today, it is apparent that racism remains the flashpoint.

When our ancestors

came to America they found a sparsely populated, vast landscape. This contrasted sharply with heavily populated Europe, but scant land available for the common man. In addition to settlers, it was necessary to import labor to colonial America. This was done by indentured servitude, primarily in the more industrialized north, and slavery in the agrarian south and throughout the Caribbean islands.

If you have never seen the movie "Amazing Grace" you must do so. It is the story of William Wilberforce, a member of the British parliament, who was instrumental in the abolishment of slavery in the British Empire in the 1830s. I was surprised to learn that the British abolished slavery gradually, and the owners of the 800,000 slaves were reimbursed, which was just completed in 2015! And there were no British reparations given to slaves.

Emancipation in the southern United States was deemed financially ruinous in the early 1800s, irrespective of the moral issues associated with the enslavement of human beings. By 1860 in the United States, almost 4 million persons (one in every eight) were slaves, and the vast majority were in the southern states. In no way am I attempting to excuse the repugnant practice of slavery. However, the attitudes in the early 1800s were different from my own

attitude and the majority of Americans today.

Perhaps it was necessary to fight a bloody Civil War and end the scourge of slavery in one fell swoop. The Constitutional "great compromise" regarding slavery enabled its passage by the states but did not end slavery. Nor was the 1820 Missouri Compromise successful at limiting the spread of slavery in the Louisiana Territory. Disturbingly, slave owners imagined expanding slavery to more and more states, and throughout the Caribbean. And the disastrous 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act made attempted separation of the northern and southern states inevitable.

Lincoln grew up as an abolitionist, but as president, his principal focus was keeping the Union together. Lincoln came to believe that the southern secessionists had become implacable enemies of the Union, just like the modern-day leftists have become implacable enemies of America. In the crucible of the Civil War, Lincoln came to the conclusion that the United States was doing penance for slavery and emancipation must come.

"Wokism" is our modern day equivalent of pre-Civil War slavery. This Marxist class warfare philosophy is most simply defined as "being alert to invisible injustices perpetrated against disempowered classes of people" (Vivek

Ramaswamy). As a result, "race" and victimhood are seen in everything. In fact, the term intersectionality holds that minority grievances intersect to oppose "patriarchal oppressors." One person talking to two others might claim victimhood in such a warped reality.

As I read Meacham's book I thought about President Trump. Like Trump, Lincoln was energized by public speaking and storytelling.

Both came to the presidency as warriors to save the Union, and both were reviled by half of the people. Both were Republicans and opposed destructive Democrats. Both opposed slavery, whether it be in the Confederacy or the modern "government plantation." Both were imperfect men who loved their country and sacrificed much to keep it together. Lincoln was assassinated. Trump is facing social, political, financial, and personal destruction, if not imprisonment. Like our country, both engaged in an existential struggle.

In 1863 the tide shifted with the fall of Vicksburg and the Union victory at Gettysburg. Perhaps the tide has turned in our war. I think so, but we cannot let up. Power must be taken away from confused and destructive people. It is time for Americans to choose sides and step up.

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

Scopes 'Monkey Trial' play set for this weekend in Dayton

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

Rhea County Courthouse where the historic trial took place, is a dramatization of the 1925 trial over the teaching of evolution in Tennessee schools.

That historic event pitted attorneys Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan against one another and is sponsored by the Rhea Heritage Preservation Foundation. Admission is \$20 but space is limited. You can contact admin@rheaheritage.com or call 423-680-9896. Tickets are available for the Friday and Saturday plays, but you may want to check available seating or reserve online.

Dayton is the county seat of Rhea County and nearby places of interest include the Cherokee Removal Park to the east side of the river in Birchwood, just off Highway 30. Watts Bar Lake and Dam is a good stopping point along Route 28 between Decatur and Spring City.

In two years the community plans to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the trial. The courthouse also features a museum about the trial, which tested Tennessee's law against the teaching of evolution in schools.

The small town has about 7,000 residents.



The La-Z-Boy manufacturing plant is located there as well as nearby Chickamauga Lake. Bryan College is located in Dayton and is named for William Jennings Bryan, who defended the anti-evolution law during the trial. He died there only five days after the trial.

Dayton has other events planned around the Scopes



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY
The historic Rhea County Courthouse, the original site of the Scopes Trial, still hosts the "Monkey Trial" each year and this year's reenactment play is set for July 14th and 15th.

Trial festival including a weekend of music, food, games and vendors. During the festival, you may also dig for fossils and minerals, sponsored by Core Academy of Science.

Continue on page 2

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Countdown to Christmas

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

The bright lights of the July 4th fireworks were barely dimming as "Christmas in July" was ramping up. This mid-year event is a visible reminder of how quickly the 2023 calendar year is moving on. As a youngster, I remember hearing the adults make comments about how fast time flies. They always added that "before you know it, Christmas will be here." But to me, it seemed like

Christmas took a long time to arrive.

Many television movie channels are running Christmas-themed movies during July, and some retail stores are advertising Christmas in July sales. But you may not want to bring out the garland and Christmas ornaments just yet. Before the official start of the holiday season, there are other important days to consider, such as the start of a new school year, Labor Day holiday, and lots of



Picture of **Ralphine and Wayne Major** a few years ago before a television interview at WJHL in Johnson City, Tennessee, promoting their first children's picture book, "Piddle Diddle's Lost Hat."

fall festivals. Enjoy every moment of every day. Happy Christmas in July!

Words of Faith: "Humble yourselves therefore

under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." 1 Peter 5:6-7 (KJV).

Different kind of summer

This summer has been different. I shouldn't call it summer because so far, we haven't had anything approaching a typical summer day. During this time of year, I've undertaken some major projects.



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

The jury is out on how they will prove successful.

Usually, I spend every afternoon and evening in our pool or sitting in a shaded area close to it. So far, the number of times I've breached the icy cold water can be counted on one hand. For some reason, the ability to just walk right in and let the cold water envelop me isn't so appealing. I'm looking for temperatures that are more around the area of bathwater.

Amy has complained that her office is cold. I used that office for years and agree that the space is usually cooler than any other place in the house. To remedy the problem, I bought rolls of pink insulation, climbed up a ladder and stuffed the pink stuff between the floor joists that also serve as the ceiling for the basement. The little wires that are supposed to hold the insulation in place work fine if they are placed in the right place in the right manner. I dropped fifty of them on the floor, and another large number of them fell from where I'd placed them. I hope that the insulation works after all this work.

Some of the deck boards have rotted or are becoming soggy. I replaced several of them last fall and thought that would be the end of the problem. This year, to my dismay, other boards are giving up the ghost, and I thought about replacing them. Then I made the decision to replace the floor and the nine steps that lead to the pool deck with Trex.

The process of installing composite decking looked simple enough.

I've watched half a dozen videos on YouTube and felt comfortable in taking on the project. Although the stuff isn't cheap, it will last for my remaining days on this earth. The spacers cost another fortune, but they help to maintain an even space between each board.

The worst part of the project and the one that has sapped all my energy is the destruction phase. DIY shows always make destroying existing things look so easy. My experience is that removing many of the screws from the boards is impossible. They are rusted so that the heads snap from the bodies, or they strip and make removal impossible. The neighbors have heard grunting and cursing from my backyard as I struggle with this demolition.

During the past week, I've managed to remove about ten boards and set six pieces of Trex. I'm getting better with the destruction part as I learned that taking a skill saw to the boards makes them easier with which to work. My twin brother and son have helped me, and I am optimistic that I can finish the floor this week. I'm not as confident about the steps. I have to cut new risers and treads. We'll see how it goes. Maybe I'll have a nice deck to sit on and watch the leaves fall in autumn.

My brother Jim has said that I need to realize my age and that I can no longer undertake such projects, especially since I don't necessarily know what to do. I agree and have decided this is my last big attempt at them. He also says I might finish the deck but die in the process. If that happens, I hope others will take the time to enjoy the fruits of my labors. Those projects won't be perfect, but the imperfections offer character.

What Is Considered Income When Calculating Child Support?

If you are not familiar with the concept of child support, let me give you a brief explanation. When parents are not married or residing together, child support is the amount paid from one parent of a child to another parent of a child to "support" and help raise the child and pay for expenses related to the child.

In Tennessee, there is a mathematical formula that has been developed through the "child support guidelines" that is designed to calculate what is needed to raise a child.

The child support guidelines can be daunting. They are 73 pages long!

However, there are only a few variables in the child support formula that we generally need to concern ourselves with, and one of the key variables is the income of the parties. If a party makes more money, they are going to potentially pay more child support, so figuring out someone's income is incredibly important to ensure the correct child support amount is obtained.

Child support is based on an individual's gross income, not net income. Rule 1240-02-04.04(3)(a) defines gross income as including, but not limited to: wages; salaries; commissions, fees and tips; income from self-employment; bonuses; overtime payments; severance pay; pensions or retirement plans;

interest income; dividend income; trust income; annuities; net capital gains; disability or retirement benefits; workers compensation benefits; unemployment benefits; judgments recovered for personal injuries; cash or liquid gifts; cash or liquid inheritance; prizes; lottery winnings; alimony from other persons.

In addition, individuals can have imputed income if the court finds someone is unemployed, but they have the ability to work and earn more money than they are currently making.

The courts will go after every dollar they can to make sure children are financially supported.

Jedidiah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knox County and surrounding counties. Visit attorney-knoxville.com for more information.



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

Scopes 'Monkey Trial'

Cont. from page 1
You can show off BB gun and archery skills, sponsored by Rhea County 4-H Shooting Teams (age restrictions apply) and play games provided by the Rhea County Community

Center. Tom Davis, vice president of the Rhea Heritage Preservation Foundation, told The Focus there will even be a corn-hole tournament.

You may also enjoy games, treats and stories

provided by the Clyde W. Roddy Public Library, catch a balloon animal created by Dan Gates or view craft demonstrations by a blacksmith, basket weaver, and wood carver and a display by the Walden's Ridge Quilting Club.

While traveling to Dayton you may want to also see the former Washington Ferry site, the Blythe's Ferry site at the Cherokee Removal Park, or the Meigs County

Courthouse in Decatur. Rhea County is named for Revolutionary War veteran John Rhea. Unlike most of East Tennessee Rhea County supported the Confederate cause in the American Civil War.

Along the way from Decatur to Dayton you might want to stop and visit the grave of Judge David Campbell, who was an early East Tennessee pioneer and is said to be buried next to his horse.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

COURT NOTICES

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: ALICIA ENGLAND AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN, OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE PETITION

IN RE: JOHNNIE GILL MORGAN, VERA GILL-HARVEY, JOYCE GILL HOWARD, KAREN GILL HUGHES, CAL GILL, MARK A GILL, DWIGHT EDWARD DAVIS, DONALD DEMETRIUS DAVIS, ERICA LATEICE HENDERSON AND CYNTHIA MARIE MITCHELL v ALICIA ENGLAND AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN THE

PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE PETITION

NO. 206934-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant ALICIA ENGLAND AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE PETITION, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon ALICIA ENGLAND AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE PETITION, it is ordered that said defendant, ALICIA ENGLAND AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE PETITION, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Barbara W Clark, an Attorney whose address is 2415 E Magnolia Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Richard B Armstrong, Jr at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division II 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 13 day of June, 2023.

J. Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: MEGAN HUFFAKER AND JORDAN SMITH IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF LEILAH VICTORIA ANNE HUFFAKER NO. 206556-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant MEGAN HUFFAKER AND JORDAN SMITH, a non-resident

of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon MEGAN HUFFAKER AND JORDAN SMITH, it is ordered that said defendant, MEGAN HUFFAKER AND JORDAN SMITH, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Chelsea Price, an Attorney whose address is 1522 Highland Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37918 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Richard B Armstrong, Jr at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division II 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 13 day of June 2023.

J. Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR GRAINGER COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Adam Greene,
Plaintiff,
v.
Misty Michelle Greene,
Defendant.

No. 2023-CH-39

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
In this cause, it appearing from the affidavit that the residence of the Defendant is unknown and cannot be ascertained upon diligent inquiry, such that ordinary service of process cannot be had upon him; it is therefore
ORDERED that publication of this order be made for four consecutive weeks in The Knoxville Focus, a newspaper published in Knox County, Tennessee, notifying the Defendant that she is required to answer and make defense to the Complaint in the office of the Chancery Court of Tennessee in Grainger County, located at Rutledge, within 30 days after the fourth weekly publication of this order and that, upon her failure so to do, the Complaint will be taken as admitted by him. Should the Defendant fail then

they shall be deemed to have received actual notice hereof and default may be taken against them at a hearing for judgment as prayed for in the complaint in the Chancery Court for Grainger County, Tennessee on the 14th day of November, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Grainger County Justice Center, Rutledge, Tennessee.

Entered this 20th day of June, 2023.

Hon. James H. Ripley

Approved for Entry:
Evan M. Newman, BPR# 035269

Attorney for Plaintiff
P. O. Box 6
Rutledge, Tennessee 37861
(865) 828-3111

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: MORGAN GORDON IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF AURORA OLIVIA JONES NO. 206505-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant MORGAN GORDON, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon MORGAN GORDON, it is ordered that said defendant, MORGAN GORDON, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Megan A Bodie, an Attorney whose address is 800 S Gay Street, Suite 1650, Knoxville, TN 37929 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Richard B Armstrong Jr. at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division II, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 23rd day of June, 2023.

J. Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

Mountain State Dynasty

John Kee of West Virginia

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

For forty years, one family dominated the politics of West Virginia's Fifth Congressional District. John Kee, a former state senator, was elected to the House of Representatives in the Democratic landslide of 1932, beating the Republican incumbent, Hugh Ike Shott. As his secretary (administrative assistant or chief of staff), Kee appointed his wife, Elizabeth. When Kee died in 1951, Elizabeth ran for and won her husband's seat in Congress in a special election and kept it until 1964 when she retired. Mrs. Kee appointed her son James as her own administrative assistant. When Jim Kee succeeded his mother in 1964, and apparently not one to buck a well-established family tradition, he appointed his daughter Kirsten as his chief of staff.

John Kee liked to explain he was of English descent and his forebears had been locksmiths, adding the spelling of his name came from an old English spelling of "Key." During his youth, John Kee had been in the oil business in Mexico but saw his properties confiscated by the government following a revolution. Kee went home to West Virginia as he was a fourth-generation West Virginian. Once back home, John Kee assumed the safer profession of corporation lawyer, an occupation that suited a man who possessed "an orderly and logical mind." Kee preferred the oftentimes complicated process of preparing a legal case to the actual trial inside the courtroom.

Of having his land, oil and business confiscated, Kee laughed. "That was the end of my career as an oilman. I stopped buying oil lands then and there." Until the Great Depression, West Virginia had been more of a Republican state, perhaps due to the fact it remains the only state in the nation to have broken off from an existing state. During the Civil War, West Virginia separated from Virginia, which may explain its early Republican leanings, having left the Democratic Party, which was the political preference of the Southern states. Democrats

could win an occasional race here and there, but most of the congressmen from the state were Republicans. Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal changed all that and West Virginia became a starkly dyed-in-the-wool Democratic state in most elections. Between 1958 and 2014, no Republican

was ever elected to the United States Senate from West Virginia.

John Kee was an attorney by trade and his only real political experience had been serving as a member of the West Virginia State Senate for a single term. The 1932 election swept out every Republican from major elective office in the Mountain State, save for GOP U.S. Senator Dr. Henry D. Hatfield, who was not up for reelection until 1934.

At the time, John Kee was described as an able speaker "of the old Southern style," "fluent, eloquent" and reminiscent of the famous orator Daniel Webster. Still, few compared to the public speaking abilities of the most powerful Democrat in West Virginia, junior U.S. Senator Matthew Mansfield Neely. One contemporary writer opined while the quality of the speaking prowess of the Mountain State's congressional delegation had risen appreciably with the 1932 election, he still believed "Neely could, at once and in a bunch" take every West Virginia congressman "and talk them into a trance" in no time flat.

John Kee was the sort of congressman who could and did speak to different groups equally eloquently about Robert E. Lee or Abraham Lincoln and leave his audiences entranced. Although he was a mighty good speaker, John Kee was known as soft-spoken and scholarly.

When John Kee arrived on Capitol Hill in 1933 to take the oath of office on March 4, 1933, he was already fifty-eight years old. Both John Kee and his opponent in the 1932 election were residents of Bluefield. Hugh Ike Shott and John Kee had contested once before in a bid for Congress in 1928, which had been as good a year for Republicans as 1932 had been bad. Shott had won decisively, if not overwhelmingly.

Once elected, John Kee made West Virginia's Fifth Congressional District his own. He was never again challenged inside the Democratic primary and even in the most Republican election year, his vote barely dropped below 57% of the votes

cast. With a safe seat in Congress and the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives, John Kee began climbing the seniority ladder.

Before the passage of the "Lame Duck Amendment," new members of Congress were sworn in on March 4, rather than January 3. At the end of February 1933, Congressman-elect John Kee and his wife Elizabeth traveled to Washington, D.C., where they stayed at the Dodge Hotel, a popular hostelry for congressmen.

Upon arriving in Washington, D.C., Kee did not name his wife as his chief of staff initially. That designation went to John R. Murphy, a resident of Williamson, Mingo County, West Virginia. An attorney, Murphy had chaired the Democratic Executive Committee in Mingo County. The race between then-congressman Hugh Ike Shott and John Kee had been relatively close and hard-fought; Kee attributed much of his success in the general election to Murphy's efforts.

When two newly elected congressmen from West Virginia wanted a seat on the House Judiciary Committee, Robert L. Ramsey and John Kee good-naturedly flipped a coin to determine which of them would be endorsed for the post by the Mountain State's Congressional delegation. Kee won.

As to his own ability to pick a winner, Congressman John Kee started out on the wrong foot. A contest for the speakership to succeed John Nance Garner of Texas, who had been elected as FDR's vice president, developed between Henry T. Rainey of Illinois and John McDuffie of Alabama. John Kee and Joe L. Smith voted for McDuffie while Rainey won. Both hoped the new speaker was liberal-minded enough to be forgiving of those who had not supported him.

Kee impressed observers as the House organized as he never left his seat from noon until it recessed at 4:10 p.m. Reporters noted the freshman congressman remained alert and attentive throughout that entire period of time. As committee assignments were doled out by the Democratic leadership, John Kee did not end up on the House Judiciary Committee, but rather the Foreign Affairs Committee. Even though two members of West Virginia's House delegation had more seniority, only Kee received an assignment to a major committee. While it had nothing to do with West Virginia or West Virginians directly,

it remained John Kee's committee assignment throughout his tenure in Congress. Eventually, Kee became the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

John Kee had met his wife Elizabeth when he had represented her first husband in their divorce proceeding. Elizabeth had moved to Bluefield in 1925 and a year later married John Kee. When Kee had been elected to Congress, naturally Elizabeth came with him. Elizabeth Kee was the executive secretary to Congressman Kee throughout his time in the House of Representatives.

Congressman John Kee rose to the pinnacle of serving as the chair of one of the most prominent committees of the House of Representatives following the sudden death of veteran congressman Sol Bloom of New York. The New Yorker had been stricken during a committee meeting. There could not have possibly been a greater contrast in the personalities of Sol Bloom and John Kee. Bloom had made a considerable fortune as a literal showman and retained the flamboyancy expected of a successful showman. John Kee was seventy-four years old when he assumed the chairmanship of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and his health was already fragile.

One of the first pronouncements made by the new chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee was Kee's statement in an exclusive interview with the North American Newspaper Alliance of his view of the worsening situation in China where Communists were overrunning the Nationalist government. Kee's predecessor Sol Bloom had been strongly in favor of giving more aid to the Nationalist government, a notion John Kee opposed.

"The situation in China is not the most pressing for the moment," Kee told reporters. "There are more urgent foreign problems before us. The Chinese situation can wait awhile."

"It's in a high state of flux," Kee explained, "and it would be very wise to wait and see just what does happen there. That is the position of President Harry S. Truman and Secretary of State Dean Acheson, and I am in complete accord with it."

Kee noted his friend Walter Judd, a congressman from Minnesota and former missionary to China, "considers China the most important issue in the world." "I don't agree with him," John Kee said flatly. "I can't see it that way at all. I am frank to admit that I don't know



ACME NEWS PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Congressman John Kee of West Virginia, 1949.

what our policy should be toward China. But I am sure that it should not be one of pouring more millions and arms into the chaotic and shattered Nationalist Government." Judge Kee pointed to the success of both the Marshall Plan and the aid given to Turkey and Greece as having been highly successful, both from the perspective of their value economically and militarily.

As noted in an editorial published by the Louisville Courier-Journal at the time of John Kee's death, the job of a good committee chairman "is to mediate, to conciliate, and to forge constructive action out of divergent points of view." The Courier-Journal hailed "Judge" Kee's congressional service as chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee where he presided in a "gentle, unobtrusive manner that often gets the best results." The editorial noted Kee "was never widely known to the public." but also readily acknowledged the congressman's "objective was not personal fame, but a sound record of achievement."

During the last year of his life, the seventy-six-year-old lawmaker was seriously ailing. For the better part of a decade, John Kee had suffered from heart trouble. Congressman Kee spent several months as a patient at Bethesda Naval Hospital. The ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, James Richards of South Carolina, had begged Kee to slow down. Richards recalled other members had urged Kee to go away and rest for some time, a suggestion the West Virginian ignored. According to Richards, John Kee had replied, "I'd die if I didn't have something to do. If I must go, I must go in harness."

John Kee was presiding over a closed session of the Foreign Affairs Committee when he turned to Congressman Richards and said, "Jim,

will you take the chair a few minutes?" Kee rose from his chair but only managed a few steps before he collapsed. Colleagues rushed to his side and helped him to a room where he was placed on that same sofa. Kee died on that same sofa. The congressional physician, Dr. George Calvert, hurried to Kee's side, but the congressman quietly slipped away. Calvert pronounced John Kee's time of death as 11:40 a.m. and noted Kee had departed life "without suffering any pain."

The usual tributes following the death of any public official came pouring in; Secretary of State Dean Acheson praised Kee's knowledge of the world situation, as well as the role of the United States in global affairs. Yet perhaps the most touching tribute paid to John Kee came from Congressman Charles Eaton, a New Jersey Republican and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Eaton wept as he spoke of his own "tremendous sense of loss" following Kee's passing. "Dear John . . . may he find it good over there," Eaton sobbed.

John Kee's body was taken back to the rolling hills of Bluefield. Following a simple funeral service, which lasted thirty-one minutes, the late congressman was buried beneath the sod of his home city. The last tribute offered to John Kee was a full church, with an equal number of people standing outside Christ Episcopal Church.

Can anyone imagine in today's hyper-partisan world, someone in Congress weeping over the passing of a colleague in the other party? Perhaps too much has changed over time.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE
CHANCERY DIVISION AT
CLINTON, TENNESSEE

Anthony Reynolds
Whereabouts Unknown

Last Known Address:
6606 Raccoon Valley Road
Knoxville, TN 37921

Heather Reynolds, Petitioner
Vs.
Anthony Reynolds, Respondent

Case No. 22CH4061

It appears from the pleadings filed in this cause that Anthony Reynolds whereabouts are unknown. In compliance with the provisions of T.C.A. 21-1-204 and the Order of Publication of this court entered July 5, 2023, service of process will be made by publication.

Anthony Reynolds IS THEREFORE, HEREBY REQUIRED TO APPEAR ON OR BEFORE THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE LAST DATE OF PUBLICATION before the Clerk and Master of Chancery Court, located at 100 N. Main Street, Suite 308, Clinton, Tennessee 37716 and make defense to the complaint filed in the foregoing case styled above. Otherwise, said complaint will be taken for confessed, and a Judgment by Default entered. Anthony Reynolds is required to file responsive pleadings with the court and Petitioner's Attorney, H. Daniel Forrester, III, 224 N. Main St., Clinton, TN 37716. It is further ordered that this Notice be published in The Knoxville Focus for four consecutive weeks.

This July 6, 2023.

Harold P. Cousins Jr.
Clerk and Master
By: Blake Williams
Deputy Clerk

ORDER FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR
KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In re Estate of Modestine
Cunningham, Deceased

FELICIA COALSON, Administrator

vs.
GLORIA TIPTON, PENNIE BRAGG, RICHARD HARDIN, KEVIN CUNNINGHAM, BARIN HARRIS, RODNEY HOUSTON, TIARA STOKLEY, ALSTORJA HOOKER, AND WANDA VAULTON, Respondents.

No. 86362-3

From the sworn Petition for Sale of Real Property and for Order requesting service of process by publication and the entire record, the Court finds that the whereabouts of the Respondents Gloria Tipton, Pennie Bragg, Richard Hardin, Kevin Cunningham, Barin Harris, Rodney Houston, Tiara Stokley, Alstorja Hooker, and Wanda Vaulton are unknown and, after a diligent inquiry, cannot be ascertained or they have not accepted service. It is therefore ORDERED that the Respondents Gloria Tipton, Pennie Bragg, Richard Hardin, Kevin Cunningham, Barin Harris, Rodney Houston, Tiara Stokley, Alstorja Hooker, and Wanda Vaulton shall be served by publication of the following notice in The Knoxville Focus, a newspaper located in Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee, as provided by law.

NOTICE

TO: Gloria Tipton, Pennie Bragg, Richard Hardin, Kevin Cunningham, Barin Harris, Rodney Houston, Tiara Stokley, Alstorja Hooker, and Wanda Vaulton

It is ordered that said Respondents, Gloria Tipton, Pennie Bragg, Richard Hardin, Kevin Cunningham, Barin Harris, Rodney Houston, Tiara Stokley, Alstorja Hooker, and Wanda Vaulton file an answer with the Clerk of the Probate Court at Knox County, Tennessee and with Felicia Coalson, an Attorney whose address is Owings, Wilson, & Coleman 900 S. Gay Street, Suite 800, Knoxville, Tennessee within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or the real property of Modestine Cunningham located at 116 S. Elmwood St., Knoxville, Tennessee will be sold. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

ENTERED July 6, 2023.

J. Scott Griswold, Clerk

Approved for Entry: Felicia
Coalson Administrator
Owings Wilson Coleman
900 S. Gay Street, Suite 800
Knoxville, TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BETTY D ARMSTRONG
DOCKET NUMBER 87882-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 23 day of JUNE 2023, letters administration in respect of the Estate of BETTY D ARMSTRONG who died Mar 8, 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 23 day of JUNE, 2023.

ESTATE OF BETTY D ARMSTRONG

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TAMBERLY KAY ARMSTRONG
CLICK; ADMINISTRATRIX
2230 LUCADO WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37909

ESTATE OF JUNE MAXINE BUMGARDNER
DOCKET NUMBER 87997-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 9 day of JUNE 2023, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JUNE MAXINE BUMGARDNER who died Jan 14, 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.

ESTATE OF JUNE MAXINE BUMGARDNER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARVIN HEATHERLY; CO-EXECUTOR
3257 INDIAN RIDGE ROAD
BLAINE, TN. 37709

DONNA HEATHERLY; CO-EXECUTOR
3257 INDIAN RIDGE ROAD
BLAINE, TN 37709

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ZOANNE MOUTON BAYER
DOCKET NUMBER 87725-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 29 day of JUNE 2023, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of ZOANNE MOUTON BAYER who died March 30, 2023, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, 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 the 29 day of JUNE, 2023.

ESTATE OF ZOANNE MOUTON BAYER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
DOUGLAS A. BAYER, EXECUTOR
4737 CALUMET DRJVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

JACKSON G. KRAMER ATTORNEY
P.O. BOX 629
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JACKIE LYNN BEELER
DOCKET NO. 87851-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of JUNE 2023, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of JACKIE LYNN BEELER who died September 21, 2022, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, 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 the 21 day of JUNE, 2023.

ESTATE OF JACKIE LYNN BEELER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JACLYN BEELER
3106 ORCHARD AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

DAN D. RHEA, ATTORNEY
P.O. BOX 300
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BERNARD E. BERNSTEIN
DOCKET NUMBER 88005-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 29 day of JUNE, 2023, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of BERNARD E. BERNSTEIN who died May 19, 2023 were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, 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 the 29 day of JUNE, 2023.

ESTATE OF BERNARD E. BERNSTEIN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
BARBARA W. BERNSTEIN
8014 CORTELAND DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37909

DAN W. HOLBROOK, ATTORNEY
900 S. GAY STREET, 14TH FLOOR
P.O. BOX 2047
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF EDNA BLOMGREN
DOCKET NUMBER 87697-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 15 day of JUNE 2023, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of EDNA BLOMGREN who died Jan 15, 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 15 day of JUNE, 2023.

ESTATE OF EDNA BLOMGREN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JUAN M VALADES; EXECUTOR
100 OAK LAKE ROAD
MELBOURNE, FL 32901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RONALD G BRYAN
DOCKET NUMBER 88021-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 14 day of JUNE 2023, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of RONALD G BRYAN who died Feb 3, 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) dys 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 14 day of JUNE, 2023.

ESTATE OF RONALD G BRYAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARGARET S BRYAN; EXECUTRIX
506 WINDGATE CT
POWELL, TN. 37849

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF PATRICIA W CATLETT
DOCKET NUMBER 88035-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 14 day of JUNE 2023, letters administration in respect of the Estate of PATRICIA W CATLETT who died Apr 13, 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 14 day of JUNE, 2023.

ESTATE OF PATRICIA W CATLETT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TONY L CATLETT; ADMINISTRATOR
1101 TERRA ROSA DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37932

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ETHEL ABI CURTIS COLLINS
DOCKET NUMBER 87994-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 9 day of JUNE 2023, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ETHEL ABI CURTIS COLLINS who died Apr 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 9 day of JUNE, 2023.

ESTATE OF ETHEL ABI CURTIS COLLINS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JOHN EDWARD COLLINS; EXECUTOR
2701 KEITH AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37921

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOHN EARLE CROCKER
DOCKET NUMBER 87979-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 16 day of JUNE 2023, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOHN EARLE CROCKER who died Dec 29, 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 16 day of JUNE, 2023.

ESTATE OF JOHN EARLE CROCKER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MICHAEL CROCKER; EXECUTOR
1634 SUGARFIELD LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37932

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CHRIS SELENA CROWDER
DOCKET NUMBER 88001-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day of JUNE 2023, letters administration in respect of the Estate of CHRIS SELENA CROWDER who died Jan 31, 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 22 day of JUNE, 2023.

ESTATE OF CHRIS SELENA CROWDER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TYRONE J CROWDER; ADMINISTRATOR
2344 LINDEN AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37917

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF KARL E. DRAKE
DOCKET NUMBER 87671-1

Notice is hereby given that in the 21 day of JUNE 2023, letters of testamentary in respect of the Estate of KARL E. DRAKE who died on March 1, 2023, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk if 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 JUNE, 2023.

ESTATE OF KARL E. DRAKE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
NICHOLAS DRAKE
1205 DREAM VIEW LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

CARIN C. BRIO ATTORNEY
3217 GARDEN DRIVE, SUITE 1
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CHARLSIE MARIE EAVES
DOCKET NUMBER 88038-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of JUNE, 2023, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of CHARLSIE MARIE EAVES who died April 15, 2023, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, 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 the 27 day of JUNE, 2023.

ESTATE OF CHARLSIE MARIE EAVES

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
WILLIAM DALE MONTGOMERY
11720 JEFFREY LANE
FARRAGUT, TN 37934

CAROLYN LEVY GILLIAM ATTORNEY
10805 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 200
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LINDA KAY EFTELAND
DOCKET NUMBER 87683-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of JUNE 2023, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of LINDA KAY EFTELAND who died March 8, 2023, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, 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 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.

described in (1)A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 27 day of JUNE, 2023.

ESTATE OF LINDA KAY EFTELAND

JON N. EFTELAND
200 SUGARWOOD DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

TSSAA dead period doings: Halls coach catches Spinner shark

By Steve Williams

High school coaches can't make contact with their athletes during the TSSAA dead period, but there's no restriction against tangling with a Spinner shark during vacation time on a South Carolina beach.

That's what Halls wrestling coach Shannon Sayne had fun doing and he sent The Focus a picture to prove it.

"We love fishing at the beach," said Sayne. "We just catch them for fun and turn them loose."

Coach Sayne, by the way, had a great year in 2022-23 as the Halls Red Devils swept the Class A wrestling team title and duals title.

Shannon also sent other pictures, including a Fourth of July celebration back at home.

Meanwhile, Powell Head Football Coach Matt Lowe sent in a super photo from the Lowe family vacation and it was quite amusing as he and his daughters struck similar poses with the Superman Statue.

The picture was taken in Metropolis, Illinois, which was officially declared the "Home of Superman" in June of 1972. The 15-foot-tall, three-ton Superman statue was built in 1993.

On the lighter side, Halls football coach Brent Hughes and his family sent in a picturesque view of Orange Beach, Alabama.

TSSAA's dead period covered 14 days (June 26 through July 9).

Starting today, coaches and players will resume preparing for the upcoming football season and other fall sports.

Top right: Halls wrestling coach Shannon Sayne had fun winning this matchup.

Right: July 4th was spent at the Sayne home with family. Left to right: Schuler (9), Shannon and Syler (11).



Top right: The Lowe family vacation included a trip to Metropolis, Illinois, the "Home of Superman." Striking similar poses to the Superman Statue are daughters Lizzi (16) and Linni (9) and their dad, Powell football coach Matt Lowe.

Above: Halls football coach Brent Hughes and his family enjoyed a trip to Orange Beach, Alabama during the TSSAA Dead Period. In the picture with Brent is his wife Heather and their daughters, Ava Brooke and Sutton. "We are also expecting a baby boy this coming Christmas," said Coach Hughes. "Go Red Devils!"

Meet The 2023 Knoxville Focus All- County Girls Tennis Team

By Ken Lay

The 2023 high school girls tennis season was another historic one for the Catholic High School girls.

The Lady Irish won another state team championship. They also had the individual Division II-AA state champ and had a doubles team finish on top in Murfreesboro.

The Knoxville Focus recognizes the area's top players on its All-County Girls Tennis Team.

Maeve Thornton, Catholic High School: The senior and Furman University signee helped the Lady Irish win their third consecutive Division II State Championship. She went undefeated in both singles and doubles competition in team events and won a third straight state singles championship in May in Murfreesboro.

Gigi Sompayrac, Catholic High School: Another key player for the Lady Irish in 2023, Sompayrac was dominant as Catholic's No. 4 singles player on the singles ladder. She also teamed with Thornton to form the Lady Irish's top doubles team.

Sompayrac, a recent Catholic High graduate, will compete at Anderson University next season.

Lillie Murphy, Catholic High School: The Catholic High sophomore starred at both No. 2 singles and No. 2 doubles. She won the state doubles title as she teamed up with Eleni Liakonis to win it all at the Midstate for the second consecutive season.

Eleni Liakonis, Catholic High School: A junior for the Lady Irish, Liakonis played a key role in helping Catholic win its third state team title in a row. She was also a doubles tournament state champ as she joined forces with Lillie Murphy to claim a second consecutive title on the state's biggest stage.

Continue on page 2

The Unofficial Kickoff of High School Football '23

KFOA Media Day and Golf Tourney is Friday at Three Ridges

By Steve Williams

KFOA's 16th Media Day and 40th Scholarship Golf Tournament has been dubbed "The Unofficial Kickoff of High School Football '23."

As the Media Chairman for the Knoxville Football Officials Association, Harold Denton is credited

with the clever title.

The event will be Friday at the Three Ridges Golf Course Pavilion, with a head coach (in most cases) and two or three players from 36 area high school football teams being interviewed by the media.

Each team is scheduled for a 20-minute interview session. Newspapers, TV and radio stations and online sites will have reporters taking notes and shooting pictures for pre-season stories.

The West Rebels,

defending Class 5A state champions, will be represented by Head Coach Lamar Brown, linebacker Ryan Scott and defensive end CJ Smith.

Webb School, which advanced to the Division II-AA semifinals last season, will have LB-TE Cooper Cameron and WR-DB Markeis Barrett on hand with new head coach Don Mahoney, who replaced the retired David Meske.

Powell Coach Matt Lowe will be bringing defensive

end Steven Soles Jr. and offensive lineman Byron Finger from last year's Class 5A semifinal squad.

Denton noted the KFOA event has three objectives: (1) Promote high school football in the Greater Knoxville area, (2) Promote the need for football officials in Tennessee and (3) Raise money for scholarship dollars for athletes in schools that the association serves.

The Scholarship Golf Tournament has 21 teams entered and room

for more, added Denton. (Contact Golf Chairman Joe Hemphill 865-201-9396 / joehemphill0817@gmail.com)

In the past 39 years, the KFOA has awarded scholarships that have paid \$187,000 in tuition at various colleges and universities to 90 scholar-athletes from 28 different area high schools. Last year two scholarships with a value of \$2500 for two years went to students from Pigeon Forge and Central.

Bearden product having a sizzling season with Nats

By Steve Williams

In a 30-game stretch up to the Fourth of July, Lane Thomas was hotter than a firecracker on the Major League Baseball scene.

The Knoxville native and Bearden High graduate (Class of 2014), who is the leadoff batter for the Washington Nationals, had gone 37 for 105 at the plate (a .352 clip) and totaled 21 runs, six homers, 18 RBI and three stolen bases.

With those numbers, the 6-foot, 191-pound rightfielder, who bats right and throws right, had raised his season totals to .301 (fifth highest average in the NL), 14 homers, 45 RBI and 57 runs.

Thomas put himself in contention to make the National League All-Star team but wasn't included when the announcement came on July 2. It was reported in USA Today that "Some big names got left off the 2023 All-Star Game roster. Lane Thomas definitely got snubbed but the outfield in the NL is stacked."

Some fans of Thomas have been hoping he might be added as a replacement player, including Jack Tate, who coached Lane at Bearden.

The MLB All-Star game is scheduled to be played Tuesday night in Seattle.

"I have loved following Lane's pro career (2014-present)," said Tate, who was Thomas' head coach when he was a freshman and sophomore at Bearden (2011-12).



Lane Thomas (second from left) at his Bearden High jersey retirement ceremony in 2021. Dave Prichard (far left) is the current Bearden baseball coach. Jack Tate (third from left) and John Rice are former Bearden coaches.

"I attended over 50 of his games in the Minor Leagues and have been fortunate to attend 20 of his games in the Major Leagues with the St. Louis Cardinals and Nationals.

"He has always had a terrific work ethic and plays the game like a true professional."

Tate, who now teaches and is the Sports Information Director at Farragut High, is planning to go to Cincinnati Aug. 4-6

for a three-game series between the Nationals and Reds.

"I'll also get to see Farragut's Nick Senzel play in that series for the Reds," said Jack. "Lane and Nick have been friends since their high school days when they were on opposing teams."

Tate first met Thomas when he was in the eighth grade at West Valley Middle School. He became the head coach

at Bearden that next year (2010).

"In Lane's sophomore season, we defeated Farragut in the region championship game and won four games at the TSSAA state tournament in Murfreesboro," recalled Tate. "Arlington beat us in the Class AAA state finals."

Tate pointed out that Thomas was a special player right from the start of his prep career.

"Lane was a varsity starter in Game 1 of his freshman year and for all four years of his Bearden career," said Jack. "As a sophomore, Lane hit in the leadoff spot in all 46 games, batting .404 and hitting 10 homeruns. He played centerfield except for the games in which he pitched."

"I stayed on as an assistant coach for Lane's junior and senior seasons as well."

Fresh out of high school, Thomas was drafted in the fifth round by the Toronto Blue Jays in June of 2014. He was called up to the majors for the first time by St. Louis in 2019. He played only a few games for the Cardinals in 2019, 2020 and 2021 before being traded to Washington during the 2021 season.

Thomas, who turns 28 in August, played 145 games last year for the Nationals.

He has been an excellent table-setter in his leadoff role for Washington this year. In the first 84 games, he was held hitless only 16 times and only twice went without a hit in back-to-back games.

Lane got two more hits last Wednesday (July 5) to lift his average to .304. The Nationals were scheduled to play Texas three games over the weekend before the All-Star break.

Lane's first hot streak came in the second half of May when he hit safely in 15 straight games. He had another 10-game streak in June and starting on June 13 he went 20 for 22 at the plate to raise his batting average 22 points (from .279 to .301).

When Tate goes on the road to see Thomas play, he usually gets a chance to talk with him, too.

"I normally get to speak to him down at field level for a few minutes before the game," he said.

They share a lot of fond memories, but also look forward to many big days ahead.

Little League ball could be expanding in Knox County

By Steve Williams

Little League baseball and softball could be expanding in Knox County this coming fall, according to Phil Morton, who serves as an Assistant Administrator for LL District 6 as well as the State of Tennessee.

"According to the latest I have, Knox County expects to start playing Little League this fall as 'Knox County Youth Sports,' said Morton last week. "Although not yet finalized, they propose to form eight divisions, utilizing the following: Farragut, Hardin Valley, Powell Youth Sports, Halls Community Park, Bower Field Athletic Association, Carter Youth Sports, East Knox Youth Sports and Gibbs Youth Sports."

Currently, West Knox County (Karns) and Fountain City are the only two programs in Knox County that are chartered with Little League, which is based in South Williamsport, Pa., and hosts the nationally televised 12U Little League World Series championship game each summer.

"This is a huge and exciting expansion of the Little League programs in Tennessee," Morton said, if the expansion is formally approved.

"We didn't have to pull it off this season and have tournament teams," he added. "They (Knox County) want us to meet with them in the fall to help them get implemented



Phil Morton talks with the Thousand Oaks, California, coach at a pregame meeting to the 2004 Little League World Series championship game. Morton still umpires and also is the Assistant Administrator for Little League District 6 and the State of Tennessee.

into the Little League program."

There are now two Little Leagues in District 6 that are divided into two zones.

The North Zone includes Harrogate, Grainger County, Mooresburg/Bean Station/Hancock County, LaFollette, Union County and New Tazewell. The South Zone includes: Fountain City, West Knox County (Karns), Maryville, Athens and Loudon.

Grainger County defeated Maryville American to win the 12U District 6 championship

Wednesday night in Rutledge and earn a berth in the state tournament, which will be played at Columbia.

Fountain City and Karns did not advance teams to the District 6 "final four" this year.

"In checking with Little League, the name Knox County is using is "Knox County Parks & Recreation Little League," said Morton. "Also, their charter application is still designated as 'pending,' but in our discussions with them, they 'hope' to be playing this fall and

next spring using the new eight divisions I mentioned."

Little League baseball and softball have several age divisions in District 6, starting with 6-7-8 Coach Pitch up to the Senior League.

Over the past 10 tournaments, several teams from Tennessee have advanced to the LLWS. In 2012, Tokyo, Japan defeated Goodlettsville 12-2 in the LL World Series championship game.

South Nashville went back to back years in 2013 and 2014 and Goodlettsville placed fourth in 2015. Nolensville lost 13-0 to Hawaii in the 2022 LLWS.

In addition to Morton's administrator role in Little League, he also still umpires, and in 2004 was umpire behind the plate when Curacao, a Caribbean Island country in South America, defeated Thousand Oaks, Calif., 5-2 in the LL World Series championship game at South Williamsport.

Morton said he would have served as the Administrator for Little League in the State of Tennessee, but he wouldn't have been allowed to umpire games with that position, so he took the assistant administrator job.

"I still enjoy umpiring," said Phil. "It's my 33rd year."

Morton retired as an Assistant District Attorney in Knox County three years ago.

Meet The 2023 Knoxville Focus All-County Girls Tennis Team

Continued from page 1

Riley Cassity, Farragut High School: A junior in 2023, Cassity won her second consecutive Division 1-AA State Championship in singles competition. She also helped the Lady Admirals win District 4-AA and Region 2-AA Championships. Farragut also made a state sectional appearance.

Allie Faulkner, Christian Academy of Knoxville: Faulkner, a sophomore for the Lady Warriors, has played high school tennis since she was an eighth grader. She won her third straight Division II-A state singles title in Murfreesboro in May. She also played a key role as CAK reached the state semifinals in the team competition.

Larkin Bristow, Christian Academy of Knoxville: A sophomore for CAK, Bristow played No. 2 singles and No. 2 doubles for the Lady Warriors, who reached the state semifinals in the team tournament. She and doubles partner Aiden Stalcup to reach the state semifinals.

Aiden Stalcup, Christian Academy of Knoxville: The CAK sophomore helped her team reach the state tournament. She also made the state doubles semifinals with partner and fellow sophomore Larkin Bristow.

Ada Aytug, Concord Christian School: Aytug recently completed her sophomore campaign with the Lady Lions and she made the Division II-A state singles tournament for the third straight season. She made it to the Spring Fling as an eighth grader and as a freshman.

All-time favorite players and games

In this business, people are always asking intriguing questions, whether it's on the street, in restaurants, via E-mail, or on the telephone.

Fans are nothing if not dedicated to their craft. There are precious few aspects of history that escape their attention. There's no telling how far back in history the questions might go. Everybody has a question about something. Sometimes, fans even send pieces of memorabilia that have great historic significance.

There was once a postal employee in Chattanooga who called and asked who the third string tailback was sometime in the 1950s, probably in 1956 or 1957. When I said "Al Carter," he said "Thanks" and hung up. There was apparently a bet in his section of the Post Office, and I never had a chance to find out who won. I had the impression he dropped 50 cents into the cash box to cover the cost of the call.

I was once asked who the most underrated player I ever saw was. My answer was Shawn Bryson, one of the captains of the 1998 national championship team. He could do it all,



The spoils of victory from the 2001 Florida game

run, block, catch passes, and always be in the right place at the right time. Think about his touchdown run against Florida in 1998, his touchdown catch in the 1999 Florida State game, and a very big fourth-down reception when the Vols were trying to kill the clock late in the game.

One December, a lawyer called and asked when the Vanderbilt game had started and ended. He also wanted to know what the weather conditions were. That was all readily available on the official play-by-play put out after the game. It seemed a client had fallen outside the stadium, and he was preparing

the case. That's about all I could get out of him. There was also no word about the disposition of the case, either.

In my much younger days, I always liked 1965, 1967, and 1970. The 1965 bunch was the one that put the Vols back on the national radar. There's always something special about those types of teams. The 1967 and 1970 teams were flat-out good.

The 1985 team, led by Tony Robinson and then Darryl Dickey after "T-Rob" was injured against Alabama, was a personal favorite later on. Then there was the Cotton Bowl team in 1989, and the 11-1 team

in 1995 that defeated Ohio State.

The 1998 national championship season was something to behold week-by-week, despite some close calls along the way. Once the Vols got to No. 1, things became very exciting, but not without a few anxious moments.

There was Nov. 14, Tennessee versus Arkansas. It was late in the game. Arkansas led and had the ball. Things looked bleak across the expanse of Neyland Stadium.

Billy Ratliff not only caused a fumble but recovered it as well, setting up a 43-yard drive in five Travis Henry runs. Billy was an

exceptional player, who suffered more than his share of injuries. He was injured once on the practice field and left via ambulance. That was a scary moment.

There was a sad sidebar to this game. The Arkansas lineman Billy faced off against was Brandon Burlsworth, a very good player who bore a striking resemblance to comedian Drew Carey. Brandon was later killed in a traffic accident on April 28, 1999, near Alpena, Ark. He was a walk-on who became an All-American and third-round draft choice of the Indianapolis Colts.

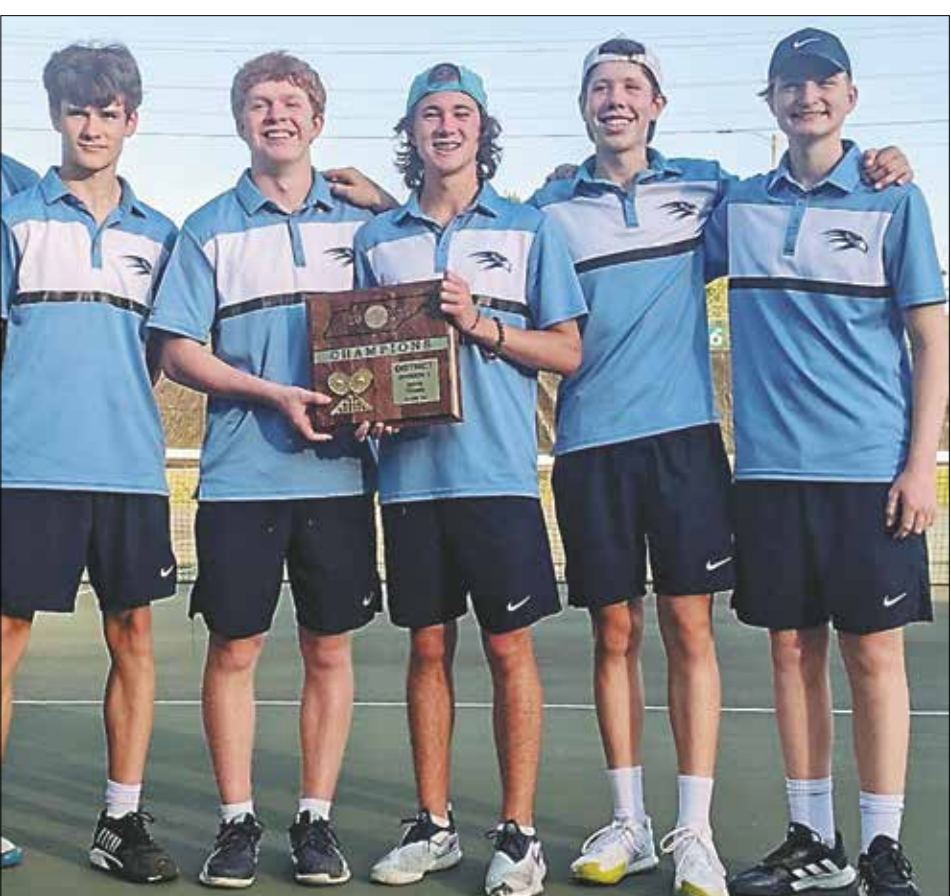
I liked the way the 2001 team came back from

the loss to LSU and took Michigan apart, piece-by-piece, on New Year's Day 2002. Hearing "Hail to the Victors" was a great deal of fun. Watching Vol receivers slice through the Wolverine secondary was more fun, including Jason Witten out in the wide-open spaces for 64 yards and a score. That 2001 team won at Arkansas, Florida, Alabama and Notre Dame.

To this day, the LSU game that season was an inexplicable loss and will always be so. One sportswriter led his game story as follows: "Uneasy lies the head that lies near the crown." It wasn't quite Shakespeare, but it was as good an explanation as any.

One of the officials from the 2001 SEC Championship Game called with a request for a picture. He also asked the following pertinent question: "Why couldn't No. 14 come up with an interception when he had the ball right in his hands?" No. 14 was defensive back Julian Battle, and he nearly did have a couple of picks that might have changed the course of the game. I never came up with a good answer to why he didn't.

Those are just a few of the interesting questions and comments from a lifetime of observing Tennessee football history.



The Hardin Valley Academy boys tennis team had a historic 2023 campaign. The Hawks, who lost just two dual matches all season, are heavily represented on the Knoxville Focus All-County Team. Photo Submitted.

Meet The 2023 Knoxville Focus All-County Boys Tennis Team

By Ken Lay

The 2023 high school boys tennis season was packed with plenty of excitement. Hardin Valley Academy posted a historic campaign as it went 20-2 overall and had a sophomore, Ryan Leckrone, win both the District 4-2A and Region 2-2A championships.

The Hawks' doubles tandem of Garrett Anderson and Billy Bennett reached both the district and region finals. The freshman team won the doubles championship in the Oakland Tournament in Murfreesboro.

The Knoxville Focus honors the area's top tennis players with its All-County Boys Tennis Team. Meet the members of the All-County Team:

Ryan Leckrone, Hardin

Valley Academy: The Hawks' sophomore posted a 19-4 record in singles competition this season and reached the Class 2A State Tournament in Murfreesboro. He had his stellar season after recovering from hip surgery. He finished the 2023 campaign with 31 combined wins in singles and doubles.

Garrett Anderson, Hardin Valley Academy: A freshman at HVA, Anderson combined with fellow freshman Billy Bennett to reach both the district and region championship matches. The duo also claimed a championship in Murfreesboro in the elite Oakland Tournament.

Billy Bennett, Hardin Valley Academy: Bennett combined with fellow freshman Garrett Anderson for a historic run for the all-freshman

team to reach both the district and region championship matches. Bennett and Anderson also won the doubles championship at the Oakland Tournament in Murfreesboro.

Quinn Campbell, Christian Academy of Knoxville: A junior for the Warriors, Campbell was CAK's No. 1 singles player and helped his team reach the Division II-A State Championship match at the Spring Fling in the Midstate. Campbell and doubles partner Hayden Brady reached the state doubles semifinals. The tandem occupied the No.1 spot on the doubles ladder for the Warriors.

Hayden Brady, Christian Academy of Knoxville: The CAK sophomore played No. 2 singles and helped the Warriors reach the Division II-A State Championship

Continue on page 4

Tennessee's Top Four Games This Season

By Mark Nagi

Folks, you might not realize it yet, but football season is right around the corner.

SEC Media Days will invade Nashville next week, giving us the ultimate combination of bachelorette parties and Alabama fans. Just imagine the enlightening, philosophical discussions taking place between those groups. Within a day I'm sure that they could solve all the earth's problems.

After that we get the opening of Tennessee's Fall camp, where fans will look at some practice clips of receivers few of us have ever heard of and immediately anoint them the second coming of Carl Pickens.

Then the season opens on the surface of the sun, when the Vols face Virginia at Nissan Stadium in Nashville at 11 a.m. local time. Bring sunscreen and drink plenty of water, people.

But for now, let's look ahead to what I believe are Tennessee's biggest four games of the 2023 season. You might have different selections, and that's fine, it's a free country. These are in chronological order as they fall on the calendar.

On September 16 the Vols should be 2-0 when they head to Gainesville to play Florida. Hard to believe, but it has been 20 years since the Vols last won a game at The Swamp. That's understandable during the Urban Meyer/Tim Tebow/approximately 876 players on the roster got arrested seasons, but not getting at least a win or two when they face Will Muschamp or Jim McElwain is inexcusable.

Tennessee's starting quarterback Joe Milton has been quoted as saying "I don't lose in Florida." You've gotta like the confidence. Casey Clausen got the job done with a similar level of cockiness, leading UT to wins in 2001 and 2003. We'll find out if Milton can join Clausen in Tennessee lore.

Two weeks later, the Vols host South Carolina on September 30 at Neyland Stadium. This might be the rowdiest atmosphere that Knoxville sees all year. As all Tennessee fans remember, the

Gamecocks ended any chance for the Vols of making it to the College Football Playoff with a resounding 63-28 victory in Columbia. That was the same game that UT QB Hendon Hooker tore his ACL, ending his chances of earning an invite to Manhattan for the Heisman Trophy ceremony.

South Carolina head coach Shane Beamer has done a real job resurrecting that USC program and hasn't been afraid to boast about the win over UT, nor have their fans. This has always been an odd and interesting rivalry since the Gamecocks first joined the SEC in 1992. This year's meeting will be the last time that the Vols and Gamecocks meet on an annual basis. Expect mustard bottle toss levels of loud at Neyland for this game.

On October 21st the Vols take on Alabama in Tuscaloosa. This is a rematch of arguably one of the greatest college football games of all time, Tennessee's 52-49 win over the Crimson Tide, a game that made Hooker and wide receiver Jalin Hyatt legends forever in the eyes of Vols fans.

Alabama head coach Nick Saban has been whining ever since they got left out of the playoff, using losing to Tennessee and LSU on the final play of the game as reasoning why they should have been in the Top 4. That whining earned them a spot in the Sugar Bowl and eventually a final ranking higher than Tennessee for reasoning that no rational person can make.

They certainly have not handled losing to UT for the first time in 15 years well. Bryant-Denny Stadium will be rocking.

And finally, Tennessee hosts two-time defending national champion Georgia on November 18. If things go right for both teams, this could be the game that decides the SEC East title. Tennessee hasn't beaten the Bulldogs since the "Dobbnail Boot" game in 2016. What better time than now to end that streak.

Georgia keeps racking up top 5 recruiting classes and has NFL talent all over the field. This won't be easy for the Vols, but with Josh Heupel's offense clicking, don't bet against them in this game.

Can't wait for the games to come...

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The 2023 Knoxville Focus All-County Boys Tennis Team

Cont. from page 3

match. He and doubles partner Quinn Campbell reached the state semis in doubles.

Caleb Climer, Christian Academy of Knoxville: A freshman for the Warriors, Climer was the team's No. 3 singles player. He was a state quarterfinalist in singles and helped CAK reach the state championship match in the team competition.

Wilder Dewhirst, Webb School of Knoxville: A senior for the Spartans, Dewhirst played at the No. 1 rung of the singles ladder and reached the semifinals of the Division II-AA East

Region Tournament.

Eli Felker, Webb School of Knoxville: Felker was the Spartans No. 2 singles player in 2023 and reached the region semifinals.

Theo Liakonis, Catholic High School: A junior for the Irish, Liakonis teamed up with Ben Snyder to reach the Region II-AA doubles semifinals.

Ben Snyder, Catholic High School: The junior played at the No. 2 spot in the singles ladder for Catholic. He also played doubles with partner and fellow junior Theo Liakonis. Together, that duo made the region doubles semifinals.

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