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Mayor Jacobs opposed to changes in Knox Land Use Plan



Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs

By Focus Staff

"It's not perfect but it's a great improvement," at-large Commissioner Kim Frazier told the Knox County Commission's work session last week. She was referring to the Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan, a two-year effort by Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs's administration and the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission.

The commission set a May 27 deadline for approval of the massive plan that would guide the county's growth

and focus on the development of agricultural areas. Frazier has been following the plan more than any other commissioner.

Frazier had several amendments for consideration and went over each one during the work session, including her wish to change "suggested" to "shall" in many of the items such as building on hill-sides and ridgetops. Some of the proposed amendments would require further review by the planning commission.

Fellow commissioners and the planning staff had some

objections and suggestions to Frazier's terms that initially included separating the Land Use Plan from the Growth Policy Plan adopted by the county, Knoxville and Farragut. That suggestion faltered. Another suggestion from commissioners included changing the deadline for approval. If the new plan is not approved in June, the county would continue to use the existing land use plan, which opponents claim would continue to open more rural land for sprawl.

At-large Commissioner

Larsen Jay's motion to consider passing the proposed plan in tonight's meeting passed and the commission agreed to post Frazier's amendments on the commission's forum for further consideration and response. The "Comp Plan Discussion" can be found online at <https://commission.knox-countytn.gov/forums/topic/comp-plan-discussion/>

The proposals that most commissioners agree on would be added to the final plan for a vote and those

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Knoxville City Council approves \$20M for South Waterfront Bridge

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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In another meeting besieged by several citizens speaking on just about every agenda item, the Knoxville City Council still managed to pass several items. That included transferring the former McClung Warehouses site to the Knoxville Community Development Corporation.

The long-abandoned site on North Gay and South Broadway could now be sold in a request for proposals by KCDC. The transfer passed with only Councilwoman Amelia Parker opposing it

State funding of \$20 million was also passed to KCCD, acting as the City's Redevelopment Authority, for planning and redevelopment services for the South Waterfront Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge.

Council also approved the adoption of the One Year Plan proposed by Knoxville-Knox County Planning, the appointment of Police Officer Lesley Pressley to the Wrecker Services Commission, and the transfer of excess funds to various units and the city budget. Personal Delivery Devices were banned for six more months on city

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Halls High Alumni Association to hold annual banquet

By Ken Lay

The Halls High School Alumni Association will hold its annual banquet on Saturday, April 27, in the school's cafeteria at 6 p.m. Doors will open at 5 p.m.

Those planning to attend should bring a covered dish and there is no charge but attendees are asked to make a donation to the association's scholarship fund.

The alumni association is a 501-C non-profit tax exempt organization and awards scholarships

to deserving Halls High seniors, memorializes alumni who gave their lives for the nation and inducts former students into the Halls High School Hall of Fame.

All alumni are encouraged to make a tax exempt donation and donations may be sent to the Halls Alumni Association at P.O. Box 70634, Knoxville, Tennessee 3738.

The association will award at least one \$2,000 scholarship each year.

In 2023, the Halls **Continue on page 4**



David Dallmann and Zoie Woodruff hold up a poster highlighting the car show that will be part of the inaugural Bobcat Bash, which will be held from 5 - 7 p.m. April 25.

Inaugural Bobcat Bash is Thursday at CHS

Central High to show community what its academies are all about

By Ken Leinart

Where do you begin when you talk about the inaugural Bobcat Bash?

The event will be held from 5 - 7 p.m. on April 25 on the Knoxville Central High School campus.

The idea for the Bobcat Bash began to take form last summer during training sessions for the 865 Academies. The academies are a working partnership with Ford Next Generation Learning and other business partners to create and foster college and career preparedness and equip students for life after graduation.

Jessica Keith, lead teacher of Central's Business and Design Academy, heard about these events the people

of Ford NGL were doing with some schools in Nashville called "Spring Flings."

The Spring Flings are designed to showcase all of the activities the schools holding them had to offer.

"We started planning last fall," Keith said. "We didn't even have a name for it. It was still the 'Spring Fling.'"

But Central High School was going to have one and Keith said the goal is to show off what Central has to offer. Central High was in the first batch of Knox County Schools to open its academies in Fall 2022. CHS offers three career-themed academies: Business and Design, Health and Life Science, and Automotive Services and Technology.

"There are athletics. There is choir. There's band," Keith said. "Those are the kinds of things parents and the community can come out and see. But what about our academics?"

"This is a chance to show our

community what we have and it's important to do that because the school is the hub of the community. We want people to see what's happening in their school."

Thursday's Bobcat Bash will showcase not only the academics of Central High School but also feature a demonstration by the school's ROTC corps, a plant sale, information booths and kiosks, and even Central High School gear for sale.

The timing is as near perfect as you can get. The first cohort of eight schools are wrapping up their second year. The second cohort of schools (two schools) opened freshman academies at the beginning of this school year. The final cohort of four schools will open freshmen academies next fall.

So it's time to show off what the 865 Academy excitement is about.

"There are classes under each academy that are specialized," Zoie

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Sometimes Winners Become Losers Or Losers Become Winners

From a distance



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

"If you are as happy, my dear sir, on entering this house as I am in leaving it and returning home, you are the happiest man in this country." So said President James Buchanan to President Abraham Lincoln as they got back to the White House after Lincoln's first inaugural address.

Lincoln led a very hard life: poverty, a very difficult wife, loss of two sons, depression, business and professional problems, and lack of a strong faith that could have helped him in his troubles.

Probably his happiest times were when he won the presidential election and in the early days of his

presidency.

President Buchanan may have been very happy when he was first elected, but the statement quoted above shows that he was far happier when he was leaving the White House to go home.

It is amazing how often in life something that a person thinks is the best thing that ever happened to them turns out to be the worst.

Lincoln is certainly one of our most admired presidents, but his presidency led him to a horribly painful, early death in his mid-fifties.

Vince Foster and Webster Hubbell were former law partners of Bill and Hillary Clinton, and many reports described them as Bill's two best friends.

I am sure both Foster and Hubbell were on top of the world when their best friend was elected as president. They probably thought their futures were secure.

President Clinton appointed Foster as White

House Counsel, the main lawyer for the President and his staff. Hubbell was appointed associate attorney general, the second highest position in the Justice Department.

Foster ended up committing suicide or being killed in a small park on the George Washington Parkway. There is still a little controversy about his death. Hubbell ended up being sentenced to federal prison.

The opposite is also true. Sometimes people have something bad or hurtful happen to them which turns out to be one of the best things that ever happened to them.

Bill Clinton lost a race for the U.S. House in 1974 after what he described as the "best campaign" he ever ran. George W. Bush lost a race for the U.S. House in 1978.

Both elections were close, and I am sure the results were very disappointing to both. It must be very tough to campaign full-time for 15-16 hours a

day for many months and then lose.

But it is very unlikely that either or both would have ever been elected as president if they had won those U.S. House races.

James Garfield was the only man elected as president directly after serving in the House. He had also been a Civil War general and was elected by the Ohio Legislature to the U.S. Senate but never served there because he was elected president - a presidency that lasted just 6½ months.

Many of our most famous political leaders lost at least one election at some point in their careers. There are too many to name, but a few examples, in addition to the three mentioned above, would include Howard Baker, Newt Gingrich, Barack Obama, Richard Nixon, Winston Churchill and many, many others.

Fortunately, I never lost an election, but I have sometimes wondered if I might have gone on to

higher office if I had been toughened up by a loss at some point. However, I was always very grateful for my job in Congress.

I thought about all this a few weeks ago when I saw an interview with comedian and actor Kevin James. He said when he got a call in 1996 asking him to audition for a lead role on Saturday Night Live, he was thrilled.

He said he not only didn't get a laugh during his audition, he never heard anyone even make a sound. "It was the worst audition I've ever had in my entire life," he said, but that flop ended up being the "best thing that ever happened" to him.

In the mid-1980s, I was a criminal court judge in Knox County. I had received very high ratings from the Bar Association, and my name was submitted for a federal judgeship.

That judgeship carried a lifetime appointment and the best retirement in the world. However, my law partner, Zane Daniel, was good friends with both Jake

and C.H. Butcher. That connection led to me being a director of two Butcher banks.

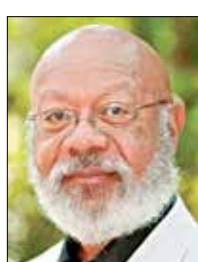
Fortunately, I had resigned before their collapse, and I had not done anything wrong. But the timing was such that the Justice Department was doing a lengthy investigation of me along with many others.

I knew I had done nothing wrong, and the investigation proved that I hadn't, but it was not a pleasant thing. However, as I look back, it was one of the best things that ever happened to me.

If I had become a federal judge, as I really wanted at the time, I would never have been elected to Congress, and would not have had the blessed, fascinating career that I had. And while I loved my almost 7½ years as a state trial judge, I had the opportunity and privilege to help many thousands as congressman from Tennessee's Second District.

What checks and balances?

When I was in school, I was taught that the United States had a system of checks and balances where no one branch of the government could devolve into tyranny given the oversight of the other two branches.



By Dr. Harold A. Black
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The three branches (for those who have been "educated" by our current system) are executive, legislative and judicial. Legislative is divided into the House of Representatives and the Senate which must pass identical bills that are signed by the president to become law.

The president can veto the bills and it takes a two-thirds vote in both houses

of Congress to override. Congress can pass a bill and the president can sign it but the courts can rule the bill unconstitutional preventing it from becoming law. Yet even the courts can be overridden by the legislature by passing a constitutional amendment that is approved by two-thirds of the states.

In reality, we no longer have a system of checks and balances mainly because the legislators in the House and Senate have abdicated their responsibilities to the executive branch. The executive has usurped the power from

Congress through the use of executive orders which do not require congressional approval. Presidents now typically ignore Congress when they feel that their wishes will not be put into law. Remember when faced with a Republican Congress, Obama famously said, "I've got a pen"? He signed 277 executive orders. Bill Clinton signed 361 and Donald Trump signed 220. Biden has signed 130 thus far. In 2023 he signed 24 and his administrative state added 90,402 pages to the Federal Register. When Biden first took office, there was a flurry of executive orders as he sought to eradicate the actions taken by Trump. There was the cancellation of the Keystone Pipeline,

the stopping of the border wall, and the review of all Trump actions by department and agency heads. Biden then installed pro-DEI and LGBTQ policies and aggressively issued rules on climate change including banning internal combustion engines and liquid natural gas. Remember mask-wearing, mandatory COVID shots, the Paris Accord, Iran appeasement, immigration, student loan forgiveness and all the rest? But Trump does not get a pass. Remember the Muslim country ban, the shutting down of the economy (with the exception of big corporations) and the tariffs on our allies?

Congress cannot overturn an executive order but they can sue the government stating that the president has exceeded his authority. Please tell me if there are any suits filed by the Congress. I can't find any. However, the states have sued the government with mixed results. Recently a federal judge in Texas found that a rule issued by the Federal Highway Administration was

"unauthorized." The state of Texas brought the suit. The Kansas Attorney General and 10 other Republican AGs have sued to stop Biden's forgiveness of student loan debt. The private sector can sue as did the steel companies who sued when President Truman ordered the steel mills to be seized by the government during the Korean War. The Supreme Court ruled that Truman had overstepped his authority. I guess the automobile companies could sue the EPA mandate that will ultimately ban gas and diesel vehicles. But the auto industry actually favors the EPA rule because they can dramatically reduce the amount of labor needed to manufacture automobiles and trucks.

The Republicans in Congress have abdicated their responsibilities to govern and would rather fight amongst themselves rather than impede Biden's actions. I believe earlier I called them "gutless." Perhaps they are hoping that the Republican governors and attorney generals will

sue the government so that they can continue embarrassing themselves. I have a suggestion: why not unite against Biden's efforts to radically change our institutions, his attempts to divide the races via Critical Race Theory and DEI, to radically shrink the American economy with his industrial policy, to flood the country with illegals, to allow males to compete in women's sports and emasculate our military? I guess the congressional Republicans are hoping that Trump is reelected so they won't have to do anything useful. There is no doubt that Trump would spend his first few days in office overturning Biden's executive orders and having his appointees roll back the rules of the EPA and the other federal agencies. It seems that the only hope of slowing down the runaway train of climate hysteria and federal weakness will be Donald Trump. Let's hope that he is not so caught up in payback and retribution that he will forget to govern.



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Publisher's Position Will Iran Ever Be Held Accountable?



By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
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those of us old enough to recall the taking of American hostages by Iran during the administration of President Jimmy Carter, we can also remember the images of the mullahs and their supporters parading and chanting "Death to America." They referred to our country as "the Great Satan." To think that American citizens would be chanting the same thing as an extremist country that countenanced terrorism is astonishing and vile. What's worse is barely any Democrat in the country would open his or her mouth to condemn it. It took Michigan governor Gretchen Witmer a week to finally say something about it.

There is no doubt in my mind that the majority of Americans do not agree at all with those supporting Hamas. There is no doubt in my mind that the great majority of Americans still find the idea of targeting civilians, raping women, beheading infants, and killing small children is utterly unacceptable. The notion such bestial behavior is not an act of war is simply insane.

The recent attack by Iran and its satellites on Israel with missiles and drones is also an act of war. Joe Biden's comment about Israel simply hunkering

down and "take the win" is wrong and cowardly. How would history have judged President Franklin Roosevelt had he said America should "take the win" after Pearl Harbor had been bombed by the Japanese? Someone trying to kill you and failing does not absolve them of attempted murder, nor does it mean they won't try again.

The appeasement policy towards the Muslim extremists and fanatics that make up Iran's government began under President Barack Obama who literally flew them billions of dollars in cash. Biden has also helped Iran finance its terrorism by releasing \$26 billion to the mullahs. The Obama-Biden Middle Eastern policy is yet another gaping failure, especially when compared to the Abraham Accords. Neither is it in the best interests of peace in the world or that of the United States.

The very same people who scream for more and more funding so that Ukraine can buy weapons of war and kill Russians are those who fault Israel for trying to defend itself against aggressors who are even more demonic and vicious than Putin. The very same people who repeat the LIE that the Israelis are trying to commit genocide on the people of Gaza are

those who ignore the open calls for the extermination of the Jewish people. They might as well be Nazis as well as liars and hypocrites. Yet almost daily there is some "pro-Palestine" protest that calls for the genocide of Israeli and Jewish people.

When a college or university president is so reluctant, almost like pulling teeth, to dance around the question of whether it is wrong to call for the literal killing of an entire race of people we should be reflecting upon just what has happened to our moral fiber and national character. The absolutism loudly demanded by the Leftist minority requires immediate and unquestioning agreement, otherwise one is canceled.

The kind of behavior oftentimes tolerated on the campuses of our elite and elitist colleges and universities is both disgraceful and appalling. They cry "academic freedom" and "free speech," rights they only allow themselves and extend to nobody else and most especially deny to anyone who does not agree with them. Like the Nazis, they are authoritarians. The very same people who claim for themselves compassion and propose to "lead with kindness" are those who are calling

for the blood of Jews and denying or pretending the violence and bloodshed never happened. It is just disgusting. If they had an infinitesimal speck of character, they would be truly ashamed of themselves. Instead, they are loud and proud in their calls for genocide and murder. Only Israel cannot protect itself.

If someone came into your home, raped your wife and daughters and tried to kill or did in fact kill your family, should your response be measured? Should your response be to allow it to happen again and again? The very idea is incredibly stupid and unworthy of even the most juvenile and undeveloped mind. Can you think of what would happen if any person called for the genocide of Blacks, Whites, Latins, or Asians? Yet it is happening with alarming regularity, daily, to exterminate the Jewish people and the mainstream media largely ignores it.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says Israel will do whatever is necessary to defend itself. That is only logical and right. Ukraine is doing the same thing right now and no one hears a single peep of protest or complaint by anyone.

Dwight D. Eisenhower, a former president of

Columbia University, the general who led Allied Forces on D-Day to repel the Nazis, and a president of the United States, once said, "The principal purpose of education is to prepare the student for effective personal and social life in a free society. From the school at the crossroads to a university as great as Columbia, general education for citizenship must be the common and first purpose of them all."

Eisenhower also personally saw firsthand the fruits of Adolf Hitler's hatred of Jews when he saw what had happened at one of the many concentration camps operated by the Nazis. The general could barely believe his eyes and said the cruelty, starvation and viciousness beggared description and boggled the mind.

Hitler's Germany and his Nazi Party first stripped Jews of their humanity, making them seem less than human beings. Then it became much easier to deprive them of their basic human rights and freedom. Then it became easier still to kill them and stack their lifeless bodies like so much cordwood.

There is a reason why the Left wants to revise history and we are watching now as history repeats itself.

Minouche Shafik, president of Columbia University, was grilled last week about the school's response to antisemitism and seemingly only reluctantly admitted calling for the annihilation of the Jewish people was indeed a violation of the university's code of conduct.

To put things into perspective, the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas, a terrorist organization, was the single worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. The demonstrations described as "pro-Palestine" are more truthfully described as anti-semitic protests. Not since the Nazis have groups of people so openly called for the killing of Jews and Jewish people. We've witnessed groups chanting "Death to Israel" and "Death to America." For

Knox 911 expanding, adding AMR dispatch

By Mike Steely
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The Knox County Emergency Communications District, also known as Knox 911 is expanding rapidly and has taken over dispatching American Medical Response ambulance service while also receiving 911 calls for Rural Metro Fire, Seymour Fire Department, Knox County Rescue, the Knox County Sheriff's Office, Knoxville City Police and Fire Departments and the Karns Fire Department.

At Wednesday morning's board meeting, Knox 911 Executive Director Brad Anders told district officials that the merger with AMR is being completed with that company's employees being integrated into the Baxter Avenue call center. He said adding AMR dispatchers at the call center means purchasing phones and radios which will belong to the center.

Finance Chairman John Fugate told the meeting the center has enough excess funding to handle



Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon and Knox 911 Director Brad Anders talked about the addition of the AMR ambulance service to the dispatching system.

the AMR inclusion but next year the budget has to be "more careful." He said the 911 district's budget is 111 percent above expectations but added the excess is covering the cost.

Mayor Indya Kincannon, who chaired the Knox 911 meeting, said that most of the complaints she receives involve AMR's past response times.

"The public doesn't know," she said, referring to the amount of time it takes the police or fire

department to respond having to do with when they are dispatched.

"It's not 911's fault if it takes an hour to get there," Anders said, adding that AMR will report now to the 911 center.

Anders also said that Norfolk Southern Rail Road is adding a system that would provide information on derailments, including the location and what the cars are carrying. Webb School has installed a panic system for teachers and Anders explained

that other schools are being contacted and that teachers would wear a lanyard they could use in an emergency. Several product demonstrations have been done at schools and eventually, the system may add video.

Kincannon spoke briefly of a recent tour of the city's new Safety Center, where Knox 911 has a backup dispatch operations office. She also said that AMR will make a report to the Knox County Commission on May 20.

Inaugural Bobcat Bash is Thursday at CHS

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Woodruff, who is in the health sciences academy said. "But we still have other subjects and you see how they are tied in to what you want to do."

Woodruff said almost everybody asks, "Why?" and "When?"

Why do they need to learn about a certain subject? When are they going to use

that knowledge? She said being in the academy structure helps show you the why and the when.

Sydney DeFoe, who is in the business and design academy, said taking part in the academy makes getting a high school education more interesting.

"We're learning about things we're interested in, not just things we're supposed to be interested in,"

she said.

For David Dallmann, the automotive services and technology program ties everything together. As a bit of a motorhead with a leaning toward engineering, Dallmann said he has found something that's not only fun, but he can land a job when he graduates high school.

And for Woodruff, DeFoe and Dallmann (and any

student taking academy courses) it's a chance to dip a toe in the water to see if that is the field they want to build a career in and they can do it early in their lives.

It's taken a while to get here, but Central High is going to strut this week.

"I really encourage our community to come out and see what we're doing," Keith said.

It could be an eye-opener.

Mayor Jacobs opposed to changes in Knox Land Use Plan

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with objections would be discussed.

Several citizens spoke in opposition to the land use plan, asking for it to be modified or postponed. Jay said that, if approved, the plan could be reviewed in three months and modified if needed.

Chairwoman Terry Hill urged the commission to move forward on adoption saying, "We're 95 percent on the way." At one point Frazier and Commissioner

Kyle Ward had a pointed exchange with Frazier saying her suggestions "would put some teeth" in the enforcement of the plan.

A call for a special meeting to further discuss Frazier's proposals was turned away in favor of Jay's motion to consider passing the plan, with some possible changes, at tonight's regular commission meeting.

Mayor Glenn Jacobs has stated that he is opposed to changes in the plan.

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Knoxville City Council approves \$20M for South Waterfront Bridge

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streets and sidewalks due to safety concerns. The Rock Pointe Road project was funded for \$79,825 in an agreement with Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP, for construction engineering and inspection services.
Two abandoned home sites were approved for condemnation and acquisition at 1509 North Fourth Avenue and 412 Ocala Drive.
The public forum session saw several speakers

berate Mayor Indya Kincannon and the council for not supporting a cease-fire in the Israel-Palestine conflict. Mayor Indya Kincannon had warned speakers to stay on topic during the session and, one after one, the handful of citizens cycled back and forth on each agenda item. Some spoke on the agenda topic but many used their five minutes to attack the mayor and the council. One speaker, dressed as a pirate, spoke in character

to criticize city officials and council members. Some of the speakers were ruled out of order and

asked to step away from the podium. One woman, speaking about the condemnation of property as an "abuse

of power" and depriving owners of their homes, was rebutted by Councilwoman Lauren Rider. Rider said the

owners were deceased and had no living relatives and neighbors have complained about the site.

Halls High Alumni

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Alumni Association tendered two scholarships due to the amount of donations.

The Halls High jazz band will provide music at the banquet and the association will honor the class of 1974.

Halls graduates Gloria Jean Stout (Class of 1949) and James Thomas May (Class of 1961) will be inducted in to the Halls High School Hall of Fame.

Stout was a teacher at Halls for more than three decades. She served as an educator there from 1954-90, where she taught general science, biology and chaired the science department at the school from 1966-90.

She was honored as Teacher of the Year in 1966.

Stout, who was a member of Beaver Dam Baptist Church for 75 years, where she taught Sunday School. She served on the alumni association's scholarship committee.

She was also a member of the Halls/Crossroads

Women's League for many years and was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, an honorary fraternity for top graduates and also a member of Rho Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa honorary educators' sorority.

She graduated with honors with a Bachelor's Degree in 1953 and earned a Master's in 1982 from the University of Tennessee.

After graduating from high school, May achieved many academic and professional honors. He earned a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, specializing in semiconductor physics from the University of Tennessee. He wrote his dissertation on 50 years in semiconductor technology with expert strengths in on-chip ESD design, reliability, accelerated testing, physics of failure, solid state physics, single event upset, failure analysis and radiation effects.

He earned multiple patents and earned many professional awards.



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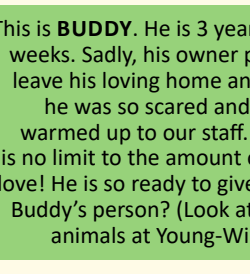


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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Fair Share

Last week was April 15, Tax Day, but to paraphrase the 1960-80s public service announcement, "Do you know where your [dollars] are?"

Americans are sending trillions of dollars to Washington, but the government is spending money faster than we can earn it. As a result, we are more than \$34 trillion in debt, and it gets worse every day. But wait, there's even more. The dysfunctional Congress is trying to pass a bill to send \$48 billion to Ukraine, \$14 billion to Israel, but nothing for Brandon's wide open southern border. Meanwhile, the Democrats are doing their damndest to put President Trump in jail for manufactured crimes in order to re-elect the worst president in modern times. I was so disgusted that I turned off all the news and

went to the garden.

A longtime friend of mine is an expert gardener. By comparison, I am just a rank amateur, so I listen when he gives advice. But it goes both ways. Before I retired I was his doctor and he took my medical advice. As the apostle Paul said, we all have different gifts.

Gardener-friend lives in Knoxville and recommends never planting prior to Tax Day. (Seeds are an exception.) I have to admit that I have cheated and planted earlier than April 15. But I have paid the price when surveying the damage of a late spring frost. Sometimes failures are better lessons than success. I now preach the garden wisdom of April 15 planting.

Becky and I believe that farming is the hardest vocation. Some don't appreciate farmers like

they should. Even with modern horticultural techniques, hard work and long hours, fertilizer and occasional insecticides, a good crop is dependent upon the weather and, consequently, a certain degree of luck.

I am certainly no farmer or expert gardener, but I do a big garden each year and tend my small orchard and vineyard as well as the flowers around our home. We enjoy the flowers, produce and fruit, and I make wine from the grapes I harvest in late summer. We are already enjoying the springtime asparagus from the rootstock I planted years ago.

Gardening is good work, and I now have the time, but I have no illusion that I could feed my family with my efforts. Real farmers feed us, and truckers bring their bounty to market. Last week Becky and I labored mightily planting our summer garden. And while recuperating on the porch with Becky's world famous margaritas, we voiced thanks to farmers, truckers and producers everywhere.

Last week we sent a sizable check to Washington, D.C., as did almost 50% of other Americans who pay income tax. You realize that 47% of Americans

do not pay income tax. And I'm sure that few illegals are filing a 1040. Like just about every aspect of our government, the tax system is a colossal mess despite continual manipulations of tax law driven by politics. What could possibly go wrong? Like most institutions in our government, I believe reform is impossible and a lot of agencies just need to be done away with or, perhaps, redone. I offer the FBI and the Department of Education as examples ripe for cancellation or do-overs.

Repeatedly, we hear the cry that everyone should "pay their fair share." Some even observe that rich people like Amazon's Jeff Bezos or billionaire Mark Cuban have too much while others don't have "enough." In fact, a recent poll (I&I/TIPP) found that 56% of Americans think they pay too much in taxes, whereas 26% say they pay too little.

But what do those phrases actually mean and who gets to make those determinations? I can decide what is enough for me, but what gives someone the right to say what is right for me? The terms are subjective. I'm no fan of Mark Cuban who reportedly sent a huge check to

Washington, saying he "paid what he owed." He certainly didn't offer to pay more than tax laws require.

I'm not an economy or tax wonk, just an ordinary citizen. A real expert like Harold Black should perhaps be writing this essay. According to the latest data from 2021, the "richest 1% earn 26% of all income, but pay more than 45% of all taxes. The bottom 75% of Americans earn 28% of all income, but pay just under 11% of all taxes." Since the Trump-era 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the wealthy are actually paying more taxes. You should be skeptical of what Democrats and their media mouthpieces tell you.

And if you think it can't get worse, I recommend you look up Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's statements regarding the Wealth Tax which Democrats plan to push if Dark Brandon is reelected. Instead of being taxed on capital gains, the Progressive Democrats are licking their chops to tax the equity you have in your house, your 401(k) or any other property they define as your fair share.

As an example, say you bought a house for \$200,000 ten years ago and it is now valued at

\$400,000. Even though you have not sold your house, how would you like to get a yearly tax bill on the gain of \$200,000 in value? Can't pay the tax? Well then, you'd just have to sell your house to pay the tax. And Biden is going to increase that gain in capital (equity) tax from 21% to 44%. This will collapse the stock and real estate markets.

You say they would never do this. But who would have thought a president and a party would destroy our borders? But don't trust me, research the wealth tax proposals yourself.

It may seem naïve, but I never thought the progressive Democrats would be able to destroy America in my lifetime. But then Obama was elected and vowed to "transform" America. America's destruction is now underway in BHO's "third term."

I've lived long and well, but my days are about done. Dark Brandon's plan to increase taxes by 5 trillion dollars is just another of his apocalyptic policies. I may be preaching to the choir, but it's all I can do aside from voting. We've got one last chance to change America's course or we are done.

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

Catching up with

Greg Huff

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

If you have ever seen the Einstein Simplified improvisation group perform you've probably seen how funny and versatile Greg Huff is. The Maryville native performs with the group about once a week at Scruffy City Hall.

The Focus caught up with Huff and asked a few questions.

Tell us about your company.

I started Huff Video Service officially on January 1, 2019. The company I worked for had a contract with Comcast Spotlight in

the Southeast to provide video production services to their various markets but that contract ended so we were getting laid off. However, as part of my severance the video equipment was given to me so I was able to start on my own without having to incur huge equipment costs. I continued my working relationship with account executives at what is now called Effect TV and the clients I had relationships with. Now I provide full-service video production which includes videography, editing, script writing and more. I do anything from ads for cable or TV advertising, ads for

online and social media, videos for nonprofits, corporate videos and some still photography.

Tell us about your family.

I grew up in Maryville near Porter Elementary School and graduated from Heritage. I have two older brothers and an older sister who all still live in the area. I actually grew up on a farm where my Dad's family ran a dairy farm and grew tobacco. However, my interests turned towards a love of movies and video.

What is your educational background and how did you get your start?

I went to the University of Tennessee and graduated with a B.S. in English: Creative Writing with a double minor in Broadcast Studies and Cinema Studies.

I started out working for what was WB20 which is now CW20 in Knoxville in the master control room, went on to WVLT Channel 8 doing the same job but eventually transitioned over to news editor and news photographer. After 5-6 years I had an opportunity to work for Charter Media and get into the advertising world, and continued that with BluWave

Cont. on page 4



Video producer and improv actor Greg Huff is versatile and funny and appears with "Einstein Simplified" in Knoxville's Scruffy City Hall.

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What is a First Setting?

When we watch courtroom shows on TV, we rarely see the mundane things that go on behind the scenes. Understandably, they skip right to the exciting parts like finding the murder weapon,



By Jedidiah McKeehan
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first case ends up going to trial, then the second and third cases will get bumped off that day and moved to a different date for a trial.

So, if you want to make extra sure that your case proceeds to trial, you want it to be set as the first setting for trial on a certain date.

Another way to use the term, "first setting," is to describe how many times a case has been set for trial. For example, trials are rescheduled often. Judges do not like resetting cases and want them to be tried and over with. However, cases get reset all of the time. If a lawyer asks that the trial for a case be reset, then the Judge may want to know how many times it has been rescheduled before he agrees to do so. If the case is set for trial for the first time, or a "first setting," then the judge is usually more inclined to reset the case if requested to do so.

Jedidiah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knox County and surrounding counties. Visit attorney-knoxville.com for more information about this legal issue and other legal issues.

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

Beaufort, North Carolina, is a small, coastal town next to Morehead City with lots of history and some oddities as well.

I was stationed nearby for a couple of years and my wife and I have traveled back a few times over the years. Each time I'd visit Fort Macon Coast Guard Base and the large historic fort next to it. We'd also visit places we lived and often made a side trip to Beaufort, just across the bridge.

The town, pronounced "Bofort" in North Carolina, should not be confused with Beaufort in South Carolina, which locals call "Bufort." Our Beaufort has a long history of pirates, the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. From Knoxville, it's about an 8-hour drive along I-70 to Highway 70 and east to Newbern and then to the Beaufort inlet.

Founded in the 1600s, Beaufort was named

after the English Duke of Beaufort and originally was known as "Fishtowne" for the fishing industry that began there. It's the third oldest town in North Carolina and a famous and historic port city. Famous pirates, such as Blackbeard, frequented the place and Blackbeard scuttled his Queen Ann's Revenge in the waters off of the town. Many of the artifacts left by pirates and subsequent wars are located in the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort.

The British held the town briefly during the Revolutionary War and Fort Macon, just across the bay, served as an anti-submarine base during the Second World War.

The most fascinating place in town to my wife and me is the Old Burying Ground with many unique graves and legends. Founded in 1731, the cemetery holds about 200 plots there including the grave and cannon of Captain Otway Burns, hero of the War of 1812, and the mass grave of crew members of the Crissie Wright, a schooner that wrecked in a bad winter where the crew drowned or froze to death.

The grave of a little girl buried in a rum keg is also there. A captain's daughter



The Old Burying Ground in Beaufort, North Carolina, has many odd and surprising graves including this one of an English man buried standing up facing his homeland.

had died while at sea and the father encased his infant daughter in a keg, promising to bury her ashore.

Our attention was drawn to the grave of an English officer who died there and was buried standing up facing his homeland.

One visit to the historic old graveyard was cut short when, in the midst of looking at the tombstones, a squirrel suddenly appeared and angrily rushed at us. We were startled and left quickly. We joked about the animal being a guardian of one of the graves.

While in the area you might want to take the ferry over to Ocracoke Island, where Blackbeard was finally killed, and on

up to Cape Hatteras. Or take a boat ride out to the Cape Lookout Lighthouse. When in the Hatteras area there's Kitty Hawk, where the Wright Brothers' first powered airplane flight was reported.

Within the region also is Bath, NC, where Blackbeard had a home, and Newbern where a local pharmacist invented Pepsi Cola.

There's so much to do along that portion of the North Carolina coast. You can find out more about Beaufort and that region online at www.beaufortnc.org/ or call the town at (252) 728-2141. If you thought Myrtle Beach had lots to do you might think of Beaufort as a less crowded historical adventure.

How smart are we?

I certainly love this country. So often, I give thanks that I was born here and have had all the opportunities that the United States offers. We are the greatest country in the world at this time,



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

and I hope the same holds true for years to come. This country is the bright beacon to the rest of the world. Presently, troubles have crept up on us, and to many, no escape from them seems possible. However, our country has faced plenty of dire situations, and I hope and pray that we citizens have enough courage and wisdom to face head-on anything that might threaten our way of life.

With that said, I find that my worries are heightened when I watch some of the stunts citizens pull. For instance, the eclipse that recently occurred put on full display how little common sense people have. In those

areas where a total eclipse was total, hospitals and emergency rooms were placed on the highest alert. Doctors expected multitudes to descend upon those facilities. The reason for such concern was that too many individuals would stare at the eclipse without wearing the special glasses designed for the event.

Most of us don't lie out in our yards and stare at the sun for any length of time. We were told that staring at the sun could adversely affect our sight for the rest of our lives. Yet, I watched people who could see the total eclipse sitting in lawn chairs, leaning back, and tilting their noggins upward. As they glared at the event, their jaws dropped and that made them look like someone who wasn't playing with a full deck.

How dumb does a person have to be to pull such a moronic move? We in the

South have been taking a beating from our northern brethren for being less than intelligent. All have seen memes and writings about how little intelligence we below the Mason-Dixon Line have. Well, I'm here to state that fewer of us stared into the last eclipse that occurred a few years ago.

What bothers me so much is the fact that Americans have a way of ignoring advice that we are given during serious times. I'm reminded of my college years. During my senior year, I was a head resident of a dorm at Tennessee Tech. That year, a tornado moved with Cookeville in its sights. I hurried five floors of residents to the bottom floor for the best protection possible. I manned the door to the dorm in case other residents appeared.

On one occasion, I opened the door to see some drunk moron on the roof of an adjacent dorm. His friends and head resident were pleading with him to come back into the

dorm and head for shelter. He refused and yelled to folks below, "I'll come down as soon as I see the tornado!"

What an idiot he was. Little did he know or consider that if he saw the cone of the storm it would be too late for him to reach safe quarters. He was lucky that the storm jumped the entire city and set down on the far side of town before it once again tore apart homes and flattened a large swath going up Monterey Mountain.

Common sense is in short supply. I wish we had a vaccine filled with it that all of us could take. Such a treatment might be the only thing that saves our country against some of the events that are headed our way. If we Americans don't wise up, we might lose all that we have and sink into ruins, just as so many other great empires have done throughout history. Please, think a little before performing stupid acts that hurt not only yourself but also the ones you love.

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Southern Statesman Lee S. Overman of North Carolina

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill

rayhill865@gmail.com

Lee Slater Overman was a fixture in North Carolina politics from the turn of the century until his death. White-haired and portly, Overman dressed the part of a Southern statesman and was an adept speaker at a time when stump speeches still mattered. By the time he died, Lee Overman was thought by many observers to be something of a relic of the Old South. Lee S. Overman moved from the bottom to the top of the political pile in the Tar Heel State through the best means of climbing the political ladder: starting at the bottom and moving up slowly, but steadily. Overman was known for taking delight in this work and his deep affection for his colleagues in the U.S. Senate was readily apparent even during the hottest debates. Lee Overman never allowed his tongue to spew vitriol nor make any kind of a personal attack on a fellow senator. Senator Overman kept his good humor and grace even during the midst of one of the Senate's most bitter confirmation battles. President Herbert Hoover had nominated Judge John J. Parker of North Carolina to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States and Overman backed the candidacy of the native Tarheel jurist even though the nominee was a Republican.

Overman became the secretary to Zebulon Vance, a politician who was profoundly opposed to Reconstruction in North Carolina. Vance, a man with a thick head of hair and a bushy mustache, was one of the most notable Southern leaders during the Civil War and afterward. Equally eloquent in putting pen to paper as he was to speech, Zeb Vance had first been elected governor in 1862. When Vance returned to the governor's mansion in 1877, he brought Lee S. Overman with him. Following his service as governor, Vance was elected to the United States Senate. For a year, Lee Overman was the secretary for Vance's successor as governor, Thomas Jarvis. Overman left the governor's office to begin the practice of law in his hometown of Salisbury.

During his 28 years in the U.S. Senate, Lee S. Overman was known as a strong supporter of President Woodrow Wilson, as well as one of the first senators to urge the adoption of prohibition of alcoholic beverages. As a senator, Overman was known for being an advocate for "good roads" and education. Throughout his long service in the Senate, Overman served the entire time alongside Furnifold M. Simmons, who was the political boss of North Carolina's Democratic

Party. The two men had much in common; both had been born in 1854, both were native North Carolinians, and both had been educated at Trinity College (the forerunner of Duke University). Simmons had first been elected to the United States Senate in 1901 and Overman followed two years later. For the next 28 years, the two comprised a formidable team for the Tar Heel State inside the U. S. Senate. Overman and Simmons had even been born the same month, January, although Lee S. Overman was seventeen days older than his senior colleague. The life and careers of F. M. Simmons and Lee S. Overman ran parallel to one another for many decades.

Senators Simmons and Overman parted political company during the 1928 presidential election. F. M. Simmons was bitterly opposed to the nomination and election of New York Governor Alfred E. Smith. Smith was a big-city Catholic with an urban point of view, which was alien to much of the more rural South. Al Smith was also a proud and unapologetic member of Tammany Hall, the notorious political organization in New York City. Oddly, although F. M. Simmons was the political boss of North Carolina, he believed Tammany to be corrupt and contemptible. Most of all, Al Smith was perhaps the most notable foe of prohibition in the country at the time, which fueled Senator Simmons's opposition to Smith's presidential candidacy. Simmons did the unthinkable, especially for the architect of having restored the Democratic Party to its prominence once again, by bolting and publicly refusing to support his party's presidential nominee.

The desertion of F. M. Simmons pained his friend Lee S. Overman who supported Al Smith, but North Carolina fell into the Republican column that year. The advent of the Great Depression helped to seal the political fate of not only Herbert Hoover but also F. M. Simmons who remained unrepentant. Simmons was defeated in the Democratic primary after serving 30 years in the United States Senate. Simmons was due to retire on March 4, 1931, but the senatorial duo was broken by the death of Lee S. Overman. They remained friends until the end.

Lee Overman's entrance into elective politics began in 1882 when he was elected to North Carolina's House of Representatives. Overman was continually reelected and was eventually elected Speaker of the House in 1893. Overman began his first political campaign seeking election to the North Carolina State



ACME PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Members of the U. S. Senate's Judiciary Committee in 1930. Seated, from left to right, George W. Norris of Nebraska, George W. Wickersham, Senator Lee S. Overman of North Carolina, Senator T. J. Walsh of Montana, Senator Hubert Stephens of Mississippi. Standing, left to right, Senator Chas. W. Waterman, Senator John J. Blaine, and Senator Felix Hebert of Rhode Island.

House by advocating prohibition, a stance that concerned many of his friends, who pointed to the fact his home county of Rowan had voted against prohibition the year previously. Friends and supporters warned Overman his stance might prove to cost him the election. Despite the warnings, Overman doubled down and worked all the harder, never budging from his support of prohibition. Much to the surprise of many, Lee Overman won the election.

Lee S. Overman was the Democratic nominee for the United States Senate in 1896 but lost due to the insurgency of Populists and Republicans winning a majority in North Carolina's state legislature. Overman was defeated by Jeter C. Pritchard. Overman very much wanted another opportunity to best Senator Pritchard six years later, but he faced two opponents to become the Democratic nominee. Locke Craig, later elected governor, and Cyrus B. Watson contested the nomination, and it took fifty-one ballots before Lee S. Overman was declared the Democratic nominee. Democrats had won back the legislature and Overman was elected to the United States Senate with 138 votes to only 24 for Senator Pritchard.

Perhaps Overman's most notable achievement in the Senate was his sponsorship of the act which bore his name; the Overman Act expanded the powers of the President during a time of war. President Woodrow Wilson sent a personal note to the North Carolina senator, writing, "It is admirable the way you have been handling these important bills, and I thank you with all my heart for standing by the bill which bears your name without any compromise of any kind. You are a splendid fighter."

Wilson was highly popular in the South and when Overman was running for reelection in 1914 in the first campaign in which Tar Heel State residents would choose their own senator through popular election, the President urged voters to return him

to office. President Wilson released a letter asking North Carolinians to give Lee Overman "their highest kind" of endorsement in the election. Overman was an important figure during the Wilson Administration, as he was the chairman of the Senate's Rules Committee, as well as the acting chair of the Judiciary Committee, and a ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. Senator Overman was a stalwart in pushing through measures to help the administration during the First World War. Nor did Overman forget the folks back home; the senator was very active in passing agricultural measures for North Carolina's farmers.

President Wilson's confidence in Lee Overman was apparently very high. At the personal request of the president, Senator Overman headed a special committee to investigate lobbying activities in Washington, D.C.

Even in his later years, Overman was an energetic man. One staff member, W. W. McDonald, who worked for the senator for 11 years, recalled the senator's daily routine. "He got to the office about nine o'clock every morning. And he didn't leave until about six in the evening. His energy was a continual source of amazement to me and everybody about him.

"He would go home, read the newspapers and chat with his family while he listened to the radio. That was his routine day after day when the Senate was in session." McDonald added, "He was one of the kindest men I ever knew and sometimes he mixed his good deeds with a keen sense of humor."

McDonald recalled one of the hottest days of a summer gone by when he wanted to play baseball with friends over the weekend. "It was over 100 in the shade," McDonald recalled. McDonald's plans were interrupted by a telephone call from Senator Overman who said, "Come over to the office, I've got some work to do." W. W. McDonald hurried to the

Senate Office Building and chatted with Overman for a couple of hours, wondering when they would get busy. McDonald remembered Senator Overman looked at his watch and told him, "I knew you might get sunstroke if you played baseball. We old fellows have got to watch out for you wild youngsters."

There was no outward indication the aging senator was ailing. Overman had been working in his office and had made calls at various government departments on behalf of constituents before becoming violently ill. Senator Overman was stricken with an "indisposition" for a few days, which was not believed to be serious. Apparently, the senator was more seriously ill than thought as he suffered a stomach hemorrhage. After blood transfusions and rest, the 76-year-old Overman seemed to be recovering when he suffered another hemorrhage and died at one o'clock in the morning on December 22, 1930.

It fell to 76-year-old Senator F. M. Simmons to make the official announcement to his Senate colleagues that Overman had died. His ordinarily whispery voice could barely be heard inside the Senate Chamber as Simmons notified the Senate of his junior colleague's passing. Simmons sadly said he and Lee Overman had been friends for 65 years and insisted the bonds of their long friendship remained strong until the end of Overman's life. The silence inside the Senate was almost eerie as Simmons spoke.

Lee S. Overman's mortal remains were taken to a cemetery in Salisbury where he was mourned by the high and mighty, as well as the common folk. One journalist wrote there had been no eulogy to send off the senator, as "none was needed." North Carolinians had learned over the past 28 years what the people of Salisbury had known already, the faithful nature of Lee S. Overman. The people of Salisbury had

filled the country Methodist church long before the appointed hour of Senator Overman's funeral. Folks dropped whatever they had been doing to pay a final tribute to a man they considered a friend and wished to honor one last time. The balcony of the little church was filled with Black citizens who had liked Overman. As the procession slowly made its way to the cemetery, men took their hats off and women bowed their heads out of respect for the dead senator. At the grave site, even more people gathered who had been unable to squeeze into the confines of the church. Newspaper reporter Robert Thompson wrote, "The whole of Salisbury stopped for a few minutes this afternoon to say goodbye to its Senator." A delegation from both Houses of Congress followed the body of their former colleague to the graveside. Among those was Tennessee's Kenneth McKellar. Overman's body was borne to his grave by American Legionnaires. The Reverend W. W. Staley was one of the surviving members of the Class of 1874 at Trinity College with Lee Overman. Dr. Staley said simply, "All his life everybody that knew Lee liked him. He had such a fine character."

One of the most notable sons of North Carolina, Josephus Daniels, publisher and owner of the Raleigh News & Observer and secretary of the Navy under President Woodrow Wilson, sent a letter of condolences to the senator's widow. "For more than forty years your honored husband and I have walked together in devoted friendship. . ."

The bonds of the heart that bind one to others are the greatest gift that God can bestow upon anyone.

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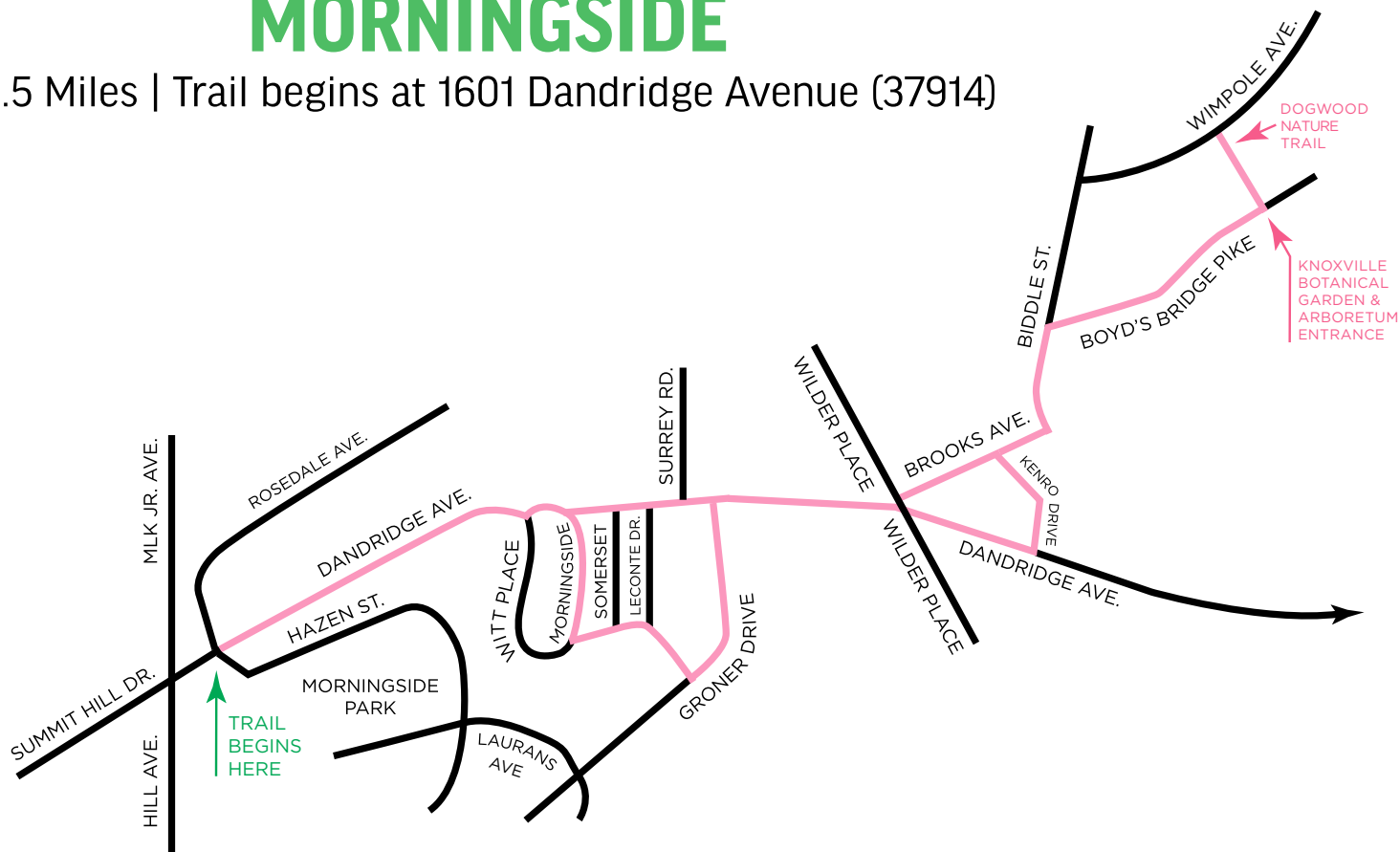
2024 DOGWOOD TRAILS: East Knoxville

MORNINGSIDE

2.5 Miles | Trail begins at 1601 Dandridge Avenue (37914)

Just minutes from downtown, this Dogwood Trail features Morningside Park with gently rolling hills, large shade trees, and lots of open play space. Morningside Park features an outstanding tournament-level 18-hole disc golf course, greenways, bicycling, skateboarding, soccer, playgrounds, shelters, and fitness stations.

While at the park, visit the 13-foot bronze statue of author and Pulitzer Prize winner Alex Haley. Designed by sculptor Tina Allen and cast in bronze in New York City, the statue weighs 4,200 pounds and Allen's depiction of Haley shows the author in a seated position, gesturing with an open hand as he reads from an open book in his lap. Haley worked to promote literacy, adult literacy especially, and participated in programs that encouraged young people to remain in school. Haley was born in 1921 in New York and served in the Pacific theater during WWII. Following the war, he became the first chief journalist within the Coast Guard and retired in 1959. Retirement was short-lived as he became the senior editor for Reader's Digest Magazine. He became well-known for "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" and "Roots." In his later years, he acquired a small farm in Clinton, Tennessee (northwest of



Knoxville) and close to the Museum of Appalachia.

Follow the pink lines through the neighborhood and stop by the historic Mabry-Hazen House, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The historic Mabry-Hazen Home overlooks downtown Knoxville, the Tennessee River and the Great Smoky Mountains. The museum's impressive collection is a look back in time. The Italianate-style house built in 1858 showcases over 2,000 original

artifacts and is home to an 8-acre site and arboretum which features one of the largest old-grove of dogwoods in the area.

Down the street is The Beck Cultural Exchange Center, a non-profit organization established in 1975 as a result of Knoxville's Urban Renewal projects. Beck is the storehouse of African American history and culture and is designated by the state as a primary repository of Black history and culture in East Tennessee. The

trail continues to the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum, a 47-acre property that was home to the former Howell Nurseries and features walking trails, display gardens, a Secret Garden, over two miles of historic stone walls, and timeless buildings. Be sure to visit the Dogwood Nature Trail with 20 cultivars of native *Cornus Florida* and dozens of other dogwood varieties.

MORNINGSIDE OPEN GARDENS & CAMERA SITES

Mabry Hazen House Open Arboretum

1711 Dandridge Avenue, 37915

Overlooking downtown and the Smoky Mountains, this historic site preserves an 1858 Italianate house and one of the largest original family collections in the United States. Mabry's Hill features over 34 viewable dogwoods and a restoration project is underway to recover an additional grove of dogwoods. As a level 1 arboretum, the site conserves 32 species of trees including 90-year-old southern magnolias, ancient oaks and maples, and Carolina silverbells.

Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum Open Garden

2743 Wimpole Avenue, 37914

Hours: Daylight

Over two miles of historic stone walls line the 47-acre property; impressive plant specimens of many varieties; 1.2-mile walking loop; community and children's vegetable gardens. Dogwood Nature Trail features over 60 varieties of dogwoods.

SEE D1 FOR HOLSTON HILLS' DOGWOOD TRAIL MAP

Catching up with Greg Huff

Cont. from page 1
when Charter and Comcast merged their advertising efforts in the area. That eventually led me to form Huff Video Services and I am now in Year 5 of that!

Tell us about your comedy background.

As far as my comedy background, I discovered a local improv troupe in Knoxville called Einstein Simplified and became a regular attendee of their weekly shows. I had been a huge fan of the show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" and this was very much the same style of comedy. I eventually took some classes at a local theater and eventually, I tried out for the troupe. I initially

didn't make the cut and formed my troupe called the Illegitimate Jesters with friends from the previous class. We did a few dozen shows before it faded away, and I decided to try out for Einstein Simplified again. Fast-forward 18+ years and I'm still in the troupe doing 50+ shows a year at Scruffy City Hall and a few extra gigs.

When did you discover you could be funny?

I don't know when I discovered I could be funny, I was always a little goofy, but also a little self-conscious and shy at times. When I discovered improv though it helped me open up and be freer with that, and definitely gave me

more confidence even outside comedy.

Do you have a favorite story to share?

It's hard to pinpoint one story but I will share that myself and Paul Simmons from the troupe got hired to perform at a convention in Las Vegas. The organizer didn't tell the attendees what the show was so they didn't know what to expect. We bought loud tacky jackets and started the show pretending to be really bad lounge singers, and you could tell the audience was very confused by what was happening before we finally revealed what was really happening. That is definitely one of my highlights though—saying I performed in Vegas.

What are your hobbies or interests?

I love going to movies, all kinds of genres, but of course I am a huge Star Wars and Marvel nerd. I'm also big into sports, love watching Tennessee football and basketball and I'm a huge Philadelphia Eagles fan. I also love to play tennis and participate in some

leagues. I actually played on my high school team for two years. I am very involved in Faith Promise Church and serve there in production for services. My faith is a very important part of my life as well.

What is the easiest way for someone to get in touch with you?

I do not currently have my website up and running yet but you find Huff Video Services on Facebook and Instagram. If you have any video production needs or if you need some comedy entertainment for an event, my email is HuffVideo865@gmail.com or I can be reached at 865-309-8309. Also, follow "Einstein Simplified" on Facebook and Instagram as well.

How would you like to be remembered?

I would like to be remembered as someone who loved God and that was reflected in his life. I would like to be remembered as someone who was kind, who accepted people in all their uniqueness and every once in a while made you laugh.

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HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Halls and Karns split key district doubleheader

By Ken Lay

Karns and Halls met on the softball diamond for a District 3-4A doubleheader Thursday night. And the stakes were high as first place in the league standings were hanging in the balance.

The two district rivals split the twin bill at Halls High School with the Lady Beavers winning the first game, 2-0, and the Lady Devils prevailing in the nightcap, 6-0.

Thursday's split means a victory over Central on April 29, will net the Lady Devils the regular-season championship and the No. 1 seed in the league's upcoming postseason tournament.

The Lady Bobcats will host Halls (22-6 overall, 8-1 in the district) at 6 p.m. at Fountain City Ballpark next week.

In Thursday night's opener, the Lady Beavers (19-7, 8-2) scored a pair of runs in the top of the first inning and relied on a stellar pitching performance by Emma Conover, who tossed a complete game, shutting out the Lady Devils and holding them to just four



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Karns third baseman Yuleesa Kennedy awaits a pitch in Thursday's first game at Halls. Kennedy doubled and scored in the Lady Beavers' 2-0 victory over the Lady Devils.

hits over seven innings. Conover, who had to pitch her way out of a few jams, walked four, while posting one strikeout in the contest.

Karns coach Michael Spain lauded his pitcher's performance.

"Emma did a great job. She kept their hitters off balance," Spain said. "We've had to play a lot of games and we try not to look ahead, but we knew that these two games were

going to be big with first and second place on the line and we talked all week about that."

The Lady Beavers, who have completed district play, darted out to a fast start, opening a 2-0 lead in the top of the opening frame.

Spain kept reminding his team, however, that two runs probably weren't going to be enough to take down the Lady Devils.

The early offense,

however, would be enough, but the coach said that the magic number might be four.

"They've given up four runs in every game they've lost," Spain said.

Karns didn't score four runs but the Lady Beavers did jump on Halls pitcher early as they scored two runs off Lady Devils' pitcher Atiana Stamper, who gave up two runs, two hits and a walk.

Reese Law and Yuleesa

Kennedy both doubled for Karns in the inning. Kennedy's extra-base hit plated Law and Alyssa Maples, who drew a base on balls earlier in the inning.

Spain said he knew that the Lady Beavers would have to get to Stamper early in the game.

"Punching them in the mouth early was big for us," Spain said.

In the bottom of the first, the Lady Devils got

a one-out hit from Kyleigh Cooper. She would advance to second on a wild pitch and take third when Emery Bales grounded out. Harper Bales then walked and stole second before Conover induced an inning-ending fly out from Brenna Hunley.

After the rocky first inning, Stamper settled down. She finished with 16 strikeouts. She allowed five hits and three walks. She struck out the side in the second, fourth, fifth and seventh innings.

Conover, meanwhile, kept the Halls offense at bay, but she escaped a bases-loaded jam in the sixth and got out of a seventh inning that saw the Lady Devils strand two on base.

Halls was able to turn the table in the nightcap as Emery Bales pitched a two-hit shutout and struck out 11 Karns hitters.

At the plate, she went 2-for-4 with a double and two RBIs. Harper Bales also doubled and drove in a pair, while McKaylie Hutchinson had two hits (including a double), an RBI and a run scored.

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

A-E numbers still low, while Carter is loaded

By Steve Williams

Tennis, anyone?

Austin-East High has been trying to rebuild a tennis program the past two years, and it still has a long way to go.

Going into this season, Co-Coaches Tomere Clark and Skikila Smith, had six girls, just enough for a team to play a match (six playing singles and three doubles teams).

But for last Wednesday's scheduled match against Carter at the Harriet Tubman Tennis Courts, A-E had only one female player present. Coach Clark said one player had been injured in a match the day before and one player couldn't attend because she had a mandatory band rehearsal to attend for an upcoming concert.

As for male players, Clark said he had three players at the start of the season. That number dropped to two. Career Magnet Academy had two boys playing on the A-E team last week, thanks to the TSSAA's co-op program, giving the Roadrunners four players.

"We did ask some of the basketball players - like (Shane) Cherry and (Juwaan) Troutman - but they just weren't interested in playing," said Coach Clark. "I've been talking to the basketball coach (Denard Bertram) trying to get them involved, but we're having a hard time. But eventually the sun will come out."

Clark said he thinks Condis Cherry runs track in the spring and Shane Cherry is playing AAU

basketball this time of the year. Clark said he thinks Troutman also is on the track team.

"It (tennis) is basically still a brand new sport at Austin-East," added Clark. "This is the second year of trying to restart it."

He thinks once the sport gets in full gear and more people come out who are not playing any spring sport, tennis will take off at A-E.

According to Clark, two former tennis champions - husband and wife John and Kate Watson who live in West Knoxville - sparked the hope of restarting tennis at Austin-East, after discovering A-E did not have a program.

Another former tennis standout, Ray Gill, also got involved and now assists with teaching the game to

student-athletes at Vine Middle School, which could eventually feed into the A-E high school program.

Meanwhile, Ray Wynn, first-year tennis coach at Carter this year, had a lot of success in adding players to his program. He took over for former coach Lainey Corum, who is now in grad school at UT.

"Tennis season came around and they needed someone to step up and take the reins, so I was the man for the job," said Wynn.

"I have 12 girls and 10 boys on our team. And last year I think we had seven total kids - three boys and four girls, so we're up to a full team this year. We have a good mix of seniors and juniors, a couple of freshmen, one sophomore. None of them had ever



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Carmella Darling returns a shot in a singles match against Carter. Darling won Austin-East's only game of the day in an 8-1 loss to the Lady Hornets.

played tennis before!"

What's the secret of getting that many out?

"Beg," said Wynn. "You walk the halls and you find every kid you can find and you just beg them. Ask

them what they're doing. And my thing that I do, I don't necessarily go out there and find the popular kids - the ones that play football and basketball - I

Continue on page 2

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HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Gibbs puts together 'best start' in school history

By Steve Williams

From the Little Leagues to the Big Leagues, the best teams lose a game every now and then.

And that's been true too for Gibbs High School's highly regarded baseball team this season.

With a 22-1-1 overall record and 7-0 mark in District 4-3A, the Eagles lost to Anderson County 5-4 in a district contest Tuesday night (April 16) at Murrel Albright Field. That left Gibbs 22-2-1 and 7-1.

The host Mavericks overcame a 4-1 deficit to improve to 6-2 for second place in the district and 17-7 overall.

"It was an odd game there for awhile it seemed like," said veteran Gibbs coach Geff Davis. "It's baseball. You're not going to get all of the breaks. You just want to try and get a few of them every once in awhile. A couple of things didn't go our way.

"Give the (Anderson County) guy credit. He stood there at the plate and got it up in the jet stream and it carried on out of here. That's the way it goes sometimes."

Trent Strickland, batting in the No. 2 slot, blasted a two-out, two-run homer over the left field fence in the bottom of the sixth inning to put AC ahead by



PHOTO BY JJ SPEARS

THE BOYS OF EARLY SPRING! Sweatshirts and hands in pockets tell you it's a chilly day on April 4 in Corryton as Gibbs baseball players come across Steve Hunley Field. But record-wise the Eagles were red-hot at 16-1-1 after notching wins over Lakeway Christian Academy and Mercer County, Ky. Coach Geff Davis' team is now 24-2-1 following a 1-0 win over rival Halls Friday. The Eagles have outscored their opponents 217 to 54 this season.

one.

Southpaw Luke Lankford then set Gibbs down 1-2-3 in the seventh to end it.

"They're very competitive and they've got a bunch of hard-nosed kids," said Davis of the Mavs. "You've got to come in here and get it done."

But the Eagles' longtime skipper took the loss in stride. It's hard to get too upset when your ball club

has won 22 of 25.

"We've been playing well," said Davis, smiling and chuckling in a post-game interview. "We just haven't been playing really good here lately and put ourselves in a position like we were tonight. Maybe we should have been up by five or six runs instead of two late in the game. It is what it is. We still control our own destiny, if we can take care

of business."

For Gibbs this season, "it's the best start in the history of the school," said Davis.

The Eagles won at Seymour 4-1 in their season opener on March 5 and after that battled Oak Ridge to a 2-2 tie. An 11-game win streak followed until losing at The King's Academy 10-5.

Gibbs then won 10 more

in a row before losing to AC.

"Our starting pitching has been really good and defensively we've been really good," said Davis.

The pitching trio includes senior Jayden Rutheford (5-0), sophomore Will Price (7-0) and senior Will Sharp (5-0).

Gibbs' pitchers totaled nine shutouts in the first 25 games.

"Hitting, we've got three

new guys in the lineup from last year and they've been very positive for us," added Davis.

Those three are Price, junior Casen Beach and freshman Luke Fields.

"It's been neat to see them come together and play together," said Davis. "They're all good kids and they all play for each other."

OTHER GAMES: Gibbs' 2-1 victory in 11 innings over Anderson County at Steve Hunley Field Monday (April 15) in the first game of the two-game series saw Hayden Mills get the mound win. Price started and went eight innings.

An RBI single by Sharp drove in Hunter Karnes with the winning run.

Alex Bond pitched for AC.

On Thursday night at Tommy Schumpert Park, Gibbs defeated Central 14-2 in a non-district matchup to raise its record to 23-2-1.

THIS WEEK: Gibbs will host Union County Monday and travel to Union County Tuesday in District 4-3A play.

The Eagles are slated to host Bearden Thursday at 4:30 and Halls Friday at 7:15.

From Colvert Street to the TIAAA Hall of Fame

Coach Quinn in 35th year with KCS

By Steve Williams

It's no wonder Marion Quinn grew up to be an athlete in multiple sports, a coach, an athletic director and a Knox County School System athletic director.

His training ground was on Colvert Street in Tuskegee, Ala., in the 1960s.

"Everyone that grew up on my street participated in athletics," recalled Coach Quinn, who has been inducted into the Tennessee Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's Hall of Fame. "We were all competitive. I guess that's how we got started. On my little street we had 10 that went off to college on athletic scholarships."

All of them were in high school at the same time, except for a couple who started in high school just a year later.

Quinn said he didn't think that much about the abundance of talent on his street at that time, but it dawned on him when he got older how "rare and amazing" that was.

"Every evening we were doing something - football or baseball or racing against each other up and down the street, see who could throw the football the longest, who could make the best catch," he remembered. "You know all that kind of stuff. It was



Marion Quinn and his wife Dorothy at Quinn's induction into the Class of 2024 TIAAA Hall of Fame. Coach Quinn still works as a System Athletic Director for Knox County Schools. Dorothy was a longtime teacher and cheer coach as well.

very competitive. Even though I wasn't that good in basketball, I competed and tried to beat all those guys."

Quinn became quite an athlete with his top sports being football, track, baseball and swimming.

At Tuskegee Institute High School, he was a starter on the football team and anchored the 4x440-yard relay.

Quinn went to Kentucky State College and was a tailback on the football team and an infielder in baseball before ending up being the Thorobreds' catcher.

After graduating in 1972, Marion joined the Army Reserve and completed basic training and AIT training as a medic.

He had started life-guarding his junior year in

high school and passed a swimming course at Kentucky State. Those experiences led to him filling a graduate position to teach swimming at Eastern Kentucky University, where he earned his master's degree.

When he came to Knoxville College, he became an assistant professor, head football coach, athletics director and dean of students.

"Initially, I didn't plan on coaching," said Quinn. "Sometimes you're thinking one way, but the Lord leads you into a different path. And this is what I was led to and it's been rewarding. I care about helping others, especially young people, and so I guess this is my calling."

In 1989, Quinn started working in the Knox County

School system at Vine Middle. He coached football at Austin-East, Rule and Central, then became an assistant principal at Central and was principal at A-E for six years (1998-2004).

In the Knox County Central Office, Quinn worked in Health Wellness and was a physical education supervisor and athletics director.

He retired in 2010, but continues to work part-time.

"I like what I'm doing, mentoring others and helping them advance in their careers," said Quinn, who was inducted into the Kentucky State Athletic Hall of Fame in 2016. "As long as I am enjoying it and I can see that I'm helping others I'll continue."

A-E numbers still low, while Carter is loaded

Continued from page 1

go find kids that might just be interested in something to do. And that's where a lot of these kids are.

"I do have several multi-sport athletes on the team here. I got three kids that play football and are playing tennis now. I've got one kid that was a wrestler. I've got a couple from the girls' basketball team. I've got a couple of cheerleaders. I've got one girl that's a dancer. You know, I just went and found any kid that would be interested in playing and they all just kind of stepped up. They've really liked it since we started."

Carter swept the boys' and girls' matches against Austin-East last week, 9-0 and 8-1. Their April 24 match at Tyson Park has been rescheduled for April 29 at Harriet Tubman Park.

Carter vs. A-E tennis results

**At Harriet Tubman Park
Wednesday, April 17**

Boys Singles: Tanner Holguin (C) defeats Luke Jones 6-0, Jayden Spires (C) defeats Dajon Upshaw 9-7, Luke Harold (C) defeats Jeremiah Daniels 6-4, Christopher Keene (C) defeats Cayden Yarbrough 6-1, Royce Roberts (C) wins by forfeit, Spencer Russell (C) wins by forfeit.

Boys Doubles: Holguin-Spires (C) win 6-1, Harold-Keene (C) win 6-1, Roberts-Russell (C) win by forfeit.

Girls Singles: Carmella Darling (A-E) defeats Josie McCreary 6-3, Kali Gentry-Foye (C) wins by forfeit, Macey O'Connor (C) wins by forfeit, McCreary (C) wins by forfeit, Kameryn Lee (C) wins by forfeit, Izzy Hill (C) wins by forfeit.

Girls Doubles: Lee-McCreary (C) win by forfeit, Gentry-Foye and O'Connor (C) win by forfeit, O'Connor and Georgia Sharpe (C) win by forfeit.



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Carter Head Coach Ray Wynn talks with Austin-East Co-Head Coach Tomere Clark before the start of their match last week at the Harriet Tubman Tennis Courts. In his first season as Carter's coach Wynn has increased the roster to 12 girls and 10 boys.

'Earning the Plaudits of History'

Every so often, one of the ESPN cable networks or the SEC Network will air Kenny Chesney's tribute to Condredge Holloway ("The Color Orange:"). The Condredge Holloway Story"). The tribute highlights Condredge's trailblazing college career as the SEC's first African-American quarterback.

Near the end of this very well-assembled documentary, Condredge stepped back from the spotlight, put everything into clear perspective, and paid tribute to former Vol wideout Lester McClain, who had done some significant trailblazing of his own during his career (1968-70). His Vol career began 54 years ago this fall, when the thought of African-American athletes wearing SEC school colors was a troublesome concept for many fans across the SEC.

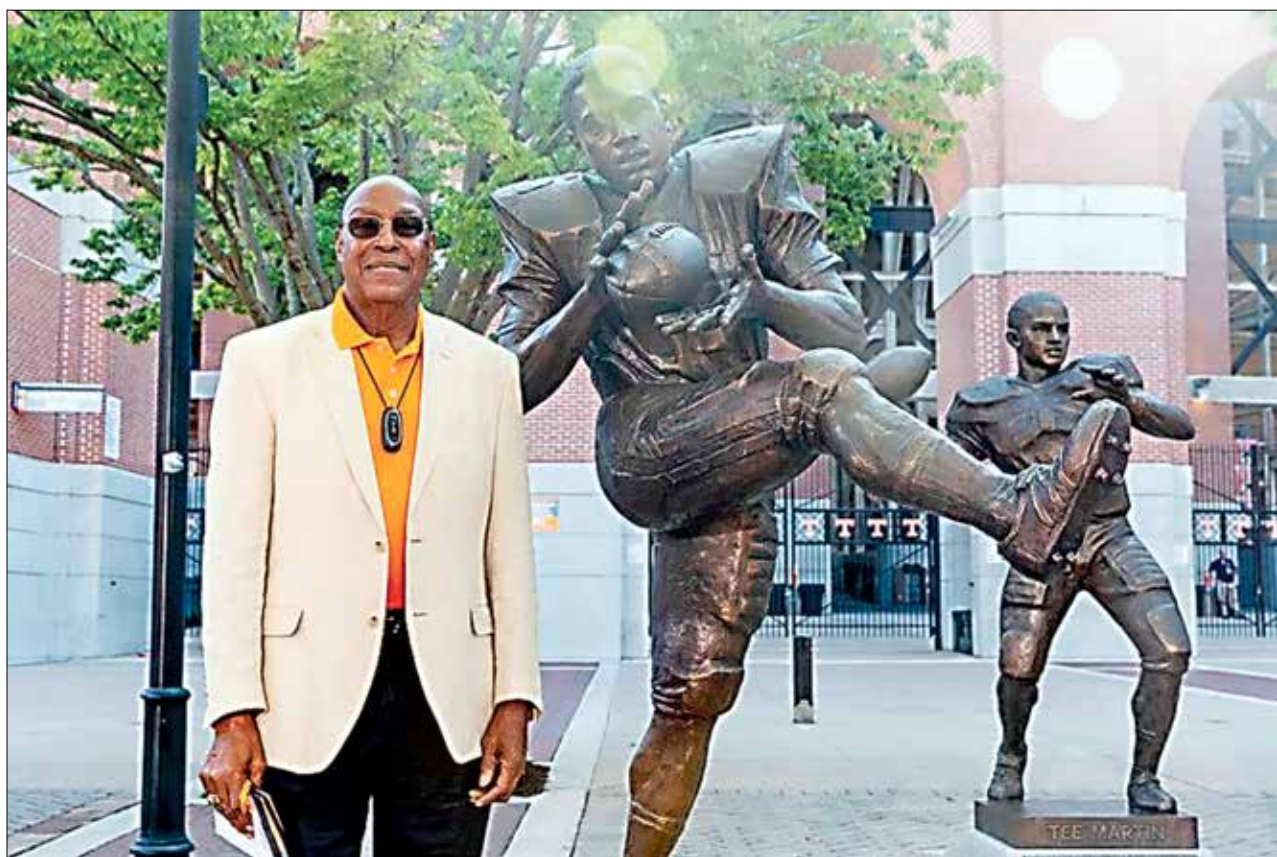
Tennessee had opened the 1968 football season on Sept. 14 against Georgia on the newly minted Tartan Turf on Shields-Watkins field. ABC had the telecast, with Chris Schenkel and Bud Wilkinson mic-side.

That day was a major event for the McLains and/or McClains, depending on how you spell the name. That day, Detroit Tigers pitcher Denny McLain won his 30th game, earning the cover of the next week's edition of Sports Illustrated.

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That day, Detroit Tigers pitcher Denny McLain won his 30th game, earning the cover of the next week's edition of Sports Illustrated.



Lester McClain is shown next to his statue outside Neyland Stadium honoring the trailblazers of Tennessee football. U.T. Sports Information

Later that afternoon in Knoxville, Lester McClain of Nashville's Antioch High School became the first African-American player to wear an orange jersey and the first in the SEC to see significant playing time. Had things turned out differently in Detroit, the cover might have featured someone in an orange shirt, maybe even McClain, on the cover.

History was in one of its cycles of change. McClain's arrival on campus for fall drills in September 1967 came more than 20 years after Tennessee had forfeited a Dec. 23, 1946, basketball game against Duquesne, rather than play

against a team that refused to bench an African-American player. UT historian Milton Klein chronicled that event.

McClain came to Knoxville as a scholarship athlete 13 years after the Supreme Court's Brown vs. Board of Education decision and a year after Kentucky had signed Greg Page and Nate Northington in football and Vanderbilt had likewise inked Pearl High School's Perry Wallace and Godfrey Dillard in hoops.

Doug Dickey led the way for the Vols, saying the time was right to make the move. The times might have seemed troubled

and uncertain, but the reminder is always present that whenever significant social advances are made, somebody or a number of somebodies, in this case McClain, Dickey, Holloway, Bill Battle, and Jimmy Streater led the way.

Here's a quick history lesson. Northington was recruited in the 1965-1966 UK recruiting push out of Louisville, and had played sparingly in the Kentucky-Ole Miss game in 1967. He did not letter that season, according to Kentucky records.

Page, also signed by the Wildcats that year, came to Lexington from Middlesboro. He was

paralyzed after an injury in a non-contact drill on Aug. 22, 1967, and died a month or so later on Sept. 29. He is listed as a 1967 letter winner in the Kentucky Football Media Guide. After Page's death, Northington transferred to Western Kentucky.

McClain had been one of two African-American players Tennessee signed in that 1966-67 recruiting season. The other, fullback Albert Davis of Alcoa (often referred to in media reports of that day as "Alcoa's great Negro running back"), was not admitted to the University, so the torch was passed to McClain, and he played and played well.

He finished in 1970 with 70 career catches for 1,003 yards and 10 touchdowns. He had an 82-yard TD reception from Bobby Scott in the 1969 Memphis State game. He was determined to make the best of things, despite a rough patch or two along the way.

"There is a time you question whether you want to pack your bags and go home," said McClain. "I would be lying if I said I never considered that. But I just couldn't. I knew the next day the headlines would say, 'Lester McClain, first black athlete, quits U-T.'"

McClain ended up being a program trailblazer and history positively records his contributions to the Vol program.

As for Davis, Klein wrote, "Controversy surrounding the conditions of his recruitment caused the University to rescind its offer to the young Alcoa star on June 15, 1967, causing embarrassment to both Davis and the University."

No one watching the Chesney documentary had to have been surprised when Condredge Holloway passed the plaudits of history in Lester McClain's direction. No one was surprised when Lester McClain spoke eloquently about his role in how this history developed.

They are both the epitome of class and distinction, great representatives of the University of Tennessee.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Irish top Spartans for first time since 2018

By Ken Lay

Streaks are made to be broken. And on Wednesday night, Catholic High School's boys soccer team snapped a long winless streak against longtime rival Webb School of Knoxville.

The Irish also took a major step towards qualifying for the postseason as they captured a 2-0 victory over the Spartans at Morris Field.

After the final whistle sounded, Catholic celebrated the end of a long run of futility in the Cedar Bluff Area rivalry.

The Irish hadn't beaten their rivals since 2018 when they notched a 4-2 victory at Blaine Stadium. The two sides tied, 1-1, in 2019 and played to a 4-4 draw during the regular season before Webb notched a win in the Region II-AA East Region Tournament.

"This is kind of a big moment for our team," said Catholic senior Grayson Goodale, who sealed the Irish's victory with his second-half goal, scored in 54th minute. "It means a lot."

"It's exactly how I want to go out my senior year, scoring a goal in a rivalry game." It was a big moment for Goodale. But it conceivably almost never happened. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Goodale, a two-sport athlete at Catholic, was in eighth grade and had

seceded to not play soccer and concentrate solely on football.

But after sitting out his freshman soccer season, he returned as a sophomore and has been playing ever since, while continuing to play running back and defensive back on the football field.

He instantly recaptured the love for the game that he played from the time he was five years old after talking to the Irish coaches and making the decision to return.

"I loved it and I was just right back to where I was before," Goodale said. "These last three years, I've just grown with the team, and our team has grown tremendously over the past three years."

He's glad he returned to the pitch and so is Catholic coach Gordon Heins.

"He's gone from a football player to a great soccer player, Heins said.

In recent years, the Irish have come together on the pitch. Just look at their latest results against the Spartans.

"We've come a long way," Heins said. "This group of seniors lost to them, 8-1, when they were freshmen. Then they lost, 7-1, when they were sophomores."

"This has been a long time coming and I respect (Webb's) team. I respect their coach and I respect their program. It's been a four-year process to get to this point of finally being



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Catholic midfielder J.T. Tucker works to possess the ball in the Irish's 2-0 region victory against Webb School of Knoxville Wednesday. It was Catholic's first win over the Spartans since 2018.

able to compete and finally getting the monkey off our backs."

Catholic (10-2-1, 2-1 in the region) took a 1-0 lead in the match when Joshua Palacios converted a penalty kick in the 33rd minute after Goodale was fouled in the goal box.

Webb coach Jared Zeigler was extremely distraught after seeing his team fall to 3-4 overall and 0-2 in the region.

"Catholic deserved it," he said. "They outplayed us, they outpossessed us and they outclassed us," Zeigler said. "We're all upset. We're upset with the kids for not putting in the effort."

"You can get upset, but eventually, you have to do something about it."

Spring Practice Complete for Vols

By Mark Nagi

On Saturday, April 13, spring practice ended for the Tennessee Volunteers. They played the annual Orange & White Game. The game was played in front of approximately 10,000 fans due to renovations taking place at Neyland Stadium.

The Orange defeated the White 21-14, but that final score means absolutely nothing. What matters is how much the Vols improved as a team, as the 2024 season draws closer.

Coming out of the spring, Tennessee head coach Josh Heupel must be happy with what he has seen out of his wide receiving corps, a group he says is deeper than it has ever been, going into his fourth season in Knoxville.

"There's a lot of young guys within our system that still have a lot of growth that we've got to make before we get to the opener but really before we get to training camp too," said Heupel. "That's freshmen transfers, young guys inside of our system but I love the competitiveness of that group, they've made plays, fundamentally they're getting so much better with releases, the ball not in their hands, how they're blocking, understanding how to stand and work with second and third

level defenders. It's been really good getting to see how they've grown and there's a lot left out there for them."

Tennessee brings back Squirrel White, who led the Vols in catches with 67 and receiving yards with 803 yards. They also bring back Bru McCoy, who missed more than half the season after breaking his right ankle in the South Carolina game. But the newcomers, like true freshman Mike Matthews, are expected to make a big impact. Matthews is a 5-star prospect out of Lilburn, GA.

"He's grown in his understanding of how to be physical and still being in good body position," Heupel said of Matthews. "He's willing to be physical. He's continuing to grow throughout the course of spring playing without the ball in his hands. He's a guy that goes about his business every day and competes extremely hard. He has a highly competitive care factor makeup."

Tulane transfer Chris Brazzell II is an intriguing option in the passing game as well. Brazzell was tops on the Green Wave last season with 44 receptions for 711 yards, with five touchdown catches.

"We have wide splits," Brazzell said. "We play at a fast tempo, and it's more like a run-and-gun offense. I mean if you

play receiver, you want to play in an offense like this. I am thankful to be here."

In terms of who is tasked with getting Matthews, Brazzell and other receivers the football, Tennessee's quarterback of the future is now the QB of the present. Nico lamaleava played sparingly in 2023 but was good enough to win the Cheez-It Citrus Bowl MVP award in the Vols 35-0 win over Iowa on New Year's Day.

"Very pleased with the steps that we've been taking," said lamaleava of his offense. He completed 7 of 9 passes in limited action during the Orange & White Game. "A lot of the young guys on the o-line have been taking more reps. I think they've done a great job of carrying that load, carrying that burden on them. I think the o-line has done a great job of getting better every day."

Heupel said, "He (lamaleava) has really good command. He does a great job being intentional in his leadership role, communication role and in one-on-one situations. He's going to have to continue to grow as a leader inside of our program as he goes through his career. That's typical of every young quarterback."

Tennessee opens the 2024 season at home on August 31 against Chattanooga.

COLLEGE SIGNINGS

Risky move ends up being a 'blessing in return' for Lee

By Steve Williams

In Tyler Lee's step up to the next level, he decommitted from the University of Alabama-Huntsville, where John Shulman was head coach.

"At that time I thought I was better than a D2 school, so I risked it and it ended up being a blessing in return," said the Fulton High basketball standout.

Also at the time of Lee's decommitment, Shulman didn't know he would be the next head coach at the University of Central Arkansas, a NCAA D1 school. "Not at all," said Tyler.

But that's where Shulman ended up. And he didn't hold anything against Lee when he got the Central Arkansas job.

"No, because he understood," recalled Lee, this year's TSSAA Class 3A Mr. Basketball. "He thought he was going to get a steal when I was going to UAH, then when I decommitted he understood."

Lee, who helped lead Fulton to its second straight state title this past season, signed with the UCA Bears, a member of the ASUN Conference, Wednesday in the Larry Cox Room at the Jody Wright Arena. Many family members and friends were on hand for the occasion.

Lee said having Shulman as his coach is what he likes best about being at Central Arkansas. "He's the one who gave me my first offer and when I decommitted he still had interest in me. So for him to give me another chance, I'm very grateful for that."

The 6-foot-5 Lee said he will be playing the No. 2 or No. 3 position in college.

He plans to major in



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Uncle Tyler and his three nephews on Lee's signing day with the University of Central Arkansas Bears. Top: Jarques "Beans" Goines, Jr. Bottom left: Julian "PJ" Goines, Jr. Bottom right: Javelle "Juicy Face" Goines.

Business and Marketing.

Catholic has seven student-athletes to sign

Knoxville Catholic's Spring Athletic Signing Day took place Wednesday in the school's auditorium. Seven students-athletes signed letters of intent that will chart their academic and athletic careers.

Family, friends and coaches joined the students as they formally committed to their colleges and universities.

The following were recognized during the ceremony: Mason Fields, Emmanuel University, (baseball); Keilyn Smith, Eastern Kentucky University (football); Andon Mashburn,

Union College (football); Quincy Pannell, Union College (football); Bellamy Parker, University of South Florida (volleyball); Gemma Deyo, Campbellsville College (wrestling); Rebecca Deyo, Campbellsville College (wrestling).

Three honored on Signing Day at Farragut

Three Farragut High student-athletes signed scholarship papers Wednesday. Congratulations to Emma Cunningham, Macalester College, Minnesota (track); Emma MacTavish, Roane State Community College (softball); Mackenna Hill, Benedictine College, Kansas (lacrosse).



Farragut's college signees (left to right): Emma Cunningham, Emma MacTavish and Mackenna Hill.



Knoxville Catholic's college signees (left to right): Keilyn Smith, Andon Mashburn, Quincy Pannell, Bellamy Parker, Mason Fiels, Gemma Deyo and Rebecca Deyo.

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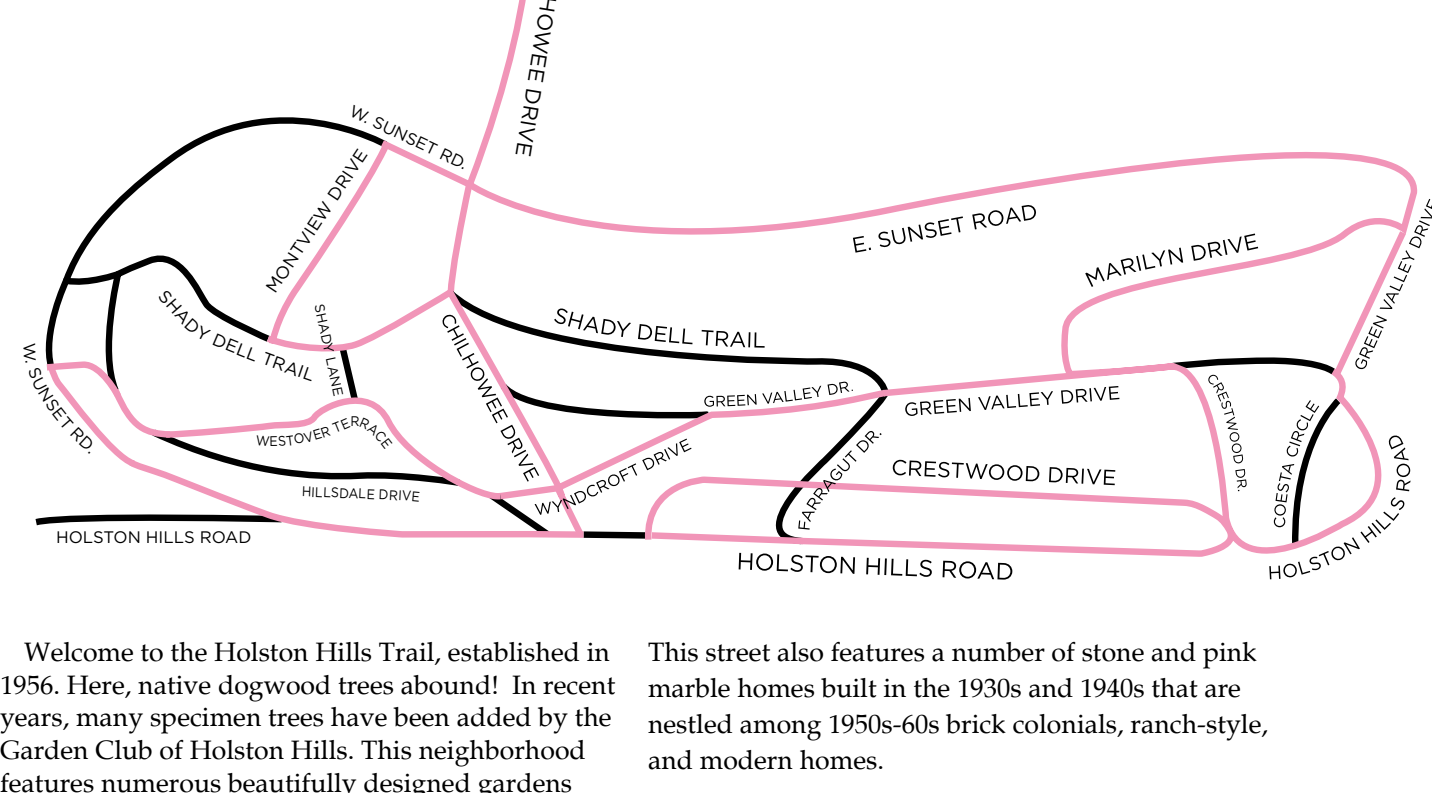
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Open Garden

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Camera Site

5417 Holston Hills Road, 37914

John & Jan Simonsen
Camera Site

5408 Crestwood Drive, 37914

Holston Hills Community Park
Open Garden

Chilhowee Drive

Hillside neighborhood park overlooking the pristine golf course features over 45 dogwood trees, large garden beds, stone benches and a fountain.

AI Gill

Camera Site

4920 Shady Dell Trail, 37914

Gorgeous azalea display

Welcome to the Holston Hills Trail, established in 1956. Here, native dogwood trees abound! In recent years, many specimen trees have been added by the Garden Club of Holston Hills. This neighborhood features numerous beautifully designed gardens and homes of varying styles set on large lots. Look for dogwoods, various specimen trees, azaleas, rhododendrons, large oaks, poplars, maples and hickory trees, woodland gardens, and beds with drifts of tulips and daffodils.

The pink lines on Chilhowee Dr take you to a four-way stop and through the recently restored 90-year-old stone entrance pillars to Holston Hills. The pillars are made of white and pink Tennessee marble, with slate roofs. They were designed by Barber and McMurry Architects to reflect the early stone homes and golf course built in 1925. The golf course was designed by Donald Ross who is widely held in esteem as the best architect of golf courses in the world.

As you travel the neighborhood, enjoy abundant dogwoods, both native and kousa, magnificent azaleas, old-growth trees, shade rock gardens and homes in a variety of styles dating back to the 1930s.

Since its opening in the late 1950s, Holston Hills Community Park has undergone many phases of development. Most recently added are new beds in the lower part of the Park, dogwoods, crepe myrtles, magnolias, and a fountain. Neighbors and friends of the Park have also donated commemorative stones and benches. Come take a seat on one of these benches, stroll around the grounds, and enjoy views of the Holston Hills Golf Course. Be sure to watch for the lovely brick 1930s home of Dr. Jimmy Milan on Green Valley Dr. and stop in to visit his Open Garden. The house features 'clinker' brick and a lovely garden with an outdoor pergola and fireplace.

This street also features a number of stone and pink marble homes built in the 1930s and 1940s that are nestled among 1950s-60s brick colonials, ranch-style, and modern homes.

Along the trail at 1514 Cliffside Lane, you will see the community's oldest home which was built in 1925. Enjoy the beautiful surrounding homes including large stone and marble homes with lovely gardens, a southern Colonial and a Gothic brick house all from the 1920s. This wonderful neighborhood offers panoramic river views and vistas of the rolling ridges of East Tennessee.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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ORDER OF PUBLICATION

IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE
CHANCERY DIVISION AT CLINTON, TENNESSEE
Case No. 24CH5841
Jaiden Mason
Whereabouts Unknown
Last Known Address: Unknown

Ralph & Stephanie McMahan
Petitioners
v.
Jaiden Mason
Respondent

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

It appears from the pleadings filed in this cause that **Jaiden Mason** whereabouts are unknown. In compliance with the provisions of T.C.A. 21-1-204 and the Order of Publication of this court entered **March 26, 2024**, service of process will be made by publication.

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

This **March 27, 2024**.

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

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BLOUNT COUNTY, TENNESSEE

MICHELLE LEA MIDDLEBROOK,
Plaintiff,
v.
ROBERT HENRY MIDDLEBROOK, JR.,
Defendant.

Docket No. CE-32114

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

UPON filing of the Complaint for Divorce, and the sworn statement by counsel for Plaintiff that the last known whereabouts of the Defendant is in Knoxville, Tennessee, this Court finds that service of process shall be by publication in the Knoxville, Tennessee newspaper circulation known as The Knoxville Focus.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED as follows:

1. Plaintiff filed a Complaint for Divorce in this case on January 3, 2024.

2. Plaintiff filed an Affidavit stating that she knew Defendant's address in Knoxville, Tennessee, she has text communication with the Defendant, but he refuses to provide his address, and the record shows that Plaintiff has attempted to have the Defendant served by the process in Knoxville, Tennessee via the Knox County Sheriff's Office, which has been unsuccessful.

3. Counsel for the Plaintiff is directed to obtain service of Robert Henry Middlebrook, Jr. by filing proper notice in the newspaper known as The Knoxville Focus at the mailing address of The Knoxville Focus at: 4109 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville, TN 37912 or by e-mail as the same is approved by the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure and the laws of the State of Tennessee.

NOTICE

MICHELLE LEA MIDDLEBROOK has filed a Complaint for Divorce against you in the Circuit Court Blount County, Tennessee, bearing docket number CE-32114. It appears that ordinary process of law cannot be served upon you because your whereabouts are unknown. You are hereby ORDERED to file an Answer to the Complaint for Divorce with the Blount County

Clerk and Master, Blount County Justice Center, 910 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, Tennessee, 37804, and to serve copy of that Answer upon Attorney D. Chris Pouloupoulos, Counsel for the Plaintiff, at 611 S. Washington Street, Maryville, TN 37804, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice. If you fail to do so, a judgment will be taken against you pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-12-117(m), and Rule 55 of the Tenn. R. of Civ. P. for the relief demanded in the Complaint for Divorce. You may view and obtain a copy of the complaint and any other subsequently filed legal documents in the Blount County Clerk and Master at the address shown above.

ENTERED this 26 day of March, 2024.

TAMMY HARRINGTON
JUDGE

APPROVED FOR ENTRY
D CHRIS POULOPOULOS
Attorney for Plaintiff
611 South Washington Street
Maryville, TN 37804
865-766-9336

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: MARSHALL DERRELL GASTON SR.,
IN RE: MAESON O'SHEA GASTON
d/o/b: 03/21/2021

SAMESHA LENISE WASHBURN,
(biological mother), Petitioner,
vs
MARSHALL DERRELL GASTON SR.,
(biological father), Respondent.

NO. 208390-3

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is verified, that the Defendant, MARSHALL DERRELL GASTON SR., is 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 MARSHALL DERRELL GASTON SR.

IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file

an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with MARIO L. AZEVEDO II, LANDRY & AZEVEDO, an Attorney whose address is, 859 EBENEZER ROAD, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37923, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice, or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause 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 4th day of April, 2024.

J Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: LYNN RICHARDSON,

IN RE: RUBIN LUBLIN TN PLLC,
Petitioner,
v.
BRENDA G. BRAWNER, as Executor of the Estate of Tracy H. Derrick, Sr.
and individually, **TRACY DERRICK, JR.,**
LYNN RICHARDSON,
Respondents.
NO. 200589-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant LYNN RICHARDSON 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 LYNN RICHARDSON it is ordered that said defendant LYNN RICHARDSON file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court in 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 The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 5th day of April, 2024.

J Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

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

IN RE: MICHAEL A. SMITH
v.
ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT,

NO. 208176-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT, 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, it is ordered that said defendant ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT, 3423 SKYLINE DRIVE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37914, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with DAVID J. OTTEN, an Attorney whose address is THE OTTEN LAW FIRM P.O. BOX 32211 KNOXVILLE, TN 37930 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 10TH day of APRIL, 2024.

J Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF SUE ELLYN VAN ANTWERP
DOCKET NUMBER 89061-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 8 day of APRIL, 2024, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of SUE ELLYN VAN ANTWERP who died on November 16, 2023 were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 8 day of APRIL, 2024.

ESTATE OF SUE ELLYN VAN ANTWERP
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARGARET VAN ANTWERP
11517 IVY CHASE LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

MATTHEW T. MCDONALD, ATTORNEY
116 AGNES ROAD
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