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Still unbeaten!



Hardin Valley senior wrestler Ella Murphey (top) works on a pin in a 185-pound match against South-Doyle sophomore Jill Bocskovits last week at Knoxville Catholic. Murphey hasn't lost a match in her high school career and is seeking a fourth state championship this season to fulfill a goal she set as a freshman. Read what led to Ella's goal and about her challenges along the way plus other high school sports news in Sports and Recreation, Section C. Photo by Steve Williams.

Advance Knox growth plan passes committee

Now goes to city, town and county for votes

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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Almost 80,000 new Knox County residents are expected over the next 20 years. The need for new housing, the development of farmland for housing, and how and where those changes will be planned are part of the Advance Knox Growth Plan.

That initial plan passed a split vote Wednesday in the fourth public meeting of the Growth Policy Coordinating Committee. Although dozens of residents turned out to oppose the plan or ask for a delay for more public input, the

10-2 committee vote now sends the revised plan to the Knox County Commission, Knoxville City Council and Town of Farragut. All three jurisdictions must approve the plan.

Disagreements were voiced by residents and farmers who opposed a recent amendment that put an increasing amount of agricultural land into the proposed residential development areas. Two years of research and public meetings brought about a last-minute amendment from Mayor Glenn Jacobs that opponents said was only issued

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Words Matter

BOE sends harassment policy back for review

By Ken Leinart

Knox County Board of Education Policy J-210 – the harassment policy – drew a lot of discussion Thursday night, January 11, during the board's monthly meeting.

After much discussion board members voted to send the policy back to the policy review process.

The revised policy would replace the words "gender identity" and "sexual orientation" with "sex."

Knox County Deputy Law Director Gary Dupler said the suggestion, the recommendation for the change, was made solely for legal purposes.

The board has been reworking a lot of its policies and the harassment policy is one of those.

During Monday's work session, Dupler said the language in the harassment policy followed Black

Letter Law – laws "free from doubt and generally well known." He also noted Monday that Title IX also covers the policy.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces, among other statutes, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance. Title IX states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

A recipient institution that receives **Continue on page 4**

Weather and cake

By Ken Leinart

Thursday night's Knox County Board of Education meeting started with weather.

It ended with cake.

After opening comments, Superintendent of Knox County Schools Jon Rysewyk said, "Yeah, it's been quite a weather week."

Knox County Schools closed early – 1:30 p.m. – on Tuesday, opened late on Wednesday, and were closed on Friday.

"Our staff has been working hard to monitor ... everything that's gone on this week," he said. "It's been unique."

Noting that safety for students and staff is the number one concern, **Continue on page 3**

Jay jumps out early for Knox County Mayor

By Mike Steely
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In a surprise announcement last week, Knox County At-Large Commissioner Larsen Jay announced he is running for Knox County Mayor in the 2026 election. Jay is the first candidate to announce.

"You know me, getting out early and planting my flag in the ground," Jay told The Focus.

"I absolutely love public service and working each and every day on behalf of the people of Knox County as an at-large commissioner. If the support and votes are behind me to continue helping shape our community beyond my second term, it would be an honor to serve as the next Knox County Mayor."

Jay founded Random Acts of Flowers, created the Junior Commissioner program, reformed the Knox County Sheriff's



Larsen Jay

Office Employees' Merit System Board of Directors, and served as chairman of the commission during his first term. Now in his second and final term on the commission, Jay has confirmed the speculation that he might seek higher office as current Mayor Glenn Jacobs is term-limited.

The Republican is seen as a reformer and an advocate for responsible growth.

Tear it down or pay the city?

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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What happens when a builder or developer makes a mistake and encroaches on city property?

That is the question the Knoxville City Council looked at Tuesday when Dominion Developments COO Sean Chalmers asked for an easement for the South Banks Apartments.

Chalmers said the footage, a stairway and a handicapped ramp mistakenly were built on the right of way. He acknowledged the design mistake and asked for an easement agreement for the 820 Waterfront Drive development.

The request for an easement didn't sit well with



Councilwoman Lauren Rider brought up the other residents who have had to remove projects after finding encroachments on city property.

some of the council. Councilman Tommy Smith, who represents the area of the new apartment complex, said he cannot support the request.

Thomas Clabo, the city's chief engineer, said the city

found the encroachment and notified Dominion. He said such encroachment is unusual in a new construction. Chalmers replied that it would be very difficult to rebuild and make that unit structurally sound.

Clabo said a portion of the new sidewalks there had to be narrowed to get around the encroachments.

Councilwoman Lauren Rider asked if the developer might pay for the encroachment. Clabo replied the city hasn't done that before and, if done, might set a precedent.

Rider mentioned other encroachment decisions resulting in demolition or a rebuild. New Councilwoman Debbie Helsley said the city should not set different rules for different people.

A 4-week delay on the issue was proposed by Councilwoman Lynne Fugate and passed in an 8-1 vote with Smith voting "No."

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Where Have All The Democrats Gone?

From a distance



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

My political prediction: As I write this week's column, the Iowa Caucuses are five days away. Even with far less money than the other candidates, the surprise of the night will be Vivek Ramaswamy, who will probably not win but who will far exceed expectations and what the polls have predicted.

The Free Press, an online publication founded by former New York Times Editor Bari Weiss, recently published a review of a new book entitled "Where Have

All the Democrats Gone?" What makes this book especially fascinating is that it is written by two long-time Democrat consultants, John Judis and Ruy Teixeira. The two had written a book in 2002 called "The Emerging Democratic Majority," saying that the fastest growing areas were "cultivating a new wave of Democratic voters."

Democrat leaders would have enjoyed reading the earlier book, but probably won't like this latest book nearly as well.

The new book says: "In the past few decades, the Democratic Party has undergone a seismic shift. Kitchen-table issues like the economy and public safety have been overshadowed by more elitist topics like identity politics, gender ideology, defunding the police, climate change, and the vaguely defined yet rigidly enforced ideology

of anti-racism, which sees white supremacy as the force behind every institution in America."

The book also says: "But while activists, lobbyists, and pundits were busy reshaping the Democratic Party, ordinary voters - including the working class, middle-class families, and ethnic minorities - were simply leaving." Democrats "had lost out on its central issue: the economy and had all this extra baggage" called political correctness.

Teixeira said many Democrats thought, "Why even bother with these people? They're 'deplorables' as Hillary Clinton famously put it."

Judis actually went to several Trump rallies and said Trump talked about things people cared about while the Democrats just talked about how bad Trump was "and it didn't work."

The latest thing showing how tone-deaf the

Democrats are was the actions by two of their governors, Phil Murphy of New Jersey and Gavin Newsom of California.

Murphy said he was open to the idea of providing illegal immigrants with \$600 a week despite New Jersey "quite clearly running out of money."

Despite California's projected deficit of \$54.3 billion, Newsom's Disaster Relief Assistance For Immigrants project will use \$75 million to pay each adult \$500 and caps out at \$1,000 per household. Recipients must be at least 18 and be an undocumented immigrant.

The elitist Newsom, in his debate with Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, refused to answer the question of why so many people are leaving California and simply kept bragging about how many Nobel prize winners lived in California.

He also never denied DeSantis' charge that drug addicts were defecating on the streets of California cities or telling what, if anything, he was going to do about it.

Of course, Newsom wants to be president so he can mess up the country like he has California.

Politicians like Murphy and Newsom, and especially President Biden, are in office primarily because of the extreme bias of the national media, led by the New York Times, formerly edited by Weiss, as mentioned above.

Weiss was brought on as editor of the New York Times to try to bring "in voices that would not otherwise appear" in its pages, such as centrists and conservatives. Three years later, in July of 2020, she gave up and resigned in frustration.

Weiss wrote in her resignation letter that everything

at the Times was "molded to fit the needs of a predetermined narrative" and that almost all published pieces had to "explicitly promote progressive causes." Of course, progressive wrongly means left-wing today.

Weiss is not a conservative, and she wrote that "showing up for work as a centrist at an American newspaper should not require bravery." She apparently felt that at the Times it did require courage because of all the attacks from others at the paper against anyone not obeying the liberal-left line.

In her lengthy letter, she added "that intellectual curiosity...is now a liability at the Times" and that "we can assure ourselves of job security by publishing our 4,000th op-ed arguing that Donald Trump is a unique danger to the country and the world."

Merit Board to elect officers, look at promotion assessment

By Mike Steely Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Sheriff's Office Employees' Merit System Board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, January 17, in its quarterly session. The first duty of the appointed members is to select a chair and vice chair.

Currently, Christopher Manning sits as chair and John Valliant Jr. serves as vice chairman. Other voting members of the board are Kenny Boatman, John Marshall, Clarence Vaughn, Lindsey Willis and Brock Goetz.

With no complaints listed on the agenda, the

merit board will set dates for its 2024 meetings. A discussion of the promotional assessments within the KCSO is the final item before the board.

Merit System Director Paula Taylor told The Focus that the promotion policies haven't been addressed in some time. Knox County Ordinance states the board is responsible for establishing and maintaining "records of the performance and a system of service ratings to be used to determine promotions, the order of lay-offs and reduction of force, to determine the order of reemployment."

Are mortgage lenders discriminating against minority borrowers?

CNN ran a story that harkened back to the good old days. It was about Navy Federal Credit Union's rejecting over half of its mortgage applications from blacks while accepting more than 75% of applications for the same type of mortgage from whites. It was the type of story that was published in big city newspapers during the 1970s and was similar to the ones in Nashville newspapers in the 1990s. These stories looked at the differential between black and white acceptance rates. The earlier studies charged that the differentials were proof that blacks were being discriminated against in the mortgage lending decision. The CNN article states explicitly



By Dr. Harold A. Black blackh@knoxfocus.com haroldblackphd.com

uses the data mandated by the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act. These data are publicly available and include the applicant's race, gender, income and debt-to-income ratio, the loan amount, the property value and the neighborhood's socioeconomic makeup. However, the data do not include credit worthiness which is proprietary and why CNN cannot positively assert discrimination although they strongly imply it. CNN states that black applicants were more than twice as likely to be denied as white applicants and "Latino applicants were roughly 85% more likely to be denied than White applicants."

that Navy Federal may not be discriminating against blacks but the disparity raises that possibility. The earlier studies simply looked at the final accept/reject disparities.

The CNN study uses the data mandated by the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act. These data are publicly available and include the applicant's race, gender, income and debt-to-income ratio, the loan amount, the property value and the neighborhood's socioeconomic makeup. However, the data do not include credit worthiness which is proprietary and why CNN cannot positively assert discrimination although they strongly imply it. CNN states that black applicants were more than twice as likely to be denied as white applicants and "Latino applicants were roughly 85% more likely to be denied than White applicants."

I must admit some personal responsibility in the analysis of lending discrimination. My study of discrimination in mortgage lending while at the Comptroller of the Currency in the early 1970s was the first econometric study that modeled the lending decision and used a unique statistical procedure to test for discrimination. That study led in part to the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act and the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). The early newspaper articles alleging lending discrimination prompted the Comptroller of the Currency to ask me to determine if the allegations were true for national banks that were regulated by the agency. The problem

was that in those days there were no data. Therefore, we went to interview major bank lenders. We asked what were the important variables in the lending decision and constructed a mortgage lending application form that contained those variables. We did not put race on the application because we felt that a minority borrower would be reluctant to indicate race if it were felt that the lender might discriminate. So we put the demographic variables on a separate tear-off form with a number linking it to the application. The borrower was to fill out the information and put it in an envelope addressed to the FDIC which did the data compilation. The FDIC forwarded the data to me at the comptroller's office. We then analyzed the data and later published the results in the American Economic Review (May 1978). The results showed weak statistical evidence of discrimination by race but stronger evidence of redlining which is discrimination against the property. That is, if a white applicant applied for a mortgage in a certain geographic area, it had a higher likelihood of being rejected.

Motivated in part by our results, Congress passed HMDA so that the regulators would have relevant data and passed the Community Reinvestment Act which was targeted at redlining requiring lenders to make loans in underserved neighborhoods. The regulators would be privy to the creditworthiness data and could use it to make a determination as to whether the lending practices were in fact discriminatory.

When we first started the analysis, our priors were that discrimination was

possible in markets characterized by little competition among lenders. In those days most of the mortgage loans were made by savings and loans and not by banks. Credit unions could not make mortgages. In fact, this was the case and several lenders were punished by the regulators for discriminatory practices. Economics tells us that if there is excess demand for mortgages and few lenders, then the lenders can reject loans that would be profitable because of the limited supply of funds available. However, this is not the case today. Now banks, savings and loans, credit unions and online lenders can originate mortgages. Thus, rejection of profitable loans would be irrational on the part of the lenders. In many institutions, the mortgage loan officer is compensated by the mortgages underwritten. It would then be irrational for a loan officer to reject a qualified applicant if it lowered the officer's compensation. Also, the regulators who examine the lender's decisions are junkyard dogs looking for discrimination. As a consequence, a lender who discriminates in today's environment is not only irrational but is also foolish. It would be akin to speeding at 100 MPH with a state trooper at every mile marker. Lastly, Navy Federal should know that its lending disparity is out of line and would warrant more detailed examination from the Federal authorities. Other institutions have gamed the system by increasing the acceptances of marginal minority applicants to lessen the disparity. One wonders why Navy Federal did not do the same.

Knox County Retired Teachers Association will meet 11:15 a.m. January 25, 2024, at the Foundry, 747 World's Fair Drive. Bryan Massengale, a retired music educator, will be the guest entertainer. Newly retired teachers and all KCRTA members are welcome.



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,
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Idiotnomics

We've all heard about the wizardry of "Bidenomics" and the dunderheads in Washington are all wondering why folks aren't dancing in the streets for joy. Apparently, the dunderheads all employ illegal aliens to do their grocery shopping and just about every other household chore. The average family is paying 20% more for the same products just to get by; that's the reality of Bidenomics for most people and every working family.

Then there is the "Idiotnomics" of California, a state with a \$68 billion and growing deficit. "Idiotnomics" is governmental fiscal policy formulated by a group of child-like minds with a bent left of socialism and headed pell-mell

toward Crazytown as fast as their little feet can carry them. It's spending by idiots, usually for idiots, and paid for by everybody who works. These folks couldn't run a modest sized hot dog stand, much less a food truck. You'd know if they did run a food truck; it would be the one where they never turned a profit, lost money and every customer died of botulism, a climate change card clutched in their hands. "Idiotnomics" are very popular in blue cities and California especially.

Folks are leaving California like their Fruit-of-the-Looms are on fire. Now, Governor Gavin Newsome and the California legislature has decided to extend free Medi-Cal healthcare coverage to illegal immigrants. Beginning January 1, 2024, illegals can access free health care in a state close to being belly up financially. The authors of "Idiotnomics" have made illegals between the ages of 26 - 49 eligible, which is estimated to add some 700,000 users to the system and cost around \$2.7 billion. California's reimbursement rate to doctors is already well below that of what is typically paid by insurers, which means there is a very

good possibility there will be fewer doctors accepting it as almost 1 million new users hop on board. And who in his right mind could possibly be surprised to discover California is already experiencing serious physician and healthcare staffing shortages? The fiscal hawks in California have supposedly instituted a spending freeze for the remainder of the year.

Like the self-designated multitude of "sanctuary" cities who said they would take in the migrants, until it actually happened, California and America's big cities are sinking under a rising tide of maladministration, woke policies that break the financial bank and cause their residents to flee as fast as they can where people are normal. Apparently, the financial geniuses in California haven't thought about the number of illegal immigrants coming to their state (especially when they are offering "free stuff") might grow and thereby raise costs. It won't be long before there will be government scholarships to go to a local college for a degree in Idiotnomics. These are the same people who think has-been celebrities like Whoopi Goldberg and never-a-celebrity Sunny Hostin are oracles and their

opinions on government and politics mean something when it's more like the braying of jackasses.

More Woke Idiocy

Elon Musk, the tech billionaire, is under fire for making a bold statement. When New York City public school students were forced to remain home for remote learning so their schools could be used to house illegals, Musk posted on X, formerly Twitter, "This is what happens when you run out of hotel rooms. Soon, cities will run out of schools to vacate. Then they will come for your homes."

NYC Mayor Eric Adams is wringing his hands and acknowledging the local government can't afford the illegals coming into the city, even though they proclaimed themselves to be a sanctuary city. Of course, saying you are something doesn't usually cost a penny. It's the doing that costs. Adams and everybody like him could hold on to their pearls and scold red states who have dealt with 10 and 20 times the numbers that have sent the northerners into a tizzy and absorbed the costs while ICE agents change diapers and make sandwiches. The spending is

unreal, unbudgeted, and actual taxpaying citizens are being treated like second-class citizens to people who aren't citizens at all.

Little whiny sanctuararians like Eric Adams blame bad ol' Governor Greg Abbott who is simply shipping the illegals to those places who say everyone is welcome, but that isn't the truth. The blame falls right into the wobbly lap of Old Joe Biden who insists the border is closed when we've seen record crossings. Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey has quite nearly swooned and is asking residents to consider taking illegal families into their homes. That ought to fix the problem. Anybody with the sense God gave a goose knows you can't put 10 pounds of lard into a 5-pound bucket and 20 people can't live together comfortably or decently in a 2000 square foot home, much less feed everybody off the same income.

It's Border policy brought to you by the inventors of "Idiotnomics."

Even More Woke Idiocy

Lest you think it's only Americans who bow down to the "Idiotnomic" crowd, the philosophy has spread

like the bubonic plague back in the day. According to Britain's Daily Mail, better than 50% of the World Health Organization's transgender health policy committee are not medical professionals and have no medical backgrounds. But fret not, many of them are gender activists. These are the folks who "will provide evidence and implementation guidance on health sector interventions aimed at increasing access and utilization of quality and respectful health services by trans and gender diverse people." That's according to a press release from the World Health Organization. Out of 21 committee members, 8 are doctors, 7 are trans people, and 10 have some element of a medical background, which might include having designed the "Enchanted Unicorns" band-aids.

Coming Soon?

Last week saw the anniversary of patriot Thomas Paine's publication of "Common Sense," which was first published on January 10, 1776. I hear "The Dummy's Guide to Idiocracy" is soon to be published and will be available at a college or university near you.

Advance Knox growth plan passes committee

Continued from page 1

a few days before the hearing. The change reduces the proposed residential area from 17.5 to 14.5 square miles.

The amendment cuts the current three houses per acre to two dwellings according to Jim Snowden, Knox County's chief engineer. Amy Brooks, director of Knoxville-Knox County Planning, told the meeting the plan shows where future growth could go. Development would be permitted where utilities are available and the local roads serving a project must be at least 18 feet wide.

Snowden said the final plan cuts density in the rural area by one-third. If passed by the municipalities the plan will go into effect on May 1.

Only two of the dozens of speakers spoke in favor of the Growth Plan. Most speakers also urged for green spaces, natural areas and parks. Shouts of disapproval came from the audience when the amendment and Growth Plan passed.

Both city and county mayors supported the plan. Knox County Soil Conservation



The Planning Commission's Amy Brooks and Knox Chief Engineer Jim Snowden explained the proposed amendment to the Knox County Growth Plan. The amended plan passed 10-2 and now goes to the three municipalities for approval.

District Vice Chairman Broadus Hubbs and Knox County Schools Board Chair Betsy Henderson voted against it.

Mayor Glenn Jacobs thanked the speakers and said of the final plan, "It was a lot of work."

Zonings, police requests discussed at city council

By Mike Steely
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A zoning appeal for the property at 2812 Merchant Drive was withdrawn by developer Erika Ayala Munoz last week. Councilman Charles Thomas told the council the developer wanted to withdraw the appeal of the planning commission decision to deny the zoning change from Office Park to General Commercial.

Two other appeals were postponed until the council's January 23 meeting. One was from John Holmes regarding the zoning administrator's classification of a 22-bedroom duplex as an Independent Living Facility. The other was from Daniel A. Sanders of the Oak Knoll

Homeowner's Association regarding a variance for a setback change on Lyons View Pike.

Zoning change requests that were approved include 4501 Lonas Drive from RN-1 to RN-2; 2414 Robinson Road from Agricultural to RN-1; and 1124, 1126, 1128 and 1130 Trigg Street from RN-2 to RN-3.

A planned development designation was approved for 1834 Beech Street on a request from David Cockrill.

The council also voted to approve \$52,894 for Third Creek Greenway resurfacing, \$20,000 to reroof and repair the HVAC at the Dr. E.V. Davidson Community Center, and to apply for \$40,000 with a \$40,000 match to install a kayak

launch at Holston River Park.

The Knoxville Police Department was approved to amend the piggyback agreement with Avero LLC and Plans Review & Inspections Department for consulting services, apply for \$115,000 to combat narcotics crimes, and an agreement with the state for \$60,000 the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force investigator's travel expenses.

Also approved was the acceptance of \$27,500 from Homeland Security for safety equipment for the police and an application for \$48,015 to the state Criminal Justice Program to reduce gun crimes and criminal activities.

Weather and cake

Cont. from page 1

Rysewyk said the system is "very versed" with ice and snow and freezing temperatures, and even illness.

"Wind is hard to see," Rysewyk said. "Wind is a very different factor we've dealt with this week."

He said Monday evening the system started monitoring wind conditions, specifically strong, gusty winds.

He said as Monday progressed into Tuesday, high, gusty winds were being forecast by the National Weather Service at about 3 p.m. - the time schools let out.

Rysewyk said the system monitored the forecast all day and was looking for that window when high gusts of wind were expected. He said that because there are certain levels of gusts, you don't want to send out "high profile vehicles" during pick up and drop off time. He

said the school system has about 20,000 school bus riders.

"Our schools are totally fine to handle 30-, 40-, 50-mile-per-hour gusts of wind when kids are in school," he said. "What we don't want to do is have buses out when the gusts get to that level because that's a safety problem."

He said if forecasts had called for high, gusty wind between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., the schools wouldn't have any concerns.

There are a lot of pieces that go into calling school early. The Knox County Board of Education is informed, the principals are told, bus contractors have to be told they will run early, and on Tuesday the decision also came during lunch.

Tuesday night the system stayed in close contact with the National Weather

Service, which finally confirmed the gusts should be out of wind by 8 a.m. Wednesday morning, leading to a two-hour delay for the start of school.

Looking at Friday, Jan. 12, Rysewyk said, "It's all wind ... We're not looking at other things."

"Wind is kind of a new creature, we haven't had to deal with a lot."

Thursday's meeting ended with cake. Sorta.

In discussion before passing the system's 2024 legislative priorities, District 3's Daniel Watson asked for clarification on the last paragraph. He didn't remember seeing it before Thursday night.

District 5's Susan Horn said it was her fault and had forgotten to mention it before.

When a PTSO or PTA wants to have a raffle fundraiser - a cake walk for

example - they can't.

Well, they can, District 2's Jennifer Owen said. But permission has to be asked more than a year in advance from the Secretary of State. No "games of chance" are allowed - even for a 50-cents-a-ticket cake walk.

"It's ridiculous," Owen said.

Deputy Knox County Law Director Gary Dupler said, "Can we have a raffle for an American Girl doll? The answer is, 'No.' But you can auction it."

The last item is to urge the legislature to come up with a statute to help schools hold cake walks (among other raffle-type fundraisers).

"If this passes I'm going to get you a t-shirt that says, 'Open the cake walk,'" Watson told Horn.

"I love cake," Horn said. "It makes people happy."

More agricultural land rezoning to residential

By Mike Steely
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The need for more housing continues to grow in our area.

When the Knox County Commission meets in the zoning portion of its regular meeting Tuesday night it will consider two more requests to change property designations from agricultural to residential. The meeting, which follows the main meeting at 7 p.m., has several agenda items. R. Jason Barnes is asking for a change from A, agricultural, to PR, planned residential, zoning for 8441 Old Middlebrook Pike where nine dwelling units are being planned.

Dennis Vaulton is requesting a change from A to RA, low-density residential, for 2920 Mayberry Way.

In one other change involving agricultural land, Dale William Rhoton is requesting a change at 3220 East Governor John Sevier from A to CA, General Business.

Another change is being requested by Arcip Horobet for Zero Pellissippi Parkway. The property may be approved to be rezoned PR instead of the current BP, business and technology park, zoning.

Property at 10105 Dutchtown Road may be approved to change from BP to OB, office/medical/related services. Ziggurat Development is asking to change 3710 Neal Drive from PC, planned commercial, to OB.

\$12.8M contract for HVAC repairs at schools on agenda

By Mike Steely
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The Knox County Commission meets in regular session on Tuesday at 5 p.m. and the "consent" agenda includes several board of education items. While the commission must approve the school board items any of those resolutions may be brought up by a commissioner for discussion.

Deputy Law Director Mike Moyers told The Focus that the automatic approval of school board items dates back to 2000. He said the school board and superintendent sued the commission over several issues and an agreement was reached to permit the system to spend its budget without interference because it was a "quasi-independent body."

Each year the school

system requests its budget from the commission and once a budget is authorized, the school board has almost total authority to spend it.

Within the various school board resolutions is a \$12.8 million expenditure for a contract with Trane U.S. Inc. for HVAC additions, replacement and or control updates at Austin-East High School, East Knox Elementary, Fountain

City Elementary, Lincoln Park Center, Spring Hill Elementary, South-Doyle High School Young Campus, and South Knoxville Elementary.

The school board agenda also includes an expenditure of \$2.6 million in a contract with Skilled Services LLC for Phase Two of Work Based Learning at Austin-East, Fulton, Gibbs, South-Doyle, and West high schools.

A \$2.3 million expenditure for the same program and company is listed for Karns, Farragut, Halls and Powell high schools.

The school board also has accepted a \$1.1 million donation from the Knox Education Foundation for the replacement of existing playgrounds at Fair Garden Family Center, the Knoxville Adaptive Education Center, and Belle Morris, Fountain City, Sarah Moore Greene,

Spring Hill and West Haven elementary schools.

Three refrigerated trucks are requested to replace trucks in the school nutrition fleet at a total cost of \$450,000.

Also, \$500 is being allotted in a contract with Music Theatre International for Gresham Middle School's performance of "Willy Wonka Kids."

Words Matter: BOE sends harrassment policy back for review

Cont. from page 1

Department of Education funds – federal funding – "must operate its education program or activity in a non-discriminatory manner free of discrimination based on sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity."

But three speakers during the public forum – held during the discussion of the harassment policy changes – reiterated, "Words matter."

Megan Haselschwerdt, an associate professor of Child and Family Studies at the University of Tennessee, addressed the board and its decision to reword its harassment policy: "I understand the seemingly logical decision to strike actual perceived gender identity and sexual orientation from the list and replacing it with, 'sex.'"

She said she is aware that Knox County Schools' harassment policies "do not tolerate harassment for any reason," which include

gender identity and sexual orientation.

But, Haselschwerdt added, it is important to factor in the "socio-political and historical backdrop" of the country before striking "gender identity" and "sexual orientation" from the list.

She noted 510 anti-LGBT bills were introduced in 2023; 84 of which were passed – 10 in the State of Tennessee.

"We're leading the way in anti-LGBT legislation, particularly against youth," she said. "Most of these targeting education and gender-affirming care."

She said the percentage of youth who identify as LGBT+ (10 percent) or as transgender (1.5 percent) is small.

Haselschwerdt said, "The community contexts, particularly our policies, are essential in acknowledging their existence, their reality, and naming and boldly standing up against

anti-LGBT harassment.

"By stripping out gender identity and sexual orientation from this policy, you would be doing the opposite."

"Words matter. The meaning behind them matters."

Leticia Flores, a psychologist who works to inform the community about LGBT matters, told the board she was at the meeting to urge the board to keep the language in the harassment policy as it is.

She said it wasn't "clear" why the board was considering changing its harassment policy text.

"I'm curious about your intentions. I don't know if this is extreme tone deafness, or is it a loud and clear message that you are sending to these children and their families that you do not value their safety," Flores said.

She said that leaving the policy as is harms no one.

Aly Chapman, chair of the

Tennessee Equality Project in Knox County, also spoke to the board. She said increasing the language in the policy made more sense than decreasing it.

"It's a choice," she said. "It's your choice."

Some of the board members also questioned changing the wording of the policy.

"I understand the justifications for this. I understand that before, what we're proposing to take out, says 'For any reason, but not limited to ...' I understand that," Fourth District's Katherine Bike said.

"But now is not the time to make that change."

Jennifer Owen of District 2 said she supports a policy that's "clear and concise," but is broad enough to cover everything, "that needs to be covered."

She said the language change met the requirements of being concise and clear, while being broad and is legally appropriate.

She added she would have voted for it on Monday (Jan. 8) during the board work session.

"Since then it has become very clear to me that this issue isn't just divisive, it's a lot worse than that," Owen said.

"Regardless of our intent, there are a lot of people in our community who see this change as this board adopting a philosophy that we've never even talked about."

Owen said she was contacted by a person who used disparaging and concerning language, "frankly disgusting" language about students.

She said the person making the comments made it clear they felt "empowered" by the revised changes.

Daniel Watson of District 3 said the board and the law department made the decision for the change in good faith, to simplify the policy.

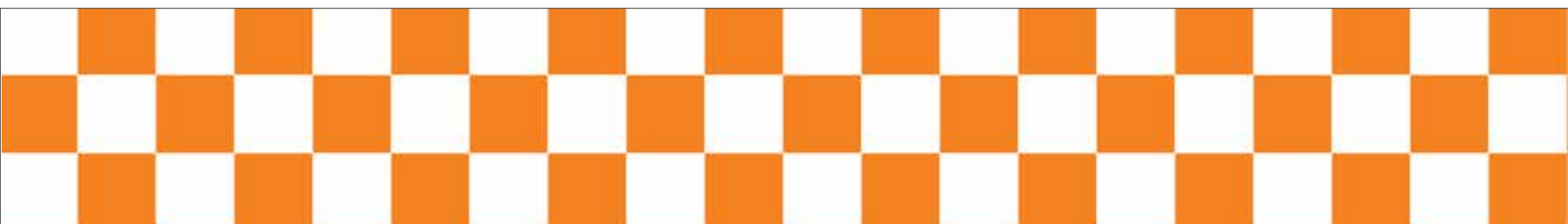
But he said he was "disappointed" in some of the emails he received in the days leading up to the Thursday meeting.

"For some, this change does signal something to them ... there's definitely people in our community who have watched this, who have followed this, and who are making the assumption that Knox County Schools, by reducing this language, is making some kind of statement," Watson said.

Watson said he couldn't support the change, but he would support sending the policy back to policy review to how they would shift the wording, if needed, to offer protections "that we want to offer and need to be offering."

He said emails he received showed an "uglier side" of what this policy is trying to protect.

"As a person of faith I'm against all forms of harassment against anybody," he said.



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

Gloves Are Off

If the election were held tomorrow, Biden would still get millions of votes. Why? Because we have incompetent citizens.

Bill O'Reilly

I doubt that O'Reilly is referring to readers of The Knoxville Focus, but he may otherwise have a point. How could anyone vote for such incompetency?

As I consider the political landscape, it's hard for me to choose the worst Biden Administration debacle of the week. Is our wandering, demented president, who needs to be led off the stage by his wife and chaperone (Jill), the top item? Or was it the White House being unaware that the Secretary of Defense, sixth in line of Presidential succession, had cancer surgery and complications that put him in the ICU at Walter Reed Hospital?

So-called conspiracy theorists say that the O-Biden Presidency is actually being run by Obama holdovers. But so many "conspiracy

theories" have been proven true. Obama's influence seems plausible since his minions like David Axelrod keep trashing the incompetent ones. But Ol' Joe needs Obama's progressives, so these hold-overs get to tell him what to say and do.

However, I'll choose the millions of aliens continuing to stream across the nonexistent border as the disaster of this week and every week. The border crisis is as objectively real as Biden's dementia, but the latter is old news and a component of all the other disasters.

Anyone with an ounce of curiosity has asked why Biden doesn't do something about the border invasion. The crisis could be stemmed with an Executive Order. After all, Biden nixed President Trump's border wall and the effective "remain in Mexico" policy on Biden's day one. I'm no expert, but it seems logical that the population exodus from blue states

like California, New York, Illinois, etc. is related to Biden's border invasion. "What?"

You may remember liberals singing of "demographic destiny," where the influx of migrants would supplant the historically dominant white American population. I feel ashamed mentioning such racist perspectives, but I do so to demonstrate the class warfare of these racist neo-Marxists (leftist progressives) who now control the mainstream media, academia (Ivy leagues, etc.) and the Democrat party.

The Democrat plan was to change Texas and Florida into blue states, where their Electoral College votes would go to Democrats. And when added to California, Illinois and New York, a Republican could never again find a pathway to 270 electoral votes to become President.

The Electoral College was Constitutionally created to give small states like Vermont or Wyoming a say in electing the president. Without this provision, there would be no need for citizens in small states to even vote because populous states like New York and California would choose the president.

Electoral College votes are determined by the total number of senators and representatives from each state. Tennessee has nine electors (one for each of our two Senators and seven determined by

our population of 6.3 million). One Congressional representative/elector is awarded for every 747,000 citizens in a state.

California has 52 electors, but after the 2020 census (mandated by the Constitution every 10 years), California lost one Congressional representative and elector, while Florida gained one. Now you begin to see why population shifts are threatening blue states, and why only citizens should determine Congressional representation, not illegals. Arguably, the Democrats want to count illegal aliens to backfill their population losses. President Trump fought to keep illegals from being counted for Congressional representation. And I believe only legal citizens should vote.

We have entered dangerous times because Democrat power is threatened and they are ruthless. I'll admit that I have become somewhat jaded because we repeatedly hear that this is the most important election. Well, I'm certain that 2024 is because I understand what so-called Democrats have become; and their desperation makes them dangerous.

Constitutional scholar Jonathan Turley wrote in the New York Post that Democrats are expanding the 14th Amendment theory nationwide in an attempt to remove 126

Republicans from ballots in 2024. These neo-Marxist Democrats consider their vision sacrosanct. Some have even said that the "existential threat" of another Trump presidency is so dangerous that any means justifies the end, including violence and assassination.

Journalists were recently caught on a hot mic joking about the assassination of President Trump. These leftist progressives' names should be released and they should be fired, but they won't because more than 90% of the media are Democrats who view President Trump as a threat to "their" democracy.

Do you doubt me? The Washington Times recently reported that Biden's "Department of Justice prosecutors are planning to target thousands of January 6 protestors who gathered in restricted areas around the Capitol, regardless of whether they participated in violent acts or entered the Capitol building." These tyrants stated, "If a person knowingly entered a restricted area without authorization, they had already committed a federal crime."

These fascists may as well extend their "restricted area" to Washington, D.C., city limits or even Knox County. I don't condone or excuse any violence, but how can the Peoples' House be off-limits to the people? Why did the deep

state not prosecute the BLM/ANTIFA "insurrectionists" who rampaged across America after George Floyd's death? And why did Ray Epps receive just a year of probation from the DOJ, despite being on tape telling people to go into the Capitol on January 6?

As last week's winter weather system swept across the United States, I thought about the poor illegals, wet and freezing in tents and tenements in New York City, Chicago and elsewhere. What a tragedy that they left their homes to discover what it means to be a Democrat pawn. Even people in sanctuary Chicago are furious that illegals are supplanting citizens. And New Yorker parents are furious because a high school was closed to shelter illegals from Nor'easter rain and snow.

But just as I was finishing this essay, Hunter Biden did it again. He crashed a Congressional Hearing and then stormed out when representatives began to ask him questions. Ol' Joe once referred to his son, Hunter, as "the smartest man I know," but this publicity stunt was dumb and emblematic of the utterly inept Biden Administration.

So, what are we to do? A friend of mine advises, "Get informed, get inspired and get involved." Seems like sound advice and marching orders for patriotic citizens.

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

Catching Up With Vice Mayor

Tommy Smith

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

First District Councilman Tommy Smith was selected by his fellow council members in the reorganization meeting recently to become the new vice mayor. After being appointed to finish the term of resigning Councilwoman Stephanie Welch, Smith went on to be fully elected in 2021.

The Knoxville Focus caught up with the new vice mayor and asked a few questions.

Why is it Tommy and not Tom or Thomas?

My given name is Thomas,

but I've only been called Tommy, except by a grandmother who called me Tom.

You have been chosen as the new vice mayor. What does that involve?

Working with city council staff, leading workshops, and guiding priorities for council.

Tell us about your family.

My wife, Jamie, is the backbone of our family. She tutors young kids at South Knoxville Elementary and helps lead the PTO there. She does a million things well. My oldest son, Carter, was born in Ireland and loves science and friends. Kindness is his

superpower.

Our twins, Avery and Caroline, are eight years old. Avery loves soccer, basketball and cars. Caroline likes gymnastics, art and dresses. My parents are amazing humans and recently moved to South Knoxville. I have the bonus of amazing in-laws too.

Where are you now employed?

Avertium. For better or worse, cybersecurity is in higher demand to combat bad actors. Our company protects businesses, municipalities, and other organizations from savvy cybercriminals.

Where and how do you and your
Continue on page 2



Councilman Tommy Smith cuts the ribbon on Knoxville's first all-electric KAT buses in September 2021.

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FROM THE MOUNTAINS BY JADON GIBSON

Chief Little Crow's War

Part Two

By Jadon Gibson

By 1862, the Dakotas were in dire straits with insufficient food, clothing, blankets and other essential items. Hunger was rampant and with the great need for food, they were forced to eat their dogs and many of their horses in order to survive. Little Crow, Chaska and other Indian leaders saw the breakdown between the Dakota and the government adversely affecting the Indians while benefiting the United States. Although the payments to the Dakotas were guaranteed, they were often late or not paid at all due to the government's preoccupation with the Civil War.

Little Crow became the chief of the eastern Sioux, or Dakota, following the death of his father.

His tribe was to have a trust fund of \$1.5 million at five percent interest paid annually. The tribe

found itself on a tract of land 20x30 acres which seemed unsuitable to them. They claimed they were cut off from every natural resource. They were to be fed, clothed and taught agriculture. Houses were also to be built for them and schools for their children.

The prosperous picture painted for the Dakotas didn't materialize. Payments promised through the treaties were not paid for nearly two years. The government was contending with the advent of the Civil War while the Indians faced starvation each winter and their standard of living continued to decline. The government bargained with Little Crow for the northern half of the reservation for \$98,000. An agreement was reached but the money was paid to the traders to be applied toward the Indian account which they were unable to pay. This resulted in the

loss of half of their land with nothing tangible to show for it. There were bitter feelings toward Little Crow among the Dakotas following these negotiations.

The ill will also extended to the traders who stayed in St. Paul rather than going out among the tribesmen. When the chiefs heard about the Civil War they wondered what effect it would have on them. Some of the Dakotas felt the distraction may enable them to drive the settlers from Minnesota and reclaim their land.

Time passed and the annuity payment and food that was due the Dakotas wasn't forthcoming. Little Crow was forced to support the decision by the war council in 1862 to pursue a course of war in order to drive the whites out of Minnesota. He let it be known that he disapproved of killing settlers who had done them no harm and told the warriors to spare the women and children.

Approximately 500 Dakotas broke into the traders' warehouse, forcing Indian agent Thomas Galbraith to give them provisions. The need for food among the Dakotas was the main cause of the Dakota War of 1862.

Chief Little Crow knew the white men would seek vengeance for their acts. The war council could either turn the murders over to the soldiers to settle or go on the warpath. The majority of the council was bent

on war. Little Crow led a strike the following morning in which 20 white men were killed. He had been blamed for the tribe's misfortunes and hoped to regain his standing among them. In the days that followed as many as 800 Dakota braves rampaged throughout the area with hundreds of whites killed. Buildings were looted and homes and crops were burned. Hundreds of scalps were taken.

Fort Ridgley soldiers arrived to rescue the innocents but many fell in battle. Henry Sibley's skirmishers moved methodically, not seeming to understand that time wasted resulted in lives lost. What Little Crow started on August 17, Sibley ended on September 22. The Dakota War of 1862 resulted in the deaths of 400 to 900 settlers although no official tally was ever given.

Sibley didn't differentiate between Indians. They were all the same to him. He arrested over 2,000 but as many as three-fourths were innocent. Within a month, nearly 400 Indians were tried with each trial lasting 10 minutes or less. Over 300 tribesmen were sentenced to death.

Although Little Crow led attacks on New Ulm, Hutchinson, Forest City and Fort Ridgley, he knew the end was near. When defeats followed early successes, Little Crow retreated to the Red River with some of his people. When his braves were routed at the Battle of Wood Lake in September 1862, he fled to Canada.

"The white men are like locusts," he exclaimed. "They fly so thick the whole sky is like a snowstorm. We are like little herds of buffalo that were left scattered."

Ironically, the Dakota's annuity payment arrived on the day the war began. One day may have caused many lives lost.

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Honorary Street Name to honor Deaf School

By Mike Steely

Senior Writer
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Streets and street names change over time and often the significance of an old name is lost to history. While the city's Public Property Naming Committee can't change the official street name — that's now a duty of the planning commission — it may establish an "honorary" name and in its meeting last week it approved a request from Bernadette West to do so. Former Downtown Coordinator Rick Emmett and West both addressed the committee, chaired by Vice Mayor Tommy Smith, to request an honorary name for an unnamed little street off Blackstock Avenue, under the Western Avenue overpass.

The name suggested was "Asylum District" and Knoxville historian Jack Neely suggested the addition of "Avenue." West said that adding "Avenue" to the designation was "fine with me."

Emmett said the idea is "to get the name back on the books."

Why "Asylum"?

Long before the Tennessee School for the Deaf relocated to Island Home in South Knoxville,

it was founded in 1844 on Western Avenue where the former city hall and now LMU is located. The old Western Avenue led to the school and, back then, the institute was known as the Deaf and Dumb Asylum.

Over the years, the area leading to the school became known locally as the Asylum District. Today three buildings along the unnamed street belong to the West family. While a sign along the old Western Avenue designates the street as a dead end, it actually passes the buildings, goes left, and connects with Ramsey Street.

While "Asylum" has a different meaning today, the term is historic and describes that area of town that was important.

Neely moved to add a historic designation sign for the "Asylum Avenue District" and the motion passed unanimously.

Members of the Naming Committee also discussed reworking the application for honorary street name changes, possibly requiring a more detailed history.

Catching Up With Vice Mayor Tommy Smith

Cont. from page 1
family recreate?

We play outside a lot. Kickball in our neighborhood park, bikes at Baker Creek, and playgrounds at Suttree Landing Park.

What are your hobbies and interests?

I enjoy community. Helping people, coaching

sports and being with people. I'm a huge fan of UT sports and Liverpool FC soccer. If I had a clone, he would travel to Europe a lot more.

Tell us about your childhood in South Knoxville.

I had the most wonderful, scrappy childhood I could ask for. I played youth sports, bounced around South Knoxville neighborhoods by foot and bike, and had two loving, working-class parents with plenty of caring school teachers.

How would you like to be remembered?

As a kind servant to others.

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John Sparkman of Alabama

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

For forty-two years, John Sparkman served the people of Alabama in either the U.S. House of Representatives or the United States Senate. An enthusiastic advocate for the Tennessee Valley Authority, Sparkman was considered a liberal Democrat, although he routinely opposed civil rights legislation. The legislative craftsman was a friend to small farmers and a supporter of most of the programs proposed by Democratic presidents Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. Senator Sparkman had sponsored legislation for farmers, small businesses and public housing. Sparkman and his senior colleague, Lister Hill, formed one of the most effective duos inside the Senate from 1947-1969. Hill and Sparkman had successfully gotten Alabama a big slice of the federal pie during their time in Congress. John Sparkman was Alabama's longest-serving U.S. senator until Richard Shelby broke his record in 2019.

John Sparkman was also the Democratic nominee for vice president in 1952, nominated to run with Adlai Stevenson. New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey launched an attack on the vice-presidential nominee, saying Sparkman was "the Jim Crow candidate for Vice President."

Soft-spoken, rosy-cheeked, and mild-tempered, John Sparkman certainly did not appear to be any wild-eyed liberal. Nor did he make hate-filled speeches to stir up the folks back home. "I've never tried to stir up emotions," Sparkman once explained. "I've fought all of the civil rights fights here alongside the Southern senators - - - but on constitutional and practical grounds. I've always contended that race problems weren't solved by legislation but by economic improvement." In a state where George Wallace was the most popular politician, Senator Sparkman seemed quite tame, if not timid. Roy Mayhall, chairman of Alabama's State Democratic Executive Committee, explained in 1965, "John has been a pretty good supporter of the Democratic administration, and he's done a lot for the people of Alabama. But they don't think about that. They've just got one thing on their minds: segregation. They hate Kennedy. They hate Johnson. And they hate John Sparkman." Unable to succeed himself as governor in 1966, George Wallace was thought to be mulling a challenge to Senator Sparkman inside the Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate.

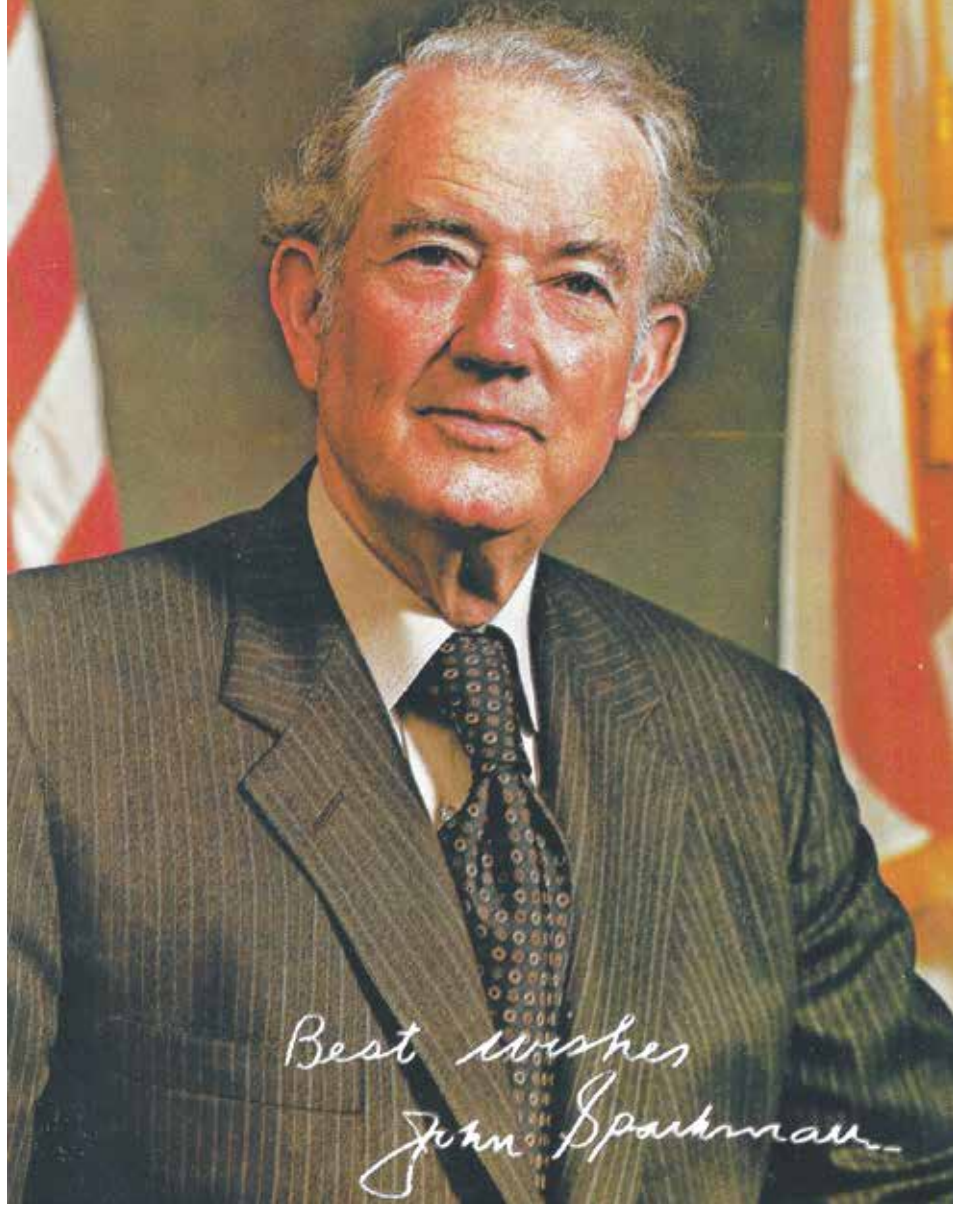
Born to a tenant farmer and deputy sheriff, John Sparkman was one of

eleven children. After having taught school and earned a law degree, Sparkman saw an opportunity when Congressman A. H. Carmichael announced he would not be a candidate for reelection in 1936. Sparkman entered the Democratic primary against four other candidates. Much of Sparkman's success came from his popularity as a Sunday School teacher at his church. Sparkman taught a young adult class at the Methodist Church and his students campaigned enthusiastically for their teacher. It was the only time during his long political career Sparkman was forced into a runoff, which he won easily.

One of John Sparkman's most lasting accomplishments for the people of his district and Alabama was locating a military facility in his hometown of Huntsville. That facility became the Redstone Arsenal, which became home to the space program and the Marshall Space Flight and Rocket Center. Perhaps the greatest of the German rocket scientists, Werner von Braun, came to live and work in Huntsville. John Sparkman's careful cultivation and support for Huntsville made it the fastest-growing city in Alabama during the decade of the 1950s. Eventually, it became the Yellowhammer State's third-largest city.

Perhaps the most notable legislation sponsored and passed by John J. Sparkman during his time as a congressman was the Sparkman Act. Sparkman introduced the legislation as the Second World War raged across the globe and it was intended to keep any soldier of the United States from coming home only to discover his home had been foreclosed, or his insurance lapsed and his family homeless and penniless. Sparkman stuffed the loopholes in existing laws and constructed a durable law to protect American servicemen. The Sparkman Act made a real difference in the finances of men serving their country.

John Sparkman got to the United States Senate in a 1946 special election necessitated by the sudden death of John Bankhead, Alabama's senior U.S. senator. Sparkman had already been nominated to run for reelection to his seat in the House and he faced two serious opponents in his senatorial bid. James A. Simpson was a corporate lawyer and state senator who had run against Senator Bankhead in 1942. Congressman Frank Boykin of Mobile was also seeking the Democratic nomination along with two minor candidates, but the race came down to Sparkman and Simpson. Sparkman won the Democratic nomination outright in the first primary. Throughout his career,



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION

Senator John Sparkman post card from his 1972 reelection campaign.

John Sparkman had to navigate the treacherous rapids of race in his native state, while also defending his liberalism from the potent conservatives in Alabama. Both Lister Hill and John Sparkman were placed between a rock and a hard place when the Southern delegates stomped out of the Democratic National Convention in 1948 in protest of Harry Truman's civil rights plank. Most Southern politicians backed the third-party candidacy of Strom Thurmond and Fielding Wright as the States' Rights or "Dixiecrat" candidates. Lister Hill and John Sparkman remained loyal to the national ticket. Although they said little publicly, neither endorsed the Dixiecrat candidates. Two years later, the senators worked to oust the Dixiecrats from Alabama's Democratic Party.

Serving the last two years of the late John Bankhead's term, John Sparkman was all too aware he had to run statewide in 1948 for a full six-year term. When Sparkman first entered the Senate, the Republicans had won control of both houses of Congress. Taft-Hartley placed Senator Sparkman in a difficult position. Virtually every businessman in Alabama favored the Taft-Hartley Bill, while labor, which had strongly supported the senator in the 1946 special election, was rabidly against it. Sparkman voted for the Taft-Hartley legislation while his colleague Lister Hill remained solidly opposed to it. When Harry Truman vetoed the bill, Sparkman voted to uphold the president's veto, which pleased organized labor. Sparkman clearly had tried to please opposing constituencies and apparently managed it as he encountered no serious challenger inside the Democratic primary in the 1948 election.

John Sparkman was a loyalist. When President John F. Kennedy nominated Charles Meriwether, an Alabamian, to serve as a director of the Import-Export Bank, the administration had neglected

to clear the appointment with Alabama's junior United States senator. There were serious problems with Meriwether's nomination and some senators accused the nominee of being a virulent racist and antisemite. Kennedy had nominated Charles Meriwether at the behest of Governor John Patterson, who had been one of Kennedy's first open backers in the South. Whatever distaste he felt, and Meriwether had been a political opponent, Senator Sparkman swallowed it and supported the president.

The politics of Alabama were undergoing serious change. Jim Martin, an articulate young Republican, had turned the Yellowhammer State's politics on its head when he nearly defeated Senator Lister Hill in 1962. Always popular with the people of Alabama, Hill had only won by the barest of margins. Two years later, Jim Martin had been elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as a Republican. It was readily apparent Martin was preparing for another statewide campaign, most likely a challenge to Senator Sparkman.

George Wallace's anticipated challenge to Senator Sparkman disappeared with the governor first trying to change the state constitution to allow governors to serve a consecutive four-year term. Once it became clear Wallace couldn't accomplish that feat, Congressman Jim Martin announced his campaign for governor. Then came the news George Wallace was running his wife, Lurleen. Sparkman faced young John Grenier in the general election and won just over 60% of the ballots cast. Luck frequently plays an outsized part in politics.

Following the loss of the Stevenson-Sparkman ticket to Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard Nixon, the senator traveled home to Alabama, where he spoke to the Alabama League of Municipalities in Montgomery. Sparkman gave a full-fledged speech,

comparing the new administration to that of Franklin Roosevelt in 1933. Sparkman noted the "dazzling brilliance" of the first 100 days of the New Deal and compared it to the "lack of firm leadership" during Eisenhower's own first 100 days in office. Eisenhower's decision about the ownership of offshore oil, which had been a fight between state and federal governments, was nothing less than a "Giveaway Program" or "Take Away program," according to the Alabama senator. It was, according to Sparkman, a case of giving the oil revenue to the "few" rather than using it for the "many."

Inside the United States Senate, John Sparkman was a member of the Banking and Commerce Committee, as well as the prestigious Committee on Foreign Relations. Sparkman rose to the chair of both committees. Sparkman was one of the few senators who challenged Joe McCarthy when the Wisconsin senator claimed to have documentation that several State Department employees were Communists. Senator Sparkman demanded McCarthy show the Senate proof of his accusations. Like most senators of his time, John Sparkman was a fervent anti-Communist and supported the use of America's military power to stop the spread of communism in the world.

The decades of the 1950s and 1960s brought further changes to Alabama and the rest of the country. The civil rights unrest brought additional pressure on Senators Hill and Sparkman and although both had voted against civil rights legislation, their critics suspected their sympathies lay elsewhere due to their innate liberalism. There was also an increasing number of voters who disapproved of big government, who were critical of both Sparkman and Hill. Lister Hill and John Sparkman had been, and remained, ardent New Deal Democrats who believed

the federal government could make a difference in the lives of the people they represented. Jim Martin's 1962 campaign against Senator Lister Hill was almost entirely one dedicated to castigating big government. Both Hill and Sparkman were shocked by the closeness of the election. To survive politically, Sparkman and Hill moved to the right.

When Virginia's Willis Robertson lost his primary in 1966 and left the Senate, Sparkman became chairman of the Senate's Banking Committee in 1967. Sparkman faced another serious GOP challenger in 1972 in the person of Winton "Red" Blount, an Alabama businessman who had served as Postmaster General in the Nixon administration. Senator Sparkman beat Blount badly despite a well-financed effort on the part of the Republicans.

J. William Fulbright was the longest-serving chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, but the Arkansas senator lost his primary to Governor Dale Bumpers in 1974 and left the Senate in 1975. John Sparkman surrendered his chairmanship of the Banking Committee to head Foreign Relations.

Born in 1899, John Sparkman began to slow down during his final term inside the United States Senate. The aging senator was not as vital as he had once been, a fact noticed while he helmed the Foreign Relations Committee. Some criticized Sparkman's leadership and several would-be successors waited in the wings for the 1978 election, including George Wallace, who had returned to the governor's chair in 1970 and had been reelected in 1974.

Unlike some of his colleagues, John Sparkman knew time had taken its toll on his body and mind. The Alabama senator announced he would not seek reelection in 1978, but noted with pleasure and gratitude, that he had been kept in the U.S. Senate longer than any other individual to that time.

After leaving the United States Senate in 1979, Sparkman and his wife Ivo returned to their home in Huntsville. Eventually moving to a nursing home, the former senator died in 1985. John Sparkman was one of the last politicians who could truthfully claim he lived in a log cabin. The future senator also stoked the furnaces to earn the money to pay for his college tuition. Born just as the next century dawned, John Sparkman helped to shape the century during which he lived. © 2023 Ray Hill

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www.newbeverly.org
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Sunday Morning Worship
11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Prayer
7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Youth
7:00 p.m.
Bus Ministry -
For transportation call 546-0001.

COURT NOTICES

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: JAMES WAYNE HUNTER

IN RE: WILSON & ASSOCIATES, PLLC, ATTORNEY IN FACT
V.
JENNIFER HAWKINS AND JAMES WAYNE HUNTER

NO. 206747-1

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant JAMES WAYNE HUNTER a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon JAMES WAYNE HUNTER, it is ordered that said defendant JAMES WAYNE HUNTER file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with H. KEITH MORRISON, an Attorney whose address is ONE EAST CENTER STREET, SUITE 310 FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS 72701 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause set for hearing Ex Parte as to you before Chancellor JOHN F. WEAVER at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division I, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in a The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 15TH day of DECEMBER, 2023

J Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: JOSH LAWSON AND APRIL LAWSON

IN RE: WILSON & ASSOCIATES, PLLC, ATTORNEY IN FACT
V.
LEKESHA R. MYNATT, JAVON RODGERS, JONATHAN LAWSON, JOSH LAWSON, APRIL LAWSON, AND KNOXVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING COMMERCIAL SERVICING, INC.

NO. 207032-1

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendants JOSH LAWSON AND APRIL LAWSON a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon JOSH LAWSON AND APRIL LAWSON, it is ordered that said defendants JOSH LAWSON AND APRIL LAWSON file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with H. KEITH MORRISON, an Attorney whose address is ONE EAST CENTER STREET, SUITE 310 FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS 72701 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause set for hearing Ex Parte as to you before Chancellor JOHN F. WEAVER at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division I, 400 Main Street,

Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in a The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 15TH day of DECEMBER, 2023

J Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

ORDER FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In the Probate Court for Knox County, Tennessee
In re Estate of Shirley Oglesby, Deceased
Felicia Coalsoln Administrator,

v.
Connie Oglesby, Angela McMahan, Valarie Evans, Darrell Oglesby, Michael Andrew Oglesby, Cassidy Hazlewood, Jeremy Nichols, and Brittany O'Bar, Respondents.

No. 88317-2

Order for Service of Process by Publication
From the sworn Petition for Sale of Real Property and for Order requesting service of process by publication and the entire record, the Court finds that the whereabouts of the Respondent Michael Andrew Oglesby are unknown and the residence(s) of the defendant(s) is/are unknown and cannot be ascertained upon diligent inquiry, or defendant(s) is/are a non-resident(s) of this state.

It is therefore ORDERED that the Respondent Michael Andrew Oglesby shall be served by publication of the following notice in The Knoxville Focus, a newspaper located in Knoxville, Knox

County, Tennessee, as provided by law.

Notice
TO: Michael Andrew Oglesby
It is ordered that said Respondent, Michael Andrew Oglesby, file an answer with the Clerk of the Probate Court at Knox County, Tennessee and with Felicia Coalsoln, an Attorney whose address is Owings, Wilson, & Coleman 900 S. Gay Street, Suite 800, Knoxville, Tennessee within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or the real property of Shirley Oglesby located at 6500 Pine Grove Road, Knoxville, TN 37914 will be sold. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.
ENTERED December 6, 2023.

Richard B. Armstrong, Jr., Chancellor

Approved for Entry: Felicia Coalsoln Administrator
Owings Wilson Coleman 900 S. Gay Street, Suite 800
Knoxville, TN 37902
(865) 521-2342

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, TENNESSEE
Docket No. 4149
KIMBERLY LOUISE CLAPP
Plaintiff,

v.
JERRY LYNN CLAPP, JR.,
Defendant.

In this cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is verified, that the Defendant, Jerry Lynn Clapp, Jr., is unknown or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of

law cannot be served upon him.

IT IS ORDERED that said Defendant, Jerry Lynn Clapp, Jr., file an answer with the Clerk of the Circuit Court at Maynardville, Tennessee and with Travis D. Patterson, an Attorney whose address is, P.O. Box 70586 Knoxville, Tennessee 37938, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice or the same will be taken for confessed as to Respondents and judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause set for hearing Ex Parte as to you before the Circuit Court for Union County, Tennessee 901 Main Street, Maynardville, Tennessee 37807. This notice will be published in the Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.
This 11 day of August, 2022.

ENTERED 17 day of January, 2024.

Barbara Williams
Circuit Court Clerk

Travis Patterson
TRAVIS D. PATTERSON, Esq.
Attorney for Petitioners
BPR NO. 030640
P.O. Box 70586
Knoxville, Tennessee 37938
Ph.: (865) 306-0333

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JANET MARCIA ELLIOTT
DOCKET NUMBER 88850-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 4 day of JANUARY, 2024, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JANET MARCIA ELLIOTT who died October 2, 2023, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:
(1)A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or
(B)Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
This the 4 day of JANUARY, 2024.

ESTATE OF JANET MARCIA ELLIOTT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CYNTHIA LEE BARNES
23750 VIA TREVI WAY #1703
BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34134

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARGARET KAREN LECLERC
DOCKET NUMBER 88841-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of DECEMBER 2023, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARGARET KAREN LECLERC who died Nov 20, 2023, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:
(1)A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or
(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
This the 27 day of DECEMBER, 2023.

ESTATE OF MARGARET KAREN LECLERC

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
HOLLY LYNN ELLIS; EXECUTRIX
9025 GREY POINTE DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF GARRETT DAVID MCAMIS
DOCKET NUMBER 88808-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 2 day of JANUARY 2024, letters administration in respect of the Estate of GARRETT DAVID MCAMIS who died Oct 16, 2023, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred.
(1)A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or
(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
This the 2 day of JANUARY, 2024.

ESTATE OF GARRETT DAVID MCAMIS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JEREMY MCAMIS; ADMINISTRATOR
3228 TOPSIDE ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37920

You can reserve
your legal or
public notice
by emailing
Lisa at legals@knoxfocus.com
or calling
(865) 686-9970.

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)A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or
(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
This the 2 day of JANUARY, 2024.

ESTATE OF ARTIE MITCHELL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
PEGGY SUE PRITCHARD; EXECUTRIX
320 FANCY MEADOWS
STRAWBERRY PLAINS, TN. 37871

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CLYDE L. SMITH, JR.
DOCKET NUMBER 88856-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 4 day of JANUARY, 2024, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of CLYDE L. SMITH, JR. who died October 26, 2023, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:
(1)A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or
(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
This the 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

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)A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or
(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
This the 3 day of JANUARY, 2023.

ESTATE OF CAROL D. TEAGUE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CODE RONALD DUFF

M. SUE WHITE, ATTORNEY
216 PHOENIX CT. SUITE D.
SEYMOUR TN 37865

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JAMES L. DENNIS
DOCKET NUMBER 88848-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 3 day of JANUARY, 2024, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of JAMES L. DENNIS who died April 12, 2021, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:
(1)A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or
(B)Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
This the 3 day of JANUARY, 2024.

ESTATE OF JAMES L. DENNIS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JUDITH S. DENNIS
434 SUGARWOOD DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

M. CATHERINE WARBROD ATTORNEY
10805 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 200
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

Public Notice Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Division of Water Resources (DWR) Notice Requesting Public Comments on Draft Permit Actions FILE # NRS23.338

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public of the following proposed permit action and solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed activities on the aquatic environment.

Pursuant to The Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977, T.C.A. §69-3-108 and Tennessee Rules, Chapter 0400-40-07, the proposed activity described below has been submitted for approval under an Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit and Section 401 Water Quality Certification. Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires that an applicant obtain a water quality certification from the state when a federal permit is required. This notice is intended to inform interested parties of this permit application and draft permit and rationale, and to ask for comments and information necessary to determine possible impacts to water quality. At the conclusion of the public notice period a final determination will be made whether to issue or deny the permit.

PERMIT COORDINATOR

Adam Kelly
Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
Division of Water Resources, Natural Resources Unit
William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 11th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
615-253-5348
Adam.T.Kelly@TN.gov

APPLICANT

Water & Land Solutions, LLC
7721 Six Forks Road Suite 130
Raleigh, NC 27615

LOCATION

Zachary Branch and tributaries to Big Flat Creek, 6704 Circle Road, Corryton, Knox County
Latitude: 36.14114, Longitude: -83.74206

To view the proposed location of these impacts and the watershed condition, visit the Division's map viewer at <http://tdeconline.tn.gov/dwr/> and search on the permit number or coordinates listed in this Public Notice.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / PURPOSE

Proposed impacts include varying stream restoration treatments along approximately 4,707 feet of Zachary Branch and tributaries to Big Flat Creek. Approximately 1.601 acres of wetland are onsite. Up to 1.201 acres of wetland will be disturbed during stream restoration. Existing wetland acreage will be regained prior to project closeout. The stream and wetland impacts are for development of the Smiley Mitigation Bank, a compensatory mitigation bank under review by the Tennessee Interagency Review Team.

ANTIDEGRADATION

In accordance with the Tennessee Antidegradation Statement (Rule 0400-40-03-.06), the Division has made a preliminary determination that the authorized activities will result in no appreciable permanent loss of water resource values, and is no more than de minimis degradation to water quality.

FACTORS CONSIDERED

In deciding whether to issue or deny this permit, the Division will consider all comments of record and the requirements of applicable federal and state laws. The division will consider the nature, scale and effects of proposed impacts. The Division will consider practicable alternatives to the alteration, loss of waters or habitat, diminishment in biological diversity, cumulative or secondary impacts to the water resource, and adverse impacts to unique, high quality, or impaired waters.

HOW TO COMMENT

TDEC is requesting public comment on this proposed permit action. Obtaining a broad range of facts and opinions on Agency actions is one of the best ways to ensure appropriate decisions. Persons wishing to comment on the proposal are invited to submit written comments to the Division. Written comments must be received within **thirty days following distribution of the approved public notice materials** (including signage and newspaper ad). Comments will become part of the record and will be considered in the final decision. The applicant's name and permit number should be referenced. Send all written comments to the Division's address listed below to the attention of the permit coordinator. You may also comment via email to water.permits@tn.gov.

After the Division makes a final permit determination, a permit appeal may be filed by the applicant or by any person who participated in the public comment period whose appeal is based on comments given to the Division in writing during the public comment period or in testimony at a formal public hearing. If it is hard for you to read, speak, or understand English, TDEC may be able to provide translation or interpretation services free of charge. Please contact Alisha Looper at 615-571-4470 or alisha.looper@tn.gov.

Si le resulta difícil leer, hablar o comprender inglés, TDEC puede proporcionarle servicios de traducción o interpretación sin cargo comunicándose con Alisha Looper al 615-571-4470 o alisha.looper@tn.gov.

PUBLIC HEARING

Interested persons may request in writing that the Division hold a public hearing on this application. The request must be received by the Division within the comment period, indicate the interest of the party requesting it, the reason(s) a hearing is warranted, and the water quality issues being raised. When there is sufficient public interest in water quality issues, the Division will hold a public hearing in accordance with 0400-40-07-.04(4) (f). Send all public hearing requests to the attention of the permit coordinator at the address listed below or via email to water.permits@tn.gov. Any scheduled public hearings will be advertised through a similar public notice process.

FILE REVIEW

The permit application, supporting documentation, including detailed plans and maps, draft permit and rationale, and related comments are available for review on the internet at the Division's data viewer at [Report on Permits \(tn.gov\):::](http://Report on Permits (tn.gov):::) by entering the permit file number listed in the title of this Public Notice. The file may be viewed and copied at the address listed below.

Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
Division of Water Resources, Natural Resources Unit
William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 11th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Can we survive another election cycle?

For most of us, the Christmas lights and trees are stowed away until next year. I imagine those who might have celebrated too much are now over any hangovers. Students returned to school on Thursday for the second semester. Workers returned to their jobs and the piles of work that grew while they were on break. Let's face it: life is back to normal.



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

arguments that border on physical assaults. Our two-party system is hanging on by a thread, and someone has a pair of scissors ready to sever the whole thing. Few of the elected officials can be called statesmen. Both sides have limited numbers of those who place country before self or party. I well remember the conflict that swirled in the country during the Watergate Hearings. Some men did some bad things, and some paid for their actions by going to prison. I'm not sure how good of a president Ronald Reagan was, but I do know that he gave Americans a bit of pride, at least enough to straighten our backs from the shameful crouch that we remained in for years.

that never has kept us from being friends.

I'm concerned about our choices in so many areas. I don't know what I think about the continuing war in Gaza. When is enough enough? The government disappoints me over the Ukrainian War. We made a pledge to that country to support them in their fight for freedom and independence from Russia. For some unrelated reason, representatives aren't willing to provide funds for that country to stand up to the big bully next door. If we allow Ukraine to be swallowed by Russia, we will forever feel the shame of our weakness.

I call on all of the folks who take seats in the House and Senate to get over themselves and their party loyalties. For the next four years, I dare those chosen to govern to do just that without worries of losing support from donors or other party members. Be what you promised your constituents and keep their welfare in mind. If our leaders don't have a change of heart now, they will for the rest of history be known as individuals who let the greatest nation known to die. Unity is strength.

We need someone to step up and lead us to that sense of pride again. That means that citizens once again learn to get along, even when they have different beliefs. Politics should be something that we discuss without becoming incensed. I can disagree with another's viewpoints without hating him. Most of my friends support a different party than I do, but

This year is a Leap Year, so we'll have to bear an extra day of all sorts of crazy things that happen in this country. Yes, I'm talking about politics. With what seems to be the snap of fingers, time has traveled at light-year speed to return us to another round of campaigns, primaries and presidential elections. Maybe we are shocked that this stuff is back again because all we've heard on the news deals with politics and the wars between parties.

Thinking that this year's election will be characterized by civilized discourse and real plans for the future direction of the U.S.A. is the act of a foolish optimist. Instead, I expect to see more back-stabbing, negative ads, and intense



Ad space donated by The Knoxville Focus.

Young-Williams Animal Center



Hi, I am **REINA**, an adorable female Staffordshire Bull Terrier with a heart full of resilience and a soul longing for love. I am 8 years old and possess my breed's signature loyalty and determination. However, I also carry with me the need for a little extra warm-up time to people. When you first meet me, you might notice my cautious nature. I just ask that you respect my need for patience and space, as this will be the key to earning my trust. Once I start to feel comfortable and safe, a beautiful transformation takes place! My affectionate side shines through, and my trust begins to grow. You'll witness my bright, expressive eyes filled with gratitude and the gentle wag of my tail, revealing the joy I feel in forming a connection. You can find me on young-williams.org and fill out an application to set up a meet and greet!

Hello! My name is **TINY** and I am the sweetest girl who loves making friends and snuggling – but I need more time to make friends with men. I am a 3-year-old Black and White American Pit Bull Terrier mix whose favorite activities are chasing tennis balls, squeaky toys, eating and sitting for treats. I know exactly when it's almost quiet time because I gather up all of my favorite toys on my bed to take a relaxing nap! I walk very politely on a leash and do very good with my housetraining. I do great with kids of all ages. I like calm dogs and would love to meet any new dog friends before going home with them. I would prefer a home without cats. Come meet me and other adoptable animals at Young-Williams Animal Center, 3201 Division St.



Young-Williams Animal Center 865.215.6599
3201 Division Street, Knoxville, TN 37919 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily
www.young-williams.org Closed 1-2 p.m. for animal quiet time

service directory

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936-5907

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Public Hearing

Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) has developed its 2024 Public Housing Agency (PHA) Annual Draft Plan in compliance with the 1998 Public Housing Reform Act. The Plan will be available for review Monday – Friday between the hours of 7:30 am and 4:00 pm beginning Monday, February 12, 2024, through Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at the KCDC Main Office located at 901 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN; all KCDC Development Offices; KCDC's Section 8 Office located at 400 Harriet Tubman Street, Knoxville, TN and on KCDC's website at www.kcdc.org.

Formal comments regarding the Draft Plan should be submitted to the KCDC Main Office in written format for review. KCDC's Board of Commissioners would like to invite those who are interested to attend a public hearing regarding the Draft Plan on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 4:30 pm.



HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING

Carter girls roll past Gibbs 'again' to take region title

By Steve Williams

It's not easy defeating a rival five out of five times in a season.

But that's what Carter High's girls bowling team had to do Jan. 8 to wrap up the Region 1 championship at Fountain Lanes.

Coach Ray Wynn's Lady Hornets posted a 20-7 win over Gibbs, but the match was closer than the final score indicated. The overall total pin fall in their four games was 1,962 for Carter and 1,945 for the Lady Eagles - a difference of only 17 pins.

"It's kind of rare that in one season of any kind of athletic competition you play the same team five times," said Wynn. "So it's just one of those things that we know we have a pretty decent team and we know Gibbs has got a real good team. And we figured it would probably come down to us two, but we knew that if we played our game like



State bound Lady Hornets!

Carter's girls bowling team has earned a berth in the TSSAA State Championships for the third year in a row. Back Row L-R Coach Ray Wynn, Gabrielle Lawson, Kali Gentry-Foye, Ella Bailey, Chloe Wilson, Aaliyah Gentry-Foye, Kayla Rucker, Gracie Miller. Front Row L-R Callie Jack Palmer, Abigail Lawson, Loren Chamberlain, Maddie Lewis, Harper Smith, Peyton Smith.

Continue on page 2

Lady Hornets going to state for third time!

Carter will be making its third straight trip to the TSSAA State Bowling tournament this week.

Coach Ray Wynn's Lady Hornets (21-0) defeated Oak Ridge 23-4 in the Division I Sectional Round Friday at Fountain Lanes, finishing with a 2,058 pin fall to Oak Ridge's 1,855 total.

Senior Gracie Miller had a high game of 207 for Carter. Freshman Kali Gentry-Foye also stood out with a 175 game. Maddie Lewis added a 165 and Kayla Rucker a 159.

Gibbs, the Region 1 runner-up to Carter, was eliminated by Region 2 champion Bradley Central in the Sectionals Friday at Cleveland.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL



The Gibbs Middle School girls basketball team honored its eighth graders early last week after earning a 51-20 victory over Vine. The Lady Eagles finished the regular season with a 19-1 record. They were undefeated in league play and will head into this week's postseason tournament on an 18-game winning streak. Photo by Ken Lay.

Lady Eagles claim league title with win over Vine

By Ken Lay

As the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference tournaments loom, one local girls team is entering postseason play riding the crest of an 18-game winning streak.

The Gibbs Lady Eagles closed out regular-season play with a dominating 51-20 victory over Vine on Monday, Jan. 8 at Corryton.

Regular-season play concluded for most area schools on Thursday, but the Lady Eagles were off as Whittle

Springs did not field a girls team for the second time in three seasons.

Gibbs finished the 2023-24 regular season by winning 18 consecutive games. The Lady Eagles last lost in October when they fell to the Halls Lady Devils in the season-opening Emory Road Classic. It was Gibbs Middle's second game of the season.

The Lady Eagles (19-1 overall, 8-0 in KCMSBC Class 2A) put the finishing touches on a regular campaign with last week's home victory over

the Lady Golden Bears.

Gibbs, which finished second to rival Holston in last season's postseason county tournament, made a run to the TMSAA state sectionals and picked up where it left off last season as it had a bevy of talented returners.

"We came back and we're going to make another run," Lady Eagles' coach C.H. Qualls said. "Last year, we finished runner-up in the county

Continue on page 4

Overtime victory nets Lady Devils division title

By Ken Lay

With the Knox County Middle School Conference Class 3A East Division Championship hanging in the balance, Hall Middle School's girls basketball team hosted South-Doyle in the regular-season finale for both teams.

And 24 minutes weren't enough to decide whether the Lady Devils or Lady Cherokees were going to rise to the top.

It took a little overtime but it was the home-standing Lady Devils that nabbed a 29-27 victory to claim the division title and a No. 1 seed in the upcoming postseason tournament. The game wasn't decided until Halls' Lola Widener scored the final point of the contest with a free throw with 2.3

seconds remaining in the extra frame.

The game was knotted, 24-24, at the end of regulation as the Lady Devils tied the contest when Bella Wires knocked down a pair of free throws with 25.2 seconds left in the fourth quarter.

Halls quickly seized the upper hand in overtime when Widener scored. South-Doyle, however, would respond as Sydney Adams buried a bucket a short time later to make it 26-26.

The Lady Cherokees would take a 27-26 advantage on a free throw by Hannah Knight with 40.1 seconds to go. But Knight's foul shot would be the last offensive punch of the night.

A field goal by Wires, **Continue on page 4**

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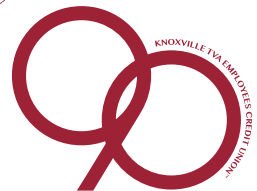
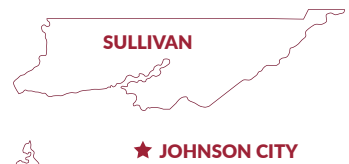
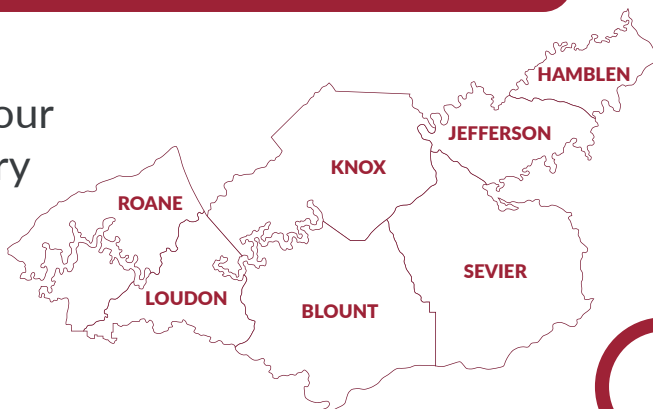
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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Bozeman, Karns transfer, nets 28 in win over Powell

By Steve Williams

There's a comment on social media posted in January of 2023 that says: "Best kept secret in Tennessee high school basketball." It was referring to Chris Bozeman, who at that time was playing for Central.

Since then, Bozeman has transferred to Karns and has played about "eight to 10 games" for the Beavers, according to Karns Coach Lee Henson following his team's 66-55 win over Powell Jan. 9. "He got eligible a good while back."

A senior combo guard, Bozeman scored a game-high 28 points to lead the way as the Beavers snapped Powell's 10-game win streak.

"He works hard and he doesn't like to lose," added Henson. "And that's the competitor that I always was and that's who you want on your team."

The win lifted Karns to 2-1 in District 3-4A and 8-10 overall, while the Panthers slipped to 1-2 in the district and 16-2 for all games.

The Beavers trailed 38-30 at halftime and 45-39 after three periods, but Bozeman and senior Walker Lockhart tallied 11 and nine points, respectively, in the final eight minutes as Karns outscored the Panthers 27-10.

"I think Bozeman did a really good job athletic-wise and made some buckets late," said Coach



PHOTOS BY MICAELA SHEPHERD / BLUZOO MEDIA

Left: Karns' Chris Bozeman, a transfer from Central, controls the ball in the Beavers' game against Powell last week at Karns. Bozeman scored 28 points to lead KHS to a 66-55 victory. Above: The "ESPN crew" and Karns' student section can't believe what's going on as the Beavers play the Powell Panthers last week at the Lee Henson Court. But they got over it as their Beavers came back to win 66-55.

Henson. "Bubba Faulkner (13 points) did well, but it was a total team effort. Anytime you beat a good team (like Powell), it's got to be a team effort.

"Coach (Gary) Barnes does a great job with them and they're solid."

Nathan Russell scored 21 to lead the Panthers, who got off to one of their best starts in years this season. Kaleb Walker chipped in 16 points, with 14 coming in the first half. Neyland Dugger added 10.

Henson said every time Powell and Karns play "it's

going to be back and forth the whole game."

Both teams made runs and the Beavers made the last one.

Faulkner stole the ball and fed Bozeman for a layup to start the final period and shave Powell's lead to 45-41. Two free throws by Bozeman cut it to 45-43. Faulkner made one of two foul shots to get it down to a one-point deficit.

Then after an offensive charge by Powell's Walker at 5:39, Karns' Owen Miller hit a 3-pointer from the right corner - his only

points of the game - to put the Beavers ahead 47-45.

The 13-point flurry continued as Mi'Drick Tory drove for a bank shot and one. The Panthers turned the ball over and Barnes called a timeout at 4:08.

Lockhart capped the scoring spree with a basket inside to make it 52-45 with 3:35 to go.

"The fourth quarter, luckily, we started making some shots, and the pressure got to them a little I believe," said Henson. "But the big difference is I think we made some shots late that

we didn't make in the first three quarters."

Karns made a strong run in the post-season last year, but lost at home in the Region 2 semifinals and finished just short of the Sectionals.

Henson described this season's team as "Athletic. We don't have a lot of size. The kids have really bought into the second half of the season. I think they are getting use to each other. We lost a lot of players from last year that played quite a bit. We've got some new kids coming in, so we're just trying to get it to jell maybe at the right time."

Powell girls win fourth straight

Iry Wices got the Powell Lady Panthers rolling on

Jan. 9.

Wices scored 14 points - all in the second half - to lead her team to a 51-44 win at Karns. It was the fourth win in a row for PHS (7-9).

Iry's scoring spree included three 3-pointers in the third period to pull Powell into a 35-all tie.

Daisy Gentry added 11 points to the Powell total as the Lady Panthers wrapped up the victory by outscoring host Karns 16-9 in the final period.

Karns, which led 22-14 at halftime, was outscored 37-22 in the second half.

The Lady Beavers (9-10) got 12 points from Abby Harris, 11 from Reese Roberts and nine from Rylee Roberts.

Roadrunners slip past Fulton, 69-67

By Steve Williams

It was Saturday Afternoon Fever at Fulton High School this past weekend.

With a standing room only crowd on hand, Austin-East nipped the Falcons 69-67 as Shane Cherry led the Roadrunners with 41 points in this year's non-district battle.

Fulton came into the game ranked No. 1 in the state in Class 3A, but the Falcons lost to their rivals for the first time since 2019.

Juwaan Troutman, on an assist from Cherry, scored on a layup in the closing seconds for the game-winner.

Shane's brother Condis, a freshman, was a key contributor in the victory, too.

Tyler Lee (20 points) and Taj



Kimber (18) led the Falcons, who are now 18-2. A-E is 12-6.

Fulton won the girls' game 41-39 in another close contest.

There will be a rematch at Austin-East on Feb. 3.

Next classification cycle to be four years

A significant decision regarding classification was made by the TSSAA Board of Control as it voted to select a 4-year cycle for the next classification period

(2025-2029) in its meeting on Jan. 11 in Hermitage.

In other news, plans for a new TSSAA office building were discussed and the board voted to move forward for a new office at the current site.

The Board also approved a change in softball to use a double first base when available.

Webb to celebrate six student-athletes

Webb will celebrate the following six senior Spartan student-athletes who have committed to carry on their athletic careers at the collegiate level this Wednesday: Markeis Barrett (Vanderbilt, football), Cooper Cameron (Cornell, football), MacKenzie Ivy (Tusculum,

women's soccer), Ari Klasky (Emory, track and field), Landyn Langham (Delaware State, volleyball) and Eesha Sutharshan (Akron, women's soccer).

The event will be held in the Multipurpose Room of Webb's Central Building, beginning at 12:15.

TKA girls end skid against CAK

Brady Branam scored 20 points to lead The King's Academy girls basketball team to a 54-45 win over visiting CAK Friday and keep its record spotless (7-0) in Division II-A play.

Coming into the game, the Lady Lions (14-4 overall) had lost seven straight games to CAK.

Freshman Skylar Walden

added 15 points to the TKA total.

Up, up and up ...

Jody Wright, Fulton boys basketball coach, logged his 850th career win on Jan. 9 in a 62-40 in over Northview Academy ... West High's Kate Robinson will be going to Georgia to continue her education and run cross country and track and field ... Baylor was ranked No. 1 in the Tennessee High School State Wrestling Poll last week. Area teams ranked included No. 11 Lakeway Christian Academy and No. 16 Knox Halls ... Circle this date: Rivals Webb and Catholic will square off in girls and boys basketball Friday, Jan. 19 at Catholic.

Carter girls roll past Gibbs 'again' to take region title

Cont. from page 1

region finals last year when they were in Region 2 and the Lady Hornets prevailed to earn their second trip to the TSSAA state

tournament.

Gracie Miller of Carter started out this year's region finale with a 200 game to win her individual match in Game 1 and teammates Maddie Lewis, Loren Chamberlain and Kali Gentry-Foye (152) also scored wins over their opponents. Including two bonus points for best total pin fall, Carter took a 6-2 lead in the match.

In Game 2, Gibbs' Maliyah Smith rolled a sizzling 214. The two teams split the six individual matches, but Smith's big pin fall total got the Lady Eagles the two bonus points for a 5-3 win.

A junior, Smith is in her second season on the Gibbs bowling team. She also is a standout shortstop in softball for the Lady Eagles.

"It's hard to balance, especially going to school and stuff," said Maliyah.

"But softball is like year-round. We start working out early in the year. Bowling is just fun. It is a sport and we do compete, but it's more fun especially with a bunch of sophomore girls, too."

Kayla Rucker (166), Lewis and Gentry-Foye won Carter's three matches in Game 2.

Carter prevailed in both of the Baker games. Rucker's strike to start the 10th frame following Miller's strike in the ninth produced a game-winning double for the 138-128 final score in the first Baker battle, where five players on each team bowl two frames each.

Rucker and Miller also have been good softball players at Carter offensively and defensively, with Rucker playing shortstop and Miller third base.

The Lady Hornets won the second Baker game,

164-121.

In the semifinals, Carter eliminated Dobyns-Bennett 16-11 and Gibbs ousted Cherokee 19-8.

Both teams advanced to the Girls' Sectional round Friday, with unbeaten Carter (20-0) hosting Region 2 runner-up Oak Ridge at Fountain Lanes and Gibbs traveling to play Region 1 champion Bradley Central at Cleveland.

REGION 1 BOYS: Carter lost a 14-13 squeaker to Chuckey-Doak in the semifinal round, while Dobyns-Bennett crushed Sevier County 24-3.

D-B went on to topple C-D by a score of 22½ to 4½ in the title match.

BEAVERS ADVANCE: Karns defeated host Cleveland Jan. 9 in the Region 2 semifinals, but lost to Walker Valley in the finals. The

Beavers were scheduled to play Dobyns-Bennett in the Boys' Sectional round Saturday at Kingsport.

STATE TOURNEY: The TSSAA State Bowling Championships will be Wednesday (Jan. 17) through Friday this week at the Smyrna Bowling Center.

Boys' and girls' individual state qualifiers in Divisions I and II will compete Wednesday.

Thursday's action will be the team quarterfinals, with the semifinals starting Friday at 9 a.m. (CST) and the finals at 12 noon.

In previous years, the TSSAA hosted the Unified Bowling Invitational. Unified Bowling was recently sanctioned as an official sport, therefore this year will be the inaugural TSSAA Unified Bowling State Championship.

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468 pages cover-to-cover

The "2023 University of Tennessee Record Book," another in a line of documents once historically referenced as a "Football Media Guide" or a "Football Brochure," covers 468 pages and offers answers to nearly any question the thoughtful Vol football fan might dare to ask.

In its pages, there are enough story ideas to keep the team's historians busy day after day, week after week.

Here are several questions and answers that Vol fans should have in their memory banks at nearly a moment's notice from that first game in November 1891 in Chattanooga against Sewanee through today.

Q: When did nearly 110,000 fans find their way into Neyland Stadium and what was the score?

A: Sept. 10, 2004, in a 30-28 win over Florida.

Q: Who kicked a 50-yard field goal in the final seconds to give the Vols the win?

A: Hendersonville's James Wilhoit.

Q: What is the official capacity of Neyland Stadium and where does it rank nationally?

A: The official capacity is 101,915. Only Tiger Stadium (LSU, 102,3210), Kyle Field (Texas A&M, 102,733), Ohio Stadium, (102,780), Beaver Stadium (Penn State 106,572) and Michigan Stadium (Michigan) 107,601 have a larger capacity.

Q: How many fans have seen the Vols play on Shields-Watkins Field and at Neyland Stadium from

1946 on?

A: 37,804,055

Q: How many teams have the Vols played over the years?

A: The answer is 153, from Air Force to Wyoming and all points in between.

Q: How many states and cities have the Vols played in?

A: The Vols have played in 26 states and 63 cities.

Q: What was the last game on grass on Shields-Watkins Field, dating to the mid-1960s?

A: Dec. 2, 1967, with a 41-14 win over Vanderbilt in an SEC Championship season.

Q: What two Vols, each wearing No. 27, led the way for national championships in 1951 and 1998?

A: Tailback Hank Lauricella (1951) and line-backer Al Wilson (1998).

Q: When did artificial turf first adorn the green-sward known historically as Shields-Watkins Field?

A: That would be Sept. 14, 1968, the day quarterback Bubba Wyche led a last-second Tennessee drive to the north end, capped by a 21-yard TD pass to wide receiver Gary Kreis and a two-point conversion toss to tight end Ken DeLong.

Both plays came after time had expired.

Q: When did grass (Tifway 419, Bermuda Hybrid) return to the floor of Neyland Stadium?

A: Sept. 17, 1994, Florida 31, Tennessee 0.

Q: Name the baseball stadiums the Vols have played in.

A: The Polo Grounds (New York), Yankee Stadium (New York), Griffith Stadium (Washington, D.C.), Anaheim Stadium (Anaheim, Calif.), Aloha Stadium (Honolulu), Cardinal Stadium

(Louisville), the Louisiana Superdome (New Orleans), The Astrodome (Houston), Atlanta Stadium (Atlanta), the Los Angeles Coliseum (Los Angeles), and Fenway Park (Boston).

Q: How many teams have the Vols not defeated over the years? The answer is 10, as listed below.

A: Baylor (0-1-0), Jan. 1, 1957, New Orleans, Baylor 13, Tennessee 7 (Sugar Bowl).

BYU (0-1-0), Sept. 8, 2018, Knoxville, BYU 29, Tennessee 26 (OT).

Colorado (0-0-1), Aug. 26, 1990, Anaheim, Calif., Tennessee 31, Colorado 31 (Disneyland Pigskin Classic).

Dartmouth (0-1-0), Oct. 15, 1921, Hanover, N.H., Dartmouth 14, Tennessee 3, in the first game the Vols had played outside the southeast.

Kansas State (0-1-0), Jan. 1, 2001, Dallas, Kansas State 31, Tennessee 21 (Cotton Bowl).

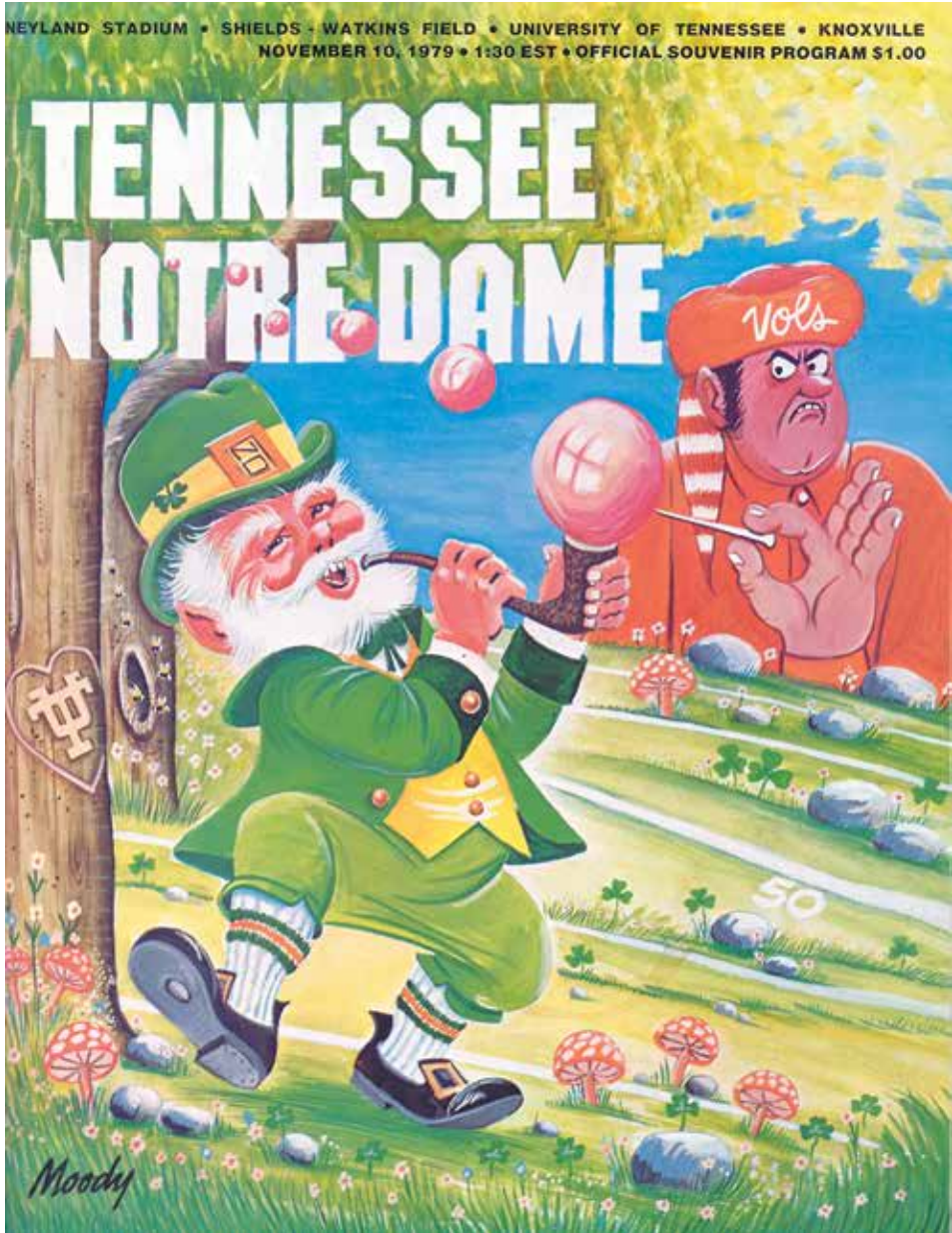
Oregon (0-2-0), Sept. 11, 2010, Knoxville, Oregon 39, Tennessee 13, Sept. 8, 2017, Eugene, Ore., Oregon 59, Tennessee 14.

Purdue (0-2-0), Dec. 31, 1979, Purdue 27, Tennessee 22 (Astro-Blue Bonnet Bowl), Jan.1, 2024.

Southern Cal (USC, 0-4-0), Jan. 1, 1940, USC 14, Tennessee 0 (Rose Bowl); Jan. 1, 1944, USC 25, Tennessee 0, Sept. 13, 1980; Sept. 11, 1980; Knoxville, USC 20, Tennessee 17; Sept. 12, 1981, Los Angeles, USC 44, Tennessee 7.

VMI (0-1-0) Nov. 17, 1923, Knoxville, VMI 33, Tennessee 0.

West Virginia (0-1-0), Sept. 1, 2018, Charlotte, N. C., West Virginia 40, Tennessee 14, Jeremy Pruitt's first game as Vol



Tennessee's first home game with Notre Dame was in November 1979 and is summarized in the "2023 University of Tennessee Record Book"

head coach.

Q: How many Smokey mascots have been on the Vol sideline since the first Smokey was chosen at the Mississippi State game in 1953?

A: There have been 11 precocious pooches on the field since the 1953 Duke game.

Q: Who pioneered the "Vol Navy"?

A: Vol broadcaster George Mooney did so in 1962 in an attempt to circumvent the heavy game day traffic on Kingston Pike

from his home in Sequoyah Hills to the stadium and back. Mooney called his mode of transport a "little run-about."

Q: How many former Vols are enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame?

A: There are 27 so enshrined, with Bowden Wyatt and Bobby Dodd being honored twice, as a player and as a coach.

Q: How many former Tennessee coaches are in the Hall of Fame?

A: Robert R. Neyland,

Wyatt, Doug Dickey, and Phillip Fulmer.

Q: How many times has Notre Dame played in Neyland Stadium?

A: 1979, 40-18 loss, 1990, 34-29 win, 1999, a 38-14 loss, and 2004, a 17-13 win.

While the 2023 Tennessee Football Record Book may be short on plot details, it is an indispensable guide to the past and present of the Vol football program.

Saban Steps Aside, Tennessee Rejoices

By Mark Nagi

Last week it was announced that Nick Saban was retiring and would no longer be the head football coach at Alabama.

With that, church bells rang out from Athens to Gainesville, Oxford to Starkville, Columbia (take your pick which Columbia) to Fayetteville.

But perhaps nowhere was that news better received than Knoxville. Yes, Auburn has a strong case for why they have the biggest reason for celebration. The Tigers are the Tide's biggest rival. It's a 24/7 thing in that state. Heck, they were rolling Toomer's Corner the evening when news broke of Saban's retirement.

But they at least won 5 Iron Bowls in Saban's 17 years in Tuscaloosa. The Vols only had one victory over Saban during that time.

Nick Saban was also on the other sideline for

what was perhaps the most devastating loss in Tennessee football history. In 2001, the Vols were favored to beat LSU in the SEC championship game and advance to the Rose Bowl to play that historically good Miami team for the BCS national title. But Saban's Tigers upset the Vols 31-20. More than two decades later, UT has never been in as good a position in the sport.

By the time you read this, Alabama could very well have Saban's replacement in place. It's Alabama, they aren't going to be making a no-name hire. Greg Schiano won't be rolled out for the press conference in a crimson jacket.

But no matter who they get, college football will never be the same. Saban's reign of terror has ended.

Tennessee now has the distinction of sending two of the most legendary coaches in college football history out of Neyland Stadium for the last time

with losses. In 1982, it was Johnny Majors and the Vols snapping an 11-game losing streak to Alabama. That 35-28 World's Fair game was Bear Bryant's final trip to Neyland. He would resign and then pass away within four months of that loss.

In 2022, it was the Vols 52-49 win over Alabama that served as Saban's Knoxville swan song, snapping a 15-year losing streak. Saban and the Tide did get revenge last October in Tuscaloosa, but

the final trek to Knoxville will always be a very unpleasant memory for Saban.

It's hard to imagine Saban going gently into the night. ESPN loves him, so Saban probably will get a regular spot on College Gameday, perhaps replacing Lee Corso. But without him on the sidelines, the rest of the SEC just got a little easier.

Alabama won six national championships during Saban's 17 years and was almost always in the mix

for at a minimum a conference title. It's hard to imagine whoever replaces Saban having a similar historic run.

Next season SEC is expanding to 16 teams with the additions of Texas and Oklahoma. The Tide will host Georgia, Missouri, and Auburn. They will play at Tennessee, LSU and face the Sooners in Norman. That's not a schedule that bodes well for Saban's replacement. Based on winning percentage, the

Tide have the third toughest schedule in the SEC, facing opponents that won 63% of their games in 2023.

For Tennessee specifically, the end of Saban helps with recruiting and makes another 1 for 17 stretch highly unlikely. There won't be and should be no crying in Knoxville with this development.

The opportunity is there for the Vols.

Will they take advantage of it?

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HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WRESTLING

Murphey has sights set on fourth state crown

By Steve Williams

Ella Murphey is on the homestretch of reaching a four-year goal she set as a freshman wrestler at Hardin Valley Academy in 2020-21.

That goal was to match what Kenya Sloan had accomplished in girls wrestling at HVA in 2018 – win four state championships and go undefeated.

Sloan, who posted a career prep record of 87-0 as a 165-pounder, went on to compete successfully at Campbellsville University in Kentucky.

"I still have no defeats on my high school record and I'm on my third state championship going for my fourth," said the 185-pound Murphey last week after winning by a fall in the first round over South-Doyle's Jill Bocskovits in a regular season match at Knoxville Catholic.

The win upped Murphey's season won-loss record to 16-0 said Matt Bates, who is in his second season as her high school coach. She



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Delilah Queen (left) pretends to be interviewing three-time state wrestling champion Ella Murphey of Hardin Valley last week prior to Murphey's match at Knoxville Catholic. Ella said Delilah, a freshman and a wrestler too for the Lady Irish, is her "best friend" and she hopes she will make it to the top of the podium too in the 138-pound weight class at this year's TSSAA state meet.

went 15-0 each of her first two seasons and 18-0 last year as a junior.

Due to a lack of matches, however, it doesn't look like Murphey will reach Sloan's win total, but the

goal from the start has been winning four state titles and going unbeaten.

Ella says her high school coach as a freshman, Marc Giles, was the one who sparked her interest in matching Sloan's accomplishments on the mat.

"It was a little bit of an expectation that was put on me," she said when hearing Coach Giles say: "That girl, she's going to be a state champion."

When Murphey won her first state title, she recalled, "I didn't realize how big of a deal it was.

And then I kept getting better and went for my second and third."

Ron Sobel was pleased to get to coach Ella her sophomore season.

"With many schools not having a wrestler in her weight class, a lot of times during the regular season she had to wrestle in a lower or higher class and those matches were exhibitions and didn't count on her official record," said Sobel.

"When she got on the mat she was "just dominant" added Sobel. And if

"It's a hard sport, but nothing else has made me more confident than wrestling. It will push you. It will be the hardest thing you ever do, besides maybe give birth. But it is mentally tough, physically tough and it has really helped me."
– Hardin Valley wrestler Ella Murphey

he had to pick one word to describe her, he said it would be "powerful."

Still, it hasn't been a breeze to stardom for Ella. She twice has had to overcome injury.

She said her personal coach Junior Hernandez has been a key to her success. She trains with him in the summer and tries to practice with him as much as she can.

Murphey said she thought she was a good wrestler as a freshman and sophomore, "but Hernandez really made me a great wrestler and he has worked with me through all of my struggles and injuries."

In her junior season, she won the state championship with a broken right hand.

"It was not comfortable, but he helped me around it," she said. "I got the cast off a week or two early so I could wrestle."

It was an injury that could have sidelined her and ended her streak of state titles.

In her sophomore season, she suffered a torn meniscus.

In both of the years she had an injury, "mental toughness" helped her get through it, she said. "And working out a lot also helped."

Ella got started in the sport in Hardin Valley's 7th grade program and even before that at home with her brother Marshall, who is five years older and was a three-year state qualifier for the Hawks.

They still go at it, too.

"At home in our very small living room, we will fight wherever," said Ella. "We still do that. I wouldn't say it's wrestling, but it's definitely fighting. He keeps me physically tough."

Murphey plans to wrestle in college, but has not signed and is looking at her options.

"I want to go to the Olympics," she said. "That's the end goal right now."

As for academics, Ella said she wants to go into Art and Architecture.

"Ella Murphey is working on being a four-time state champion. Not many have done that in the state of Tennessee, so Ella has got a chance of being mentioned with some of the elite who have ever wrestled here in the state."
– Hardin Valley Wrestling Coach Matt Bates

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

South-Doyle outlasts Red Devils in regular-season finale

By Ken Lay

When South-Doyle Middle School opened a double-digit lead midway through the third quarter of its regular-season finale at Halls, it appeared that the Cherokees would easily head into the upcoming postseason tournament on a winning note.

But the host Red Devils had other ideas as they stormed back and actually took the upper hand, heading into the final frame.

But South-Doyle would prevail, claiming a hard-fought 55-52 victory. It was, however, anything but easy.

The Cherokees trailed, 45-42, midway through the fourth

quarter after Halls Middle's Miles Comparato knocked down a three-point shot.

But the Cherokees pulled to within 45-44 before Caleb Moore gave South-Doyle the lead for good by converting an old-fashioned three-point play with 1 minute, 57 seconds remaining in the game.

Halls never recaptured the lead but pulled to within 51-50 when Comparato converted a free throw with 28.2 seconds to go in the contest. The Cherokees scored the next five points to open a 55-50 lead before Comparato, who finished with 21 points, made 2-of-3 free

throws with 4.3 seconds remaining. Those foul shots represented the final points of the game.

South-Doyle, leading 19-8 by the first quarter's end before Halls trimmed its advantage to 26-20 by halftime, was hot after the break. The Cherokees opened the frame with a 6-1 run and opened a 31-21 lead before the Red Devils' Fisher Green went on a scoring tear, almost single-handedly getting Halls back into the game. He had 10 of his 18 points in the third frame. His surge, combined with five points from Bryce McCarty helped Halls storm back and take a 39-38 lead by the end of the stanza.

"He's a good player," South-Doyle coach Sir David Pettus said of Green. "He got them back into the game."

"We needed to be physical. At times, they were more physical than we were."

After the Cherokees regained the lead late, they were unable to truly pull away because the Red Devils withstood every punch and had an answer.

Even in defeat, Halls coach Jeremy Fine was pleased with his team's showing in the final game of the regular season.

"These kids love each other and they play for each other, and what they want to do is win," Fine

said. "This is the toughest team that I've ever had."

"They gave me everything they had. They left it all on the floor and you can't ask for any more than that. I'm looking forward to seeing what they can do in the tournament."

Halls will have a home game to open the postseason as it will host Hardin Valley on Thursday at 5 p.m.

Rondell North led the Cherokees with 21 points. Zach Rancher added 13. David Scott finished with 12 and Caleb Moore had nine for South-Doyle, which will open tournament play Thursday at 5 p.m.

Lady Eagles claim league title with win over Vine

Continued from page 1

tournament and we almost beat Holston, and then we made it to the sectionals.

"This year, we lost to Halls and we won our district and I think we're second overall in Knox County."

The KCMSBC has both Class 2A and 3A schools and Gibbs has taken on all comers as it has scored 967 points in its 20 games this season and is averaging 46 points per contest in 2023-24.

The Lady Eagles continued their dominance against Vine last Monday night. Gibbs forced the Lady Golden Bears into multiple turnovers and dominated the glass en route to sending their eighth graders out on a winning note.

Gibbs, which opened an 11-2 lead by the end of the first quarter and extended that advantage to 26-12, by halftime, would cruise to an easy victory and then honor its eighth graders.

The Lady Eagles also balanced a scoring attack. Seventh-grade post player Rebekah Spierdowis sparked the attacks as she led the way with 16 points. She also grabbed three rebounds and dished out three assists.

Karsyn Qualls and Faith Hayes scored nine points each. Qualls also chipped in with eight rebounds, 11 steals and eight assists in the contest, while Hayes came up with eight rebounds, five steals and eight assists.

Annie Buckner finished the game with six points, six rebounds, three steals and three assists.

Spierdowis, Qualls, Hayes, Buckner and eighth-grader Peyton Hargis have emerged as leaders, according to Coach Qualls.

The postseason tournament opens on Wednesday. The Lady Eagles will have a first-round bye. They'll open tournament play at South-Doyle in the second round on Saturday, Jan. 20.

Overtime victory nets Lady Devils division title

Cont. from page 1

who finished the contest with a team-high 13 points for the Lady Devils, gave Halls a 28-27 lead with 22.1 seconds left before Widener added the final margin. She would finish the game with seven points, including three in overtime.

Halls coach Christi Bowling said she and her team got just what they expected from the Lady Cherokees --- a battle.

And a battle it was.

"We definitely had our hands full. This was a showdown for the East," Bowling said. "We're a No. 1 seed. They split us into divisions this year."

"This was a great game. Both teams played hard and both really wanted to win."

The contest was truly a roller coaster ride. The Lady Devils held a slim 6-5

advantage at the end of the opening frame only to see the Lady Cherokees rally to take a 13-11 lead by halftime before the defenses took center stage in the third stanza.

South-Doyle didn't score in the third quarter but its defense was stingy enough to keep the Lady Devils from pulling away as Halls managed just four points, all by center Audree Riehn, who scored six points in the game.

Leading 15-13 to begin the fourth quarter, Halls darted out to a five-point lead when Wires buried a 3-pointer with 5 minutes, 17 seconds remaining in regulation.

South-Doyle opened a four-point lead when Knight made it 22-18 with 1:06 left, but Halls would rally to force overtime.

Knight would lead all

scorers with 16 points but Lady Cherokees' coach Eric Brabson said that some untimely mistakes would cost his team down the stretch.

"We're an older team, but we don't have a lot of experience. We don't have the experience like some teams," he said. "And the mistakes really hurt us."

But for Brabson and the Lady Cherokees, the goal remains the same as they'll host the upcoming postseason tournament, although they might have to wear their road uniforms.

"We like wearing red," Brabson said. "Our goal is still the same, and that's to win a championship and we'll be at home, but our path might've gotten a little tougher."