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PHOTO BY KEN LEINART

Despite a miraculous beginning for such an important project, the "Big Scissors" for the opening didn't cut the ribbon until Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs (left) and Hand Up For Women Board of Directors member Angela Faulkner (right) pulled the "grand opening ribbon" taut for the Miracle Ridge opening. Holding the ceremonial scissors is Hand Up For Women Executive Director Eva Pierce.

Police requests, zonings, appointments and repairs on council agenda

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville Police Department has several requests before the City Council when it meets for the first time in 2024 on Tuesday.

Among those requested resolutions, the police department is asking for a contract with Avero LLC for enterprise resource planning support for both the police and the Plans Review & Inspections departments. It would add \$336,100, bringing the contract to \$505,600.

The council is being asked to allow the mayor to apply for a \$115,500 Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area grant as part of a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement effort to combat narcotics crime and used to fund officer overtime pay.

An agreement with the state is requested to coordinate investigator travel for training for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. The police department is also asking for acceptance

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A miracle two decades in the making

By Ken Leinart

Miracle Ridge. To really understand the importance of the "Hallelujah" moment that created Miracle Ridge, you have to go back some 22 years.

Hand Up For Women started in 2002 with a simple goal and has kept true to that: to help women who have, for whatever reason, whatever circumstance, found themselves in a sort of cycle that does not offer opportunity.

In a situation where hope and a future have a hard time existing, HUFW teaches self-reliance. Real-world knowledge is taught through

the classroom and by mentors; some mentors have graduated HUFW and have been where those they are mentoring have been.

They understand what it takes to break out of the cycle and they understand how that can be achieved.

So, what is this all about? Why is this so significant? Why is this ribbon cutting so special?

Hand Up for Women started in a church just off Broadway, "In a really small space," Executive Director of HUFW Eva Pierce said. "But it kept growing and kept growing."

The women who attended came

from group homes, rehabilitation centers and through the Knox County Court system.

From that cramped space in a church, HUFW moved into a home thanks to "a donor" who helped them with the mortgage.

For seven years the work centered there.

Then, four months ago, an anonymous donor showed HUFW the North Knoxville property that is now Miracle Ridge.

"When the donor found this property I looked at the price tag and went,

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A mental health officer at jail, rule changes before commission work session

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When the Knox County Commission meets next on Tuesday, January 16, following the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, the agenda has 45 or more items including everything from a contract with a psychiatrist for the jail to several rule amendments for the county code.

Agenda items to be discussed will be chosen by Chairwoman Terry Hill or suggested by commission

members. Those items not chosen to be discussed will be passed along as "consent" items and approved by one vote when the group meets for regular session on Monday, January 22.

The sheriff wants approval to hire Dr. Sharon Burnside as the psychiatrist for managing the mental health care for inmates at the correctional facilities. The one-year contract for \$86,440 has two renewal options.

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UScellular, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley Commence 9th Annual Black History Month Art Contest

UScellular and Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley have announced the return of the annual Black History Month Art Contest, now in its ninth year in the Knoxville area, with an exciting new twist. The contest began in 2008 at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia and has since grown to include 31 clubs across the country, including Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley.

UScellular is introducing a new element to the contest in 2024 as three artists and their home club will be recognized as "national winners."

Up to 10 finalists from each of the 31 Boys & Girls Clubs will be chosen by local club representatives and UScellular leaders

based on creativity, quality, interpretation, clarity of theme and overall impression. The finalists' artwork will be digitally displayed in select stores, and from Feb. 1-15, anyone 18 and older is invited to vote for their favorite art online. The top three vote-getters at each club will be announced in late February with the winners receiving the following:
- \$250 for first place
- \$150 for second place
- \$100 for third place

New to the 2024 contest, the top three first-place submissions with the most votes will be named national winners and will receive an additional \$250, bringing their prize winnings to a grand total of \$500, while

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Clockwise from top left, UScellular store manager Anthony Garcia instructs Ava Burbine, Alaya Hardin, Bella Powell and Arkevis Harris of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley's Vestal Club in South Knoxville as they begin to draw Jan. 3 to kick off UScellular's Black History Month Art Contest in 2024. Club members will create original pieces of artwork in recognition of influential Black icons in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), including historical figures, world leaders, scientists and educators. This is the ninth year for the art contest in Knoxville.

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Now Even Liberals Admit Immigration Is Out Of Control



Our very biased national media allowed Joe Biden to hide in his basement, hold no big events, and answer only softball questions during the 2020 presidential campaign. They have continued to protect him during his presidency, letting him get away with things for which they would have blistered Donald Trump. One of many examples is that only Fox News reports on the flood of people coming through our southern border during the first

two years of President Biden's term in the White House. Now the illegal surge has become so huge, even the liberal media has been forced to report it. It has been almost humorous to see far-left big city mayors on television demanding that Governors Abbott of Texas and DeSantis of Florida stop sending illegal immigrants to their cities. It has been funny, too, to see the wealthy liberal elitists on Martha's Vineyard get so upset when a busload of illegals arrived in their very exclusive vacation home. They got them out of there quickly. Cities like Chicago, New York, Denver and others that acted holier-than-thou, proudly proclaiming they were sanctuary cities when President Trump was in office, are now begging President Biden to do

something to stop the flood. Traditional Americans have been "voting with their feet," fleeing the high taxes, high immigration, and high crime of blue-Democrat-run states and cities for several years. For most of my life, Democrats relied on the very false claim that Republicans were the party of the rich and wealthy, while they were the party of the little guy - the working men and women. Now almost everyone knows the most heavily Democrat areas are the so-called "Silk Stocking" district of Mid-town Manhattan, Aspen, and other super wealthy places. So now the Democrats rely on another very false charge that all Republicans are racist. But even that charge is wearing thin as many more blacks are voting Republican. The powers in the

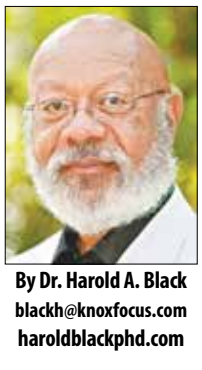
Democratic Party are desperate to hold on to their power. They are panicking because they also see that young voters, another part of their base, are likewise moving away. Their solution has been to import millions of what Rush Limbaugh called low-information voters - less educated illegal immigrants, figuring they will be more susceptible to the government giveaways that Democrats use to buy votes. Actually, they may be surprised, because most of these immigrants are fleeing socialist countries where the economies have been ruined, and they may not like the socialism of today's Democrats. Americans are the kindest, most generous people in the world. No other nation has even come close to doing as much for other countries as we have.

But, because almost half the people of the world have to get by on less than \$1.50 a day and some 70% on less than \$10 a day, several billion people would like to come here. Our entire infrastructure - our roads, sewers, schools, jails, hospitals, etc. - just could not handle the massive rapid influx of people that would come if we don't regain control of our border as it was when President Trump was in office. As I write this column, there is another caravan of at least 8,000 headed our way all at once. December has seen a record number of over 290,000 apprehensions by our border patrol. We have always way underestimated the number of illegal immigrants in this country. It has been conservatively estimated that 8,000,000 have come in since President Biden has

been in office. This does not count the get-aways or the many that have come in totally undetected. Most have been given free food, free places to stay (some in very nice hotels), and free plane rides to different cities around the country. I remember a humorous Charlie Daniel cartoon in the News Sentinel a few years ago which showed a white man reading a newspaper with a headline that said, "Americans hiring immigrants to do work they don't want to do." It showed the man's son leading a Hispanic boy in and the son telling his father "I've hired Juan to do my homework." If people keep flooding in they will soon be taking more than just the unpleasant jobs.

No more 'elite' universities

I don't know who anointed certain universities as "elite" but they are elite no more. Presumably, those universities once had the highest standards for admissions - test scores and GPAs - had rigorous curricula and courses and placed their graduates in the highest paying most prestigious positions. However, these same universities have revealed that they are no longer elite with their pro-Hamas, anti-Israel and antisemitic demonstrations. Jewish students have been attacked, harassed and threatened. Some have wondered why all of a sudden this has happened. First, I would bet that most of the demonstrators are in the humanities



or most disturbingly are law students. Science students, business students, engineering students and their professors do not seem to be as active participants as those in the humanities. Second, the best and brightest students are no longer the most likely to be admitted to the so-called "elite" schools. White males, Jews and Asians find their admission applications rejected in favor of "disadvantaged" students who have lower test scores and GPAs. Schools have dropped the SAT and GPAs as admission criteria in the name of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). The admission offices at the elite schools were first instituted to limit Jewish enrollment in the early 1900s.

Now they are being used again to limit the number of Jews as their enrollment has fallen dramatically in the age of DEI. Also, DEI has discriminated against Asians as well. Even though the Supreme Court has ruled against discrimination on the basis of race, universities are actively trying to find ways to circumvent the ruling. The result is that the student bodies of "elite" universities are no longer "elite". Third, the "elite" universities use DEI in faculty appointments and require sitting faculty to sign DEI statements and are tested for "implicit biases." Fourth, have also dumbed down their curricula. No one, however biased, would argue that courses are as rigorous as they were in the past. Curricula are now littered with feel good courses and majors such as black, gender, green, Latino

and trans studies while the classics, language, mathematics, science, economics, accounting and more rigorous courses are no longer required. Fifth, many of the faculty in the feel good subjects would have difficulty acquiring tenure and promotion in traditional departments. Thus, the universities have created separate departments for the feel-good subjects in order for those faculty to become tenured and promoted. Consequently, many faculty are no longer "elite." Sixth, even those courses that were formerly difficult have themselves become less rigorous. There are fewer term papers, fewer reading lists and less demanding tests (if tests are even given). GPAs are inflated. Seventh, students are being indoctrinated rather than taught. Opinions opposed to the DEI narrative are not tolerated. Conservative speakers are disinvited or shouted down. Professors have been

sanctioned for "misgendering" students, questioning affirmative action or the trans agenda. Eighth, the students who are admitted are told that they are victims and if they are not victims they are oppressors. This certainly does not make for a warm, inviting and cordial college atmosphere. All this means that the "elite" universities are no longer distinguished by either their students, academic rigor or their professors. Perhaps science, business and engineering may have higher standards and more rigorous courses. But the arts and humanities and even the law are no longer elite. Most of their graduates will find employment in the arts and humanities and continue poisoning the minds of our youth. They are not likely to enter MBA or graduate programs in business or science. More importantly they will be teachers and continue their spreading ignorance regarding capitalism and the financial system (the

Denver and Colorado teachers are the poster children for dumbness). They will be the ones proselytizing DEI, the Green New Deal and socialism. The demise of the "elite" universities is just the latest manifestation of the mediocrity that has permeated our society. Further evidence of the lack of intellectual curiosity of the student protestors at the former elite universities is that the majority of them have no idea about the names of the river and sea in their anti-Israel chant of "Palestine from river to sea". Some even think that Yasser Arafat was the prime minister of Israel. And these are our best and brightest? Hardly. At least 34 student groups at Harvard signed a document blaming Israel for the attack by Hamas. I would not hire a single one of those students. I would rather hire graduates of our land grant universities. They may be infected too but they probably won't be as pompous or as high priced.



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Are you ready to have a totally tubular time? Like, fer sure! Then you won't want to miss the 42nd Akima Club Cabaret Show as they relive the pop music and gnarly fashion of the awesome 80s. From the era that brought Knoxville the World's Fair, arcade games and the Rubik's Cube comes 80s Mix Tape! This professionally written and directed show will feature big hair, neon accessories and unforgettable music and dance. So, put on your parachute pants and get amped for a totally rad event. Performances will be March 1st and 2nd, 2024, at The Mill & Mine, 227 West Depot Avenue, Knoxville. March 1st and 2nd: 7:00 p.m. - evening performances include the show, dinner, dancing, and silent auction. Cost per ticket - \$175. March 2nd: 2:00 p.m. matinee performance includes show and silent auction. Cost per ticket - \$75. Founded in 1947, Akima is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is in its 77th year. Cabaret is an every-other-year event and all proceeds will fund the Akima Grant program which provides funds to area non-profit agencies covering programs for Arts, Culture and Science, Children and Youth, Medical and Social Services, Senior Assistance, and a variety of other fields. Earnings from the 2022 Cabaret went to Akima grants in 2022 and 2023 and totaled over \$157,000. So come join us where you are sure to have a great time for a great cause! Go to AkimaClub.org for ticket sales and information.



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Published by Fountain Printing and Publishing, Inc.
Deadline for ad design is Monday at 5 p.m.
Deadline for Classified ads is Thursday at noon.
Deadline for submissions is Thursday by noon.
Articles, announcements, photo attachments and outlines may be submitted by e-mail to staff@knoxfocus.com.
Publisher Steve Hunley
Editor, Art Director Marianne Dedmon
editor@knoxfocus.com, design@knoxfocus.com

Managing Editor Lisa DeMarsico
managingeditor@knoxfocus.com
Mike Steely, Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com
Jamie Schnell schnellj@knoxfocus.com
Sales sales@knoxfocus.com
Pam Poe phpoe2000@yahoo.com
Ruthie Akers Ruthie@knoxfocus.com
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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

Claudine Gay Resigns... Good Riddance

Claudine Gay, the president of Harvard, has offered up her resignation after her abysmal performance at a now notorious congressional hearing. Gay might have survived that episode had it not been for growing accusations of plagiarism piling up. The congressional hearing was an especially sorry spectacle where Gay, along with two other university heads, simply couldn't bring themselves to denounce genocide against Jewish people. Naturally, the Left is attempting to ignore reality and chalk up Gay's resignation to racism. Gay herself

attempted to do the same and seemed delighted to play the race card and proclaim herself a victim. If Claudine Gay is a victim, it is because of her own stupidity and insensitivity. And, of course, the Left is trying to pin the blame for Harvard's diversity hire of a president quitting on conservatives. That overlooks there were self-described liberals who called for Gay to step aside, as well as progressive students who were outraged. The difference in the treatment of Harvard's president and students accused of plagiarism was night and day and utterly hypocritical. Those students rightly complained there was a double standard, and they were being held to a higher standard than the president of Harvard. As to the plagiarism charges, Harvard acknowledged some "duplications" and tried to alter the meaning of the word, a courtesy yet to be extended to students accused of the same thing.

One doesn't have to be a conservative to call out a lack of moral courage or even acknowledge the difference between right and wrong. Would our society

countenance the genocide of any other segment of our society? Claudine Gay's fall was of her own making whether the progressive left accepts it or not. The notion that a group of university and college presidents couldn't simply denounce the call for killing off an entire race of people hasn't been seen since Adolf Hitler's Germany. It is obscene and should frighten all intelligent people.

Claudine Gay doubled down, publishing an op-ed in the New York Times, another institution that is a shadow of what it once was. Gay complains about "demagogues" who helped to bring about her fall and attempts to paint herself as a martyr and victim extraordinaire. The fact remains Claudine Gay is a victim of what installed her as president of Harvard in the first place: DEI. Gay couldn't bring herself to just say the genocide of any race was a horrible, terrible, unacceptable thing. Claudine Gay victimized herself. Ms. Gay was a child of privilege and the fact of the matter is incompetence comes in every color of the rainbow and more besides. Every

human being makes mistakes; acknowledging them and correcting ourselves is what sets us apart.

Democrats Vote To Ban Sex Change Surgeries For Underage Children

There are 12 courageous Democrats in the New Hampshire legislature who voted to ban sex change surgeries for children. State Representative Jonah Wheeler, a 20-year-old and self-described liberal Democrat, pointed out that what was before the legislature was the subject of irreversible surgeries for children. Wheeler said he was staunchly for the rights of different minorities, and argued the legislature didn't signal whether one was with the trans community. Representative Wheeler said, "I don't think that children should be able to get these irreversible surgeries."

Get Well, Randy

The Tennessee General Assembly will be back in session this week. Legislators are already preparing to introduce bills and the

deadline will be at the end of this month. Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally will miss the first part of the legislative session as he will be recovering from surgery on his ankle. McNally will be in constant communication with Nashville on a daily, if not hourly basis.

Representatives Concerned About Post Office Changes

Congressman Andy Ogles went to visit the Border with House Speaker Mike Johnson. The number of illegals coming across the unsecured border has skyrocketed over the past month.

Closer to home, Congressman Tim Burchett rescued a snapping turtle that was in the road, probably saving its life. Burchett was also busy monitoring changes in the US Postal offices locally. The Post Office Department in Washington, D.C. has proposed changes that will affect postal employees and postal offices in Knoxville, Johnson City, and Chattanooga. The idea, like most ideas that originate in Washington, D.C., involve consolidating things into big regional centers.

That for Knoxville and East Tennessee would be located in Louisville, Kentucky. The outspoken Burchett was irritated by the failure of postal representatives to ignore or not answer questions posed by staff members and the general public at a recent listening session. Burchett fired off a letter to the Postmaster General, Louis DeJoy, telling him the meeting was nothing less than a waste of time for all concerned. After that, Burchett and two of his colleagues, Congresswoman Diana Harshbarger and Congressman Chuck Fleischmann, lit up another joint letter, pointing out no fewer than 1,200 East Tennesseans are employed by the Post Office Department. The congressional trio demanded to know the answers to several questions of importance to their constituents. Look for a blowup on the part of the East Tennesseans if it is true the post office bureaucracy has received the letter and once again failed to answer a single question.

A miracle two decades in the making

Continued from page 1

'Ha ha ha.' Just couldn't look at it after that and went back and said, 'Oh well.'

But then the donor told Pierce the property was purchased for HUFW. It was also announced the previous HUFW center had been purchased (and re-sold), clearing the way for a clean transfer. The only thing the anonymous donor asked was that the \$400,000-plus difference be paid back with a no-interest loan "when funds became available."

"This organization has never been in debt," Pierce said. "Never been in debt, so we will not do any more renovation or development until that is paid off."

The new 3.5-acre site offers room for growth and with the success of the program comes more demand for its outreach.

"We have a special relationship with the Knox County Courts," Pierce said. The success of HUFW has stretched beyond Knox County. "We have a relationship with the court in Campbell County," she said.

HUFW also has "self-referrals."

Pierce said, "Our graduates are our best ambassadors. They'll see or meet someone and say, 'Hey you, you need to come do what I did.'"

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs attended the ribbon cutting and open house Friday afternoon and addressed the importance and need of HUFW.

"The dedication in empowering women the tools to succeed is inspiring," he said.



PHOTO BY KEN LEINART

Hand Up For Women Executive Director Eva Pierce talks with the media after the Jan. 5 ribbon cutting at Miracle Ridge.

"This new location will improve the work they're doing and will allow even more support to those who need it the most."

If You Reconcile with Your Spouse, You Can Expunge the Divorce Filings

When a divorce is filed in Tennessee, even if it is an agreed divorce, the divorce is not finalized and completed right away. Tennessee law requires a "cooling down" period to pass before the divorce will be granted to make sure people really



By Jedidiah McKeehan

jed@attorney-knoxville.com

do want to get divorced. If the people have no minor children, they must wait 60 days after the divorce is finalized and if the people have minor children, then they must wait 90 days after the divorce is filed before the divorce is finalized.

Not often, but occasionally during this period, a couple will reconcile, and decide to stay married. Good for them! At that point, a dismissal of the divorce case is filed with the court to end the case.

However, what if you want to erase from the public record any proof that

the divorce had ever been filed? Tennessee law allows people who have reconciled to have their divorce records expunged so that it is as if the filed divorce never even occurred.

I have to say, I have never had anyone feel the

need to expunge the filed divorce that was dismissed, but that option is available.

If you are one of those few who must have their reconciled divorce records expunged, here is the relevant law that applies.

Tennessee Code

Annotated section 36-4-127 states, "Parties to any divorce proceeding, who have reconciled and dismissed their cause of action, may thereafter file an agreed sworn petition signed by both parties and notarized, requesting expunction of their divorce records. Upon the filing of such petition, the judge shall issue an order directing the clerk to expunge all records pertaining to such divorce proceedings, once all court costs have been paid. The clerk shall receive a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for performing such clerk's duties under this section."

9th Annual Black History Month Art Contest

Cont. from page 1

their home club also will receive a \$1,500 prize.

To participate in the contest, members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley are encouraged to create original pieces of artwork representing influential Black STEM icons. These can include historical figures, world leaders, scientists and educators who have made vital contributions to the world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"The addition of a national winner element to the Black History Month Art Contest is a new development that

UScellular and the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley are thrilled to introduce in 2024," said Thomas White, director of sales for East Tennessee at UScellular. "We're excited to be able to provide a platform for our young artists to showcase their talent and contribute to the recognition and appreciation of Black history, culture and the achievements of Black people in STEM."

Since 2009, UScellular has invested more than \$35 million in monetary donations, technology resources and countless experiences to nonprofit

organizations across the country. For more information about UScellular's corporate social responsibility initiatives, please go to newsroom.uscellular.com/community.

No Purchase Necessary. Entrants who are minors must have parental consent to participate in the Contest. Official Contest Rules, including full entry details and Finalist and Winner selection criteria/voting are available by email request to USCDLMediaRelations@uscellular.com.

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To Fast, or Not to Fast

The New Year is always a good time to evaluate the past year and set realistic goals for the next. Realism is the key. Too many times intentions are good, but putting them into practice becomes very difficult. It is always better to take baby steps instead of giant leaps. As a minister, I always like to challenge myself and others to spend more time with God. The main ways to do this are through prayer/meditation, fasting, and Bible study. But it is important to do these things as you can, not as you can't. What I mean is that you should not focus on what



By Mark Brackney,
Minister of the
Arlington Church
of Christ

you can't do. You might not be able at this time to pray for twenty minutes straight, so don't. Pray as you can. It might be one minute. But the more you pray, the easier it becomes, like most things in life.

When it comes to Bible study, study as you can, not as you can't. If reading through the Bible in a year is too much, then try reading through the New Testament this year and then the Old Testament the next year. Or if reading through the New Testament is too much, then read a chapter a day. Begin as you can.

When it comes to fasting,

the same thing. Fasting has become a lost art in the Western church. Fasting was something God's people in both the Old and New Testament periods practiced. But over time, fasting became something that was hardly if ever practiced. The purpose of fasting is varied. I am not talking about fasting for medical or health reasons (although studies show there is good reason to fast for health benefits). We are talking about fasting as an intentional time of seeking out God and the Spirit for direction, help, and guidance. Time is intentionally set aside to "ignore" the crying out for attention from the body and to be focused on the Spirit's leading and guiding

in focused and community prayer.

The Bible shows that fasting was practiced to help the worshipper submit to God in intentional and deeper ways. It forces one to learn and to listen to God. It helps us gain direction in a way that can only be of God. If you are trying to make a decision about something that you need direction from the Lord, this is something you should do. It is something that the entire body of the Lord's church should try. 2024 is going to provide some big moments for our nation, our culture, and our worldview. There are things that the body of Christ needs to commit to God, to ask for His direction and help. There may

be things in your personal life (health issues, job decisions, relational issues) that your brothers and sisters in Christ can take to God in prayer and fasting. I am excited to do some preaching, teaching, and then practice corporate and individual fasting.

Back to fasting as you can, not as you can't. For some of us, fasting from food is not an option due to medical issues. That is ok. You might decide to just fast from certain foods (sweets, drinks, desserts, bread, etc.). You might decide to not fast from food, but from some activity that you really like (watching sports, a favorite TV show, music, etc.). When you desire to eat that certain food or partake in

a certain activity, you turn your attention to God and take to God the situation that you are seeking guidance from God about. You may decide to fast on a certain day of the week. It might begin as refraining from one meal or activity the first day, and then the next week you add another. Before you know it, fasting will become routine and something you will look forward to as you intentionally focus on the Spirit's leading for your life and those you love. I will say it one more time, begin as you can, not as you can't. You should feel no guilt or pressure. This is something that comes from your heart.

A mental health officer at jail, rule changes before commission work session

Continued from page 1

School Resource Officers are also being requested as part of the state and Homeland Security's \$3.1 million allotment to the department. The goal is to have one SRO in each school.

The rules committee is recommending several changes to the work sessions, an attendance policy for boards and committee members, and a policy dealing with anonymous correspondence to the commission.

The election commission is

asking for a \$357,000 grant to be approved to buy additional voting machines. The health department is asking for changes relating to the EMA Medical Cost Review Board.

The commission is also being asked to review a \$1.4 million property swap involving the Axle Logistics property in Knoxville.

A change in the county code is being requested, on final reading, to permit Knox County Sheriff's Office employees to file a grievance for any suspension that results in a loss of pay.

Police requests, zonings, appointments and repairs on council agenda

Continued from page 1

of a \$27,500 grant from Homeland Security to purchase safety equipment and \$48,015 from the state to reduce gun crimes and gang activities.

Councilman Tommy Smith, selected as the city's new vice mayor, has several appointments before the council for approval. Smith is recommending council appointments including Lynne Fugate to the Pension Board, Amelia Parker to the Community Television Board, Gwen McKenzie to the Knoxville Zoological Gardens Board, and Seema Singh to the Golf Course Advisory Committee.

Smith is also asking the council for appointments to the Audit

Committee.

Council will consider zoning requests for properties at 4501 Lonas Drive; 2414 Robinson Road; 1124, 1126, 1128 and 1130 Trigg Street; 1834 Beech Street; and 2812 Merchant Drive.

Two zoning appeals are on the agenda: one from John Holmes for the classification of a 22-bedroom duplex and the other from Daniel A. Sanders involving a setback at 5660 Lyons View Pike.

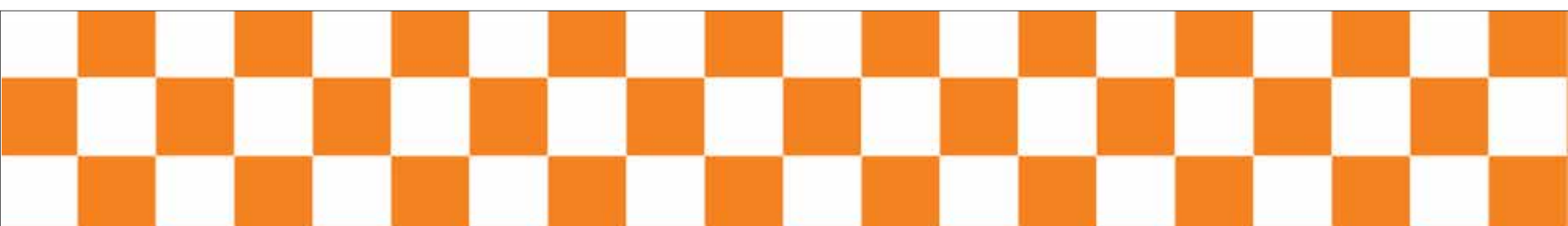
The council also will pause to remember the late Cameron Brooks, honoring his contributions and life.

Improvements before the council include replacement and repairs to the chiller at the Knoxville Convention Center, work on




Knoxville's new vice mayor, Councilman Tommy Smith, will ask for approval of several appointments during the first city council meeting of 2024 on Tuesday.

Pelham Road to Rutledge Pike, resurfacing the Third Creek Greenway, and re-roofing and HVAC upgrades for the Dr. E.V. Davidson Community Center.




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

The Turn-Around

The truth will set you free. Jesus Christ

It had been years since we were on an airplane. And I'll admit I was a bit apprehensive after reading about crazies in the once friendly skies and weather issues because we had to fly through Chicago in winter — never a good idea. But there was no other way to reach northwest Arkansas for a family wedding at New Year's.

These days many of our friends are traveling all over the world. Becky and I traveled extensively throughout our adult life, so we no longer have a need to go somewhere because we're already there! One of my axioms has always been "Get on a plane, rent a car and you can see the world." Well, we have. We're fortunate that all our family lives in Knoxville with the exception of one daughter and her family who live in Oregon. And we've discovered it is

better to fly the Portland crew here, rather than us traveling there.

As we hustled through Chicago's O'Hare airport to catch a connecting flight, I imagined us like Kevin's family in "Home Alone." We made it to our connecting flight with time to spare as I watched the ground crew repeatedly douse our plane with de-icer to melt three inches of snow on the wings.

Although the world uses the Gregorian calendar, Becky reckons time as BC (before Covid) and AC (after Covid). Our last venture into the not-so-friendly skies was in 2AC or January 2022. Everyone was in masks then. These days you still see people with masks, although numerous scientific studies have shown them to be useless for the aerosolized Covid virus. I suspect the "masked ones" still have faith in Dr. Fauci and identify as Progressive

Democrats.

Wearing a mask can retard the spread of coughed and sneezed droplets, and may offer some benefit to others if you have a cold and are forced to travel. And there are people on chemo whose doctor may recommend a mask. However, all the maskers I saw sported heads full of hair, often with rainbow colors. Early in the pandemic, Becky and I were double vaccinated and boosted, yet we each suffered two bouts of Covid. I remain careful, but I trust my common sense and natural immunity more than vaccinations, masks, so-called "experts" or the government.

We made it to the Arkansas wedding and then home to finish the holidays by cheering the Vols to victory with friends on New Year's Day. So, after Biden's "terrible, horrible, no good, very bad" 2023, it's time for a turnaround — actually, it's past time.

As 2024 dawns I'm beginning to see signs of change. Biden and his Democrats can no longer hide from the disasters they've created. Nor can the Democrat agitprop media cover for his dementia, our damaged economy and energy sector, his foreign policy debacles and the alien invasion from destruction of the border. Street crime and flash mobs terrorizing

businesses, homelessness and drugged zombies, and poop on the streets are hard to hide, although California's Pomade-Newsom tried to do so before the Chi-coms came to town.

An iconoclast is one who goes against the so-called popular ideas or group-think. Before there was NEWSMAX, FOX News, X, Rumble, Talk-Radio, TruthSocial, and alternative newspapers like The Knoxville Focus, the only source of information was the elite media. We now understand that the overly liberal New York Times and the alphabet networks (ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN) manipulated us by controlling the information we were allowed to see. The rise of iconoclastic information sources scares the traditional purveyors of their "truth."

I've come to realize that it is useless to present facts or attempt to reason with the committed left, the thirty-three percent I discussed in last week's essay. To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, I pray for these lost souls to be driven on their knees, but I cannot help them. I also realize I need only encourage the second third of the population who already understand the enemies of America. My job this year is to educate the last third who have been miseducated but are not in

a political camp.

The release of the Jeffrey Epstein list of confidants has rekindled my curiosity about this nefarious character. I'm not interested in the prurient aspects of the Lolita Express or his "fantasy island." However, I am interested in how this apparent nobody without a college education achieved such influence, wealth and power. He may have been selling sex as an enticement, but it seems more likely he was a purveyor of access and information among elites. And I'm interested in whether such influence peddling may have been used to compromise those in power and pose National Security risks.

Have you ever wondered how so many elected leaders repeatedly beat the stock market and become millionaires? Are they smarter than everyone else? I think not. And why would a Ukrainian gas company put a no-nothing, cocaine addict on their managing board of directors? It's all about information (insider tips) and the trading of access to those in power.

No one can know everyone, but people can become conduits to connect others. The phenomena of influencers might be an analogy but in a connective sense. Perhaps Jeffrey Epstein connected elites, gathered salacious

information along the way and traded this information to achieve even greater access, wealth and power among globalist elites like The Great Reset Klaus Schwab of the World Economic Forum and our homegrown Washington swamp dwellers. I recently wrote about populism and why outsiders like President Trump are anathema to the elitist cabal of Washington.

Becky's word for 2024 is "watch." In other words, pay attention and get informed. And specifically look for opportunities to connect and bless others.

I'm not much for New Year's resolutions because I can barely keep them beyond a few days or weeks. Some years ago I resolved to offer a word, a note, email or text message of kindness to someone every day. I did OK, but I eventually fell off the kindness wagon. But this year I decided to try again and modify my quest. I resolve to be kind to someone or somewhere speak the truth and resolutely seek the source of truth (God) every day of 2024.

I need this resolution, and my country needs patriots to step up and resist the forces of evil arrayed against His kingdom.

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

Remembering Patricia Neal

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Packard, Kentucky, southeast of Williamsburg, is a ghost town today but, like many former coal camps in our region, was the home of coal miners and their families. The one memorable event in Packard was the birth in 1926 of a baby who would grow up to become one of the most famous actors in American history.

Patsy Louise Neal and her family moved to Knoxville where she attended Old Knoxville High School and later Northwestern University in Illinois. Her days in Knoxville were fond memories of the actress who was in various movies and Broadway shows.

The high school has a number of notable students including James Agee, Harvey Broome, Clarence Brown, Mary Costa, John Cullum, David Madden, and Kyle Testerman.

Memorable Neal films included "The Day the Earth Stood Still" and "A Face in

the Crowd" with Andy Griffith. She won the Academy Award for Best Actress for "Hud."

Television viewers may best remember Neal as the mother in "The Homecoming: A Christmas Story" movie where she played Olivia Walton. The movie inspired "The Waltons" television series but Neal's health wouldn't allow her to continue the role in the series and she was replaced by Mrs. Michael Learned.

Neal's biography "As I Am" detailed her life, her family and her health struggles.

In 1978 Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center named the Patricia Neal Rehabilitation Center in her honor. It provides intensive care treatment for stroke, spinal cord and brain injuries. Patricia Neal often visited the center to encourage patients and staff and appeared as the spokesperson until her death.

She was a heavy smoker and died at her home in Massachusetts of lung cancer at age 84 in 2010.

Catching Up With New Councilwoman

Debbie Helsley

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

She's a political veteran and a formidable advocate for her causes. Now Debbie Helsley is the newest Knoxville City Council member, replacing Janet Testerman as the At-Large Seat B member. Testerman chose not to seek re-election.

The Knoxville Focus caught up with Helsley following her swearing-in last month and asked a few questions.

Tell us about your family.

I'm a 6th-generation Knoxvilleian with deep roots in South Knoxville. I grew up on Peachtree Street in South Haven, and I now live in the South Woodlawn neighborhood with my two dogs, Jake and Rudie, and Scooter the African Gray parrot. Most of my extended family still lives here in Knoxville.

Continue on page 2



Debbie Helsley

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Picture of beautiful sunrise in Duxbury Beach, courtesy of Meteorologist Bryce Williams, National Weather Service.



Hope in a new year

It was the start of a new calendar year and a new school semester. One of our teachers in our junior high school--now known as middle school--stood in front of the class with her grade book. She held it up for



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

to work more, study harder, and try to get better grades in the new semester. For some reason, after all these years I am often reminded of her brief lesson as a new year begins.

So it is, also, with life. The thought of a new beginning is uplifting. A new year brings the opportunity to do more for our fellow man, to help others, perhaps volunteer for a favorite charity, or visit a shut-in just a little more often throughout the year. A new year is another

opportunity to experience God's greatness in the majestic wonders only He can give, such as enjoying the breathtaking sunrises and peaceful sunsets. A new year is a chance to pray more, witness more, and walk closer to our God. Despite the horrific tragedy and destruction that has taken place in our world, especially in recent months, a new year brings hope for peace and harmony for all mankind for it is our Savior, the Prince of Peace, who created the world and everyone in it. Each new year and each new day bring hope for a better tomorrow.

Words of Faith: "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." Romans 15:13 (KJV).

Catching Up With New Councilwoman

Debbie Helsley

Cont. from page 1

How did you become interested in local politics?

I first became aware of the importance of local politics in the union world. I have since been involved in local campaigns and in the Knox County Democratic Party, where I've been a board member and now serve as Secretary. Knocking on doors has always been fun for me, and I had lots of practice for this campaign working for Tommy Smith and Andrew Roberto in 2021 and in my own campaign for County Mayor in 2022.

What do you hope to accomplish as a council member?

I hope to be a voice for working families and neighborhoods. As an At-Large council member, I have the opportunity to choose priorities to focus on across the city rather than the more narrow scope of a district representative. Lynne Fugate set a good example with her work taking on a big project in her first term with the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and I will lean into my own

passions and community connections to make a big impact during these four years.

Are you a native Knoxville?

Yes, I am a native Knoxville. I was born and grew up in South Knoxville, lived in Inskip for a time, and returned to South Knoxville in South Woodlawn where I live today.

What is your occupation and the labor union connection?

I retired in 2015. I grew up in a union household when my mom worked at the Knoxville Glove Company on Blount Avenue, and I have been a union member since the age of 19 when I went to work for South Central Bell.

What are your hobbies or interests?

I spend most of my free time volunteering in the community and being an advocate for what I believe in.

How do you feel about housing and the homeless?

Housing and homelessness are interconnected issues that can be addressed in the short term through permanent supportive housing and increasing housing stock across the city. What the city is planning to do with the Missing Middle changes will allow the building of certain types of homes once again and increase housing stock. By adopting these changes and finding additional solutions, I hope we can

make Knoxville an affordable place to live once again.

If you could change anything in your life what would that be?

I think I'd change my last name since I've seen about four dozen misspellings of it just in the last year!

What is the first opinion many people think of you?

Hopefully it's good! When knocking on doors over the past two years, I've introduced myself to hundreds of voters and listened to what matters most to them. It paid off: We won 71% of the vote and earned the trust of over 10,000 voters. I think it matters to show up all the time, not just during election season, and I promise to work hard for all of Knoxville.

You ran for county mayor but lost, what lessons did you learn from that?

Running for County Mayor was going to be a tough challenge from the beginning, but we worked hard and gave Knox County voters a real choice. From a political standpoint, it proved that the county is more purple and neighborhoods within City limits are solidly blue. But we also learned that voters of all backgrounds and parties want leaders focused on local issues and who show up to do the job they were elected to do with integrity and decency every day. It's what I did on the campaign trail and will be what I do in my service on City Council.

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Re-electing the Senator

The Final Campaign of William B. Bate

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

By 1903, only two men had ever been elected to a fourth term in the United States Senate from the State of Tennessee: Isham G. Harris and William B. Bate. The two men had several things in common: both were Democrats, both had mustaches, both had been Confederate generals during the American Civil War, and both had served as governors of the Volunteer State before being elected to the U.S. Senate. Another thing Harris and Bate had in common was that they both grew old in the service of Tennessee and Tennesseans. Senator Harris had died in 1897 at age seventy-nine. Senator Bate sought reelection when he was seventy-eight in 1904.

Somewhat bent with age, the white-headed Bate used a cane to get around and numerous prominent Tennesseans had waited hopefully for a senatorial vacancy during the years Bate and Harris served together in the U.S. Senate. Bate had a public image of being a man of great integrity at a time when many congressmen and senators were hardly idols of rectitude. Bate refused to accept free passage on trains, a common thing of the time offered by railroads and their lobbyists. Nor would General Bate even accept the pension due him as a veteran of the Mexican War while he collected his salary as a senator. Bate also had a reputation for paying close attention to his duties as a member of the United States Senate and took pride in his attendance record.

As always, ambitious men hankered for a seat in the U.S. Senate. Two former governors from Tennessee were widely known to ache to serve in the Senate and William Bate kept a careful eye on the both of them. In 1903, in anticipation of his campaign for a fourth term in the Senate, Bate told friends in Tennessee he believed former Governor McMillin would challenge him. McMillin had served twenty years in the U.S. House of Representatives before being elected governor in 1898. Re-elected in 1900, McMillin retired in 1902 and cast his eye toward Washington, D.C. The former governor made no secret of his ambitions and by November of 1903 was traveling across Tennessee in the interest

of his senatorial campaign. That same month the two aspirants traded barbs in local newspapers. Benton McMillin gave an interview to a reporter from the Nashville News. McMillin acknowledged a statement given out by Senator Bate to a competing daily

in Nashville, the American.

"Yes, I noticed the interview Senator Bate gave to the American published in last Saturday's paper. He states that 'my competitor' - - - referring of course to me - - - 'has opened headquarters in Nashville.' This is a mistake, as I have not opened headquarters here or anywhere else," McMillin said. "I notice also that Senator Bate claims in an interview published in the Memphis Commercial Appeal that he will carry every county in the state except Benton, Henry and Shelby counties. I think a sufficient answer to this statement is contained in the fact that Senator Bate has seen fit to open headquarters in Nashville just twelve months earlier than he ever did before."

Benton McMillin added he had just returned from Jackson, Tennessee, where he had been "on political business" before returning to Nashville. The former governor stated he was "thoroughly satisfied with the situation" before adding, "I think this is as much as I can say just now."

Former Governor Robert Love Taylor, popularly known as "Our Bob" made a handsome living lecturing and during one of his speeches a fellow bawled out he should run for the United States Senate because "everybody's fer yer." "Our Bob" cast a sideways glance at his questioner and replied, "My dearly beloved fellow countryman, unfortunately I was not at Shiloh during the civil war nor was I at King's Mountain or in the Praetorian guard, but when McMillin gets the British well whipped and Bate winds up the affairs of the southern confederacy, I expect to meet somebody at Phillipi."

Senator Bate, accompanied by his wife, stopped in Chattanooga on the way by train to Nashville where the couple intended to remain until the next session of Congress. The general politely said he didn't wish to give a formal statement to the reporter from the Chattanooga News, but he did agree to answer a few questions of interest to readers. "I look forward to the next session of the Senate" which Bate felt would be "a very stormy one." Bate thought several pending questions before the Senate would cause "some severe fighting."

"The principal question will be the amending of the rules of the Senate so that freedom of speech will be curtailed. This is a direct blow at the minority party, and will of course be fought by the Democrats in the Senate," Bate said. The general said a member of the Senate could, under



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"Old Shiloh" Senator William Bridge Bate of Tennessee.

the present rules, talk for a month if he wished to do so and was "a protection to the minority party." Bate thought the Democrats would unite behind a presidential candidate the following year in a bid to defeat President Theodore Roosevelt, who was expected to be a candidate for reelection.

According to the News, the aging senator was "looking well and enjoys excellent health." While in Chattanooga, several friends called upon the Senator and Mrs. Bate in the lobby of the city's Southern Hotel.

At the time, United States senators were elected by the Tennessee General Assembly. The route to the nomination was a mix of preferential primaries in some counties and conventions in others. Candidates campaigned, yet legislators were not legally obligated to follow the results. General Bate and former Governor McMillin were veteran campaigners, and both were intimately familiar with the towns and hamlets, as well as the cities that dotted Tennessee's landscape. Bate had the advantage of being revered for his military service and gallantry and was popularly known as "Old Shiloh" in much of Tennessee. General Bate also had whatever power accrued through his eighteen years of service in the U.S. Senate.

Benton McMillin had been a popular congressman and equally popular governor. Indeed, McMillin was often referred to as either the best governor Tennessee had ever had or one of the best governors in the state's history. Benton McMillin was a powerful orator and numbered his friends in the thousands. McMillin was a formidable challenger to the old warhorse. The two factions battled across the state, jostling for preference in the local conventions. The contest between the Bate and McMillin

supporters in Savannah, Tennessee, was, according to the Columbia Herald and Mail, "very exciting" and it "closed very warm." Senator Bate won the endorsement for the U.S. Senate over the former governor. That action was closely followed by Sumner County going for Senator Bate. Those supporters who favored Benton McMillin did not dispute the Sumner County convention results as it was also William Bate's home county. The aged senator winning an endorsement from his home county was hardly a surprise, but the results of the convention in Overton County jolted the McMillin headquarters. Overton County had been thought to be a stronghold for the former governor and McMillin was highly surprised when the convention endorsed Senator Bate.

Trouble had been fermenting in Knox County where a local machine had been one of the outposts of opposition to the reelection of Senator William B. Bate. The Chattanooga News sniffed the Knox County machine "created the ugly party division existing there to no purpose." The News opined, "Tennessee is going to stand by the old man until the last."

A bitter fight between the Bate and McMillin factions was underway in Nashville as both sides perceived the importance, both political and psychological, of winning Davidson County. The Knoxville Sentinel reported neither camp was leaving anything "undone to gain advantage." Many Democrats, at least according to the Sentinel, believed the winner of the Davidson County convention would win the Senate race altogether. That contest was won by McMillin.

McMillin had campaigned personally through the "byways and hedges" of Davidson County, pressing the flesh with "workmen at the bench" and

visiting "shops and factory districts." The former governor had won the contest for Davidson County, a result the Chattanooga Daily Times attributed to the "combination of the McMillin organization, Hearst money and the Louisville & Nashville railroad ..." Senator Bate's mistake, at least according to the Daily Times, was his apparently naïve belief in an incorruptible electorate. As both candidates and their supporters worked fervently throughout the month of April before the primary election, more endorsements kept rolling in for Senator Bate. The old senator won a hearty endorsement from the Tenth Congressional District convention, which was comprised of Shelby, Tipton, Hardeman and Fayette counties.

State Senator John I. Cox, who would serve as acting governor for some time, was from Bristol, Tennessee. On his way from Chattanooga to his home, Cox issued a double endorsement of Judge Alton Parker for the Democratic nomination for president and General William B. Bate for the United States Senate. Cox said he supported both Bate and Parker and "don't care who knows it." While in Chattanooga, Cox stated his confidence Senator Bate would win the endorsement of Hamilton County. "Your county will certainly endorse him," Cox said to a reporter, "for the Democrats of Hamilton County always do the right thing."

Newspapers tried hard to keep up with the number of legislators committed to the two candidates. The tallies were calculated through shifting through the various conventions as well as candidates nominated for the legislature, many of whom declared themselves as favoring either Bate or McMillin. Some legislators ran and took neither side, saying they would

abide by the wishes of their constituents.

Voters in Hamilton County went to the polls and Senator Bate, "the Hero of Shiloh," swept both the city of Chattanooga and Hamilton County, carrying every ward and precinct. Bate's tally in Hamilton County was an astonishing 83% of the votes cast.

Former Governor Benton McMillin's defeat in Hamilton County was followed by more bad news: Senator Bate had received the endorsement of Sevier County. Newspapers reported both candidates intended to travel to Memphis for the primary election in Shelby County. Senator Bate was expected to campaign on behalf of a legislative ticket pledged to reelect him, while Benton McMillin was to campaign for a slate of candidates who promised to elect him to the U.S. Senate.

Benton McMillin seemed to have an advantage over Senator Bate in the contest for Shelby County's delegates in the preferential primary. The former governor enjoyed the backing of Memphis Mayor Joseph John Williams and the local political organization. Yet Senator Bate's popularity in Shelby County carried him to a sweeping victory over McMillin. It was a crushing blow to the challenger's bid to unseat the old senator. The "Hero of Shiloh" had prevailed once again.

It was clear Senator Bate was increasing the number of legislators committed to his reelection, while former Governor Benton McMillin stubbornly clung to his hope he could be elected. By the end of May, that hope had apparently begun to diminish. Rumors were rife in Tennessee Benton McMillin would soon announce his withdrawal from the race for the Senate. It was clear to just about everyone Senator Bate had enough pledges to win the contest inside the state legislature. McMillin's campaign manager hotly denied the rumors, insisted the campaign was going well, and complained the rumors were being circulated by a hostile press.

William B. Bate, "Old Shiloh," was reelected to the United States Senate and hurried back to Washington, D.C. where he caught a cold at the inauguration of President Theodore Roosevelt. The cold rapidly turned into pneumonia and Senator Bate died on March 9, 1905, four days after beginning his fourth term in the United States Senate.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ARTIE MITCHELL
DOCKET NUMBER 88838-1
Notice is hereby given that on the 2 day of JANUARY 2024, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ARTIE MITCHELL who died Sep 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) 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
(2) 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
(3) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
This the 2 day of JANUARY, 2024.

This the 4 day of JANUARY, 2024.

ESTATE OF CLYDE L. SMITH, JR.
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ANN B. SMITH
1711 WISTERIA VIEW WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN 37914

KEITH H. BURROUGHS, ATTORNEY
900 S. GAY STREET, 14TH FLOOR
P.O. BOX 2047
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

Electrical Upgrades, due 2/7/24

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CAROL D. TEAGUE
DOCKET NUMBER 88815-2
Notice is hereby given that on the 3 day of JANUARY, 2024, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of CAROL D. TEAGUE who died on November 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) 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
(2) 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
(3) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
This the 3 day of JANUARY, 2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE
January 4, 2024

The KCSO Employees' Merit System Board of Directors will meet Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room, City/County Building, 400 W. Main Street
NOTE: Those wishing to sign up to speak on any agenda item can do so via the Merit System website at www.knoxcounty.org/meritsystem, emailing merit.systems@knoxcounty.org or calling the office at 865-215-4446. The deadline to sign up to speak is Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA
KCSO Employees' Merit System Board of Directors Meeting January 17, 2024, 1:00 p.m., Main Assembly Room, City/County Building, 400 W. Main Street

- CALL TO ORDER:
- NEW BUSINESS:
 - Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
 - Set the agenda
 - Approval of minutes of last meeting
 - Set dates for quarterly meetings
 - Promotional assessments

ADJOURN

POC: Paula Taylor at (865) 215-4446 or paula.taylor@knoxcounty.org

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ARTIE MITCHELL
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
PEGGY SUE PRITCHARD; EXECUTRIX
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NOTICE TO UNKNOWN CREDITORS OF DISSOLUTION OF EWOC, INC.

Notice of Dissolution of EWOC, Inc. pursuant to T.C.A. § 48-24-107, notice is hereby given that EWOC, Inc., a Tennessee corporation, has been dissolved. All persons having a claim against the corporation must mail information regarding the claim, including the identity of the claimant and the nature and amount of the claim, to Anna Pritchard at the following address: 9525 Tunbridge Lane, Knoxville, Tennessee 37922. A claim against the Corporation, if not earlier barred, will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is commenced within two years after the publication of this notice.
This the 21st day of December, 2023.

MISC. NOTICES

LEGAL SECTION 94

Knox County will receive bids for the following items & services:
Bid 3512, Coward Mill Road Improvements-Phase 2, due 2/6/24;
Bid 3515, HVAC Replacement, Controls and

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This the 21st day of December, 2023.

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Bishop hopes to be ready to play by March

By Steve Williams

Tennessee freshman running back De'Sean Bishop is on the road to recovery and hopes to be 100 percent for spring practice in March, he told The Focus last Thursday.

The Karns High School product and one of the nation's top RBs in 2022 was injured in summer camp last August.

"I had a fracture of my fibula," said Bishop. "I'm like five months in now and two months out from fully being recovered."

De'Sean said he's able to work out and run. The fracture basically is still there, he said, and he's working on getting the rest of his body back in strong condition.

Bishop said his weight is still the same (he's 5-foot-10 and 200 pounds) as it was when he first reported to UT as an early enrollee.

"It (the injury) is in the past, so I'm just trying to get back to where I was when I first got here and not let it bother me."

This reporter asked Bishop if he would be at the bottom of the depth chart



PHOTO COURTESY UT SPORTS INFORMATION

De'Sean Bishop looks for running room in the 2022 Orange and White game last spring at Neyland Stadium. After being sidelined since an injury in preseason camp last summer, the Karns High product said last week he should be physically ready to play in March.

when he returns.

"I wouldn't say the bottom," replied De'Sean.

"I mean, it's just competition now. It's a whole new world now. Two older

guys are leaving, so I'll see where I fit in and just work from there."

Bishop is living on campus and majoring in Communication Skills.

As for the new transfer portal and money for NIL (Name, Image and Likeness), Bishop said it hadn't crossed his mind to get in the transfer portal or

anything. He said he felt good about where he was in the Tennessee program.

"It's going smooth," he said. "We're in a good spot right now."



De'Sean Bishop

Bishop was a two-time Mr. Football honoree in his high school career and ranked as the TSSAA's No. 2 all-time leading rusher.

His dream came true on National Signing Day (Dec. 21, 2022) as he joined the UT program.

At the end of the signing ceremony, Karns Coach Brad Taylor said: "UT Coach Josh Huelgel has always been a big fan of De'Sean and really likes what he can do. He really thinks De'Sean has a good opportunity of being successful at Tennessee."

Bishop went on to have a good performance in the Orange and White game last spring.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Fulton quickly gets back on right track

By Steve Williams

Everyone seemed to be in agreement that Fulton's first loss of the season was a good loss.

The defending Class 3A state champions were riding a 32-game win streak when Murfreesboro Central Magnet stopped Fulton 76-61 in the Page High Christmas Classic at Franklin on Dec. 30.

"That loss definitely did help the team," said Fulton senior Tyler Lee after the Falcons bounced back for a 67-52 win at William Blount Jan. 3. "It opened our eyes. We basically were humbled before (this) game."

Lee led the way in putting Fulton back in the win column. The 6-5 forward scored a team-high 22 points. Senior wing Taj Kimber added 11 and freshman wing Nick Steen



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Fulton's Jody Wright, who has over 800 wins in his career as a high school basketball coach, talks to his team during a timeout in a game at William Blount on Jan. 3.

10.

The Falcons (15-1) quickly got back on the right track as they roared to a

12-0 lead.

After the game, William Blount Coach Kevin Windle said the start by Fulton

was really the difference and drained his team. His son, senior standout

Continue on page 4

HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING

Carter boys and girls will roll for region titles today

By Steve Williams

High school bowling, a continuously growing sport in the state, heads into regional and sectional play this week.

Fountain Lanes in Knoxville will be the site of the Region 1 boys and girls tournaments today.

Play will begin at 10 this morning with boys' semifinals matching District 1 champion Dobyns-Bennett against District 2 runner-up Sevier County and District 2 champion Carter against District 1 runner-up Chuckey-Doak.

At 12 noon, the girls will start on the lanes. District 1 champion Cherokee will

go against District 2 runner-up Gibbs and District 2 champion Carter will go face District 1 runner-up Dobyns-Bennett.

The Region 1 finals for boys and girls will start at 3 p.m.

There will be a \$5 admission charge for spectators to offset team fees for lineage in the Region 1 tourney.

Karns' boys team is the only Knox County team that will be competing in the Region 2 tournament, which will be held Tuesday at the Leisure Time Bowling Center in Cleveland.

Karns, the District 3

Continue on page 3

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady Bobcats prevail, avenge earlier loss to South-Doyle

By Ken Lay

Central High School's girls basketball team used a balanced scoring attack and some stiff timely defense to exact a little revenge Friday night.

The Lady Bobcats had to overcome a six-point third-quarter deficit to earn a hard-fought 56-50 victory over South-Doyle at Central High School.

The win avenged the Lady Bobcats' 50-46 loss to the Lady Cherokees in South Knoxville on Dec. 1.

"They beat us over at their place, so we were able to get one back," Central coach LeBrandon Marie said. "I really thought we played pretty well for the whole game."

"Our defense was the difference in this game and we played well. Everybody contributed, (Scoring) was balanced and everybody played a part, even the girls that didn't play tonight."

With the win, Central improved to 9-9 on the season.

The Lady Bobcats had a narrow 30-28 lead at halftime before the Lady Cherokees (4-10) opened the third quarter with a 12-4 run. Payton Rollins gave South-Doyle a 40-28

with a bucket with 3 minutes, 3 seconds remaining in the third stanza.

The Lady Bobcats, however, scored the final 15 points of the period to open a 43-40 advantage heading into the final eight minutes.

Central continued to control the game, scoring the first five points of the fourth quarter as Avery Brewer and Addison Brewer combined to make five free throws to give the Lady Bobcats a 48-40 lead with 3:42 to go in the contest.

The Lady Bobcats didn't trail in the final frame and opened a 10-point lead at one juncture of the contest.

The Lady Cherokees, however, made one last push, trimming their deficit to 55-50 when Rollins, who finished with 18 points (sharing high-scoring honors with Central's Abby Brewer), converted an old-fashioned three-point play to make the score 55-50 with 14.7 seconds left in the game.

Central's Quiara Houston provided the final margin with a foul shot with 5.3 seconds to play.

UT Arboretum Society Holds Third Saturday Hike on January 20th

Nothing is more refreshing than a winter hike at the 260-acre UT Arboretum in Oak Ridge. The UT Arboretum Society will hold a Third Saturday Hike on Saturday, January 20th at the UT Arboretum in Oak Ridge. Enjoy the forests and trails in this lovely, wooded setting. Located at 901 South Illinois Avenue in Oak Ridge, everyone is welcome to participate in this FREE guided hike which will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Newcomers as well as previous participants are invited to join the hike. The hikes have been a staple of the UT Arboretum and

UT Arboretum Society for over 15 years. This is a great opportunity to "walk off" the holiday celebrations and get outside for some fresh air and exercise.

Join the hike that begins outside the UT Arboretum Visitors Center. The group will then leave for a guided hike that will be around two miles. The Visitors Center will not be open but portable restrooms are available in the parking lot area.

Please wear clothes appropriate to the weather and boots or good shoes for outdoor walking. No pets, please.

Lady Falcon trio leads comeback win at WB

By Steve Williams

William Blount junior Savannah Darnell was putting on a "one-girl show" against Fulton on her home court last Wednesday night.

When the Lady Falcons came into their locker room trailing by 17 points at halftime, Coach Tony Cooper pointed out the issue.

"I made an emphasis that No. 20 has 19 points and Maiya Moore said: 'I want to guard her coach.'"

"She's a lock-down ball player," said Cooper.

Darnell ended up with only nine points in the second half.

"We made some adjustments and came out and showed it," Cooper added.

"Maiya came out and did what a senior does and she shut her down."

The result was a 51-48 comeback win for the Lady Falcons.

After trailing 22-6 at the end of the first period and



After a 1-12 start in their season, the Fulton Lady Falcons are on a winning spree after coming back to prevail at William Blount 51-48 last week. The smiling trio that led their fifth victory are (left to right) Maiya Moore, Dee Williams and Sammy Taylor.

35-18 at halftime, Fulton outscored William Blount 19-6 in the third period and 14-7 in the final eight minutes.

While Moore was the key stopper after intermission, Fulton junior Dee Williams was a contributor all over the court during the game.

"The key to the win

was seniors playing like seniors and our junior, Dee Williams, being Dee Williams," said Cooper. "Dee is the most all-around player I've ever coached. Whenever the ball is on the floor, it's Dee Williams' ball."

Dee's overall stats in the game supported her

coach's comments. She scored 19 points and had 16 rebounds, five steals, two blocks and four assists.

Senior Sammy Taylor poured in 18 points and collected nine rebounds.

Moore, to go with her defensive play, contributed 12 points and six rebounds.

For the Class 3A Lady Falcons (5-13), it was their fourth victory in their last five outings. The Class 4A Lady Governors are 9-9.

"It was a good win for us and our program," said Coach Cooper, who is in his first season as head coach at FHS. "The girls kind of needed this. We took some lumps early on and winning four out of five, our girls are on the rise and keep going up and up and up. We look forward to the second half of the season."

Meet The Knoxville Focus All-County Girls Soccer Team

By Ken Lay

The 2023 high school girls soccer season packed plenty of excitement. Bearden High School went undefeated for a second consecutive season and won a third straight Class 3A State Championship.

Central won its first-ever District 3-3A Tournament Championship after clinching the top seed in the postseason tournament. The Lady Bobcats, Powell and Oak Ridge shared the league's regular-season title, but Central was awarded the tournament's No. 1 seed by virtue of a tie-breaker.

The Knoxville Focus recognizes the area's top performers with its 2023 All-County High School Girls Soccer Team.

Co-Coach of the Year: Ryan Radcliffe, Bearden High School

Radcliffe, a Bearden graduate, guided the Lady Bulldogs to a third

consecutive state title. Bearden went 22-0-1 overall this season.

Co-Coach of the Year: Bill Mize, Central High School

Mize guided the Lady Bobcats to a District 3-3A regular-season title and tournament championship. Central knocked district tri-champion Oak Ridge in a penalty kicks shootout to win the tournament title match. Despite being the smallest school in Class 3A.

Co-Player of the Year: Alivia Stott, Bearden High School

A senior forward and University of Tennessee commitment, Stott leaves the Lady Bulldogs program as its all-time career assists leader. In her four-year high school career, she dished out 69 helpers, including 23 in 2023. She also scored 40 goals and was named District 4-3A Offensive Player of the Year as the Lady Bulldogs won a third consecutive state title.

Co-Player of the Year: Nyla Blue, Bearden High School

Blue, a senior holding midfielder, is a Tennessee commitment. She anchored the Lady Bulldogs' defense that surrendered just eight goals all season en route to winning a third consecutive state title and completing a second straight undefeated campaign. She was the district MVP, scoring six goals and amassing 11 assists.

Other All-County standouts

Bre Mendoza, Bearden High School: A senior forward and Dayton signee, Mendoza earned all-district and all-region honors. She had 18 goals and 19 assists as the Lady Bulldogs won a third consecutive state championship and posted a second straight undefeated season in 2023.

Phoebe Scott, West High School: Scott, a senior forward, was a key player for the Lady Rebels in 2023. She helped West High qualify for the sectional round of the state playoffs. She was an all-district performer and all-region standout. She scored 22 goals and dished out seven assists in the recently completed season.

Jayla Blue, Bearden High School: Blue, a sophomore forward for the Lady Bulldogs claimed both all-district and all-region honors as Bearden went undefeated for a second consecutive season and won a third straight state championship. She finished the season with 29 goals and 16 assists.

Edie Wilds, Central High School: Wilds, a senior forward for the Lady Bobcats, she scored 27 goals and was credited with 12 assists as the Lady Bobcats side won its first District 3-3A Tournament Championship in school history. She earned district MVP honors.

Ava Garrett, Halls High School: Garrett, a senior defender for the Lady Devils, claimed both all-District 3-3A and all-Region 2-3A honors. She was the league's Defensive MVP, amassing four goals and two assists.

Paige Branam, Central High School: Branam, a junior forward for the Lady

Bobcats, had 31 goals and 18 assists as she helped Central win the District 3-3A Tournament Championship.

McKalie Ball, Webb School of Knoxville: The sophomore and three-year starter for the Lady Spartans was an all-region standout and helped her side advance to the Division II-AA State Tournament. She found the back of opposing nets 19 times in 2023.

Eesha Suththarhan, Webb School of Knoxville: The senior midfielder and Akron signee scored 17 goals en route to earning all-region honors and helping her side reach the state tournament.

Riley Lucas, Bearden High School: Lucas, a senior defender led a back line for the Lady Bulldogs, a defense that allowed just eight goals all season and posted 15 shutouts.

Nadia Johnson, West High School: An anchor for the Lady Rebels' back line, Johnson helped West make a state sectional appearance. She was an all-district and all-region standout for the Lady Rebels.

Rowan Unger, Farragut High School: Unger, a sophomore defender for the Lady Admirals, was a steady performer for Farragut, which surrendered just 19 goals in 2023. She was the District 4-3A Defensive Player of the Year.

Kennedy Dade, Farragut High School: A sophomore defender, Dade was an all-district and all-region performer.

Anna Wyatt, Bearden High School: A senior goalkeeper for the Lady Bulldogs, Wyatt was an all-district and all-region performer as Bearden won a third straight state championship while allowing only eight goals during the 2023 campaign.

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Hello! If you are looking for a sweet, playful young dog, look no further! My name is **DIESEL** and I am a male 1-year-old Black Terrier Pit Bull mix. I am a little confused and upset being in the shelter and am eagerly looking for a home to call my own. I love to play and wrestle with other dogs. I am very intelligent as I am quick to learn and obedient. I would love to meet the whole household before going home to join the family. Come meet me and other adoptable animals at Young-Williams Animal Center, 3201 Division St.



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'A unique glow, a unique ambience'

In this business, it has always been fascinating to look at some of the game films (most now on videotape) and photos from Tennessee home games from the 1950s into the early 1970s, almost all played in the afternoon, nearly all starting at the traditional 2 p.m. After the time change, kickoffs were at 1:30 p.m.

The press box shadows began hitting the field late in the first quarter, and the field was totally in the shadows in the fourth quarter.

Take a look at the waning moments of the Sept. 14, 1968, Georgia game (with a 4 p.m. kickoff) or even a mid-to-late November game when the sky darkened. That gave the appearance of winter arriving at any moment. The lengthening press box shadows gave the stadium a unique glow, a unique ambience.

In those days (and even today), fans on the west side dressed in as warm a set of clothes as needed, including suits and ties, while those on the east side basked in the warmth of the afternoon sunlight.

That history raises a pertinent question.

How did we ever get along without lights illuminating the playing field?

Lights did come to Neyland Stadium for the Penn State game on Sept.



As shadows lengthen across Shields-Watkins Field, Tennessee fans celebrate a November 7, 1959, win over LSU.

PHOTO BY JOHN HOLLINGSWORTH

out of Starkville with more than a modicum of daylight left, and Tennessee won 35-17.

The other side of the coin was an overcast and dreary November 1988 afternoon in Oxford, Miss., when Tennessee and Ole Miss squared off in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium. That was in the stadium's pre-lights days.

There were players in white and orange and blue and white on the field, but good luck figuring out who they were. Things looked better on the television replay the next day than they did from the Vol Network booth in the press box. The good news that day was that Tennessee won by a 20-12 count.

There's also the attendant impact on the fans who so faithfully follow their team, wherever and at whatever time the game might be scheduled. Getting out of SEC venues, even in Knoxville, has always proven to be an adventure. Somehow, they still manage to get there, regardless. That's their credit. That's part of the joy of being a fan.

Nobody in 1972 could have possibly realized how things would change once lights came to Neyland Stadium.

One thing is certain. As with anything else in the wild, often wacky, world of sports, you pay your money (and a great deal of it) and take your chances.

16, 1972, and have stayed to this day. It might have been an artful dodge on UT's part to avoid playing Penn State in either Memphis or State College, as Joe Paterno had wanted, but the decision to put in lights and ensuing events have changed things irrevocably.

For those journalists covering the game for local, statewide, and/or national media, publication deadlines became tighter and tighter, causing great consternation for all concerned.

"Night football was not

compatible with deadlines," Marvin West has said. "Some trying to earn a living as reporters and writers were stressed."

Fans of that long-ago day had no idea that multi-million-dollar television contracts were in the offing over the coming decades. More games on television ultimately led to the Tennessee and SEC brand being beamed to the nation at all hours, day or night, live or on delayed tape.

Thus, the need for lights. Tennessee, for example, has seen games kickoff in recent years at noon, 1:30

p.m., 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 8 p.m., all times Eastern.

That has caused more than a few problems.

There was a Nov. 12, 1983, Homecoming game against Ole Miss, with a 7:30 p.m. kickoff. Temperatures dropped precipitously as the game progressed, and school president Ed Boling announced there would be no more November night games. That decree lasted until 1999, when ESPN and Notre Dame came calling.

Lights are now part of the game, regardless of the starting time. It's weird to

see the stadium lights shining brightly on an October Saturday afternoon when there's plenty of sun and not a cloud in the sky.

There was a game at Mississippi State in 2002 where the lights seemingly weren't needed, and the game came off just fine, thanks to an 11:30 a.m. CST kickoff.

When fans gathered after the game in little groups around the Tennessee team bus at the southeast corner of the stadium, it was the perfect ending to a perfect day in early November. Everybody got

A sneak peek at 2024 in sports

By Mark Nagi

Well, it is that time. Here's hoping that you all had a wonderful New Year's and best wishes for the 360 or so days ahead.

Regular readers of this column know that I like to get out the crystal ball at the start of every year to give you a glimpse into what the next 12 months has in store in the world of sports locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

Some of this should be taken with a grain of salt... it's a fun game to try to figure out which notes fit that category.

In January, Washington will win their first national championship since 1991 with a 35-31 win over Michigan. After the game, Wolverines head coach Jim Harbaugh announces that he will soon accept the head coaching job with the NFL's Washington

Commanders. His first hire is Connor Stallions as video coordinator.

In February, the Buffalo Bills finally win a Super Bowl, thanks to a 28-24 victory against Detroit. All western New York burns to the ground in celebration. Tennessee's men's basketball team spends a couple of weeks ranked number 1 in the nation, while guard Santiago Vescovi announces that he is leaving the program to go on the road to be the opening act for comedian and lookalike Josh Mancuso.

In March, the Vols win the SEC regular season and tournament titles but get eliminated from the NCAA tournament in the 1st round when their bus takes a wrong turn, and they miss their game against Binghamton. UT coach Rick Barnes announces that he will retire and move to Bali.

The Lady Vols make a late season run and advance to the Sweet 16.

In April, The Masters takes place but is marred by a parking lot brawl between PGA and LIV players. Rory McIlroy is accused of attacking Dustin Johnson with a Trident. Tennessee's Orange and White Game draws 90,000 fans to Neyland Stadium, as Big Orange Country gets to watch Nico lamaleava throw for 300 yards and run for 200 more in two minutes of spring game action.

In May, Tennessee announces a NIL deal with Amazon. Their first order of business is signing the entire Baltimore Ravens roster. Bearden's boys' soccer team wins state, as does Farragut's baseball team.

In June, Tennessee's baseball and softball teams advance to their

respective College World Series. However, the baseball team is banned from Omaha due to the NCAA's new "too much swagger" rule.

In July, SEC Media Days lasts four weeks. Alabama head coach Nick Saban demands that the Crimson Tide get to play with 14 on each side of the football. Texas is welcomed with a "Horns Down" banner. The Summer Olympics get underway in Paris. Americans celebrate winning gold medals in sports that most Americans have never played.

In August, we all just find a way to get through the day because it is 800 degrees in the shade and there are not actually football games being played.

In September we can

all breathe again because football is officially back. Nico lamaleava throws for 645 yards in a blowout win over N.C. State. A national championship parade is planned. The Vols lose at Oklahoma two weeks later, causing plans to be burned and ashes dumped into the Tennessee River. The Alabama/Georgia game loses some luster when Greg Sankey announces that both teams are guaranteed playoff spots regardless because "we are SEC, and you are not."

In October, Tennessee beats Florida 45-3. Nico rushes for 5 touchdowns. National championship parade plans are somehow rebuilt from the soggy ashes. A week later, the Vols beat Alabama and Neyland Stadium falls

into the Tennessee River during a wild celebration. Bearden's girls' soccer team wins state.

In November, the Atlanta Braves win the World Series. Tennessee earns a playoff berth thanks to a 10-2 record.

In December, the Powell Panthers football team wins state for the 2nd time. Head coach Matt Lowe is tossed into the Tennessee River in celebration. Neyland Stadium's rebuild finishes well ahead of schedule and the Vols host Ohio State in a CFB playoff game that UT wins 3-0, with Nico lamaleava converting a 65-yard field goal for the only points in a game played during a monsoon.

Can't wait for the sports ahead!

Carter boys and girls will roll for region titles today

Cont. from page 1

runner-up, will roll against District 4 champion Cleveland in the semifinals. If the Beavers advance, they will go against the winner of the William Blount versus Walker Valley match in Tuesday's finals.

The sectionals pitting the Region 1 champion against the Region 2 runner-up and the Region 2 champion versus the Region 1 runner-up will be held Friday for girls and Saturday for boys.

advance to the TSSAA state tournament, which will be held Jan. 17-19 at the Smyrna Bowling Center.

Carter's Rucker No. 2 among state qualifiers

Region 1 has three individual state qualifiers from Knox County this year. They are Kayla Rucker and Nevaeh Miller from Carter and Malyiah Smith from Gibbs. Boys' state individual qualifiers include Lukas Raney of Sevier County.

Rucker finished No. 2 among the top six qualifiers in Region 1, bowling game scores of 193, 138, 181, 151, 154 and 142 for a 959 six-game total and just two pins behind top qualifier Cierra Laster of Cherokee High.

State individual qualifiers from Region 2 included Oak Ridge's Kaleb Weathering in the boys' division and Haylee Dunmoyer of William Blount and Josephine Eastgate of Oak Ridge in the girls' division.

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Larry "L.A." Headrick on the Fulton sideline as an assistant in 2022. Last week he was announced as the sixth head coach in South-Doyle High history.

Headrick should be ready for South-Doyle job

By Steve Williams

Larry "L.A." Headrick has been groomed for a head football coaching position by some of Knox County's finest coaches over the years.

He was announced as South-Doyle's new head coach last week, filling the vacancy left by Paul Shelton, who held the position for two seasons before resigning on Dec. 19 to return to the college level.

"Larry played for Clark Duncan at Powell," said S-D Athletic Director Daryl Chandler. "He coached under Joel Helton, Matt Lowe, Rob Black and Jeff McMillan – some of the best-ever. If he takes a few pieces from each of these men, he will have a tremendous career at South-Doyle High School."

Chandler also noted that Headrick has coached on staffs that have produced over 50 All-State players and two Mr. Football state honorees, and been in 17 playoff appearances and a state championship game.

Duncan himself guided Powell to 10 playoff appearances and a state runner-up showing in 1991 before



rebuilding South-Doyle into a perennial state power before retiring after the 2021 season.

Headrick also has coached multiple positions in his career and was the defensive coordinator at Fulton this past season. He had been an assistant with Fulton since 2017.

After accepting the S-D post, Headrick said he was looking forward to coaching in the South Knoxville community.

PLANNING TO STAY: Antonio Mays, who recently resigned at Austin-East, said "his plan for now is to remain the Physical Education teacher" at A-E.

HISTORIC WIN: Clinton's girls basketball team defeated rival Oak Ridge on Jan. 2 for the first time since the 1990-91 season, a span of some 74 games over the years.

The Lady Dragons' 57-56

win also came on a historic shot as sophomore Josie Moody hit a 3-pointer from out on the right wing. And get this: Josie's mom Karrie Story Moody played for Oak Ridge when she was in high school.

STREAKING PANTHERS: Powell's boys basketball team, coached by Gary Barnes, ended its holiday tournament play with a 66-58 win over West Ridge in the Carter Christmas Classic Dec. 29. It was the Panthers' ninth straight win and upped their record to 15-1.

Powell was scheduled to play at Jefferson County Saturday night and this week will be on the road at Karns Tuesday and Campbell County Friday for district games.

TRIPLE OVERTIME: Webb's boys defeated Boyd County, Ky., 65-63 in three OTs in the Cumberland Falls Invitational championship game on Dec. 30 at Corbin, Ky. It was the ninth win in a row for Ricky Norris' Spartans (15-3).

CAK GIRLS REBOUND:

Following a 41-38 loss to Heritage in the Lenoir City Christmas Classic, the Lady Warriors swept past two other Blount County teams – Maryville 61-58 and Alcoa 43-41.

BOUNCING BACK: After its loss to Webb, Bearden's Lady Bulldogs notched wins over Greeneville 70-35, Steward, Va. 71-61 and North Greene 70-28 in the Andrew Johnson Bank Classic Dec. 28-30 at Greeneville.

Bearden plays at rival Farragut Friday.

TOPS IN WRESTLING: In the fourth Tennessee High School Wrestling poll of the season, Cleveland is No. 1 and Baylor No. 2. Rounding out the Top 5 are Summit, Nolensville and Brentwood.

Lakeway Christian, an area school, is 12th. Halls is among those receiving votes.

CIRCLE THIS DATE: Austin-East and Fulton basketball teams will tangle Jan. 13 in their first Saturday afternoon meeting of the season this coming weekend at Fulton.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

West goes cold in 69-59 loss to Alcoa

By Steve Williams

Host West gave Alcoa a battle for three of the four quarters Thursday night, but the Rebels' offensive struggles in the third period did them in.

Devyn Martin, a 6-5 junior forward/center, scored seven points in the decisive quarter, but his teammates managed only one 3-pointer and one free throw as they were outscored 26-11 by the Tornadoes, who coasted to a 69-59 victory.

West, which defeated Alcoa 73-71 in the Alcoa Thanksgiving Classic, also saw its four-game win streak snapped.

"They played better than us," said West Coach Aubin Goporo. "They defended better. They run their stuff. They showed toughness and we didn't. That's the difference. They were better prepared than us. They were ready to compete."

Alcoa senior Jahvin Carter, one of the top guards in the state, led Coach Ryan Collins' Tornadoes with 32 points. Eli Owens and freshman Jamir Dean each added 13. Martin led West with 19 points and Maurice Clark added 10.

Alcoa built a nine-point lead (11-2) midway through the opening

quarter and Coach Goporo called a timeout. It seemed to help as the Rebels scored eight straight points to pull within one. A 3-pointer by Clark in the closing seconds of the first period pulled West into a tie at 17-all.

The game remained close and the first half ended with Alcoa ahead by one at 33-32.

Carter stung the Rebels with back-to-back 3-pointers to start the third period – one from the left corner and a 24-footer at the top of the circle – and led to Goporo calling a TO at 6:42. Carter scored on a layup after the timeout to make it a 9-point difference.

West continued to misfire throughout the quarter.

Two free throws by Owens at the end of the third period gave Alcoa a 16-point command (59-43).

The Rebels never got closer than nine the rest of the way.

West (1-0, 9-4) will be trying to bounce back Tuesday night against visiting Farragut in District 4-4A action.

Alcoa (10-9) lost at home to Austin-East Friday 73-67 in a District 2-2A matchup.

Bobcats notch overtime win over South-Doyle at home

By Ken Lay

It took a little overtime for the Central High School boys basketball team to claim a victory in its latest appearance on the hardwood.

The Bobcats held a nine-point lead early in the fourth quarter but had to endure a long scoring drought in regulation, enabling the Cherokees to tie the game and force overtime Friday night in Fountain City.

Central didn't score a point for nearly five minutes to close out regulation, but regained control in the extra frame and nabbed a 60-56 win, thanks to timely scoring from the free throw line.

The Bobcats (11-8) had a 47-38 advantage after Reggie Jones converted a basket with 4 minutes, 53 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter, but the Cherokees held them at bay long enough to pull even. The Cherokees (9-7) tied the game, 47-47, when Nate Thompson knocked down a free throw with 36.6 seconds to go.

In the extra frame, Central

scored the first five points, all from the free throw line, and opened a 52-47 advantage when Jones made two shots from the charity stripe midway into the overtime period and the Bobcats would never trail again.

It was Central's second win over the Cherokees (9-7). The Bobcats edged South-Doyle, 63-59, on Dec. 1 in South Knoxville.

"The difference in this game was that we made our free throws," Central coach Marcus Huie said. "When we played them before, we were 14-for-28 (from the free throw line), and if you hit a few more of those, you win by double-digits."

Huie, a former assistant football coach at Farragut and Hardin Valley Academy and a former assistant basketball coach with the Admirals, said his team has struggled at points this season.

"We started playing selfish basketball and I told them that when you play the way you want, this is what's going to happen," Huie said. "When

they play our way, this doesn't happen.

"As coaches, we've got to get better and keep hammering them with that."

The Bobcats led throughout much of the contest, put the nine-point lead at the end of the third quarter was Central's biggest of the game,

The Cherokees stayed within striking distance thanks to the efforts of Derrik Elder, T.J. Tipton and Thompson.

Tipton scored 19 points. Elder added 17 and Thompson finished with 13.

"That's a good basketball team over there, it really is," Huie said of the Cherokees. "They have a great three-headed monster with (Tipton, Elder and Thompson).

"None of those guys are seniors and they're really going to cause people some problems."

Central's J.D. Harris had a game-high 22 points. D.J. Smith had 12 and Jones finished with 10 for the Bobcats, who led, 29-24 at halftime.

Fulton quickly gets back on right track

Longtime official Shawn Wilson communicates with William Blount Head Coach Kevin Windle during a timeout in the Governors' game against Fulton last week. Photo by Steve Williams.



Continued from page 1

Caden Windle, took game-high scoring honors with 28 points for the Governors (15-3). Grady Robertson added 15. The rest of the team totaled nine points.

Fulton Coach Jody Wright felt the key to the victory was his team's defensive play the first three quarters, which had the Falcons on top 52-32.

Referring back to his team's loss to Murfreesboro Central, Wright also said he thought it was a good loss.

"We could make a lot of excuses about that game, but I think

excuses are for losers," he said. "The bottom line was they just whipped us. They were better than we were that night. We stood around and didn't play hard. We didn't execute well. When you don't do those things, you need to lose. And we did, and I think it was kind of a wake-up call for us to get back to being Fulton and playing on both ends and playing with a little intensity. I thought we did a better job of that tonight."

Steen, who played at Holston Middle School last season, has been a nice addition for the

Falcons and earned a starting role.

"He's tough," said Jody. "He's still learning his way on the defensive end (and) all the demands we make of you defensively. But offensively in the first half (tonight), he played like a man. They couldn't keep him off the boards. He just did a good job of attacking the rim, finishing and getting rebounds. He was hard to handle down there. He was impressive for a freshman in tonight's game."