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The Life and Legacy of Mike McMillan

By Ray Hill

The late Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill once said, "All politics is local." Truer words have never been spoken. Local government officials are frequently maligned, unappreciated, and sometimes subjected to downright rude behavior, especially in today's digital world. Yet there are those occasions when a local official is, by and large, truly appreciated by a grateful constituency. That was Mike McMillan's good fortune.

Mike McMillan died last Friday. Mike McMillan was a pretty strong fellow although he was a man who could be reasoned with and was quite tolerant.

For the last thirteen years, Mike McMillan served on the Knox County Board of Education. Prior to that, he had served for a decade on the Knox County Commission. Mike McMillan spent nearly a quarter of a century representing the people of Knox County's Eighth District on one body or the other, a responsibility he took very seriously. Until retirement, Mike McMillan was a school teacher throughout his adult life.

Mike's father Joe was a long-time member of the Knox County Quarterly Court and its more modern iteration, the county commission. When Joe died of a cerebral hemorrhage, Mike McMillan won a contested special

convention called in the Eighth District to run in the general election. Joe McMillan had been perhaps the most conservative member of the Knox County Commission and while nobody ever could call Mike a free spender, there were noticeable differences between father and son.

Joe McMillan considered himself as something of an orator and would frequently speak to any number of issues before the county commission. Mike only spoke when he felt he needed to, especially if it was an issue of importance to the Eighth District.

In 2010, Mike McMillan, having retired, decided to run for the Eight District school board seat. Mike McMillan won the general election that year. McMillan's previous service on the county commission gave him an advantage, especially in understanding the thinking of those folks who actually have to raise the taxes to pay for everything in county government.

The first couple of years Mike McMillan served on the board of education were difficult, but they never broke his spirit nor his will to do whatever he believed to be right. McMillan was diminished by his colleagues at that time and largely ignored by the Superintendent Jim McIntyre administration until that became impossible. Mike didn't let that discourage him and continued to work hard

to be part of the majority on the board. As one admiring constituent once said, Mike McMillan was the "honey badger" of the Knox County Board of Education. He would never give up. Mike McMillan was a rarity in many ways, not the least being he was a teacher who said his first concern was the students, parents and taxpayers.

The Focus has many times over the past 13 years detailed all the projects and improvements that Mike McMillan supported. Mike was successful in obtaining a new Carter Elementary School and significant improvements for Carter Middle School, and single-handedly fought off an attempt to close the Career Magnet School in Straw Plains. Mike was also instrumental in securing approval and funding for a new Gibbs Middle School and a new Gibbs High School football stadium.

Reelected in 2020 while being treated for lung cancer, McMillan was unable to campaign as he had in the past. Throughout a tough battle with throat and lung cancer, Mike McMillan continued to attend board meetings unless he was hospitalized. Once diagnosed with cancer, for the rest of his life Mike McMillan breathed through a trach. Eventually, the treatments he had received for his battles with cancer had diminished his lung capacity, which led to his untimely death.

Mike McMillan and I were



Mike McMillan

friends for a mighty long time. Before he became ill, we spoke quite nearly every day and spoke about everything under the sun. That kind of friendship can never be replaced, only treasured and remembered.

Mike McMillan leaves behind a rich legacy of service to the people who honored him time and again, something for which he was very grateful. That same legacy can be seen today with the

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The Magnitude of our Mission and the Management of our Time



By Justin Pratt,
Senior Pastor
Clear Springs Baptist Church

"The magnitude of my mission and the ticking clock of time."

That was a statement that I read recently and it literally rocked my world. I was painfully reminded that my time on this planet is limited and there is still much to be accomplished. Goals for my family, objectives for our church, and then my own personal ambitions. Husband, dad, pastor, leader, coach, family member and friend are a few, but not all of the titles that I have. Wearing multiple hats is not always easy and often presses me to the point that I

feel as if I am not wearing any of them as well as I would like to. It was this one sentence, "The magnitude of my mission and the ticking clock of time" that created something within my heart and mind a deep sense of urgency. A desire to consider my priorities, evaluate my time, and a drive to do better.

The management of our time is, believe it or not, a biblical concept. Whether it is James' stern reminder in James 4:14, that "life is a vapor that appears for a little while" or The Apostle Paul's memento to the church at Ephesus (Ephesians 5:15) to be careful and guarded as to how you live and make the most of every day. Regardless of the season each of us is in, we need to be reminded that every day is one less day to accomplish the things that God has placed in our hearts. For this reason alone, we need to understand the urgency of the moment.

Here are some helpful considerations as you reflect on your life and maximize the moments that we have in the life that we

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West High School Student Ambassador Huitzy Barroso unveils the academies that will be offered at her school.

KCS celebrates 865 Academies expansion

By Ken Leinart

It's what happens when good ideas come to fruition.

Friday morning, January 26, the last six high schools of the 14 traditional high schools in the Knox County School System unveiled their 865 Academies courses during a ceremony at South-Doyle High School.

South-Doyle, Carter, Gibbs, Halls, Powell and West high schools announced their choices.

A press release issued for the event stated, "The 865

Academies initiative has established two or three career-themed academies within each high school designed to prepare KCS graduates to enroll in college or trade school, enlist in service to their country, or find high-wage employment."

The academies are supplemental to traditional high school curriculum, but set a pathway to help students develop skills for employment after graduation.

"High schools are big places with lots of faces," KCS Assistant

Superintendent of Academics Keith Wilson said. "The academies create smaller teams within the larger school that ensure every student, no matter how big or how small the school, to be seen and known by a set of adults that is focused on their success both in high school and beyond."

Superintendent of Knox County Schools Dr. Jon Rysewyk called it, "Big being small."

He said the concept of the academies began three years ago.

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Terrible Tragedies Continue In Unjust War

From a distance



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

The CBS national news-cast on Jan. 20 showed the terrible anguish of a father holding a photograph of a little girl who had been killed a few days short of her first birthday by an Israeli bomb in Gaza.

This father and another little daughter had just been pulled out of the rubble, fortunate to still be alive.

Unfortunately, the dead little girl's mother, brother, another sister and three of her uncles had all been killed in Israel's massive

bombing campaign.

According to the Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, Israel dropped 25,000 tons of bombs on the Gaza Strip in the first month of the slaughter, equivalent to two nuclear bombs.

As of Jan. 21, the Health Ministry said 25,105 Palestinians have been killed and 62,681 have been wounded. Reuters reported that 178 were killed on the 21st, which it described as "one of the deadliest days of the war thus far."

The U.N. estimated that 16,000 of the deaths have been women and children. The head of the U.N. called the killing of civilians and mass destruction in Gaza "unprecedented."

Israel's bombing campaign has been so massive, so extensive, that it has now gone far beyond anything that could possibly be justified under any

concept of just war.

Columnist Patrick Foy wrote on the Lew Rockwell website, www.lewrockwell.com, on Jan. 19: "You don't hear any objections from the U.S. Senate regarding whatever Israel does, no matter how outrageous."

He added: "The U.S. Senate has been bought and paid for by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, which is a front organization. AIPAC should logically be registered as a foreign agent, a lobbying agent for foreign government."

Prime Minister Netanyahu said in a press conference a few days ago that Israel must have a prime minister who "needs to be capable of saying no to our friends...," rejecting the U.S. policy of a two-state solution. The U.S. gives Israel \$3.8 billion in no-strings attached foreign

aid every year and billions more in other bills, in spite of the fact that Israel has been in much better financial shape than the U.S. for many years.

Many foreign policy experts over the past few months have said Israel could not continue this war without U.S. assistance.

The conservative Judge Andrew Napolitano, on his podcast "Judging Freedom", has been leading a fight against this war and has had several experts on his program who have said President Biden could stop the fighting with one phone call.

However, Biden is just too weak. While Netanyahu said Israel needs a prime minister who can say no to the U.S., what this world needs now is a U.S. president strong enough to say no to Israel.

The only president who

ever has was President Eisenhower when he rejected Israel's demand for the U.S. to go to war with Egypt over control of the Suez Canal. And Eisenhower was courageous enough to do it on national television one week before the 1956 election, saying he would end U.S. aid to Israel if it did not withdraw its troops.

Now, even 15 Jewish Democrats in the House and four in the Senate have criticized Netanyahu's rejection of the two-state solution.

When Netanyahu said, as he did in his press conference, that Israel had to have complete control of all land "from the river to the sea," he was saying the same thing that some pro-Palestinian students have been kicked out of school for saying.

It is sad to me that all Congressional Republicans

except for Sen. Rand Paul and Rep. Thomas Massie have been too afraid of the Israel Lobby to even criticize all this bombing of little children.

The late great conservative columnist Charles Reese wrote in 2004: "I harbor no ill feelings toward Israel. In many ways it is an admirable country, but it is a foreign country, and the U.S. should treat Israel the same as it treats every other foreign nation.

We should make it clear, for example, that Israel's enemies... but we will go on spending treasure and blood in (the Middle East) until the American people elect some politician brave enough to face down the Israeli lobby."

Fake meat and regime change

I am a deer hunter and since 1971 I have not eaten any red meat except venison. I have no explanation except that since I can hunt and take enough game to last from the end of deer season to the beginning of the next, I see no need to eat beef or pork. I do

eat fish, chicken and turkey, and also am a turkey hunter. I have a fairly healthy diet and cannot recall the last time I have eaten fast food - although I have stopped for an early morning biscuit on the way to a hunt. I eat very little processed foods.

All this is to say that I do not understand fake meat. What's the point of consuming a food like substance that is processed to imitate meat with its texture and smell? Wouldn't it make more sense just to consume the plant and not all the other stuff that is added to it? Consider that one of the products



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

imitating meat contains 22 ingredients. I would not feed it to my dog - and I bet my dog wouldn't eat it. My dog is fed raw venison at each meal and venison has no added ingredients.

I presume that the fake meat industry arose from a combination of climate change and PETA activists who seek to decrease the consumption of meat. The PETA folks have been protesting meat consumption for years and have just been silly in their protestations. The climate alarmists want to decrease meat consumption because they note that cow's farts are a major source of methane in the atmosphere. Scientists report that methane has a warming potential more than 28 times that of carbon dioxide meaning that cows may pose a bigger threat to the environment than internal combustion engines. Who

knew? The anti-cow lobby got a boost from the recent UN climate change conference in Dubai (of all places) where the delegates arrived in private jets, ate expensive cuts of beef and recommended that we, the great unwashed, go green and eat green.

A country that has taken seriously the threat to cows destroying the planet is Denmark with its large agriculture footprint and dairy farms. There it is estimated that "total methane emissions from Denmark's approximately 570,000 dairy cows today amount to 2.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents annually. Likewise, the total pig production results in methane emissions equal to 1.45 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents per year." A tonne is 1,000 kilograms. The Danes are experimenting adding algae to animal feed to reduce methane claiming that the algae are not harmful for human consumption. However, the Danish government has

other ideas showing that governments think alike regardless of location. It is proposing a farming emissions tax on cows to force farmers to decrease the size of their herds and substitute non-animal products. The politicians in Denmark have obviously ignored the reaction of the farmers who are loudly protesting the proposed tax. In the Netherlands and New Zealand where similar taxes were proposed farmers staged protests that often turned violent.

In the Netherlands, several political parties united to fight the government edicts and its prime minister declared a political crisis. The end result was a collapse of the government and the election of a conservative leader that shook the left-wing media and entrenched European politicians.

The question is whether America will reach that point with some governments which seems intent on banning all internal combustion engines (ICE). Their

war on stuff is getting absurd with some states proposing fines and jail time for operating gas powered lawn movers and weed eaters.

The banning of ICE comes at a cost. "Renewable" energy is highly inefficient and more costly than fossil fuels. The demands on the electric grid will cause brown outs and black outs. Energy will be more costly, reducing consumers real incomes and having an adverse effect on the poor. What is particularly vexing is that the banning of ICE has been shown to have a negligible impact on total carbon dioxide emissions. When Americans come to realize that the climate change efforts costing over \$1 trillion is either to make the left feel good or to transfer public funds to the green industry and their friends, perhaps they will follow the lead of the Netherlands in voting for a regime change.



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The Magnitude of our Mission and the Management of our Time


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productive in using them to serve God and serve others while you have the chance. Find your gift, focus on it, and use it to fulfill your calling. Somewhere, somebody needs what you have to offer.

Lastly, guard against allowing the busyness of everyday life to push out the opportunities to do the greater work. If we don't intentionally guard our days and our time, we'll unintentionally miss the chance for God to use us. Henry David Thoreau, the 19th century American philosopher once said, "It is not enough to be busy ... The question is: what are we busy about?"

I encourage you to reflect on that statement. Someone in your sphere of influence needs what you have to offer: a simple hug, a short visit, a little card, or a few minutes of your time. A church that needs your gifts and talents or a community that could use your impact.

I hope that when you think about the 'magnitude of your mission' in consideration of 'the ticking clock of time' you determine today that the rest of your days, will be lived out with intentionality and purpose. Be blessed.



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Publisher Steve Hunley
Editor, Art Director Marianne Dedmon
editor@knoxfocus.com, design@knoxfocus.com

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



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

My Friend Mike McMillan Passes Away

Mike McMillan departed this world last week and I have say he was the best school board member our community ever had. I say that having been a school board member myself. Mike was a modest man who did not seek the spotlight, and when he first came to the Knox County Board of Education, he didn't exactly receive a warm welcome. By the time he died, no member of the board was better liked or held in higher esteem than Mike McMillan. Mike had gone from being a bloc of one to a senior statesman, whose wisdom was listened to and others sought his counsel.

I don't mean to give lesser credit to Mike's service on the county commission, but it seems to me that he really came into his own while serving on the school board. Mike was fearless when it came to representing his people, which is exactly

how a representative of the people should be. Mike never lost sight of who elected him or why he sat on the school board in the first place.

Friendship meant something to Mike McMillan. Mike was bound to his friends by ties of love and affection. Mike accomplished things others could not while serving on the school board precisely because of who he was and he knew it. A man of good humor and genuinely kind, Mike never outgrew his upbringing. The only child of Joe and Mary Jane McMillan, Mike loved the land and farming, as did the generations of McMillan farmers that came before him.

Mike loved history after having it taught it throughout his time as a teacher at Gibbs High School. He never lost that love of learning.

Mike could accept others as they were and I was often shocked by how quickly he would tackle an issue for his district, as compared to his maddening procrastination in many of his own affairs. Mike certainly never put his own business ahead of that of the public.

Even when most men would have been tempted to lie in bed and rest while stricken with cancer, Mike was in his seat at meetings of the school board. Mike McMillan was one of the least selfish people I've ever known.

Mike's passing sure will leave a big void in our

community and I think it is probably the passing of one generation to a newer, younger generation of leadership. Mike had been in and around politics throughout his entire life and was one of the last of his kind. Mike McMillan was always true to his word and his handshake meant something.

Mike's accomplishments as a public official can be seen throughout our community, but he was most proud of the too numerous to count small things he did to help families and individuals. Mike McMillan lived a life of service to others.

Double Standard?

The daily newspaper was critical of Mayor Jacobs because he left over the weekend before the winter storm to go to Iowa to campaign for former President Donald Trump. It was the weekend, and the taxpayers didn't foot the bill, and Jacobs got snowed in while in Iowa, but of course the News-Sentinel had to gripe about it because of their liberal biased stance. The Knox News and its reporters seem more like spokespeople for the Democratic Party than reporters.

The Sentinel should have been a little red-faced when it came to light City Mayor Indya Kincaid had left town on a trip paid for by the taxpayers on Wednesday, January 17 and returned on the 20th. At the time, virtually everybody in the city was snowed in, but presumably

someone was able to get Indya to the airport to fly to Washington, D.C. Of course the daily newspaper defended Indya, saying there's a difference between politics and policy. It was politics and a cheap shot from the get-go and Indya's actual spokesperson told us the city mayor was riveted by her participation in a round table discussion with Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. That was the problem, there was no transportation going on in Knoxville, well, except for Indya, although the City ran out of salt and Glenn Jacobs was good enough to give them some.

Lighten Up, Gary

Gary Loe, the lifetime head of the West Knox Republican Club, is on a crusade to try and wreck the chances of Garrett Holt to serve on the Knox County Commission. Holt is far ahead of his competitors, raising an impressive financial war chest to run and has been actively campaigning to succeed Kyle Ward on the commission.

Ward, after the birth of a baby, has chosen to retire from the county commission and concentrate on family and business matters. Loe has pushed Liz Tombras to challenge Holt in the Republican primary.

Loe is usually to be found complaining inside the Republican Party and fighting with just about everybody but Democrats. Loe ran a losing campaign

against state Representative Gloria Johnson and last year was rejected by the delegates to the Knox County Republican convention when he sought to become the party's secretary. Loe was allied with Erik Wiatr, who is seeking to redefine himself as a foe of developers and incumbents. Wiatr makes his money from running campaigns and incumbents inhibit his ability to generate revenue, so he tries to find challengers to line his pockets. Loe and Wiatr had a falling out at some point, but Loe had supported a ticket of Republicans put together by Waitr to run in the City Council races in 2021. Garrett Holt ran on that ticket and Loe supported him then. Nor did Gary Loe object to Erik Waitr who spent more of his life as a Democrat and Green Party member than as a Republican. Nobody has heard Gary Loe scream from the rooftops about the hundreds of liberal Democrats and Green party zanies Erik Wiatr backed and the ballots in Chicago were as long as a roll of toilet paper.

Loe made a nuisance of himself protesting the nomination of former state Representative Eddie Mannis and wanted to make an investigation into cross-over voters. Voters are free to vote in the primary of their choice in Tennessee since the beginning of time, although some folks are either ignorant of the law, still think they are just living in a better suburb of Illinois or are too new

to know Tennessee's law. Democrats crossed over in New Hampshire to vote for Nikki Haley against Trump, not that it made any difference. Like it or not, ultimately the voters have the final say on whom they prefer in public office.

Garrett Holt's candidacy has been accepted and approved by the members of the Republican State Executive Committee from Knox County with only one dissenting vote. The State Executive Committee members are also elected by Republicans in primary elections.

Waiting on the sidelines is a Democrat candidate with no opposition in his own primary, who will have every resource the leftist special interests can bring to bear on the race in the general election. It doesn't help that Republicans are fighting amongst themselves. Unfortunately, too many of them are too new to Knox County to remember a time when the county clerk was a Democrat and won election after election county-wide for 20 years. The district attorney was a Democrat and there were a slew of Democrats elected to judgeships. These self-appointed party crashers, some of whom have been Democrats themselves, spend more time fighting other Republicans than they do Democrats. As the old saying goes, any jack-ass can kick down a barn, but it takes a carpenter to build one.

The Life and Legacy of Mike McMillan

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projects that McMillan nurtured into being. There will be generations of children and young people who will learn in those same buildings for generations to come.

Knox County Leaders Remember Mike McMillan

"His Dad and mine were friends as he and I were. I relied on him and without our friendship and collaboration, I don't think the Carter Elementary or Gibbs Middle schools would have happened." - **Congressman Tim Burchett**

"Mike was a strong conservative voice on the BOE and always very kind to me. He will be missed." - **Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs**

"I met Mike through our mutual passion for antiques. I admired him for his kindness and strong sense of purpose. I will miss him very much." - **Charlie Susano, Circuit Court Clerk**

"Nobody cared more about the safety of school children than Mike McMillan and nobody was more interested in backing the blue. Mike was always on the side of right, especially where safety was involved. Mike was a personal friend and I hate to hear we've lost him. Mike really made a difference in our community." - **Tom Spangler, Knox County Sheriff**

"Public service is best defined by the actions of those who dedicate themselves to others. Mike McMillan served Knox County well. Here's to a life well lived and gone too soon." - **Larsen Jay, Knox County Commissioner-At-Large**

"Mike devoted nearly a quarter century to public service. In that time, he led with wisdom and with an unwavering commitment to do what was right—for kids and for our community. Anyone who knew Mike would tell you that he always had a smile on his face and a joke or a story to tell you. I learned early on that every story he told had a purpose—they were Mike's way of sharing his wisdom, of teaching something to anyone willing to listen. I will miss those stories and I'll deeply miss Mike's heart for our community. Please join me in lifting up Mike's family and friends and the entire 8th district in your thoughts and prayers." - **Dr. Jon Rysewyk, Superintendent, Knox County Schools**

"I'm going to miss my friend Mike McMillan. He was a principled leader who served our community for decades, but I'll remember him for the warmth he showed me when I joined the School Board." - **Betsy Henderson, Chair, Knox County Board of Education**

"Mike McMillan was a very effective advocate for his community, both on the

County Commission and the Knox County Board of Education. Mike's experience proved to be a real asset on the Board and I was always impressed by his command of the rules, but even more impressive was his zeal on behalf of the people he represented. Mike McMillan was a fine public servant." - **David Buuck, Knox County Law Director**

"Mike and I went to Carter High School together, and even though I was a year ahead of him in school we became very good friends and were friends to the end. I am glad he isn't struggling anymore. My sincere condolences and prayers to the family. I will miss my friend." - **John Whitehead, Knox County Property Assessor**

"I had the privilege of serving with both Joe McMillan and Mike McMillan. I know one thing without a doubt: both of them were absolutely committed to the people of the Eighth District." - **John R. Mills, former Knox County Commissioner**

"I'll remember Mike for his lifetime of service to Knox County and Knox County schools. Mike was a friend and was always ready to share any information to benefit the people of East Knox County or countywide. Mike was a great source of institutional knowledge which was just invaluable to our people." - **Dave Wright, State Representative, 19th District.**

"Mike will be extremely missed by myself and Knox County. Mike was a faithful servant for the Eighth District. Thank you, Mr. McMillan." - **Carson Dailey, Knox County Commissioner, 9th District**

"I was very sad to hear of Mike McMillan's passing. Mike was a wonderful public servant for many years for his community and Knox County. He was a very kind gentleman and he will be missed greatly. My thoughts go out to his family, friends and community." - **Gina Oster, Knox County Commissioner**

"Mike and I were friends so long the memory of

man runneth not to the contrary. Mike had a huge capacity for friendship and an equally big heart. The world is an emptier place without Mike McMillan in it." - **Ray Hill, former State Representative and Focus columnist**

"I am saddened by the passing of 8th District School Board Representative Mike McMillan. Mike, the longest serving member of the board, was a fierce advocate for District 8. During his term, the 8th District built a new building for Carter Elementary, built a new middle school for the Gibbs community after the community went over 30 years

without a middle school, and saw the creation of a new innovative magnet school, Career Magnet Academy in Carter. Not only was Mike an advocate for students in District 8, but for students outside the district as well. Mike was the deciding vote in the approval of Knox County's first charter school, Emerald Academy.

"Mike McMillan will be remembered for the many accomplishments in his tenure, fighting for our kids, our schools and our community." - **Travis Wright, Candidate for Knox County Board of Education, 8th District and former student of Mike McMillan**

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Public speakers endorse alternative response effort

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville City Council held a public hearing Thursday to get public input about the growing problem of homelessness, drug abuse and domestic violence. Most of the comments from more than two dozen citizens were in support of the proposed Alternative Response Task Force.

Currently, the city police or the city's co-responder teams respond to 911 calls. The city has two co-responder teams that consist of a medical or

mental health worker and a police officer. The alternative responders would not include a police officer but a medical and mental health worker and, as proposed, the two non-law enforcers would be backed up by police when needed.

Vice Mayor Tommy Smith chaired the meeting and speakers included members of many of the current city response departments, independent social service companies and organizations, homeless advocates, mental health workers, and citizens concerned with the growing problem.

That included speakers

from the city police and fire departments, E-911, Salvation Army, KARM, the Family Justice Center, AMR Ambulance, Volunteer Ministries, Helen Ross McNabb Center, CAC's case management, hospitals, Care Cuts, and Knoxville HEART Mental Health Crisis Alternative.

Smith asked each speaker to speak for five minutes and address three questions: their experience with emergency services, what could be improved, and their comments on existing and proposed services.

The proposal for an alternative response task

force and the creation of a department or team to respond to emergency calls for help was supported by most of the speakers. Several local citizens also spoke of their personal experiences of dealing with responders.

Suggestions by the speakers included a well-funded alternative response program, 24-hour around-the-clock availability, a coordinated effort by a task force of the city, agencies and citizens, emergency beds and sheltering for violence victims and their children, more funding to social services, and

the continuation of the co-responder units along with an alternative program.

Following the public speakers several of the city council members commented.

Andrew Roberto said a mental health hospital is needed in Knoxville. Lauren Rider questioned the defunding of The Foyer, a low-barrier shelter for abused women.

Amelia Parker commented that an alternate response idea has been floating around since 2020 with no action and renewed her support for a task force.

Gwen McKenzie said the

effort needs more help, collaboration and resources.

Lynne Fugate said a task force needs "neutral" partners and wondered about the staffing of response teams, given the declining number of mental health workers.

Debbie Helsley said the effort "needs more people on the ground" and Smith echoed council comments and added, "We will continue to innovate."

Smith added that the comments received during the special hearing "will shape what we do next."

Missing middle housing changes pass first reading at council

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The City of Knoxville has been looking at "The Missing Middle" housing for more than two years and on Tuesday the city council voted, in the first of two public readings, to revamp several city codes to loosen regulations to permit more housing units.

Although a huge portion of the city population are renters, the city has, in the past, focused on promoting and preserving single-family homes. That may be about to change.

The various changes, if adopted, would permit accessory dwellings to be built — for family members or for purchase — on existing home properties in most residential zones. It would lessen setbacks, permit multi-family homes, and open up corridors and many empty lots for dwelling permits.

The problem is that more people are looking for housing than there is available lodging inside the city. The majority of the three-hour meeting was taken up with the Missing Middle discussion.

Opponents and supporters spoke to the council about the proposed city code changes.

Debra Thomas of the Oakwood neighborhood said the changes would promote "gentrification" and said the effort needs to be focused on the city's corridors and not its neighborhoods. Larry Silverstein of Community Forum asked, unsuccessfully, for a 60-day delay and said the changes were "proposed by realtors and developers."

Speaking in favor of the changes were Drew Harper,

Parker Bartholomew and Hancen Sale. Sale said that many workers, such as police officers and teachers, cannot afford to buy homes in Knoxville. Bartholomew said the city created the housing shortage and Harper urged the city to focus on empty lots only, calling the proposals "heartless."

More than 12 people had requested to speak but the council limited speakers to three on each side of the debate. Councilwoman Seema Singh moved to permit them all to speak but the motion failed.

Several council members addressed the changes, quizzing several officials including Knoxville-Knox County Planning Director Amy Brooks.

Councilwoman Lauren Rider spoke of growing up and living in a variety of types of housing and Mayor Indya Kincannon noted that she lives in multi-family housing. Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie asked if a structure could be demolished without a permit and Brooks said a permit must be sought and it would be reviewed.

Councilwoman Lynne Fugate said that "middle housing is not affordable housing" and questioned if historic homes and districts would be immune from the changes.

Councilman Tommy Smith asked about how the changes would be monitored and for ongoing reports on the effects. Fugate suggested reports to the council every six months.

Mayor Kincannon said the changes would "give property owners more options" and mentioned detached dwellings and duplexes.

Rider added an amendment to decrease the setback requirements on new housing up to 50 percent and it passed.

Councilman Andrew Roberto said the changes were "a step toward diversity in housing."

Council members Charles Thomas and Rider commented on the number of abandoned commercial properties and large empty parking lots where residential housing could be located.

The first reading of the "Missing Middle" overall zoning changes passed unanimously with a final vote set for the next city council meeting.

KCS celebrates 865 Academies expansion

Cont. from page 1

"Today we're celebrating 14 schools, 14 leaders and 14 teams," Rysewyk said Friday.

"So many times good ideas, especially when you talk about government and schools, get stuck in this implementation — I've heard it called an implementation black hole — great idea, looks great on paper, have a plan and a power point but we don't actually bring it to fruition. It takes great people to do that."

Those "great people" include an array of partners and stakeholders.

Rysewyk praised the

relationships with partners in the post-secondary and business world.

He said the academies allow "building a smaller learning community" and educators are better able to get to know the students better. The academies can also give "industry experience."

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs said he applauded KCS and its mission to find "varied pathways to success" for its students.

"Making an investment in these students also makes an investment in the future of Knox County," Jacobs said.

Knoxville Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Mike Odom said 865 Academies are important enough the Chamber has a staff member dedicated to work closely with KCS throughout the process.

While the selection of academies for each school draw heavily from surveys of students, they also rely on employment trends, industry analysis, and other factors.

Odom said it felt it was important for the Chamber to "provide feedback to KCS."

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

One and Done

Well, it's finally gone. In a recent essay, I wrote that Becky and I like snow. And we do, but not the stuff that seemingly lasts forever. I enjoy winter weather through the Christmas holidays, a crackling fire, and Christmas music. And then a good snow. After that, it's "one and done" for me, and I'm ready for spring.

This latest snowstorm was unusual because we got 9 inches at our home in the UT hospital area, whereas friends in Sevier County received none. Measuring the snow bank off our porch brought back memories of the "blizzard of '93" when power lines went down as trees collapsed under heavy snowfall and high winds. We lost power and water because the submersible pump in our well doesn't work without TVA "juice." And I learned that it takes 5 buckets of snow melted over the fire to flush one toilet.

TVA reported record power usage with this latest storm, where temperatures dipped to -6°F on our farm. However, this was nothing by comparison to winter's blast of -26°F in '85 when Knoxville had the lowest temperature of the lower 48 states. As I penned these reminiscences, I thought to myself, "I have crossed over," because I sound like the stories my grandfather used to tell of his yesteryears.

I have learned from past storms and plan accordingly. We now have a backup generator and we lay in provisions from Kroger. And since I have a truck with 4-wheel drive we are never stranded. Actually, I enjoy the quietness of snow which dampens sound and slows the world down. And I love how "light" the nighttime landscape appears due to reflected light from the blanket of snowy white. I say all this since I'm retired

and have fewer responsibilities. I no longer have to slog to the ER. I can sit by the fire and reflect.

But enough is enough, and after several days we were glad to get out for church. One factor that led to the destruction of my Methodist church was Covid and the closure of live worship services. As we now know, closures, masks and social distancing were ineffective and led to generational harm. Becky and I were already displeased with the increasingly liberal-progressive slant of Methodism, but prolonged closure of worship service was the nail in the coffin for us. There is no substitute for being in worship service and lustily singing praise of the Lord with fellow Christians. We found a new church home which was open during Covid, and have never looked back.

The chill of winter has been "warmed" a bit by the Republican presidential primary drama. However, the primary is now essentially over after President Trump's victories and the withdrawal of his competitors except Nikki Haley. Her only hope now is a political "Hail Mary."

The Democrat primary has always been irrelevant after the shunning of Robert Kennedy by the Democrat Party, the grandstanding candidacy of Dean Phillips and the

perennial attention seeking candidates: Marianne Williamson, Cornel West and Gloria Stein. Biden won in Iowa and in New Hampshire as a write-in candidate. I still read stories that Joe Manchin may declare as a "third-party" candidate, but even former President Theodore Roosevelt could not win as a Bull Moose candidate in 1912.

I certainly will not vote for the disastrous Biden or a Democrat because there are no Democrats left. They are all progressives with the possible exception of Harold Ford Jr. At this stage of the race, I am for anyone who can defeat Biden and "Democrats." And the best option is Donald Trump. Get over your irrational hatred! To paraphrase Jesus, unless you are without sin, you have no right to be casting stones.

President Trump was better for the economy, the border, energy, crime, national security and the country. You don't have to feel warm and fuzzy about Trump. You need to vote pragmatically for your own benefit, your children's and the country's. And quite honestly, I'm for Trump because the World Economic Forum, NATO, the military-industrial complex, globalists, the media, the swamp, Democrats and RINOs don't want him

reelected.

The Davos "Illuminati" were back in Switzerland last week enjoying the snow, hobnobbing, eating caviar, swilling champagne and partaking of the services from ladies of the night who, like the elitists, were flown in on jets without concerns for carbon footprints. I reject the notion that Klaus Schwab and the preening, virtue signaling Davos elites know what's best for me.

Did you see the clip of the Amazonian shaman who was flown in to ritualistically cough on the heads of a Davos panel of experts? Where was Fauci to demand masks and social distancing? Oh sorry; that's passé now. Actually, I think the sun is the principal driving force of our climate, and I consider CO2 "the gas of life" (Dr. Willie Soon). Carbon, oxygen and hydrogen are the elements of life.

Neither the dummkopf Democrats, Davos dips or the DEI shill and drag queen CEO of United Airlines speaks for me. In some ways it is regrettable that I have lost all confidence in government leaders and institutions (FBI, CIA, etc.), the media, academia (Harvard, etc.) and even once revered hospital systems like John Hopkins. But on the other hand, I realize that reform cannot occur unless the

mistakes are recognized. I am a sinner, but I believe in the forgiveness of a contrite heart. Grace is sufficient and available for Ferguson, Trump, and even Joe Biden and his "wise-cracking" son, Hunter.

What scares me are the one-third of the electorate who will vote for the demented, destructive Biden. I marvel at the faces of people shown sitting behind iPOTUS and rapturously applauding his lies and word salad. And I'm fearful of corporate shills and the globalists of Davos who promote digital IDs, DEI, digital banking and social credit scores (as in China) to control us.

It is no longer necessary for governments to control the means of production (as in socialism and communism) because they now control the people who control the means of production. Information is also under the dictates of those who purport to shield us from "misinformation." Censors and fact-checkers are examples but are just arbiters of their facts. Tucker Carlson, President Trump and others threaten the information flow and the power of elites, so they must be silenced.

Make no mistake, folks. Unless we make Biden "one and done" in November, America is done.

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

Olde Time Memories

One of the benefits of getting old, which we assume begins at age 60 or 65, isn't just qualifying for social security, retirement, Medicare or "senior discounts" but age bringing

More Than A Day Away



By Mike Steely

back memories of childhood. We can forget or push back bad childhood memories and pull up the good ones.

I was born in my grandma's house. My mom was working at a factory in the next town over and my siblings and I lived with one

grandmother or the other until I was about six years old when my mom re-married and we moved.

Those early years in an old frame house were full of the warmth of family. My many cousins also stayed at grandma's house now and then and I remember sleeping in a large bed with three, four or five other kids. I recall waking up in bed as the sun came up and seeing the sunbeams flickering through the cracks of the old house and

dust devils dancing in the streams of light.

Grandma had only one coal heating stove, in the living room, so sharing the big bed with the other children kept me warm all night. She also had a coal cooking stove and each Saturday water was boiled on it and poured into a large wash tub where, one by one, we kids took baths.

Everyone in my family, from aunts and uncles to my two grandmas, loved to talk and tell stories. Maybe my ability to share stories and become a reporter started on the front porch in that little house where we'd sit with our legs over the ledge and listen to each other take the stage in the front yard and tell made-up



My grandmother, Mattie Lay Douglas Campbell, opens a present I gave her many years ago. She plays so heavily in my early childhood memories, sharing family stories with me. Maybe it was appropriate that the present I gave her was wrapped in my newspaper, my way I guess of sharing my stories with her.

stories to the family.

I never thought of being poor back then; we all ate

well from groceries, the garden, and the animals we raised or hunted. We

never thought anything of using the outhouse and

Cont. on page 6

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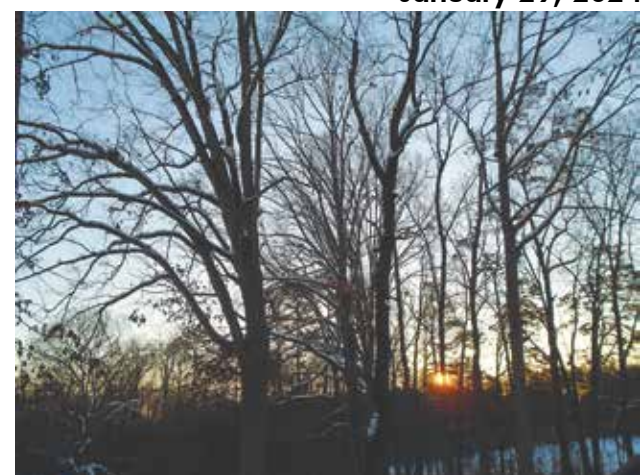
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A glorious sunrise on a snowy day in East Tennessee, by *Ralphine Major*.

The Kindness of Strangers

I could almost hear a "hush" as white beauty blanketed the earth. Millions of tiny white crystals fell from the sky. They could be seen clinging to barren tree bark and turning hayfields of summer into a sea of white. 2024's first snowfall is one that will be remembered.

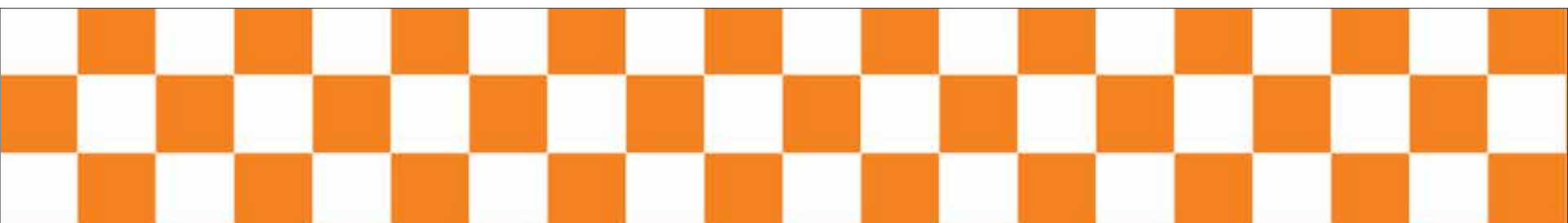
Inch by inch the snowfall total climbed to an amount East Tennesseans had not seen for many years. Schools and businesses closed for several days. Many sporting events had to be rescheduled. Church services were canceled or made available online. Snowfalls in this area usually stay on the ground for two or three days. This recent snow, which lasted well over a week, is more like the snow of the most northern regions of the country. Through all the treacherous road conditions, the Volunteer spirit



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

did not disappoint. Numerous stories have emerged about the kindness of strangers who raked snow off cars and picked up groceries and medicine for shut-ins. One neighbor came to the rescue of a service truck and pulled it out of the ditch. Our busy lives nearly came to a complete halt with Mother Nature's white surprise, and cabin fever was surely felt by many. Yet, with all the chaos connected with a major winter storm, there is also a strange calm. With the warning to stay indoors, it can be a time of quietness, serenity, and reflection. It can be a time to see the hand of the Creator and marvel at how a beautiful snowfall can turn an ordinary day into an awesome scene. And at the end of that day, all is well.

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



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Mr. Revercomb of West Virginia

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Stephen Jones of Oklahoma was a personal friend and the biographer of Senator Chapman Revercomb of West Virginia. As Mr. Jones wrote, Revercomb, especially in his second term, looked as if he were made to wear the senatorial toga. Between 1942 and 2014, the Republicans won two elections for the United States Senate and both times their candidate was Chapman Revercomb. Best-selling novelist Allen Drury was a young reporter for the Associated Press when he covered the United States Senate in 1943, the year Revercomb first came to the Senate. Drury thought the senator's name "romantic," and sounded more Southern than not. TIME magazine noticed the senator's name as well when he was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1942. The most widely read news magazine in the country, TIME noted the defeat of veteran politico Matthew Mansfield Neely, ordinarily a powerhouse at the ballot box, who was serving as governor at the time. Neely had lost decisively to a "handsome, young (47 years old) lawyer making his first political campaign, a Republican upstart with liberal leanings and a storybook name: Chapman Revercomb."

Those candidates who are not expected to win in the first place, much less beat a political institution, always get considerable attention from the news media and Revercomb was no exception. TIME noted Revercomb possessed "remarkable beginner's skill at campaigning." Once upon a time, West Virginia had been a largely Republican state. Also at one time, West Virginia had been a literal part of Virginia but became the only state to break away and become a state on its own. Much like Tennessee, the voting patterns of West Virginia had much to do with sympathies formed during the American Civil War. Yet by 1932, things had changed considerably in the Mountain State. The Great Depression had inflicted horrific suffering in an already poor state and upon its people. The coming of Franklin D. Roosevelt, as in much of the country, seemed like a Godsend. West Virginia's congressional Republicans were wiped out in the 1932 Democratic landslide. Two years later, the only Republican still holding statewide office, U.S. Senator Henry D. Hatfield, lost to a Democrat who was, at the time of his election, not able to take the oath of office because he was only 29 years old. The Democrats became entrenched in the political fabric of West Virginia. TIME magazine had been wrong about the 1942 campaign being Chapman

Revercomb's first effort to win elective office. Revercomb had made a bid for the Republican nomination for governor in 1936, but he ran third. In 1942, Revercomb became a candidate for the GOP nomination for the United States Senate and faced a hard-fought primary with self-funded millionaire Raymond J. Funkhouser. Revercomb won the nomination by a scant 124 votes. Few gave Revercomb much chance of defeating the colorful Governor Neely, who had left the U. S. Senate to become West Virginia's chief executive to exterminate the statehouse machine and fold it into his own federal organization. Neely had easily beaten the leader of the statehouse machine, former Governor Guy Kump, inside the Democratic primary and it appeared nothing could keep him from returning to the United States Senate.

Revercomb was an able speaker and as a campaigner was indefatigable. Once, Revercomb noticed several hunters on the side of a mountain and got out of the car and wearing a business suit, went up the mountainside and shook hands with the squirrel hunters.

The GOP candidate had an abiding love of hot dogs and could down five or six in one sitting and was relentless in his pursuit of votes. Revercomb was courtly, polite, and intelligent. Observers gave Revercomb credit for a game effort, but virtually no one gave him a shred of hope of beating Matt Neely. Election Day proved the political prognosticators wrong, and Chapman Revercomb gave Matthew Neely the worst political thrashing of the latter's political career. Revercomb won the general election by ten percentage points. In Kanawha County (Charleston), the seat of state government, Revercomb won by 62% of the ballots cast. A chagrined Matt Neely snapped voters were entitled to do as they damned well pleased.

Revercomb's six-year term saw him become an important member of the United States Senate. While TIME had written about Revercomb's supposed liberal leanings, by the end of his term, the West Virginian was painted by the media of the day as the blackest of reactionaries. That was largely due to Senator Revercomb's legislation revamping American immigration policy. It is too complicated an issue to address in one column, but suffice it to say Revercomb was painted as a bigot and antisemite, which he most certainly was not. Yet the senator's record was so tainted that Governor



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION, UNITED PRESS TELEPHOTO

Chapman and Sara Revercomb celebrate the senator's reelection in 1956.

Thomas E. Dewey, the Republican presidential nominee, was so confident of his own victory that he believed he had the luxury of deliberately snubbing some GOP nominees for state offices. Dewey ignored pleas to campaign in West Virginia and pointedly did not endorse Senator Revercomb for reelection. The Democratic nominee for the U.S. Senate was the irrepressible Matthew Mansfield Neely, making yet another of his remarkable political comebacks. Neely had left the governor's office and won his old congressional seat, only to be defeated in the 1946 Republican landslide. The 74-year-old Neely returned to the stump, spouting his usual Biblical quotes and damning Revercomb's record. The grudge match ended with Neely beating Revercomb soundly.

Revercomb sought to make his own comeback in 1952 and ran on a ticket headed by Rush Holt, a former Democrat who had served in the U.S. Senate from 1935-1941. Holt may well have been counted out of the gubernatorial contest, but Revercomb campaigned heavily on the anti-Communism issue and lost by more than 60,000 votes.

It is rare for a former senator to seek election once again and win. In recent times, only Slade Gorton of Washington State has managed it. Revercomb was the best-known Republican in West Virginia and the only GOP candidate who had demonstrated the ability to win. Revercomb had been the GOP senatorial nominee in 1942, 1948 and 1952 when he announced he was a candidate in the 1956 special election. Some argued Revercomb had lost two out of three races and the GOP primary had five candidates seeking the nomination. Revercomb beat his nearest competitor, Tom Sweeney, who had been the GOP senatorial nominee in 1946 and 1954. Revercomb's comeback was aided by two factors: the first being it was a big

Republican year in West Virginia. Secondly, the Democratic nominee was Governor William Marland, who, after four years in office, had become a highly controversial figure.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower was running for reelection and was highly popular. Eisenhower had not carried the Mountain State in 1952, but he did win it in 1956. With Ike came the GOP ticket. Cecil Underwood became West Virginia's youngest governor while Chapman Revercomb beat William Marland decisively. Two Republicans were also elected to Congress from West Virginia's four-person delegation in the House of Representatives.

In 1957, the United States Senate wrestled with civil rights legislation. In particular, the Senate debated an amendment guaranteeing a trial by jury for any individual charged with criminal contempt. President Dwight D. Eisenhower had put the full force of his prestige behind the bill, which was the first civil rights legislation to come close to receiving congressional approval in 82 years. Minority Leader William Knowland of California had carefully cobbled together a coalition of Republicans and liberal Democrats in support of the civil rights bill. Unfortunately, Bill Knowland was overconfident and didn't reckon with several senators whom he had counted as certain votes for the bill who still had very deep concerns over ensuring jury trials in criminal contempt cases. It was a complex problem. Senator John F. Kennedy asked four Harvard law professors about the concept of trials by jury and whether it would be good law and public policy. Much to Kennedy's dismay, the professors offered perhaps the most unhelpful response possible inasmuch as they were divided in their opinions, deadlocked at 2 to 2.

Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson faced a different problem than Knowland, yet it was no

less complicated. LBJ needed to come up with a solution to the jury trial provision that would keep the Southern senators from launching a filibuster. Johnson pondered several possible amendments but finally settled on an amendment offered by freshman Frank Church of Idaho. The wily Johnson used the amendment to peel off some Republicans who strongly favored jury trials. Two of the recalcitrant Republican senators firmly favoring jury trials were also able lawyers: John Marshall Butler of Maryland and Chapman Revercomb of West Virginia. Minority Leader William Knowland of California eventually recognized the problem with several of the votes he was counting on to pass the civil rights bill disappearing. Knowland appealed to the White House to help hold his votes in line and Acting Attorney General William Rogers was dispatched to Capitol Hill to shore up the doubtful Republicans. Apparently, Senator Revercomb was singled out for the most intense lecture by the Eisenhower Administration. At some point, Revercomb began warming up to the trial by jury amendment. Senator Revercomb was not only an able lawyer, but also a shrewd politician. Revercomb, facing reelection for a full six-year term in 1958, kept an eye on his home state and the concerns of West Virginians foremost in mind. Revercomb pointed out the trial amendment would also necessarily broaden the use of juries in the instance of labor contempt cases. Revercomb had been in the Senate when Congress passed the Taft-Hartley legislation, which he had supported, much to the fury of organized labor in the Mountain State. Taft-Hartley had pointedly limited the use of jury trials in contempt cases. Revercomb's position had been approved by the still-formidable John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine Workers, which remained a strong political force in West Virginia. Chapman

Revercomb, along with several other GOP senators, were summoned to the office of Vice President Richard Nixon. Whatever happened behind closed doors did nothing to change Revercomb's mind. The senator returned to his office without having been swayed an iota.

Knowland lost his bid to beat the jury trial amendment and lost several Republicans, including Revercomb, Margaret Chase Smith of Maine and Homer Capehart of Indiana.

During his second term in the U.S. Senate, Chapman Revercomb was regarded as more of a "moderate" or Eisenhower Republican. Revercomb was joined in the Senate by another Republican in January of 1958 when 83-year-old Matt Neely died of cancer. Governor Cecil Underwood appointed John D. Hoblitzell to the vacancy. Both Revercomb and Hoblitzell had to face the voters in the 1958 elections. Revercomb wanted a judgeship and felt he could be nominated by President Eisenhower, but his ambitions were undercut by Governor Underwood and Senator Hoblitzell, who worried Revercomb was too old to serve on the federal bench. Ironically, Revercomb would outlive the younger Hoblitzell by more than a decade.

Revercomb sought reelection to the U.S. Senate in 1958. It was a terrible year for GOP candidates, especially as the country was going through a recession. Revercomb also faced perhaps the strongest candidate the Democrats could have possibly nominated, Congressman Robert C. Byrd. While Revercomb ran at the top of the GOP ticket, both he and Hoblitzell lost the general election.

Chapman Revercomb's last campaign for public office came in 1960 when he announced his candidacy for governor. Once again, Cecil Underwood stepped in to thwart Revercomb's ambitions. Underwood openly endorsed the candidacy of Harold "Punchy" Neely and threw the full weight of his administration behind his favored candidate. Revercomb lost and his many friends never forgave Cecil Underwood, who went on to lose a Senate race in 1960 and campaigns for governor in 1964, 1968 and 1976.

Chapman Revercomb continued practicing law and remained an elder statesman of West Virginia's Republican Party until his death on October 6, 1979.

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ORDER FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In the Probate Court for Knox County, Tennessee
In re Estate of Shirley Oglesby, Deceased
Felicia Coalson Administrator,
v.
Connie Oglesby, Angela McMahan, Valarie Evans, Darrell Oglesby, Michael Andrew Oglesby, Kassidy Hazlewood, Jeremy Nichols, and Brittany O'Barr, 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 Coalson, an Attorney whose address is Owings, Wilson, & Coleman 900 S. Gay Street, Suite 800, Knoxville, Tennessee within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or the real property of 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 Coalson 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

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: JACQUELINE ROSE TEBBETTS AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF GORDON LESLIE TEBBETTS
IN RE: RUBIN LUBLIN TN, PLLC,

v.
JACQUELINE ROSE TEBBETTS AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF GORDON LESLIE TEBBETTS
NO. 206124-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX

COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, JACQUELINE ROSE TEBBETTS AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF GORDON LESLIE TEBBETTS, whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon it is ordered that said defendant, JACQUELINE ROSE TEBBETTS AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF GORDON LESLIE TEBBETTS, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with PATTY WHITEHEAD, an Attorney whose address is 3145 AVALON RIDGE PLACE, SUITE 100 PEACHTREE CORNERS, GEORGIA 30071, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor RICHARD B ARMSTRONG JR, at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division II, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in a The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 12th day of JANUARY, 2024.

J Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: AMOS KIBET CHERUIYOT
IN RE: NASTASSJA DESIREE HUCK.
LESBY v. AMOS KIBET CHERUIYOT

NO. 207748-3

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant AMOS KIBET CHERUIYOT, 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 AMOS KIBET CHERUIYOT, it is ordered that said defendant, AMOS KIBET CHERUIYOT, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with GAIL F. WORTLEY, an Attorney whose address is 3715 POWERS STREET KNOXVILLE, TN 37917 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor CHRISTOPHER D.HEAGERTY at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division III, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in a The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 23rd day of JANUARY, 2024.

J Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF PHYLLIS WHITESIDES CAUTHEN
DOCKET NUMBER 88494-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 13 day of JANUARY, 2024, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of PHYLLIS WHITESIDES CAUTHEN, who died on January 18, 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 13 day of JANUARY, 2024.

ESTATE OF PHYLLIS WHITESIDES CAUTHEN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JENNIFER CAUTHEN OLSON
717 ELMONT ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

L ERIC PARK, ATTORNEY
9145 CROSS BERRY, STE. 103
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CHARLES A CHADWELL
DOCKET NUMBER 88729-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 7 day of NOVEMBER, 2023, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of CHARLES A CHADWELL, who died October 29, 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 7 day of NOVEMBER, 2023.

ESTATE OF CHARLES A CHADWELL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ROBERT CHARLES CHADWELL
KRSTI LEANN CHADWELL BURNS

WILSON S RITCHE, ATTORNEY
606 WEST MAIN STREET, SUITE 200
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LARRY G. COX
DOCKET NUMBER 88863-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 23 day of JANUARY, 2024, letters testamentary in respect to the Estate of LARRY G. COX who died October 18, 2023 were issued 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 23 day of JANUARY, 2024.

ESTATE OF LARRY G. COX

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
BRENDA K. COX
124 E. CHURCHWELL AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

MACK A. GENTRY, ATTORNEY
P.O. BOX 1990
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MATTIE LEE FOX
DOCKET NUMBER 88844-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 11 day of JANUARY, 2024, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of MATTIE LEE FOX, who died November 17, 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 and unmatured against the 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 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 11 day of JANUARY, 2024.

ESTATE OF MATTIE LEE FOX

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
BRANDI FOX MCBRAVER
7430 QUAIL CREEK LANE
Corryton, TN 37721

GAIL F. WORTLEY ATTORNEY
3715 POWERS STREET
KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF KATHRYN SWANN JAFFURS
DOCKET NUMBER 88866-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 23 day of JANUARY, 2024, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of KATHRYN SWANN JAFFURS who died on November 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 23 day of JANUARY, 2024.

ESTATE OF KATHRYN SWANN JAFFURS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHRISTOPHER M. JAFFURS
1447 TUGALOO AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

DALLIS H. HOWARD, ATTORNEY
4820 OLD KINGSTON PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF STEVEN DUSTIN LEOPPER
DOCKET NUMBER 88927-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 12 day of JANUARY, 2024, Letters of Administration in respect of the Estate of STEVEN DUSTIN LEOPPER who died December 23, 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 12 day of JANUARY, 2024.

ESTATE OF STEVEN DUSTIN LEOPPER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
BECKY LYNN LEOPPER
1309 FOX RIDGE DRIVE
POWELL, TN 37849

LUCAS M. FISHMAN, ATTORNEY
P.O. BOX 629
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WALTER E. MCLEMORE
DOCKET NUMBER 88896-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 25 day of JANUARY, 2024, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of WALTER E. MCLEMORE, who died on the August 17, 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 25 day of JANUARY, 2024.

ESTATE OF WALTER E MCLEMORE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARY E. JOINES
500 COMPTON LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

S. DAVID LIPSEY, ATTORNEY
1430 ISLAND HOME AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF EDITH MARIE SEXTON
DOCKET NUMBER 88770-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 23 day of JANUARY, 2024, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case maybe) in respect of the Estate of EDITH MARIE SEXTON who died October 19, 2023 were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
This 23 day of JANUARY, 2024.

ESTATE OF EDITH MARIE SEXTON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
GARY WAYNE WATTS
232 COUNTY WALK DRIVE
POWELL, TN 37849

RACHEL E. DONSBACH, ATTORNEY
550 W. MAIN STREET, SUITE 600
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

MISC. NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Merit System for Employees of KCSO
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.
Main Assembly Room, City/County Building
400 W. Main Street

NOTE: Those wishing to sign up to speak on any agenda item can do so via the Merit System website at www.knoxcounty.org/meritsystem, emailing meritsystems@knoxcounty.org or calling the office at 865-215-4446. The deadline to sign up to speak is Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

LEGAL SECTION 94

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

Bid 3517, Concrete, due 2/27/24;
RFP 3520, Needs Assessment and Environmental Scan of Mental Health Resources, due 2/28/24;
Bid 3523, Home Rehab Program Workorder 2022CN0037, due 2/8/24;
Bid 3524, Home Rehab Program Workorder 2022CN0058, due 2/8/24

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

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

PUBLIC SALE TO BE HELD ON, FEBRUARY 7, 2024 11:00 AM AT YOUR EXTRA STORAGE (starts at Cedar Bluff location): CONTENTS OF THE FOLLOWING UNITS WILL BE SOLD TO SATISFY OWNERS LIEN FOR RENT DUE

254 Harry Lane Blvd. Knoxville TN 37923: (None). 7144 Clinton Hwy, Knoxville TN 37849: D43 Walter Black, G28 Tracy Hughes, F02 McKenzie Webb, 4303 E. Emory Rd. Knoxville TN. 37938: G40 Stuart Humberg, E18 Cody Humphrey, C16 Nathan Space, D40 Patricia Thompson.
CASH ONLY

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In compliance with TCA 66-14-102 thru 66-14-106 the following cars will be sold on February 2, 2024 @ All Colors Body Shop 209 N Concord St, Knoxville, TN if total bill is not paid by date of sale.

1st.	2016	Kia	Soul	
VIN#KNDJN2A2567359122	12nd.	2010	Dodge	Ram
VIN#1D7R81G1T3A5196633	3rd.	2017	Ford	Mustang
VIN#1FA6P8C8F3H5273586				

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In compliance with TCA 66-14-102 thru 66-14-106 the following cars will be sold on February 16, 2024 @ 2:00 PM @ Cedar Bluff Towing, Inc. 623 Simmons Rd Knoxville, TN if total bill is not paid by date of sale.

2006 Chevy Impala 2G1WT58K69205964 (Kimberly Thomas/World Finance)
2004 Ford Escape 1FMYU92154K36595 (Larry Smith)
1999 Lexus LX470 JTG6T00W7X0069929 (Jeff Malone)
2003 Chrysler PT Cruiser 3C4FY58B73T6086889 (Constance Schroefer)
2000 Honda Civic JHMEJ6678YS011319 (Lisa or Eli Alvis)

2005 Chrysler T&C 2C4GP44R3S128014

(A2B LLC) Wilbur Gordon)

2008 Mercedes S550 WDDNG68X98A182426 (Daemon Chambers)

2006 Ford Fusion 3FAFP06Z06R188612 (Brooke Clark)

2003 Ford Focus 3FAFP37353R151210 (Eunice Davis)

2007 Chevy Impala 2G1WT58KX79346344 (Crystal Smith)

2000 Chevy Silverado 2GCEK19T4Y1401800 (Michael Cloud)

2006 Toyota Highlander JTEDP21A160115629 (Kristin Herrell)

2005 Nissan Altima 1N4BL1D15C199143 (Eduardo Miramontes)

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE SUIT

Knox County Chancery Court lawsuits are now being prepared by the Delinquent Tax Attorney for collection of all delinquent 2022 Knox County Taxes.

The Knox County Chancery Court Lawsuits will be filed on or after March 1, 2024 in Chancery Court.

You are advised that after February 29, 2024 additional penalties and costs will be imposed in consequence of suits to be filed for enforcement of the lien for property taxes for prior tax years; until the filing of such suits, taxes may be paid in my office.

SUCH ADDITIONAL PENALTIES AND COSTS MAY INCLUDE INTEREST, COURT COSTS, ATTORNEY FEES AND PENALTIES ON EACH PARCEL

PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO AVOID THIS COSTLY PROCEDURE.

You may make payment at the following Knox County Trustee locations:

- KNOX COUNTY TRUSTEE ONLINE - <http://www.knoxcounty.org/trustee/>
- MAIN OFFICE - 400 Main Street - 215-2305 - (Mon. - Fri. 8:00am - 4:30pm)
- HALLS - Center - 7328 Norris Freeway - 215-3461 - (Mon. - Fri. 8:00am - 4:30pm)
- SOUTH - 7339 Chapman Highway - 577-3680 - (Mon. - Fri. 8:00am - 4:30pm)
- CEDAR BLUFF - 1028 Old Cedar Bluff Road - 215-8555 - (Mon.-Fri. 8:00am - 4:30pm)
- EAST - 4734 Centerline Drive - 258-3516 - (Mon. - Fri. 9:00am - 5:00pm)
- FARRAGUT - CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS

Justin Biggs
KNOX COUNTY TRUSTEE
trustee@knoxcounty.org

ONLINE REAL ESTATE AUCTION

417 RIDGECREST ROAD | LUTTRELL, TN 37779



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Young-Williams Animal Center

Nice to meet you! My name is SENORITA and I am a 2-year-old red and white Terrier. I am a polite and loving little lady. I love to be pet all over and have such a great time playing with toys. The squeakier the better! I love to go for walk or stay in and cuddle. Making new human friends is easy-peasy for such a wonderful lady such as me. I would be a great family dog since I love kiddos-- as long as I'm not too hyper for them. Hope to meet you soon at Young-Williams Animal Center, 3201 Division St.

Hi, I am Fenris, a young, sweet and mellow rabbit with a knack for hilarity. I am a male young adult black and white rabbit. I, along with two identical siblings are at the Young-Williams Animal Village on Kingston Pike. I am a gentle soul who has mastered the art of making people laugh. My antics are sure to brighten up your day. Adopt me and let me hop my way into your heart, bringing laughter along with me.

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

KNOXVILLE
FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
4301 Sevierville Pike, Knoxville, TN 37920

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday Morning 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Perry K. Delk (865) 407-3086
Church Office (865) 573-5171
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classifieds

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KNOX COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES 2024 MONTHLY SENIOR WALKS

For information or to RSVP, email seniorservices@knoxcounty.org or call 865-288-3761. Join Knox seniors for some fun walks, nature, socializing and good food.

FEBRUARY 20 at 9:30 a.m.

Join Robyn and Sue at FORT SANDERS HEALTH AND FITNESS (Indoors), 270 Fort Sanders Blvd. 37922. Lunch at Sami's Cafe.

MARCH 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Join Tara, Patty, and Eilene at BEVERLY PARK INTERGENERATIONAL PARK, 5311 Beverly Park Circle 37918. Lunch at Henry's Deli.

APRIL 16 at 9:30 a.m.

Join Judy and Carole at BAXTER GARDENS, 3901 Sam Cooper Lane 37918. Lunch at Litton's.

MAY 21 at 9:30 a.m.

Join Darrell and Cindy at SEVEN ISLANDS BIRDING PARK, 2809 Kelly Lane, Kodak, 37764. Bring brown bag lunch to eat at the park.

JUNE 18 at 9:00 a.m.

Join Robyn and Aliyete at UT ARBORETUM OAK RIDGE, 901 South Illinois Avenue 37830. Lunch at Woody's 114 Union Rd., Oak Ridge.

JULY 16 at 9:30 a.m.

Join April, Tara and Laurie at COLLIER PRESERVE BEAVER CREEK DUO (Angora Frog Farm), 330 West Emory Road 37849. Lunch at Southern Kitchen Sandwich Co.

AUGUST 20 at 9:00 a.m.

Join Susanne, Dustin and Sue at MARINE PARK GREENWAY TRAIL, 2201 Alcoa Hwy 37920. Lunch at SoKno Tacos.

SEPTEMBER 17 at 10:00 a.m.

Join Judy and April for the HALLS GREENWAY & SENIOR CENTER TOUR, 4405 Crippen Road 37918. Lunch at Bel Air Grill.

OCTOBER 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Join Sarah, Jessica and Kim at SEQUOYAH PARK, 1400 Cherokee Blvd. 37919. Lunch at Holly's Gourmet Market.

NOVEMBER 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Join Susanne and Jessica at HIGH GROUND PARK, 1000 Cherokee Trail 37920. Lunch at The Round Up.

DECEMBER 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Join Sarah, April and Judy for a CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WALK at Founders Park, 405 N. Campbell Station Road 37934.

Knoxcounty.org/seniors/ Lunches are dutch treat.

Two Men

I know an older man who has been around the area for a long time. He grew up in the Ball Camp community and went to the elementary school when it was grades 1-8.



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

Like all the boys he grew up with, he played baseball, basketball and football, although he wasn't a star in any of them.

After working for a long time, he finally retired. Before long, boredom set in, and he looked for part-time jobs to take up his time. None of the jobs paid much, but his retirement kept him comfortable enough. The work was to keep him busy and healthy both physically and mentally.

I'm not sure what caused it or when it happened, but one day I saw him, and he'd changed. The youth that peeked out from his eyes disappeared. The wrinkles seemed more deeply furrowed into his forehead, and his face now had a fleshier look. His neck was skinny, but the flesh had

lost its elasticity, just like old guys. Worst of all, he said he felt old. Aches and pains constantly hit him in joints and bones and tendons. The loss of what little strength he once had caused

frustration. Doing things that used to be so easy became difficult, and the workhorse he once was now had turned into an old mule that could do no more than half of what he once did.

No matter how the man tried to keep a good outlook on his life and aging, bitterness and sadness too often surfaced. He always said "I used to..." as his head shook in disbelief. The realization that the years in front of him were few compared to the ones that had already passed stunned him. No, he wasn't afraid to die; his belief in a place better than anything he could imagine was strong. Still, unfinished business ate at him. The things to learn and accomplish were so many that he realized not enough time

was left on this planet. His delight came from his family and friends. He loved his wife, children and grandchildren. Being with them contented his uneasiness. His relationship with his maker and church also made each day a little easier to bear. Those good times only dimmed when he acknowledged that some day they would go on without him.

In contrast to this grouchy, hateful man was a young man whom I've known since his arrival on this world. He's one of those persons who never acts his age. Instead, he is a perpetual teenager who recalls the not-to-distant past events, both good and bad. He laughs at the goofy things he did as a youth, and sometimes, he sheds a tear for the losses of family members or broken-hearted romances. For the most part, high school years were times for being immature.

He loved college because for the first time in his life, he was on his own, and it was in those classrooms that he discovered a real interest in English, history, social

sciences, and responsibility. As much as he loved home, he felt most comfortable in his dorm room, a place that he could call his own.

This young man married, but he and his wife waited for a few years before having children. When they came along, those little people stole his heart. He had one of each a — boy and a girl — and declared that if a third kind existed he wanted no part of it. He tried to be a good father, but to tell the truth, he wasn't. Oh, he put forth the effort, but his temper flared, and his impatience stormed. The man had no idea how to be a good father because his had died when he was just a boy. Over the years, he loved those close to him, and he did what he thought was best. Hopefully, his children wouldn't be

traumatized as adults. This young man enjoyed his own family, and he also felt the same for his mother and brothers. It took him a long while to understand that loving one didn't mean giving up the other.

In case you haven't already guessed, I am both of these men. Being the age that my Papaw was at his end is shocking. I might be able to work from the morning until about 2:00 p.m., but after that, the time comes for me to lean back in the recliner with Sadie lying on my legs and snooze for a while. I must admit that even as a senior citizen, my mind is still not much different than that of a high school graduate. I suppose that's one way to stay young, although many times I wind up looking foolish. However, at this age, I don't much care what others think of me.

Health & Happiness Series: Tea on a Tuesday for LGBTQIA+ people over the age of 50

Enjoy playing board games and sipping tea with fellow LGBTQIA+ people over the age of 50 with the chance to win door prizes! Participants can enjoy a presentation on Wellness Services provided by the CAC Office on Aging.

This event is first come, first served, and is free to all attendees. Refreshments will be provided.

Who: Aging Rainbow Coalition (an

initiative of the CAC Office on Aging), in partnership with Knox Pride, South Press Coffee Shop, and The University of Tennessee College of Social Work

When: Tuesday, January 30 - 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: South Press Coffee Shop, 3615 Chapman Highway, Knoxville, 37920

RSVP requested. Visit tiny.utk.edu/TeaTuesday

Olde Time Memories

Cont. from page 1 — don't remember seeing an indoor bathroom until I started first grade.

Like many country kids, our cousins were our first friends and I'm still in touch with some of the many cousins. We share those stories and, until recent years, had occasional "Cousin Reunions."

I often visited my grandmother's house after we moved away to the nearby town and before and after the move I loved to explore the mountain behind my grandma's house, venturing up old paths, poking into abandoned coal mines and rock shelters, and playing with little cars on the hillside at her house.

I learned a lot about my family history at the

knees of my grandmothers. Whether fact or fiction, those stories stayed in my memory through my adult years.

I recall visiting my grandmother with my kids and explaining some of the old country words she used, like "ponder" or "reckon," to my sons. I also remember how proud she was of me and her other grandchildren.

One of my favorite adult memories of my grandmother is when I gave her a gift wrapped in a newspaper from where I was working.

Growing old allows us to be selective with the memories we share, picking the best ones and sharing them with our families or readers in stories like this one.

Megan Bowman, CDS
Executive Director
ED@southhighknoxville.com
Cell: (931) 644-5819

Lynn Pique
Director of Sales and Marketing
DSM@southhighknoxville.com
Cell: (865) 640-4595

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Former UT standout debuts as Catholic's intern head coach

By Steve Williams

When JaJuan Smith came out of the coaches' office after the game to talk to a reporter, a smile came across his face.

Perhaps it was a result of having just gone through his first game as the intern boys' head basketball coach at Knoxville Catholic High School and the thrill and enjoyment he got from the experience, despite a 66-64 loss to visiting Walker Valley last week.

"It came down to the wire," said the 38-year-old Smith, a former UT combo guard and sidekick of Volunteer great Chris Lofton. "We were a little out of shape with the weather and other things we are facing right now. I think it's something that we can control though."

It was Catholic's first game since Jan. 9.

During the halftime break, Knoxville Catholic Principal Dickie Sompayrac addressed the coaching situation. He said Gabe Blair began the season as the team's head coach and had coached through Christmas. Sompayrac



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

JaJuan Smith, new intern head coach at Knoxville Catholic, huddles with his team during a timeout last week in a close game against Walker Valley. Behind Smith is assistant coach Avery Jameson and assistant coach Travis Mains (navy blue shirt), who also is the head girls basketball coach at Catholic.

added this was the first game Blair had not been on the bench.

"He (Blair) has decided to take a leave," said Sompayrac. "(He's) just

sorting through some things. He's still teaching here at the school, still employed at the school."

Smith, Travis Mains (girls' head coach) and Avery

Jameson (boys' assistant coach) were on the Catholic bench in the Jan. 23 game against Walker Valley.

On his way out after the game, Coach Mains said

Smith was the "head man" and the person the reporter should talk to for post-game comments.

In his new role, Smith said: "I'm going to do my

best. I'm going to try to get comfortable. This was my first game tonight (as head coach)."

Smith reportedly had been a high school associate head coach in Florida before his addition as an assistant coach at Catholic.

He said the game last week "brought back a lot of memories of being the leader of the young man and I'm going to try to bring the best out of them."

Even though the non-conference game ended in a loss, Smith spoke with pride. "We got to undergo a lot of situations that's going to happen in conference play and I felt like we learned from it and I'm ready to build on it."

As for the Walker Valley team, Smith said: "They traveled in this weather. They got here and they handled business. I tip my hat to them."

Smith played at McMinn County High and was at UT from 2004-2008, earning All-SEC honorable mention honors in 2008. He played pro ball mostly overseas from 2008 through 2017.

Continue on page 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TIME Huck fires in 16 as Wolves roll to championship, 40-29

By Steve Williams

The Knox County Class AAA Middle School boys' title game between Powell and West Valley Thursday night at South-Doyle wasn't the battle that it could have been.

West Valley Coach Noel Landrum said after the game: "Powell is so tough. The game at our place earlier in the year was the toughest middle school game that I have ever coached in terms of physicality."

Unfortunately for Powell Coach Tyler Howell's team, the Panthers lost one of their key starters during the "snow break" when Mason Powell broke his arm.

"He's a double-double a

night guy," said Howell.

The Powell coach also had another starter (Dalvin Farmer) go down but hopes he will be able to play in the next round.

As it turned out, West Valley rolled to a 40-29 victory. The Wolves (28-1) were on top 30-17 after three periods.

Guard Skyler Huck led the way with 16 points, with 14 coming in the first half. Porter Dickson added 11, Cullen Heck seven and Seaton Moffert six.

Powell (25-3) got 13 points from Braylon Hansen and 10 from Eli Peters.

"That (losing two starters) obviously put our backs against the wall," said Coach Howell. "No

discredit to his bunch (West Valley). They are gritty and tough. They hit the boards hard, shoot the ball well, move the ball well and are very well coached.

"I just think they took the action to us tonight more than we did. We were kind of lackadaisical at times on offense and seemed like any time we got close in the game they made a big play or got a big offensive rebound. It's just a credit to him and his kids on what great toughness they played with."

During the regular season, West Valley defeated Powell twice, including a 38-35 game on its home court.

It was the third Knox County championship in

five years and second in a row for West Valley. The Wolves also have been in the championship game for five straight years.

"We've made the state two of the last four years and this team does a lot of the same things," said Coach Landrum, who is in his eighth season as head coach at West Valley. "They play defense and they can shoot the ball. Once you get to the Sectional, those are the two things that you've really got to be able to do - hit some shots at the right time and play defense."

Powell was scheduled to play Saturday against host Ocoee in the Area semifinals. The winner of that game plays John Sevier

Continue on page 4



PHOTO BY ALEXIS ANDERSON

West Valley Middle point guard Skyler Huck goes up for a shot in the lane against Powell in the Wolves' title win.

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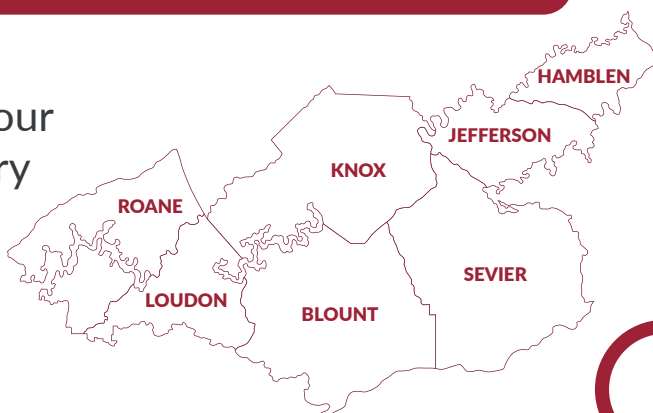
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MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TIME

Lady Eagles avenge last year's title loss to Holston

By Ken Lay

Gibbs Middle School's girls basketball team had to wait nearly an entire calendar year to exact a little revenge.

The Lady Eagles were finally able to avenge a loss in last year's Knox County Middle School Conference Class AA Tournament to Holston.

In doing so, Gibbs won the 2024 tournament championship with a 44-25 victory over the Lady Hurricanes Thursday night at Cedar Bluff Middle School in a rematch of last year's title showdown.

The Lady Eagles (22-1) defeated the Lady Hurricanes during the regular season and posted a perfect league record, and Thursday's win was Gibbs Middle's 21st consecutive victory after it lost to Halls in the second round of the Emory Road Classic in October.

"I would say that our girls have had this one circled on their calendars for a long time," Gibbs coach C.H. Qualls said.

Gibbs has now been open for five years, but Holston (along with Halls) once served as a primary feeder school for Gibbs High.

However, Qualls noted that while the Gibbs-Holston rivalry remains a bit intact, the Lady Hurricanes are not the Lady Eagles' primary rival.

"It's a rivalry, and it's a big rivalry only because it's a district game," he said. "The Halls and Carter games are much more personal."

Gibbs led from the outset Thursday night, opening a 19-4 lead by the end of the first quarter. The Lady Eagles held a 27-14 advantage at halftime as the Lady Hurricanes outscored them, 10-8, in the second stanza.

Holston made a run in the third frame and narrowed the gap to 32-25 heading into the final six minutes of the contest.

But Gibbs rapidly restored order as it held the Lady Hurricanes scoreless in the fourth quarter and closed the game with a flourish and a 12-0 run. Qualls said he instructed his team to go back to basics to close out the contest.

The Lady Eagles heeded their coach's advice.

"I told them at the end of the third quarter that (the Lady Hurricanes) made their run and we withstood it," Qualls said. "I told them that they needed to find a way to go out and win the game like they had all year.

"It wasn't about the school or the rivalry and it wasn't about the championship. It was about the game. I told them that they needed to play our brand of Lady Eagles' basketball and we would find a way to win the game."

They did.

Gibbs hit the boards to win the rebounding battle and stepped up its defensive intensity and that propelled the Lady Eagles into the win column once again.

Gibbs boasted a balanced scoring attack. Rebeka Spierdowis, a seventh grader led the way with 12 points. Victoria Grubbs had nine. Ella Wilkerson and Karsyn Qualls added seven points each, while Faith Hayes and Annie Buckner finished with five apiece.

Jyree Shepard led the Lady Hurricanes with 11 points.

Semifinals Results: The Lady Eagles advanced to the championship game with a 48-26 win over Vine in Wednesday's semifinals and Holston defeated Carter.

All-Tournament Team: Spierdowis, Hayes and Karsyn Qualls made the all-tournament team for Gibbs. They were joined on the squad by Shepard and Englynn Douglass of Holston.



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Going back-to-back: The Vine Middle School Golden Bears won their second consecutive Knox County Championship Thursday night as they defeated the host Giants, 36-25, Thursday at Cedar Bluff.

Golden Bears topple Cedar Bluff to win second consecutive county title

By Ken Lay

For the second consecutive season, the Vine Middle School boys basketball team has won the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference Class AA Tournament Championship.

And this year, the Golden Bears had to win their championship in a true road game despite winning the league's regular-season championship and earning the No. 1 seed in the postseason.

Inclement weather forced the Class AA Tournament to be moved from South-Doyle to Cedar Bluff Middle School, and the host Giants, clad in their road black uniforms, provided the opposition. But all that didn't matter to the Golden Bears, who notched a 36-25 victory in a defensive battle on John Melnick Court at CBMS in front of a spirited

and boisterous crowd in a packed house.

"We've gone back-to-back, and this year, we had to do it in their house," Vine coach Lawrence Fishback said. "We were the No. 1 seed but we had to come in here to their house,"

Vine's fans were out in full force as they always are, but it took a second-half surge from the Golden Bears to put the Giants away.

"They came out and they really did a good job after halftime," Fishback said. "We did what we had to do because this was for the championship.

"They played with grit and they finished the job."

Points came at a premium in the first half as Vine held early leads despite dealing with offensive woes. The Golden Bears outscored Cedar Bluff, 8-4, in the first quarter. They

held a slim 11-8 advantage at halftime.

The Giants' goal is to play defensive basketball and they were able to hold Vine in check, and force multiple Golden Bear turnovers.

That was just what Cedar Bluff coach J.T. Hicks wanted to see.

"We work on defense and we typically average giving up about 31 points per game," Hicks said.

The Giants' defense was stingy as usual, but like the Golden Bears, they struggled to hold any sustained offensive momentum.

"I'm so proud of these guys," Hicks said. "They work hard, both in the classroom and out of the classroom. We worked on our defense and our defense was good tonight, we just couldn't hit shots to keep up with the way our defense played."

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PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

The Gibbs Middle School girls basketball team celebrates its 2023-24 Knox County Class AA Tournament Championships. The Lady Eagles claimed the title with a 44-25 victory over rival Holston at Cedar Bluff Thursday night.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

A slimmer 'Avalanche' powers West to win

By Steve Williams

It's been Kevin Jack's kind of weather lately.

The big inside force for West High's basketball team is called the "Avalanche" at home games by the public address announcer. "Yes, big snow," said Jack after leading the Rebels to a 57-54 district road win over Farragut Friday night at Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium. It was West's first game since Jan. 9 due to schools being closed because of the snow, ice and freezing temperatures.

What about that nickname?

"I like it," said Kevin. "Dominate in the paint."

Jack was noticeably thinner since West's loss to Alcoa on Jan. 4 and was moving much quicker. He said he had lost over 25 pounds since then.

In the loss to Alcoa, Jack had a good first quarter, scoring the first basket of the game, blocking a shot that led to a layup by

a teammate and scoring again inside as the Rebels took a 11-10 lead in the first eight minutes.

But Jack appeared to tire that night and only scored two more points as the Tornadoes pulled away.

That wasn't the case against Farragut Friday. Jack again scored six points in the first period and went on to finish with a game-high 16 points.

West Coach Aubin Goporo said he also noticed Kevin's weight loss and was delighted by his improvement physically. He added that Kevin would have probably dropped even more pounds if the team had been playing the past two weeks.

"My kids were tired and we could see it," said Goporo, adding that he changed the substitute pattern to every four minutes instead of six.

West led 16-13 after the first period, 31-26 at halftime and 44-42 after three

stops. The lead see-sawed in the final period, but a long 3-point shot at the top of the key by Garrett Burch put West ahead 55-54 with 8.5 seconds to go.

A traveling violation by Farragut's Parker Lane put the ball back in the hands of the Rebels at 5.9.

The Admirals had to quickly foul four times to put West on the free throw line for bonus shots at 2.3 on the clock. Burch made the second of the two for a 56-54 lead. Devyn Martin added another free throw for the Rebels after Farragut threw a full-court pass out of bounds on the other end.

A last-gasp 80-foot shot was not close.

Jailon Hill added 12 points to West's total. Burch finished with nine, Hunter Dance eight, Martin seven and Maurice Clark five.

Farragut got 14 points from Lane, 13 from Dom Vanacker and 12 from

Berkley Naro.

Coach Goporo said he was proud of his team and felt their "toughness" at the end was the key to the victory.

"There were a couple of calls that went against us and we didn't give up. We were mentally tough tonight."

It was an agonizing loss for the Admirals (1-2, 7-13), who had defeated West 68-61 on the road in their first meeting on Jan. 9.

"They hit a big shot," said Coach J.P. Burris. "Credit to that young man (Burch). That makes a difference in a close game. Every possession down the stretch matters."

West (2-1, 10-5) can move into first place in District 4-4A with a win over Maryville (3-1, 14-6) tonight (Jan. 29). West also will host district games against William Blount Tuesday and Hardin Valley Friday.

Former UT standout debuts as Catholic's intern head coach

Cont. from page 1

Catholic took the lead at the start and never trailed until the Mustangs started the fourth period with an 11-point run to move ahead 56-53 with 4:23 remaining.

After a WV turnover, Catholic's Junior Eleam threw down a dunk to end the drought and pull the Fighting Irish within one at 3:31. But they never caught up. Two free throws by Cash Cates gave the Mustangs a six-point cushion (63-57) with 42.4 seconds to go.

The new rule on bonus free throws twice helped Walker Valley in the final minute.

But the Irish kept battling and still had a chance at the end.

Trailing by four in the closing seconds, Cade Murphy was fouled on a 3-point shot that just missed going in. With 1.3 seconds on the clock,

he hit two foul shots and missed the third one intentionally. Catholic's Carson Asbaty got the rebound in traffic, but couldn't get a shot off as he lost his balance and fell.

Murphy, an impressive 6-5 sophomore guard, led the Irish with 20 points, including four of the team's nine 3-pointers. Senior guard Caleb Asbaty added 17 points and sophomore guard Carson Asbaty 12 points.

Landon Shirk finished strong for Coach Will Campbell's Mustangs (14-7) with nine of his 15 points coming in the final period. Turner Clayton chipped in 14 and Graham Campbell 11.

It will be all region games the rest of the way for the Irishmen. They play at Chattanooga Christian tonight (Jan. 29), at Baylor Tuesday and host arch-rival Webb on Thursday.

Giving new meaning to the term 'birds-eye view'

In December 1966, the Basketball Vols opened the William B. Stokely Athletics Center, an enlarged version of the Armory-Fieldhouse on campus.

By Tom Mattingly

Seating capacity went from 7,500 in the Armory to 12,700 in Stokely.

There's one area in Stokely Center I hadn't visited, now that Stokely is consigned to history. That was despite going to as many games as I could over the years and working in the building from Jan. 5, 1987, through April 30, 2005.

What I missed seeing was the broadcast area over the arena's east side from which John Ward and numerous other famous broadcasters called the games.

In Stokely's debut season of 1966-67, the Vols surprised nearly everybody by winning the SEC title, led by multi-talented athlete Ron Widby. That came in Starkville, Miss., when Widby had 35 points, and Bill Justus canned two free throws in a third overtime to earn a 78-76 win.

That led to a spirited celebration where the Tennessee travel party ended up in the shower and had to wear Vol warmups on the plane ride home.

The Vols won the inaugural and final contests in the arena over the years, thus giving a touch of symmetry to the history of "Good Old Stoke."

The Stokely radio broadcast perch was unique, suspended high over the arena floor, giving new meaning to the term "birds-eye view." (The "birds-eye view" appellation is also not to



Vol broadcasters John Ward and Lowell Blanchard (lower left) were part of the celebration of the 1967 SEC title in Starkville, Mississippi.

be confused with "Byrd's-Eye View," Knoxville Journal sportswriter Ben Byrd's daily column. Byrd covered the Vols in venues from Alumni Gym on, as well as being a regular on press row after retiring.)

The route to the broadcast area was up the steps through the east stands, row-by-row, to the top, probably row 60 or higher. There was a metal walkway leading to the broadcast area, where the greats of collegiate radio called the games.

Making the trip to the broadcast area was almost like traversing one of those rickety bridges spanning the looming chasm in

"Indiana Jones" and other movies of that ilk. You looked down at your own peril, someone said, as you carefully inched along the catwalk.

The television commentators had it better, broadcasting from floor level, also on the east side. But the real broadcast magic took place on the radio.

It was a "great location," said Ward of the view from high above, adding it "offered a better vantage point."

In Ward's view, the concept was a no-brainer. "When I do broadcasts, I prefer to be working upstairs because I can see the game unfold better," he

said.

While walking through the halls of Stokely in its final days, with or without making the trek onward and upward, it was easy to close your eyes and hear Ward's calls of the memorable moments of Tennessee hoops echoing through the miracle known as the "mind's eye."

"You walked, sir!" "Did he make it? He MAAADE it!"

"Ernie G from Tennessee" "KINGGGG of the Volunteers!"

"Willie B of Millen G!"

"Bottom!"

"Give it to him!"

Many of these exciting moments began in the

days before the barrage of televised games, when Ward created excitement at home and away, on winter nights when the hopes and dreams of uncounted Vol fans were seen through his eyes and manifested in his voice. His was a staccato baritone many broadcasters tried to copy, but no one ever duplicated. He defined the moment for Vol fans.

"Prior to around 1980, there were no TV games," said Ward. "So, obviously, radio broadcasts became the dominant medium to follow those games."

You could feel the tempo of the game in his commentary. That's why, even when the games were on

television, Vol fans often turned down the sound preferring to hear Ward's smooth-as-silk play-by-play.

After seeing the game, fans rushed home to see the game again, the contests they had just paid to see. Ward's play-by-play was dubbed over the game tape. Some Vol fans went so far as to not listen to the game but chose to tough it out until the replay came on at 11:30 p.m. Ray Mears once said he learned a great deal from listening to Ward's play-by-play and incisive analysis of games played several hours earlier.

There were limits to his oratory, however.

"I would never say 'bottom' in public," said Ward. "I've never used it in a speech because I'm embarrassed to. It's spontaneous, and that's the beauty of it."

Speaking of "spontaneous," there was a time Ward and wife, Barbara, were on the Orient Express. How far away could you get from the wilds of Big Orange Country? Apparently, not that far.

As John and Barbara found their seats, a man looked in Ward's general direction, and, without hesitation, said, "Bottom!"

That broadcast area and the entirety of Stokely is consigned to history, but the memories linger, to be savored, even with the passage of time. That speaks to the influence of John Ward, a man who captivatingly told the story of Tennessee hoops from a perch high above the Tartan, later hardwood, floor of Stokely Center.

MacIntyre Commitment Bodes Well for UT

By Mark Nagi

There was a time when the Tennessee quarterback position was the land of misfit toys.

Quinten Dormady. Jarrett Guarantano. Brian Maurer. J.T. Shrout. Will McBride. Harrison Bailey. You might not remember all those names, but that was the list of starting signal callers at Tennessee from 2017 to 2020.

Well, those days are gone.

Hendon Hooker and Joe Milton were transfers that made Josh Heupel's first three seasons at Tennessee an unexpected success. Now? Heupel has a QB room that will be the envy of most FBS programs.

The most recent addition is Brentwood Academy standout George MacIntyre, a 5-star QB and the top recruit in the state of Tennessee according to 247Sports.

MacIntyre is currently ranked as the 16th best recruit in the nation for the Class of 2025, and the third best QB in that class. He said, "Out of all the places I went to, Coach Heupel was a quarterback. It's his offense. That's not true for a lot of places. I remember kind of going around and trying to find schools like that."

It was no surprise that MacIntyre's services were sought after by many top programs, including LSU, Michigan, and Clemson. The fact that MacIntyre turned down Alabama to stay at home should give UT fans even more reason to celebrate.

Yes, Alabama has coaching turnover with Nick Saban retiring and Kalen DeBoer taking over in Tuscaloosa, but recruiting wins over the Evil Empire should always be celebrated.

Remember the saga of Ty Simpson? He was a 5-star quarterback from Westview High School in Martin. 247 Sports had Simpson rated as the 3rd-best pro style QB in the Class of 2022. Then UT coach Jeremy Pruitt had offered Simpson a scholarship in June 2018, before his freshman year of high school. Simpson had visited the UT campus multiple times in the years that followed, including two games during the 2019 season.

But after Pruitt's firing, Simpson signed with Alabama. He has played sparingly his first two seasons in Tuscaloosa.

In 2024, the coaching carousel might have helped the Vols in the recruitment of MacIntyre. Or maybe he was going

Helton knew about the Hall of Fame as an 8-year-old

Knoxville product is headed to Cooperstown

By Steve Williams

Knoxville has a Major League Baseball Hall of Famer.

Todd Helton, already a longtime sports hero in this city for his play at UT and Central High in baseball and football in the 1990s, got the word last week.

He reacted to the news with "raw emotion," as he had been on the borderline of getting in.

"First of all I would like to thank the baseball writers for electing me," said Helton after hearing the news. "It's a huge honor and it's very humbling that I got in. I got to thank my mom (Martha) and dad (Jerry, who is deceased) and my family who supported me the whole time."

Had Todd wore pinstripes and played in Yankee Stadium instead of all 17 years of his career in the thin air and smaller market of Denver, home of the Colorado Rockies, he may have been a first-ballot selection. But Todd was loyal to the Rockies and their fans and has always loved the outdoors like Colorado could provide.

A left-handed hitter and first baseman, Helton was a five-time All-Star and three-time Gold Glove award winner. He holds the Rockies' club records

for hits (2,519), home runs (369), doubles (592), runs (1,401), RBI (1,406) and games played (2,247) among others.

He had a MLB career batting average of .316.

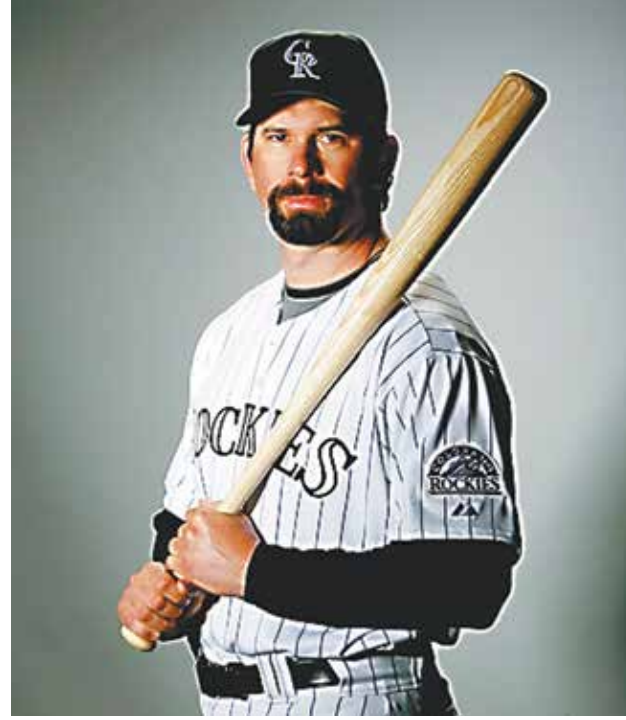
"It was 17 good years and I'm not going to lie; I miss it," added Helton, now 50. "I didn't think I would, but I miss the competition of going out and playing every day."

Helton starred as a baseball and football player at Central High School.

He helped lead Coach Bud Bales' Bobcats to a perfect 31-0 season and TSSAA state baseball championship in 1990 and then was a key player for the Vols in their second trip to the College World Series in 1995 after 44 years.

Growing up, recalled Todd: "My dad was very hard on me, but he also - when I would go 1 for 3, it was a bad day when you're young - would say 1 for 3 will get you in the Hall of Fame. He was tough on me, but he did say things like that to help me and I knew about the Hall of Fame when I was 8 years old just from my dad playing baseball. It's not the reason I played by any stretch of the imagination, but I'm very happy that I made it. Let's just say that."

Helton is now in the 1 percentile of major league players who have been elected to the Hall of Fame.



Todd Helton

He's also only the second player out of the SEC to make it; with Auburn's Frank Thomas being the first.

Helton and the Class of 2024 will be inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame July 21 in Cooperstown.



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MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TIME

West Valley girls take title and advance

By Steve Williams

Emery Cooper made an impression early in the Knox County Class AAA Middle School girls basketball championship game at South-Doyle Middle Thursday night.

The West Valley sixth-grader raced to make a steal in backcourt and cashed in with a layup to give her team a three-point lead.

"Emery came in and played a lot of minutes for us this year," said Josh Ballard, who is in his 10th season as head coach at West Valley. "She's played a lot of basketball through the years and is very mature in her game and was able to handle the pressure tonight without making a lot of sixth-grade mistakes that you normally would get."

Cooper would go on to total nine points and share individual scoring honors with Cadence Nesbit as the Lady Wolves defeated Halls 31-26. Ella Bush chipped in seven points and M.C. Lembare six in the team's balanced attack.

Halls pulled into a 16-all tie at halftime and trailed by only one point after three periods. The Lady Red Devils, however, managed to score only one point in the final six minutes, while West Valley scored five to advance to the TMSAA Sectional Tournament.

Cooper scored inside after a Halls timeout with 3:36 to go and Lembare swished through a pair of clutch free throws to extend West Valley's lead to five (30-25) at 2:53.

After Halls scored its only

point in the quarter, the Lady Wolves ran a weave to run the clock down to 49.2 seconds.

West Valley missed four straight free throws before Cooper hit one for the final score.

Halls committed six turnovers in the final period.

Bella Wires and Lola Widener tallied nine points each to lead the Lady Red Devils.

Ballard complimented the Halls team after the game. "They've been well-coached this whole season," he said. "Coach (Christi) Bowling really does a fantastic job. We won rather handily in the regular season. She's done a great job to prepare them; and changed up what they did defensively enough that gave us fits. Offensively, they stayed in it. It was a



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

West Valley Middle School's girls basketball team with the gold basketball trophy after defeating Halls Thursday night in the Knox County Class AAA championship game at South-Doyle Middle School.

great job by them."

Halls was scheduled to play East Hamilton Saturday in the Area semifinals at Ocoee Middle.

West Valley (22-2) advances to the Area finals today (Jan. 29) at Clinton Middle School and will play

the winner of Maryville vs. Sullivan Heights at 4:30.

FARRAGUT THIRD: The Lady Admirals overcame a slow start to oust South-Doyle 25-20 in the consolation game. Jayna Carbough led the Lady Admirals with

nine points, with Elin Rolan adding seven and MaKenna Hartley six.

Charli Pancratz scored eight points and Hanna Knight for S-D.

Farragut was scheduled to play Ocoee Saturday in the Area semifinals.

Huck fires in 16 as Wolves roll to championship

Cont. from page 1

Tuesday night at 7:30 at Clinton Middle School in the Area finals.

West Valley will play the winner of Saturday's game between Sevier County Junior High versus Tennessee Middle at 4:30 Wednesday at Clinton Middle School in the Area finals.

HARDIN VALLEY THIRD:

Kristian Oliver scored 16 points, including four 3-pointers, as the Hawks ousted Farragut 46-30. LJ Martin added 14 points and Mike Fritts eight.

Farragut's Kyle Clark



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

West Valley's boys made it a sweep in the Knox County Class AAA Middle School basketball tournament last Thursday night at South-Doyle Middle. The Wolves defeated Powell in the finals.

tallied nine points (all in the second quarter).

Hardin Valley was

scheduled to play Lake Forest in the Area semifinals Saturday at Ocoee,

with the winner to play Maryville Tuesday at 4:30 at Clinton Middle.

Knoxville association is in 'dire need' of umpires

By Steve Williams

The TSSAA high school baseball and softball seasons are just a little over a month from starting and the Knoxville Baseball and Softball Umpires Association has had a significant drop off in umpires.

"We are in a dire need of baseball and softball umpires," said Eddie Turpin, the association's assigning officer, last week.

The association will have a meeting Sunday (Feb. 4) at 4:30 at the Emerald Youth complex (1740 Texas Ave.) and Turpin encourages any man or woman interested in umpiring to attend.

Turner said last week the association once had 80 to 85 umpires, but now has 53 to service 25 high schools in Knox County, Anderson County, Sevier County and Lenoir City. He said the association has 60



softball umpires.

"There are twice as many games in baseball than softball," added Turpin, who will be starting his 25th season as the assigning officer.

The association also will have meetings on Feb. 18 and March 3.

The baseball and softball seasons start on March 4.

Gibbs' Smith leads local bowlers at state

Malyiah Smith of Gibbs rolled a six-game total of 964 to lead local state qualifiers in the TSSAA Division I State Bowling Championships last week at Smyrna.

Smith's high game was

193.

Carter's Gracie Miller was second among Knox County bowlers with a 909 series and had a 185 game.

Abigail Dalton of Karns was third among locals with an 873 series and a 189 game.

In team play, the Carter girls lost to Dickson County 21-6. In their match, the Lady Hornets saw Dickson County's Emily Fuller bowl a 300 game.

Carter finished the season 21-1.

Dobyns-Bennett won the Unified bowling state title.

Wynn is new HVA football coach

Tyler Wynn has filled the head football coaching position at Hardin Valley Academy and says he is looking forward to competing against the strong

competition in Region 2-6A.

Wynn, 37, was an assistant coach at Valdosta High in Georgia last season, and has been a head coach twice in Georgia.

Tyler is a native of LaGrange, Ga., and has ties to East Tennessee. He graduated from Carson-Newman and his wife is from Knoxville.

In other football news:

Mark Pemberton, former Knoxville Catholic head coach who led the Fighting Irish to a state title in 2008, has taken the reins at Campbell County.

Justin Pressley has resigned at Carter to take a head coaching job at Paulding County High in Dallas, Ga. Pressley coached the Hornets four seasons (2020-23).

Catholic girls bow in battle of champions

A big second period propelled Bradley Central to a 64-53 win over Knoxville Catholic in a battle of 2023 state champions Saturday on the Lady Irish hardwood.

The Bearettes, last season's Class 4A state champs, outscored Catholic, last season's Division II-AA state champs, 19-6 in the decisive quarter.

Kimera Fields dropped in 22 points to lead Bradley (20-1), while Harmonie Ware added 18 and Addie Geren 15. Catholic (16-5) got 16 points from Tinsley Walker and 12 each from Sydney Mains and Amaya Redd.

Bradley Central handed visiting Catholic a 64-42 loss on Dec. 8.

This and That ...

The Mr. and Miss Basketball Awards for the 2023-24 season will be presented to the top girls and boys in six classifications of the TSSAA in a ceremony at MTSU's Murphy Center on March 12 ... Webb's celebration ceremony for its Spartan student-athletes who have committed to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level has been rescheduled for Wednesday at 12:15 in the Multipurpose Room of the Central Building ... Farragut's updated basketball schedule for this week: Tuesday vs. Maryville, Thursday vs. Hardin Valley and Friday at Bearden.

MacIntyre Commitment

Cont. from page 3

to Tennessee all along. In his commitment video, MacIntyre said, "This isn't a commitment. It's a calling. And Volunteers answer the call."

But MacIntyre isn't the only high profile QB that Tennessee has lined up. In the Class of 2024, Tennessee signed Jake Merklinger from Cavalry Day School in Georgia. Merklinger was rated as the 10th best QB in that class.

Heupel boasted about Merklinger after his signing, saying, "His football IQ, ability to retain information and process out on the football field. He's a winner, he's competitive and has

the right make-up."

Of course, the signing of Nico lamaleava in the Class of 2023 was perhaps the biggest eye opener. lamaleava, a 5-star QB from California, didn't play a lot last season, but in his lone start he led Tennessee to a 35-0 victory over Iowa in the Cheez-It Citrus Bowl.

That gives Tennessee two 5-stars and a 4-star as the top three guys in their QB room. Heupel knows that he can use that wealth at the sport's most important position on the recruiting trail as well.

The future for Vols football looks extremely bright.

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