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A 'thumbs up' day!

Central High baseball players enjoy food, fun and comradery in their Spring Break last week in Florida. Please see how local high school baseball teams also did on the field in Sports & Recreation, Section C.



Above: Farragut players Aidan Flagg (left) and Eli Tittle have blue skies and warm weather in Panama City.

Right: Fulton players had a great "off" day in Florida March 19. They played catch on Clearwater Beach and had front row seats in Tampa for the Braves versus Yankees Spring Training game.



Multi-unit housing requests before commission zoning meeting today

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When the Knox County Commission meets in its zoning session today it will consider several large residential zoning change requests.

Benjamin Mullins is asking for a zoning change, from agricultural to planned residential, to build up to 12 residential

units per acre. The property is at 2520 West Beaver Creek Drive and the planning commission recommends approval subject to one condition.

Mesana Investment LLC is asking for a similar change, from agricultural to planned residential, for six dwelling units per acre at 205 North Wooddale Road, also with a **Cont. on page 3**

City committee wrestles with rule changes

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

He's often overlooked as he leads the city council through its agenda at each meeting but last week, Knoxville City Recorder Will Johnson played a very important role as he presented his recommendations to update the council's rules and procedures.

Johnson addressed the Rules of Procedure and Charter Review Task Force, which was established in January, on items within council rules that are no longer followed and rules that should be dropped or changed. The revision effort is being assisted by the UT Baker Center's Dane Morgan, who is reviewing rules used by other cities of 50,000 or more population.

The recorder also highlighted some Roberts Rules of Order not followed by the council and other rules informally adopted for use.

The task force is made up of seven members: Chairperson Lynne Fugate, city councilmember; Tommy Smith, vice mayor and city councilmember; Amelia Parker and Debbie Helsley, city councilmembers; Nick Pavlis, former vice mayor and former city councilmember; Finbarr Saunders, former vice mayor and former city councilmember; and Dr. William Lyons, former deputy to

Mayor Madeline Rogero and associate director for community outreach, Institute of American Civics.

The ongoing effort is looking at the order of debate, adding a planning staff recommendation to zoning changes, the acceptance of roads, allowing council members who create a work session meeting to serve as the chair, moving items passed unanimously to a consent list in future meetings, limiting or expanding the time council members or the mayor may speak on an issue, and how to reclaim time in a debate.

Changes may also include showing the district involved in any motion, allotting community improvement funds, whether or not one council member may pull a consent item for debate or if that motion might require a vote, one member calling for a roll-call vote, how memorial resolutions are handled and if each member's vote on any agenda item should be recorded in the minutes.

Another suggestion was that items being funded should show, on the agenda, where the money is coming from and which department is involved.

Chairwoman Fugate said she wasn't prepared to consider all the changes yet and "We're going to have to sit with this some more."

The committee will continue its efforts April 1.

City revising special event beer permits

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The City of Knoxville is one step away from expanding its regulations about beer sales during special events, opening up the categories and locations.

Tuesday evening the council, on a multi-page recommendation presented by Knoxville Beer Board Chair Lauren Rider, discussed the changes and passed them on a first vote. Rider walked the members through the resolution and said that anyone should have an

opportunity to apply. Applications would start with the Office of Special Events at least 60 days before the event. Director Kyndra Brewer said that not all events would qualify for selection and Council Attorney Rob Frost told the council that once the event is approved by special events, the application would then go to the Knoxville Beer Board, who could approve or deny the beer permit.

Some of the changes addressed certain approved events not

charging an admission, with the exception of concerts at the World's Fair Park. Aside from the beer permit costs, event sponsors would also be billed fees for other permits, such as street closures and police involvement, with no city taxpayer money covering the expenses.

Rider was applauded by the council members for her in-depth work and proposal and Councilman Andrew Roberto called the effort "streamlining the beer process."

Special events beer

permits would be considered for non-profit organizations and "legal entities" with designated beer consumption areas and beer buyers wearing "distinctive" wrist bands.

Expansion of the permits comes, according to Councilwoman Lynne Fugate, because "so much is going on" in the city. Police Chief Paul Noel said the issuance of permits may depend on how many police officers are available at a given time.

Brewer said some **Cont. on page 3**

Ijams River Rescue removes 17.2 tons of trash from area waterways March 8

The 36th annual Ijams River Rescue on March 8 brought together 518 volunteers to clean up 34 sites, removing an estimated 34,402 pounds (17.2 tons) of trash from the Tennessee River, creeks, streams, and shorelines in Knox, Anderson, Blount and Loudon counties.

Volunteers collected 1,157 bags of trash as well as 100 tires and large items, such as a mattress and roofing material. Interesting finds included a \$10 bill, a golf bag, televisions, industrial cables, a bowling ball, an unopened beer, a saw, and a computer system.

The 2024 cleanup removed an estimated



One of the 518 volunteers at the Ijams River Rescue earlier this month helps to clean up the Tennessee River. The Ijams River Rescue was part of the inaugural Tennessee River Tour led by Living Lands and Waters in 2015, which led to the creation of Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful in 2016.

10.48 tons of trash and large items from 31 sites in Knox and Blount counties.

Thanks to partners, this year's cleanup could once again expand to sites in

Anderson and Loudon counties.

One cleanup partner, Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful, collected 6,944 pounds of trash in eight coves on Fort Loudon Lake in Lenoir County.

"Nonprofit cleanup organizations, neighborhood groups, sponsors, and volunteers all have a common goal: To improve the health and cleanliness of the lands and waters in our communities," Ijams Volunteer Manager Brandy Cox said. "The Ijams River Rescue is just one day a year, but cleanups are a year-round labor of love. We all work together to improve East Tennessee, and our histories are intertwined."

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Presidents Almost Always Lose Power In Congress In Mid-Term Elections

From a distance



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

In the summer of 1964, I started working as a bagboy at an A & P Grocery Store on Asheville Highway. I was making \$1.10 an hour, and I sent my first paycheck (\$19 plus a few cents) as a contribution to the Barry Goldwater for President campaign. The race for the White House that year was the first election that I became really interested in, even excited about, other than my father's 1963 race for re-election as mayor of Knoxville.

Goldwater lost to President Lyndon Johnson, who got 61.1% of the vote, and anything over 60% has

traditionally been classified as a landslide.

My Dad was running for Congress for the first time in 1964, and he won, but most Republicans, including our friend Howard Baker, who was running for the Senate, lost that year.

So many Republicans were defeated that in January of 1965 at the swearing-in ceremony, there were 295 Democrats to only 140 Republicans in the House.

There were not even enough seats for all the Democrats on the Democratic side. The Republicans had so many empty seats that my father got to have me, my brother Joe, and my lowa grandfather, Dr. J. A. Swisher, stand with him on the House Floor when he was sworn in.

President Johnson quickly became very unpopular, and in the elections in 1966, the Republicans picked up 47 seats in the House, six in the Senate, including Howard Baker, and eight new governors.

This has happened so often in American politics that it is now almost a shock if the president's party does not lose seats in mid-term elections for Congress.

The president's party picked up seats in only three mid-term elections since 1862. And in one of those years, 1902, the president's Republican Party picked up nine seats in the House, but the Democrats added 25, because many new seats were added after the 1900 census.

Some more examples: Republicans took control of both the House and Senate after President Dwight Eisenhower's big victory in 1952. However, he lost control of Congress in 1954, and Democrats had majorities in both the House and Senate for the remaining six years he was in the White House. Eisenhower dealt with a Democratic Congress by issuing 181 vetoes, only two of which were overridden. Genial and likable, Ike was much

tougher than most people realized.

President Bill Clinton won in 1992, but his unpopularity gave Republicans control of Congress in 1994. In January 1995, Newt Gingrich became speaker of the House, and I became chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee. Republicans had controlled the House for just four of the 64 years from 1930 to 1994 (after the 1946 mid-terms and 1952 elections).

President Barack Obama won in 2008, but the Republicans took back control of the Congress in 2010. John Boehner was the new speaker. I became chairman of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee.

The non-partisan Ballotpedia organization reported that "during President Barack Obama's presidency, Democrats lost a net of 948 state legislative seats, the largest loss of Democratic seats during any presidency since at least 1921. President Trump is well

aware of the trend. Republicans lost 40 seats in the House during the 2018 mid-terms. Thus, it will be very difficult (maybe even very unlikely) to improve on the razor-thin majority he has in the new House and the 53 to 47 majority the Republicans have in the Senate.

After a lifetime in politics, the only certain thing I can tell you is that the pendulum swings both ways – sometimes for you and sometimes against you.

Sometimes even "sure" winners are unexpectedly defeated. At one point, Eric Cantor was the only Jewish Republican in the House. He was able to raise a lot of money from all over the country. Because of this, he was moved up very quickly and was made majority leader, the second-highest position in the Republican Conference.

In 2014, a very unusual year because of a nationwide group called the Tea Party, unknown professor Dave Brat ran against

Cantor in the Republican primary with very little money.

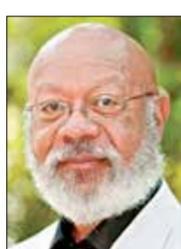
Brat had made illegal immigration and protecting our borders the theme of his campaign. Cantor was supported by extremely big business and favored open borders.

Cantor was told by his professional pollster the day before the primary that he was more than 30 points ahead of Brat. Brat won by more than 10 points and everyone was shocked. Cantor had become the first-ever sitting majority leader, in either party, to lose a primary election.

Of course, I was also in the House in 1994 when Tom Foley, the Democrat speaker of the House, lost his November general election in Washington State. That same year, the ABC national news reported one week before the election that Mario Cuomo was 16 points ahead in his race to be re-elected as governor of New York. He lost by five points.

Anchor babies, Anchors away?

How do you feel about birthright citizenship? That's when any child born on U.S. soil or in its territories except American Samoa is automatically a citizen. Why American Samoa is excluded is beyond me. The children are called "anchor babies." Trump has made it a big deal. Is it? Well, Trump signed an executive order ending birthright citizenship claiming he had the authority to do so even though the practice stems from the 14th Amendment. He was promptly sued by 22 Democrat AGs. Apparently, the Democrats favor the amendment and having thousands of newborns from illegal mothers in the country. Why? I haven't a clue. I thought they wanted



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

unlimited abortions. I guess it's ok for illegals to carry babies to term.

The case was expedited and heard by a federal judge appointed by Reagan who promptly declared Trump's order to be blatantly unconstitutional. The judge was obviously unhappy that the case was even on the docket. He told Trump's attorney "I have difficulty understanding how a member of the bar could state unequivocally that this is a constitutional order. It boggles my mind." It is clear that the judge did not look kindly upon Trump's executive order.

The issue revolves around the language of the amendment which reads:

All persons born or

naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

The phrase "and subject to the jurisdiction thereof" is what motivates those who want to deny birthright citizenship. I am not an attorney – thank goodness – but it seems to me that the issue is whether the mother is in the country legally although some want birthright ended for all children born to non-citizens. If this were the

case then children born to noncitizen legal residents would be included. Nikki Haley is an anchor baby, born in the United States to noncitizen immigrant parents from India. Should she have been denied citizenship? Famous anchor babies include Walt Disney and Colin Powell. Should they have been denied citizenship too?

Also the term "birth tourism" is used for those mothers who legally travel to the United States to give birth. For instance, an estimated 50,000 Chinese women come to the U.S. every year to give birth. There are Chinese travel agencies that specialize in arranging every detail for the parents. There are also agencies that cater to Russians as well. Most of the parents do not plan to apply for citizenship themselves but want to provide

options available to their children.

Trump contends that the United States is the only country to grant birthright citizenship. Actually, 33 countries do so. However, the United States and Canada are the only developed countries that grant it.

How many children are we talking about? Twenty-five percent of all births are to aliens. However, these data include mothers in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The data also include mothers in the country legally who are not citizens. Excluding those mothers, the estimates are that births to illegal aliens are around 7% of total births or around 300,000 a year. The birth of the child only conveys citizenship to the child and not to its parents. The number of birthright children currently

residing in the United States is around 13 million. Seriously, do these children somehow pose a threat to the security of the country? Do they grow up to be criminals or exemplary citizens or something in between like most of us?

The U.S. birthrate is falling with only 3.6 million babies born in 2023. I presume this number includes the 300,000 or so birthright babies. Those babies born to tourists will leave the country with their mothers. The ones born to illegal immigrants will remain. If the parents are to be deported, it is rare for the deportation to be canceled due to an anchor baby. Questions arise as to whether illegal immigration and anchor babies will have a net benefit to the country given the falling birthrate.

So as Stevie Wonder says, "So What the Fuss?"



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

Mike Steely, Senior Writersteelym@knoxfocus.com
Jamie Schnellschnellj@knoxfocus.com
Sales sales@knoxfocus.com
Pam Poe phpoe2000@yahoo.com
Ruthie Akers Ruthie@knoxfocus.com
Legal, Public Notice ads legals@knoxfocus.com

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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

Rogue Liberal Judges

The genius of the American constitution and government is readily apparent to anyone who has studied the history of other countries. The independence of the three distinct branches of the government, the executive, the judicial and the legislative, is absolutely essential to democracy and the continuation of our republic. Presidents throughout our history have tested the limits of presidential power; Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, Richard Nixon, Barack Obama, Joe Biden and Donald Trump all tested those limits. Yet one of the most important aspects of the ingenious system of checks and balances in our government structure is that none of the three branches tries to

dominate the other two.

Donald Trump has been President of the United States since January 20, 2025, and the court injunctions have continued to flow like a raging river. Perhaps the most notable injunction last week was granted by a federal district judge regarding the deportation of Venezuelan gang members. There were 15 injunctions during the month of February alone, which is more than there were during all of the first three years of Joe Biden's presidency. Not coincidentally, the great majority of the injunctions have been by judges nominated by Democrats. It is part of a coordinated effort by blue states, progressive organizations masquerading as non-profits and other entities brought against the second Trump administration. The strategy involves filing the suit before a sympathetic judge or what some in the legal community refer to as "forum shopping."

Ben Weingarten states in a terrific article that, according to the Harvard Law Review, "courts slapped the first Trump administration with 64 universal injunctions, more than half of all such injunctions entered between 1963 and 2023 - - - that is, over six decades. Democrat-nominated judges issued 92% of these orders."

Judges appointed by Republican administrations have shown far more restraint in issuing injunctions to micromanage the president's executive functions. Joe Biden bragged about having defied the U.S. Supreme Court in his effort to forgive more student debt after the high court had ruled he could not do it. Of course, Biden didn't really cancel anything, he merely shifted the debt from those who accrued it to the taxpayers generally through higher taxes and bigger interest payments on the national debt. The same folks who are squalling now, wringing their hands and crying we are in the middle of a constitutional crisis, are the same people who tried to curtail or kill free speech, warned that our democracy was in danger from opinions that varied from their own, and the world was ending within a few short years because of climate change.

The idea of a district judge anywhere in the country interfering with foreign policy, or any other function of the presidency is relatively new and started in earnest in 2017. Yep, right after Donald Trump was inaugurated for the first time. There is only one commander-in-chief and it's not a district judge anywhere. Imagine for a

moment, terrorists land on American shores and the president directs the Army to meet them and a federal district judge issues an injunction saying the chief executive cannot send the military.

The three distinct branches of our federal government all have very different functions. The president cannot amend a bill before Congress or personally sponsor legislation. The Congress may not direct the military. The judiciary cannot pass laws. The fact that the judiciary has been revered for so long in this nation is because it has largely remained above and out of politics. George W. Bush did not attempt to dismantle the bureaucracy or cull out those federal bureaucrats who opposed his policies. The "resistance" being employed by the federal government is contrary to what voters expressed in voting for Trump. Those federal employees who consider themselves as part of the "resistance" can do so from the private sector.

Remember, it was the Left who called for packing the Supreme Court when they did not get their way, but they now hail every Leftist federal judge harassing the Trump administration where the law has not been violated or impinged upon.

Trump Keeps Campaign Promise, Eliminates Department Of Education

President Trump is winding down the Department of Education. Jimmy Carter promised Iowa teachers he would create a national department and won the Iowa caucuses and kept his word. Ever since and \$3 trillion later, our cumulative test scores are worse than ever. That is even more alarming when one considers we haven't been raising standards, but lowering them instead. Gifted classes were extinguished in many school systems because of the woke ideology which resented the idea not every student was equally good in every subject. Even so, we couldn't possibly remind some others and their parents that some students excelled in certain subjects and areas. The educational equivalent of a participation trophy has become a high school degree. One 18-year-old girl is suing her high school after she graduated with honors and says she cannot read. That is true of a young man in Clarksville, Tennessee, who said he graduated with an outstanding GPA and cannot read.

Only the educational-industrial complex

bureaucrats could possibly think it was better for the schools and their personnel to have all the say in the education of a child and ignore parents. Unfortunately, it is true not every child has a great parent/parents, but the educational complex doesn't love somebody else's child; they love making all the choices and decisions because they know more than everybody else. At least they think they do.

The proof of the pudding is in the tasting and after pouring \$3 trillion into the Department of Education what have we gotten for our investment? The lowest scores and ratings in reading, writing and math we've ever had. The teachers' unions have told us for years that if we would only invest more and more money, we'd see more positive results. We have invested more and we've not seen good results. Quite the contrary. Parents love their children and want the best for them. Parents and kids deserve choices and the decision by President Trump to send the money back to the states is a wonderful one that really will improve education and the lives of our children and their children.

City revising special event beer permits

Cont. from page 1 — which was approved and comes back before the council for a final reading in April.

In other business, the council approved the use of the South Knoxville Community Center by the Boys & Girls Club and the Community Action Community, both for ten years. The council also approved hiring Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson for design services for the Riverwalk to Cityview Greenway Connection Project and approved Superior Pavement Marking, Inc., for the 2025 Pedestrian and Bicycle Pavement Marking Project.

Rider noted that special events next to a residential area may also require a special noise permit. Roberto said he has issues with the number of changes and as he hadn't had an opportunity to review them all, he abstained from the vote,

which was approved and comes back before the council for a final reading in April.

In other business, the council approved the use of the South Knoxville Community Center by the Boys & Girls Club and the Community Action Community, both for ten years. The council also approved hiring Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson for design services for the Riverwalk to Cityview Greenway Connection Project and approved Superior Pavement Marking, Inc., for the 2025 Pedestrian and Bicycle Pavement Marking Project.

Multi-unit housing requests

Cont. from page 1 — recommendation from the planners.

Mesana also has a request before the commission to rezone 2748 and 2720 Cunningham Road and 6930 Shady Lane from agricultural to planned residential for up to five units per acre.

Randy Guignard wants to increase the number of planned residential dwelling units per acre at Zero Rifle Range Road from five to 10 units.

Other zoning change requests are from Terry Romans for agricultural to neighborhood commercial at 1907 Governor John Sevier Highway, Amy Sherrill from general business

to general residential at 7420 Ledgerwood Road, and Adrian Perju from agricultural to low density residential at Zero Sharp

Road. The county commission may also decide to change zoning policies regarding childcare facilities to

fit into the adopted Knox County Comprehensive Plan and state license regulations.

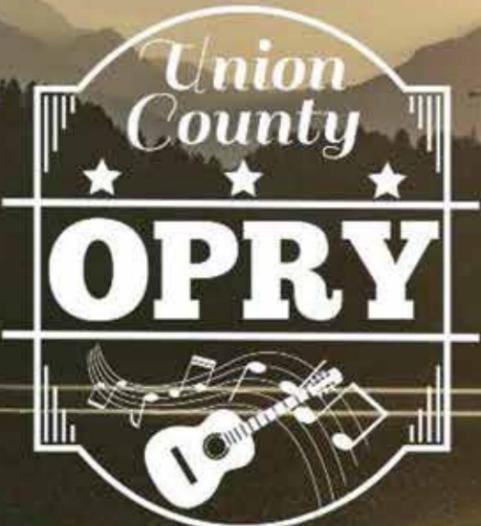
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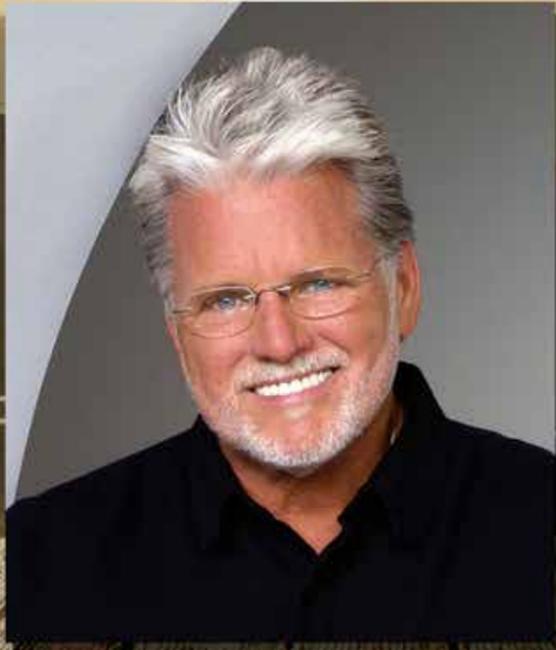
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Truth, not glitz and glamour

Television programming at 7:00 in the evening is less than stellar. In fact, the choice of shows is limited to and made up of court shows and re-runs. Of course, some stations punish

viewers with an extra half-hour of local news. The news programs airing on most stations, including the national ones, are more production than information, and that annoys me.

For one thing, I'm over the new way stations choose to work with their staff. News reporters now stand



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

in front of giant screens with vivid pictures of some place or person connected to the story being presented. These presenters then walk to a table or dais in the middle of the set to turn

over the next story to a cohort. I'm sure they are exhausted by the time the thirty-minute show is over.

I'd suggest that anchors and others on air "sit down." Report the news and move on. So many more stories can be presented when those who give the news stay still. Besides, all that

movement is more than a little distracting to viewers. Walter Cronkite became a voice on whom Americans could depend, and he never trotted around a set filled with large screens and a chyron constantly running across the screen. The public wants the news, not a show.

Another thing that irritates viewers is the small talk that goes on between the team that is in front of the camera. Chit-chat between segments rarely is interesting or humorous. The babble only makes the news, weather and sports-casters look and sound silly. Most local announcers are recent graduates from

programs at UT or another college. Some of their attempts at small talk lose older viewers who have no idea about what they are talking about. Additionally, older folks are suspect of such young people in charge of presenting the news.

On the national scene, every story is presented as a crisis. Few rarely rise to that level. One of the most ridiculous things is the making a crisis of the weather. Throughout my life, the winter has always been harsh in parts of the country. However, now the national news stations make the situation sound worse by saying

that "millions of lives are at risk" due to the approaching weather front. Nothing has changed over the years except for the drama that the news has included.

I'm a fussy old guy. What I expect in the news coverage is a presentation of the facts, not conjecture or other biased words. Here in Knoxville, we have had some good, "down-to-earth" news folks. Bill Williams will forever be a standard bearer for good news presentation. I also remember a young woman who came to work at a local station - Carol Utley Marin. She made an impression for her work ethic and hard questioning. Her career led

her to work in Chicago and also with national news organizations. Even earlier, I recall Doc Johnston giving the news at 6:00 p.m.

These days, Americans need the news presented simply and truthfully. The glitz and glamour and new sets aren't needed. What is most important is that those who report the stories daily do so in an honest, journalistic manner. We don't need entertainment; we need the truth. Let's encourage all who produce and present television news to commit to it.

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I'm asking you to continue standing with me in the fight to keep Tennessee great and advance President Trump's America First agenda here at home.

Marsha

Marsha Blackburn



/marshablackburnforsenate



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

Civics 101

The Supreme Court needs to rein in the lawfare, or we don't have a country.
Miranda Devine

I don't know if they require civics in school any longer, but when I was in the eighth grade good ol' Ms. Coatney - nicknamed "Surfer Girl" because of the Beach Boys' song, not because we imagined her in a bikini - was professor of basic citizenship at Tyson Junior High School. I didn't appreciate her lessons at the time, but something must have clicked in the mind of this pubescent boy. We read George Orwell's "Animal Farm" that year and I remember the injustice and tyranny of the pigs. And later I read Orwell's Stalen-esque "1984" with horror. Great books, hindsight and reflection are great teachers.

This week I venture into the troubled turf war between the executive and judicial branches of government because this citizen soldier was provoked. And I have a platform and

a "pen," though not a Biden autopen that his managers used to run our country into the ground.

Disturbingly, Democrat obstinance and judicial activism have not gone away with President Trump's historic election triumph over lawfare, spying on his campaign authorized by the corrupt FISA Court, persecution of Trump and his family, attempts to prevent him from running for president, invading his home, bogus impeachments and finally attempted assassinations.

I was taught that we have three co-equal branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial. But constitutional experts and students of the Federalist Papers - written to explain The Constitution - have challenged this notion. The legislature is constitutionally empowered to write laws that are then implemented by the executive branch. The judicial system is supposed to make sure that laws are consistent with the Constitution, rather than

making "new law" through judicial interpretation.

The Founders did not envision the judiciary as co-equal to the other branches of government. Apparently, we have many federal judges who don't understand their narrow purpose. Actually, I think these robed barristers are not uneducated in the Constitution or civics; they are just ideologically driven activists.

The federal judge who provoked this citizen-soldier demanded that President Trump not deport criminal aliens, many of whom had also been convicted of heinous crimes in their own countries. By contrast, I guess it was OK for Biden to fly illegals into America. Fortunately, the judge's order was too late for the planes loaded with criminals destined for the huge prison in El Salvador to turn around. Secretary of State Marco Rubio thanked President Bukele for incarcerating these dangerous gangsters "for a very reasonable price."

Doxing is the malicious tactic of publishing personal information, like an address, which puts people at risk. I won't resort to this dangerous leftist tactic, but everyone should know of Obama-appointed Judge James Boasberg who wanted to protect Venezuelan criminals and gangsters instead of U.S. citizens. This same leftist abused his position on the infamous FISA Court to jail 76 Americans and sent 70

Trump supporters to prison on fabricated 1512c charges which were later overturned by SCOTUS.

The principle of judicial review originated with Marbury v. Madison in 1803. Unfortunately, it has been expanded to the point that an unelected judge can delay or stop the actions of the duly elected President. Where does it stop? Does a judge presume to control the Commander in Chief's recent attack against Houthis?

Newt Gingrich describes a "runaway judiciary" where 125 lawsuits have been filed this year to thwart President Trump's executive branch. Gingrich says the judiciary has become the "last castle of left-wing nutism." El Salvador President Bukele said, "The U.S. is facing a judicial coup." Congress is supposed to oversee the judiciary. But given judicial activism and the absence of impeachment of a judge in more than thirty years, Congress is again neglectful.

Lately I've been thinking, do criminals or aliens have the same rights as law-abiding citizens? Our government was instituted to protect "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Thomas Jefferson borrowed from John Locke who said governments were instituted to protect citizen's "life, liberty and property."

The notion of a social contract between citizens and

government was developed by Thomas Hobbes in his book "Leviathan." We surrender some freedom for the government's promise of protection. In fact, without an agreement between citizens and government, Hobbes said the life of man in nature would be "nasty, brutish and short." And the meanest brute in the neighborhood would rule.

Do I have the expectation of a social contract if some federal judge prevents the president from protecting me from criminals, gang members, and those who have broken our laws? Apparently, not! Then what good is a system that does not protect me and treats criminals and aliens like citizens?

I asked Grok 3, the AI (artificial intelligence) agent of Elon Musk's X platform, whether my rights and a criminal's rights are the same. The answer was no, but the "extent of the difference depends on the jurisdiction and the context."

I agree with the concept of fundamental rights such as life, freedom from torture and a fair trial, at least in America. I suspect my rights would be different in Russia or Iran. Felons lose the right to vote or possess firearms but should be fed and receive humane treatment, including medical care. However, I object to sex change treatment for prisoners paid for by taxpayers. But should a citizen who criminally breaks into my home to steal

or threaten me have the same rights as a law-abiding citizen? I say "No!" But what about someone in our country illegally?

Battles between the branches of our government have occurred many times during the nearly 250 years of the country. The current battle between the executive and judicial branches arose because Democrats hate President Trump and are using the judicial branch of government to oppose his agenda. Democrats lost the election, but can't accept this reality. Their hatred is a sickness and has made them delusional (non-rational). If hatred is what motivates you, this doctor recommends professional and spiritual help.

Democrat's TDS (Trump derangement syndrome) has even spread to Elon Musk as MDS. Bartender AOC claims Musk (the modern genius who brought the astronauts home) is "unintelligent." Chuck Schumer called Congressional supporters of Trump, "bastards." And Maxine Waters claims Trump is "working towards a civil war."

Imbalanced legislators and judges have fundamental rights, but hurting others with their rants, rulings or laws is unacceptable and violates the American social contract.

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

Neighbors of the Year honored

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Bill Murrah of the 4th and Gill Neighborhood was honored recently as the Good Neighbor of the Year with a plaque presented by Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon. The 78-year-old was noted as having hauled suitcases of trash, and fosters connections across demographic and social divides, creating a stronger, more unified community. Kevin Brown, a neighbor who nominated Murrah, said his service and selflessness improves the lives of others. Murrah's contributions to neighbors, organizations, and the community are a testament to his exemplary character and enduring impact.

The annual Dianna Conn Good Neighbor of the Year event is sponsored by the Knoxville Office of Neighborhood Empowerment.



Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon presents the Good Neighbor of the Year award to Bill Murrah of the 4th and Gill Neighborhood.

Mayor Kincannon also presented Officer Heather Leeper with the first Carol Scott Officer of the Year Award.



Good Neighbor of the Year nominees were honored at the Neighborhood Awards Dinner earlier this month. They are Karen Hardin, PJ Snodgrass, Bill Murrah, Jamesena Thompson, Scott Schimmel, Mayor Indya Kincannon, Stephen Smith, Valerie Herd, Sylvia Woods and Teleia Burns.

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Looking for Victory in the Valley (Part 2 of 4)

Deep within the landscape of our spiritual journeys lies a treacherous terrain known as the Valley of Discouragement. It is a desolate and daunting place, where the shadows of doubt and fear can seem to stretch on endlessly. In the Valley of



By Justin Pratt,
Clear Springs Baptist
Church Senior Pastor

Discouragement, dreams can be dashed, hopes may fade, and the weary traveler may be tempted to surrender to the darkness. These valleys represent some of the lowest points in our lives.

reality when they returned to Ziklag. They found their city had been raided, their families taken, and all that remained were the smoking ruins of what once was. Frustrated and exasperated, his once-loyal army, who had supported him, began discussing the possibility of stoning him for the tragedy that had befallen them. In this struggle and difficult situation, David had to make a decision: Should he succumb to his discouragement, or should he take the necessary steps to seek victory in the valley?

David began his ascent from the valley by "encouraging himself in the Lord." Even though he was left alone to gaze at the smoking ashes of the Valley of Ziklag, he was able to reflect on his past victories and draw strength from the experiences that demonstrated God's faithfulness. In that moment, one

of the most powerful tools David had to overcome his discouragement was his ability to tap into his memories of past victories. He knew that God had helped him then and was confident that He would come through again.

David not only found strength in the Lord, but he also sought wisdom from God. In 1 Samuel 30:8, we find five powerful words: "David enquired at the Lord." Meaning that amid his struggles, he asked God for direction, clarity and understanding. He shifted his focus from questioning 'why' to asking 'what' he needed to learn. It's important to remember that no valley lasts forever. Therefore, as we navigate through difficult times, we should seek to understand what God wants us to learn during these moments.

I love high spiritual experiences, and I believe we all do. However, living by

faith is something we learn in the valleys, not on the mountaintops. It's fascinating how Death Valley in California, known as one of the hottest places in America during the summer, can also produce some of the nation's most beautiful flowers in the spring. How can a place that is so barren and dry bring forth such beauty? The answer lies in the melting snow from the mountains in spring, which cascades down and saturates the valley. This moisture, combined with the warmth, creates a stunning carpet of flowers in a barren place where nothing usually grows.

God has a unique way of working profoundly in the darkest places. It's essential for us to listen for His voice and understand what He wants us to learn during our difficult times. Remember, the valley is meant to teach us lessons

that the mountains never could.

Valleys are not enjoyable for any of us; however, they hold a profound promise. It is in these valleys that we can discover the depths of God's presence, the richness of His provisions, and the resilience of our faith. During times of discouragement, we have the opportunity to offer God something in faith that we may not have been able to offer when we were on the mountaintop.

It's important to remember that, just like David did, if you find yourself walking through a valley, you can strengthen yourself in the Lord and seek His wisdom, as there are valuable lessons to be learned. Learn in, seek God, and see what you can learn during this temporary time. Victory in the valley is possible, and next week we will explore another way David found that victory.

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O'Connor Senior Center Pancake Fest & Senior Expo is April 4

WHEN: Friday, April 4, 7 a.m. - noon

WHERE: O'Connor Senior Center, 611 Winona St. in Knoxville

COST: \$5

The O'Connor Senior Center presents the 2025 Pancake Fest, an annual

fundraising event for the O'Connor Senior Center. For \$5, you can enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, and your choice of orange juice, apple juice, coffee or milk. Gluten-free, sugar-free and heart-healthy options will be available. All ages are invited to breakfast!

Pancakes can be enjoyed at the center or taken to go. Call ahead to place your order (865)523-1135.

Purchase your Pancake Fest tickets online at knoxseniors.org, at the Office on Aging (2247 Western Ave.) or at O'Connor.

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The Country Squire Who Became Governor Luren D. Dickinson

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

As we apparently live in an age of increasingly geriatric candidates for public office, I was interested to note Luren D. Dickinson remains the oldest person to occupy the governor's office in Michigan. Dickinson was a kindly man of simple tastes, balding and bespectacled with a white mustache living just above his upper lip. Dickinson was a veteran politician although he was not elected governor by the people of the Wolverine State. That came as a distinct surprise to both Dickinson and Michiganders for he was the first man to become governor due to the death of the state's duly-elected governor.

Seventy-nine years old in 1939, Luren Dickinson answered the old "horn-type wall telephone" at his farm near Charlotte, Michigan. The lieutenant governor had gotten out of a sick bed to answer the telephone and was astonished to hear that Governor Frank Fitzgerald was dead and that he was Michigan's chief executive. The new governor was inaugurated by taking the oath of office at his modest white-frame house. Only recently had Dickinson given up the old-fashioned "bat-wing" collars and swallow-tail coats he had favored throughout his public career. Although Dickinson was wearing more modern clothes, he never did give up his high-laced shoes.

There were those who said the governorship of Luren Dickinson would be quite an experience for the people of Michigan and it was. The governor issued press releases that were "weekly sermons" on Sundays. Dickinson advised younger men interested in the secret to his own vitality, energy and longevity, "Keep your appetite from being tinkered with. Don't bewitch it with popular menus, modern dishes, patent cures, or statements of vitamin nuts." Dickinson liked to remember even then "the good old days" of when family meals had been cooked in the fireplace. Only when he became governor could Luren Dickinson be induced to give up his longtime presidency of Michigan's Anti-Saloon League. Dickinson stated he did not think it proper for the state's chief executive to be part of any organization fighting on behalf of a particular political issue. Indeed, it was Luren Dickinson's devotion to prohibition that caused other candidates to think him a detriment to the GOP ticket, especially in populous Wayne County (Detroit) and other areas where it was hugely unpopular.

To those who thought Luren Dickinson was not a politician, some pointed to

his being in the pulpit of a church every Sunday and his constant speaking at county fairs throughout the state and wondered if he ever stopped campaigning.

As governor, Dickinson caused something of a national stir when attending a governor's conference in 1939, he was critical of one meeting where he claimed it was "a setting for a libertine." Governor Dickinson said young men and women were encouraged, if not actually plied with strong spirits, where they tottered on "a hellish brink." While his comments were roundly criticized by some other chief executives, the people of Michigan, used to both Luren Dickinson and his way of expressing himself, just didn't pay it much mind. A year later, Governor Dickinson readily acknowledged that his language was more abstract than concrete and he was voicing his concerns about what might happen if the young people continued imbibing.

The Escanaba Daily Press remembered Luren Dickinson as "one of the most unusual characters ever to achieve political prominence in any state." The newspaper marveled at Dickinson's success in politics without a shred of those attributes most successful candidates possessed. Without the benefit of any kind of formal education and a life-long opponent of "strong drink," Luren Dickinson was "a man who carefully patterned his life with his religious beliefs" who was "wholly lacking the political qualities that are supposed to make men eligible for the governorship of their state." Yet for more than four decades, Luren D. Dickinson was one of the most politically prominent men in Michigan.

Throughout his entire life, people were drawn to Luren Dickinson because of his nature. People came away from meeting Dickinson noting his innate kindness and his interest in what they had to say. Dickinson was also a man who possessed an excellent sense of humor and a dry wit. People also noticed Luren Dickinson was genuinely reverent and deeply religious. While tens of thousands of his fellow citizens agreed with Dickinson's relentless war on "sin and high life practices," many of those who were more tolerant recognized his sincerity and sense of purpose.

Dickinson had worked hard to earn an education. As a boy he spent his time on the family farm instead of the schoolhouse. Luren Dickinson studied at night and was able to graduate from high school at eighteen because of his own discipline and



(From left to right) Governor Luren Dickinson, U.S. Senator Arthur Vandenberg, and GOP presidential nominee Wendell Willkie campaign in Detroit, 1940.

desire to educate himself. Dickinson's thirst for knowledge and his reverence for education caused the young man to become a teacher. Dickinson was widely acclaimed by his students and supervisors as a remarkably effective educator and quickly climbed the ladder in the school bureaucracy, first becoming a principal and superintendent of schools at twenty-one. Luren Dickinson married Zora Della Cooley and the couple adopted a daughter and later doted on two grandchildren.

Dickinson's interest in education ignited his interest in politics, although it would likely be more accurate to state throughout his long career, he was pursued by politics more so than the other way around. Luren Dickinson was just plain well-liked, which was a very good attribute for someone running for public office. Dickinson was also like an old shoe; it shone still when polished and was innately comfortable.

As a temperance lecturer, Luren Dickinson traveled the entire state of Michigan and once elected to the legislature, became one to be reckoned with by many of those who had dismissed him as merely a hayseed or zealot. If Dickinson was openly religious, it was also abundantly clear to most Michiganders that he was also thoroughly honest. In his prime, one Michigan newspaper recalled Luren Dickinson "had 250,000 votes" in the state "in his vest pocket."

Luren Dickinson became a candidate for and won a seat in the Michigan House of Representatives in 1906, serving a single term. Dickinson ran again in 1904 and was once again elected to the House. After two terms in the House, Luren Dickinson ran for the Michigan State Senate and served one term. In 1914, Luren D. Dickinson was elected to the office he held for the longest time, that of the lieutenant governor of Michigan. Dickinson knew both victory and defeat, running for the lieutenant governor's office no less than seven times. Dickinson lost two of those races as the GOP nominee for lieutenant governor, as well as one Republican primary for the gubernatorial

nomination.

Each time Luren Dickinson lost an election, his political opponents chortled and believed it was the last they would see of him. Invariably, Dickinson would rise once again on the wings of yet another unconventional campaign to win public office, much to the astonishment and chagrin of his political enemies.

When Dickinson had first begun his campaign to reclaim the lieutenant governor's office in 1938, the Republican leadership in Michigan had dismissed him as too old, would add nothing to the GOP ticket and could not win. Once again, Luren Dickinson won the primary election and while he accused some of his ticket mates of trying to "trade him off" to the benefit of his Democratic opponent, he won the general election as well.

Frank Fitzgerald had been elected governor in 1934 but lost his 1936 reelection bid to Frank Murphy, the mayor of Detroit. Fitzgerald ran a determined campaign in 1938 to take back the statehouse and beat his successor, becoming both the 34th and 36th governor of Michigan. Fifty-four years old when he returned to the governor's office, Fitzgerald caught a bad case of the flu and died of a heart attack just two and a half months after beginning his second term of office. The man who was "too old" to serve again as lieutenant governor took the oath of office and assumed the governorship. The irony was not lost on Michigan's Republican establishment.

Once installed as governor, Luren Dickinson engaged in a feud with former Governor Chase S. Osborn. While the two traded public criticisms, each adamantly insisted he admired the other and it was probably true.

Dickinson was one of those rare beings who remained almost an outcast from the political establishment of his party, but who retained a large personal following amongst the voters. After well into his political career, Dickinson was guided by the wise counsel and friendship of Grove M. Rouse. Rouse often

traveled to Dickinson's farm where he purchased maple syrup and dispensed advice. Those familiar with the two men said Rouse was the governor's closest political and personal adviser. Rouse, who referred to the governor as "Dick," laughed and told a reporter once, "I've been cracked down many times by Dick." When Rouse was felled by a fatal heart attack in November of 1940, Governor Dickinson openly wept at his friend's funeral.

In 1940, Dickinson announced he was seeking a two-year term as governor in his own right. The governor swept past six opponents inside the GOP primary easily, although he won with only a plurality of the votes, although he was well ahead of his nearest opponent for the nomination of his party. In the general election, Dickinson faced Democrat Murray Van Wagoner, who had been the Michigan State Highway Commissioner since 1933. Governor Dickinson was running on a strong Republican ticket with highly popular U.S. Senator Arthur Vandenberg and GOP presidential nominee Wendell Willkie appeared to be running well in the Wolverine State.

Willkie edged the greatest campaigner of them all, Franklin D. Roosevelt, in Michigan by just over 6,900 voters out of more than two million cast. Senator Vandenberg beat his Democratic opponent by more than 113,000 votes while Governor Luren Dickinson lost to Murray Van Wagoner by 131,000 ballots. Republicans had been dismayed by Governor Dickinson's reluctance to ask for votes and when, as required by law, he filed his report of expenditures in the election, Dickinson had spent nothing.

Luren Dickinson loved being governor and it was the apex of his long political career and he chaffed with the disappointment of his defeat. The old veteran campaigner announced as he left the governor's office that he was retiring from politics. Dickinson was 81 years old and believed he was too old to run for political office again in the future. What the former governor did not know was

that he had a very serious and dangerous heart condition.

Dickinson's defeat may well have been due to his advanced age as much as anything. The governor did appear with other candidates during the 1940 campaign, but there was no hiding his years. Luren Dickinson looked frail and was stooped from his many years. Opponents could attest to Dickinson's deadly accuracy with a deft and soft-spoken withering comment, although he seldom launched attacks. Luren Dickinson made no secret that he was praying for guidance, and he mostly did as he wished after seeking some direction from the Good Lord.

Luren Dickinson had suffered from a sprained back before he celebrated his 84th birthday on April 15, 1943. A few days later, the former governor suffered a severe heart attack. Dr. H. Allen Moyer, Michigan's commissioner of health and Dickinson's personal physician, hurried to his patient's bedside. Dr. Moyer announced the former governor was "sinking," but added, "He clings tenaciously to life." The doctor had just gotten to his own home when he was called back to that of Luren Dickinson. Dr. Moyer sadly pronounced the former governor dead. Dickinson's adopted daughter and granddaughter, who was named for his late wife, were in the room when Luren Dickinson breathed his last breath. Dr. Moyer said the former governor's family had not realized just how ill Dickinson really was and attributed death to a blood clot in an artery to his heart.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PROBATE COURT SALE OF VALUABLE PROPERTY IN RE: ELIZABETH ALEXANDER, Deceased No. 86280-2

NAMES OF PARTIES INTERESTED:
Linda Walker, Debbi Mitchell, Gary Alexander, Alex Walker, Bradley Alexander, Chris Alexander, John Walker, Jason Alexander, Crystal Field, Cory Mitchell, Beth Arroyo, Jeremy Alexander, and the Bureau of TennCare

LOCATION: SITUATED in the Eighth (8th) Civil District of Knox County, Tennessee, without the corporate limits of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, and being known and designated as all of Lot 1, Final Plat of Alexander Property, as shown on map of the same of record in Instrument 200805130085382 in the Knox County Register of Deeds Office, to which specific reference is hereby made for a more particular description.

BEING part of the property conveyed to Thomas L. Alexander, Jr. and Elizabeth Anderson, as tenants by the entirety, by Quitclaim Deed dated January 6, 2003, of record in Instrument 200303190083328 in the Knox County Register of Deeds Office.

This parcel is commonly known as 3803 Strong Road, Mascot, TN 37806 and bears Tax Parcel Identification No. 033-060.01

The sale is being conducted by the Clerk and Master for the Knox County Chancery Court on behalf of the Knox County Chancery Court pursuant to the Order entered August 5, 2024, in the above cause of action.

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 11, 2025
PLACE OF SALE: City-County Building within the corridor of the Main Street entrance near the Large Assembly Room, North entrance, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

TERMS: The sale will be for cash. The purchaser may either (i) pay the entire purchase price at the time of sale or (ii) pay 10% of the purchase price at the time of sale and execute a note for the balance, without interest, to be paid in full within 30 days from the sale date. As security for the note, a Knox County resident must sign the note as surety and the Clerk and Master will retain a lien on the real property until the note is satisfied. All funds must be paid by check drawn from a bank where the Clerk and Master can independently verify funds are available. If the person bidding is an agent of another person or entity, the person bidding must present sufficient evidence to the Clerk and Master, at the time of the sale, to establish his or her authority to bid the entity. The Clerk and Master is further authorized to accept an advanced bid and reopen bidding in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 35-5-110.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: 865-215-2555; J. Scott Griswold, Esq., Clerk and Master

Notice to run in *The Knoxville Focus*: March 17, March 24 and March 31, 2025.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANCERY COURT SALE OF VALUABLE PROPERTY DOCKET NO. 207547-3 CREST BROOK SUBDIVISION HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., Petitioner,

GARY WAYNE FOUST, MORTGAGE INVESTORS GROUP, INC., and REPUBLIC FINANCE, LLC, Respondents.

LOCATION: SITUATE in the Sixth (6th) Civil District of Knox County, Tennessee, without the corporate limits of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, and being known and designated as all of Lot 8, Corrected Final Plat, Crest Brook Subdivision, as shown on map of the same of record in Map Cabinet F, Slide 200 (Map Book 74-S, page 45), in the Knox County Register of Deeds Office, to which specific reference is hereby made for a more particular description.

TOGETHER WITH AND SUBJECT TO non-exclusive perpetual easements running with the land, said easements consisting of ingress and egress across certain common areas more particularly described on said map of record in Map Cabinet F, Slide 200 (Map Book 74-S, page 45) in the Knox County Register of Deeds Office.

BEING the same property conveyed to GARY WAYNE FOUST, unmarried, by Warranty Deed dated April 5, 2001, of record in Instrument 200104090067672 in the Knox County Register of Deeds Office.

This parcel is commonly known as 1215 CREST BROOK DRIVE KNOXVILLE, TN 37923 and bears Tax Parcel Identification No. 105LD-008.00.

The sale is being conducted by the Clerk and Master for the Knox County Chancery Court on behalf of the Knox County Chancery Court pursuant to the Order entered March 26, 2024, in the above cause of action.

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 11, 2025 at 11:00 am

PLACE OF SALE: City-County Building within the corridor of the Main Street entrance, near the Large Assembly Room, North entrance, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

TERMS: The property shall be sold to the highest and best bidder on a credit basis of not less than six (6) months nor more than two (2) years and taking from the purchaser a deposit of no less than ten-percent (10%) of the purchase money, provided, however, that the sale shall be in bar of all redemption or repurchase either in equity or by statute of any Defendant or any creditors, the same to be terminated and the title to the purchaser shall be absolute. This sale is the foreclosure of a lien recorded in Instrument No. 202309150014556 in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee. The property as sold will be subject to the liens of Mortgage Investors Group, Inc. and Republic Finance, LLC.

As security for the note, a Knox County resident must sign the note as surety and the Clerk and Master will retain a lien on the real property until the note is satisfied. All funds must be paid by check drawn from a bank where the Clerk and Master can independently verify funds are available. If the person bidding is an agent of another person or entity, the person bidding must present sufficient evidence to the Clerk and Master, at the time of the sale, to establish his or her authority to bid.

The Clerk and Master is further authorized to accept an upset bid within ten (10) days following the sale and reopen bidding in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 35-5-110. Any upset bid shall be at least one hundred ten percent (110%) of the original winning bid. If the Clerk and Master receives an upset bid, he shall conduct an upset sale on April 25, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., at the same location as the initial sale.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: 865-215-2555; J. Scott Griswold, Esq., Clerk and Master

Notice to run in *The Knoxville Focus*: March 17, March 24 and March 31, 2025.

COURT NOTICES

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: TIMOTHY R. HAMMERSMITH
IN RE: JANET S. HAMMERSMITH**

**-Vs-
TIMOTHY R. HAMMERSMITH**

Docket # 160903

IN THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, TIMOTHY R. HAMMERSMITH, 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 TIMOTHY R. HAMMERSMITH.

IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file an answer to an action of COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE filed by JANET S. HAMMERSMITH, Plaintiff herein, with the Fourth Circuit Court in Knoxville, Tennessee, and with ADAM PRIEST, Plaintiff's Attorney whose address is PO BOX 870, KNOXVILLE, TN 37901, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication, and if you do not answer or otherwise respond, a Default Judgment may be entered against you on the thirtieth (30th) day after the fourth (4th) publication. This notice will be published in *The Knoxville Focus* for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This the 7th day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

Mike Hammond
Clerk

Michelle Henry
Deputy Clerk

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: HOWINGTON, INC.
IN RE: KINCER FARMS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

-Vs-

**HOWINGTON, INC., and ANN R. TIPTON
NO. 210296-1
IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant HOWINGTON, INC., 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 HOWINGTON, INC., it is ordered that said defendant, HOWINGTON, INC., file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Cameron D. Bell, an Attorney whose address is 8913 Town and Country Circle, #1103 Knoxville, TN 37923 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 John F. Weaver at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division 1, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

This notice will be published in *The Knoxville Focus* Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 13th day of March, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: MELISSA STEWART
IN RE: RONALD STEWART**

-Vs-

**MELISSA STEWART
Docket # 160619**

IN THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant MELISSA STEWART 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 MELISSA STEWART.

IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file an answer to an action of COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE filed by RONALD STEWART, Plaintiff herein, with the Fourth Circuit Court in Knoxville, Tennessee, and with MATTHEW MCCLANAHAN, Plaintiff's Attorney whose address is PO BOX 51907, KNOXVILLE, TN 37950, (865)347-3921, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication, and if you do not answer or otherwise respond, a Default Judgment may be entered against you on the thirtieth (30th) day after the fourth (4th) publication. This notice will be published in *The Knoxville Focus* for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This the 10TH day of MARCH, 2025.

Mike Hammond
Clerk

Michelle Henry
Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

**ANDERSON COUNTY CHANCERY COURT
100 N. MAIN STREET, CLINTON
TENNESSEE 37716**

**TO: DOMINICA AUSTIN
IN RE: JEFF HAZLEWOOD and wife,
SANDY HAZLE WOOD, Plaintiffs**

-Vs-

**THE HEIRS OF WILLIAM FRITTS, et. al.
DOCKET NO.: 24CH6035**

**COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGEMENT TO QUIET TITLE
TO: DOMINICA AUSTIN
COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGEMENT TO QUIET TITLE
176 STRUTT STREET, OLIVER SPRINGS,
TENNESSEE 37840
174 STRUTT STREET, OLIVER SPRINGS,
TENNESSEE 37840
172 STRUTT STREET, OLIVER SPRINGS,
TENNESSEE 37840**

DOMINICA AUSTIN MUST RESPOND TO THE ABOVE-NAMED COURT, OR ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF(S), ATTORNEY W. LUCAS ARNOLD OF THE CANTRELL LAW OFFICE, 362 S. CHARLES G. SEIVERS BLVD., CLINTON, TN 37717.

This notice will run in *The Knoxville Focus* for four consecutive weeks – 3/24, 3/31, 4/7 and 4/14/2025.

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: LACEY MICHELLE SMITH
IN RE: AVERY ELIZABETH LOCKIE,
FRANK JUDSON SMITH AND
LORETTA PETRILLA SMITH**

-Vs-

**LACEY MICHELLE SMITH AND
WILLIAM DOUGLASS REED**

NO. 209645-1

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant LACEY MICHELLE SMITH, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon LACEY MICHELLE SMITH, DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT, it is ordered that said defendant, LACEY MICHELLE SMITH, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Daisey Lovin, an Attorney whose address is 607 W. Summit Hill Dr., Knoxville, TN 37902 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 John F. Weaver at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division 1, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

This notice will be published in *The Knoxville Focus* Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. This 14th day of March, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF GREGORY CHRISTIAN BALLARD
DOCKET NUMBER 90409-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 10 day of MARCH, 2025, Letters of Administration in respect of the Estate of GREGORY CHRISTIAN BALLARD, who died November 14, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 10 day of MARCH, 2025.

ESTATE OF GREGORY CHRISTIAN BALLARD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CLARENCE WAYNE BALLARD

W. ALLEN MCDONALD, ATTORNEY
249 N. PETERS ROAD, SUITE 101
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JAMES CLIFFORD BERRIER
DOCKET NUMBER 90515-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 10 day of MARCH, 2025, Letters of Testamentary/ Administration in respect to the Estate of JAMES CLIFFORD BERRIER, deceased, who died on October 20, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Probate Court for Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured against his/her Estate are required to file the same in triplicate with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claim will be forever barred:

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

This the 10 day of MARCH, 2025.

ESTATE OF JAMES CLIFFORD BERRIER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARY E. BRYANT
3904 KIMBERLIN HEIGHTS ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

SCOTT B. HAHN, ATTORNEY
5344 N. BROADWAY, SUITE 101
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF SHIRLEY W. DAVIDSON
DOCKET NUMBER 90620-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 10 day of MARCH, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of SHRILEY W. DAVIDSON, who died on the 19th day of December, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 10 day of MARCH, 2025.

ESTATE OF SHIRLEY W. DAVIDSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
N. ALLEN DAVIDSON
9227 MIRKWOOD DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

BRYCE M. HARDIN, ATTORNEY
10413 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 201
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MAURICE EUGENE DAVIS
DOCKET NUMBER 90558-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 11 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MAURICE EUGENE DAVIS, who died Oct. 16, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

publication; or

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

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

This the 11 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF MAURICE EUGENE DAVIS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARKE DAVIS, ADMINISTRATOR
P. O. BOX 32212
KNOXVILLE, TN 37930

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MARI RICHARD DECIUR
DOCKET NUMBER 90574-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 26 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARI RICHARD DECIUR, who died on December 10, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or
(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received a 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 26 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARI RICHARD DECIUR

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JOHN ROBERT HORNER
P. O. BOX 266
COOSBY, TN 37722

N. DAVID ROBERTS, JR., ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 2564
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF LAWRENCE L. DIETZ
DOCKET NUMBER 90592-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 18 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of LAWRENCE L. DIETZ, who died Dec. 19, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 18 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF LAWRENCE L DIETZ

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
LEE H. WHITE, EXECUTOR
60 DEER TRAIL DRIVE
SPRINGBORO, OH 45066

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF ELIZABETH S. DRINNEN
AKA MARY ELIZABETH DRINNEN
DOCKET NUMBER 90609-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 3 day of MARCH, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ELIZABETH S. DRINNEN, AKA MARY ELIZABETH DRINNEN, who died Dec. 6, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 3 day of MARCH, 2025.

ESTATE OF ELIZABETH S DRINNEN,
AKA MARY ELIZABETH DRINNEN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
GARY E. DRINNEN, SR., EXECUTOR
5813 WIL LYOLD DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

DANA S. PEMBERTON, ATTORNEY
920 VOLUNTEER LANDING
LANE, SUITE 100
KNOXVILLE, TN 37915

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF SANDRA ARMES FARMER
DOCKET NUMBER 90595-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of SANDRA ARMES FARMER, who died Dec. 25, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF SANDRA ARMES FARMER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
HOWARD E. FARMER,
JR., ADMINISTRATOR
611 MITCHELL DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF OBIE LEWIS GOINS
DOCKET NUMBER 90516-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of OBIE LEWIS GOINS, who died October 29, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 21 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF WILLIAM DONALD HATCHER
DOCKET NUMBER 90612-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 7 day of MARCH, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of WILLIAM DONALD HATCHER, who died January 9, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 7 day of MARCH, 2025.

KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

DOUGLAS A. BLAZE
856 VALLEY GLEN BLVD.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

DONALD J. FARINATO, ATTORNEY
445 S. GAY STREET, SUITE 401
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF WILMA JANE MADGETT
DOCKET NUMBER 90619-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 7 day of MARCH, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of WILMA JANE MADGETT, who died January 14, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 7 day of MARCH, 2025.

or

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

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

This the 24 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF JACK EUGENE MCMAHAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
LEE ROY MCMAHAN
1923 ANGUS BLVD
MARYVILLE, TN 37803

MADELINE F. LEONARD, ATTORNEY
217 EAST BROADWAY AVENUE
MARYVILLE, TN 37804

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF KIMBERLY SUE MCNEIL
DOCKET NUMBER 90589-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of KIMBERLY SUE MCNEIL, who died October 11, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF KIMBERLY SUE MCNEIL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ANITA GIDEON
246 E. MOODY AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

MICHAEL R. CROWDER, ATTORNEY
4TH FLOOR, BANK OF AMERICA BLDG.
P. O. BOX 442
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901-0442

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF ANNETTE MERRITT
DOCKET NUMBER 90616-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ANNETTE MERRITT, who died Dec. 29, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF ANNETTE MERRITT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
BRYAN J. MERRITT, EXECUTOR
1001 QUAIL RUN
ERWIN, TN 37650

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF ELEANOR JEAN MOCK
DOCKET NUMBER 90487-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 26 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of ELEANOR JEAN MOCK, who died on October 3, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 26 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF ELEANOR JEAN MOCK

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
GEOFFREY G. DEICHERT
691 CARRINGTON BLVD.
LENOIR CITY, TN 37771

ANN MOSTOLLER, ATTORNEY
HEATHER ELLIS BANKS, ATTORNEY
136 S. ILLINOIS AVE, SUITE 104
OAK RIDGE, TN 37830

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF CHARLIS R. NEIL
DOCKET NUMBER 90559-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 18 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of CHARLIS R. NEIL, who died Jan. 12, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 18 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING KNOX COUNTY FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR PERIOD FY 2025-2029 AND FY 2025 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

Notice is hereby given that Knox County (County) has prepared its Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the period of FY 2025-2029. The Five-Year Plan outlines the County's housing and non-housing community development needs and priorities for the period July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2030. The Annual Plan for FY 2025 describes how the County intends to expend approximately \$1,100,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and approximately \$400,000 Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds. These are estimated amounts. Actual allocation amounts, once announced by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), will be included in the final Plan submitted to HUD.

In order to obtain the views of citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties, the County has placed its proposed FY2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan for FY 2025 on public display for 30 days beginning March 27, 2025 through April 25, 2025. The documents will be available at the County's Office of Grants and Community Development 400 Main Street, Suite 364; Knoxville, TN 37902 and on the County's website <https://knoxcounty.org/communitydevelopment/>. Copies of the document will also be e-mailed or mailed upon request to grants@knoxcounty.org.

The County will host a public hearing to obtain views and comments of individuals and organizations on the proposed 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan, Wednesday April 9, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at 405 Dante Road; Knoxville, TN 37918. Virtual attendance will also be available through Zoom, those who wish to attend virtually should register in advance at <https://knoxcounty.org/communitydevelopment/>. Persons with special needs should contact Knox County Grants and Community Development at 865-215-5253 at least three days prior to the public hearing with accommodation requests. This location is fully accessible to persons with disabilities.

Knox County Commission is expected to act on the proposed FY 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan for FY 2025 on April 28, 2025, at the regularly scheduled Commission meeting at 5:00 P.M. Large Assembly Room of the City-County Building 400 Main Street; Knoxville, TN 37902. In accordance with the Final Rule for consolidation of the CDBG and HOME Programs, 24 CFR Part 91, et. al., the County will submit the Consolidated Strategy and Annual Plans to HUD around May 15, 2025, or at such other time as directed by HUD.

Publication date: March 24, 2025



prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 18 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF CHARLSIE R. NEIL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TERRI GUGLIOTTA, CO-EXECUTRIX
2266 ARGONNE DRIVE
MARYVILLE, TN 37804

LYNNETTE D. WHITSON, CO-EXECUTRIX
6308 FOOTE MINERAL LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MARGIE ELLEN OWENS
DOCKET NUMBER 90645-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 13 day of MARCH, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of MARGIE ELLEN OWENS, who died JUNE 28, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 13 day of MARCH, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARGIE ELLEN OWENS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARK L. MORGAN,
5524 STONELEIGH RD.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF ALLEN RICHARD PENNER
DOCKET NUMBER 90543-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters of testamentary in respect of the Estate of ALLEN RICHARD PENNER, who died on the 24th day of September, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 13 day of MARCH, 2025.

ESTATE OF ALLEN RICHARD PENNER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARK L. MORGAN,
5524 STONELEIGH RD.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF PATSY CAROL ROMINES
DOCKET NUMBER 90643-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 13 day of MARCH, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of PATSY CAROL ROMINES, who died JUNE 28, 2024, 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 his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 13 day of MARCH, 2025.

ESTATE OF ALLEN RICHARD PENNER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
RICHARD LEE PENNER
15235 WEDGEWOOD COMMONS DR.
WEDGEWOOD, NC 28277

NEVA M. FOUST, ATTORNEY
4641 CHAMBLISS AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JANET C. PHILLIPS
DOCKET NUMBER 90539-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of JANET C. PHILLIPS, who died October 2, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Knox County Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and nonresident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 21 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF JANET C. PHILLIPS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MATTHEW CARTER
5616 BRIERCLIFF RD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

DAVID B. HAMILTON, ATTORNEY
1810 MERCHANT DR.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF PATSY CAROL ROMINES
DOCKET NUMBER 90643-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 13 day of MARCH, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of PATSY CAROL ROMINES, who died JUNE 28, 2024, 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 his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 13 day of MARCH, 2025.

ESTATE OF PATSY CAROL ROMINES

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ELIZABETH ROMINES BEIDELSCHIES
1361 WOODRIDGE DR.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

JERRY R. GIVENS, ATTORNEY
9724 KINGSTON PIKE, STE. 504
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF BETTY JEAN SAMPSON
DOCKET NUMBER 90457-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 26 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of BETTY JEAN SAMPSON, who died December 12, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 26 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF BETTY JEAN SAMPSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHARLES P. SAMPSON, EXECUTOR
7442 NUBBIN RIDGE DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

VICTORIA B. TILLMAN, ATTORNEY
1019 ORCHID DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF QUENTIN ALLEN SCHNEIDER
DOCKET NUMBER 90453-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 18 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of QUENTIN ALLEN SCHNEIDER, who died June 19, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 18 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF QUENTIN ALLEN SCHNEIDER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
COREY SCHNEIDER, ADMINISTRATOR
8044 GLEASON DRIVE #K16
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF HARVEY HOWARD JACK
DOCKET NUMBER 90564-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 24 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of HARVEY HOWARD JACK, who died September 30, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 24 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF CAROLYN A. MCCONNELL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
WILLIAM C. MCCONNELL
1208 WALCOT LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37909

BRADLEY C. SAGRAVES, ATTORNEY
GRAYSON B. HOLMES, ATTORNEY
TENNESSEE TAX LAW, LLC
2095 LAKESIDE CENTRE WAY, SUITE 131
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MATTHEW
WILLIAM MCGAHA, JR.
DOCKET NUMBER 90583-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 26 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of MATTHEW WILLIAM MCGAHA, JR., who died January 24, 2025, were issued to the undersigned Executor by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 26 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF MATTHEW WILLIAM MCGAHA, JR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TIMOTHY DUANE MCGAHA, EXECUTOR

J. ERIC BUTLER, ATTORNEY
900 S. GAY ST., SUITE 300
P.O. BOX 2425
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JACK EUGENE MCMAHAN
DOCKET NUMBER 90335-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 24 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, Letters of Administration in respect of the Estate of JACK EUGENE MCMAHAN, who died November 20, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 26 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF HARVEY HOWARD JACK

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KATHRYN JAYNE JACK
2015 KARNSWOOD DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

TIMOTHY M. MCLEMORE, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 1990
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JOSEPH J. LEVITT, JR.
DOCKET NUMBER 90622-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 26 day of FEBRUARY, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOSEPH J. LEVITT, JR., who died January 24, 2025, were issued to the referenced Personal Representatives by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 26 day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF JOSEPH J. LEVITT, JR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
AMELIA KAY HAWKINS
5933 CLEARBROOK DRIVE



TSSAA STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Young Fulton team falls, 57-49

By Steve Williams

You don't see many teams as young as Fulton get to the TSSAA state tournament.

But the Falcons didn't just show up last week. They made it interesting.

Their slow start may have been due to their youth and the bright lights that come with a state tourney, but they got within three points late in the third period before losing to Fayette-Ware 57-49 in the TSSAA Class 3A state quarterfinals Thursday at MTSU's Murphy Center in Murfreesboro.

Of the dozen players on veteran coach Jody Wright's team, six were freshmen and two were sophomores. Sophomore Nick Steen played 31 of the 32 minutes at state, senior Derrick Smith 30 minutes, junior Rejuan Womble 25 minutes, sophomore Deven Hatchett 19 minutes, senior Travis Ballinger 16 minutes, junior Justin Burris 13 minutes, freshman Keirus Cox 12 minutes and freshman Jymari Martin 10 minutes.



PHOTO BY CASSIE VAUGHN

Fulton's Derrick Smith puts up a 3-point shot and Coach Jody Wright watches the flight of the ball in the TSSAA state tournament quarterfinal game against Fayette-Ware last Thursday at MTSU's Murphy Center.

Wright pointed to three things that he felt were the difference in the game - Fayette-Ware's ability to get some easy points in the

paint, its great job of finishing at the rim and forcing a lot of turnovers in the first half.

"Credit to them," said Wright.

"They're athletic, they're quick. They are a lot of things we're not. They're big and strong."

With their victory, the Wildcats

(28-5) from Somerville, which is located in West Tennessee, advanced to play Tullahoma in Friday's semifinals.

Fulton, at the state for the fourth year in a row and the two-time defending champion, finished the season 18-17.

Fayette-Ware Coach Demarius Chearis felt the key to the win was "defensive stops and keeping them off the offensive boards." He added that Coach Wright "always has guys that play hard. He's always going to have them ready and prepared."

Fayette-Ware has now played Fulton four years at state since 2016 and is 1-3. "We finally got that monkey off our back," laughed Coach Chearis.

Leading the way for Fayette-Ware were freshman shooting guard Markylon Terry with 19 points and eight rebounds, 6-foot-6 forward Tarecos Stevens with 13 points, seven rebounds and four blocks and senior point guard Tacarien Freeman with 11 points.

Smith led Fulton with 16 points.

Continue on page 2

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Karns takes the lead, but Halls gets it back

By Steve Williams

The sixth inning had a sweet and sour taste for Karns' YuYu Kennedy at Halls last week.

Despite a strong pitching performance by the Red Devils' Atiana Stamper, Kennedy got to her in the top of the sixth and belted a two-run homer to left-center to give the Lady Beavers their first runs and the lead.

Teammate CB Brown added a solo shot to straight away center and Karns enjoyed a 3-1 advantage.

But the bottom of the sixth wasn't so kind for Kennedy, Karns' talented third baseman and a King University signee. With two outs and a runner on first, YuYu's throw across the diamond was off target and allowed Halls to get two unearned runs

and tie the score. A no-no for YuYu, unfortunately.

Stamper blanked the Lady Beavers again in the top of the seventh with her 11th strikeout and Harper Bales' single to shallow right field brought home pinch-runner Khloe Lawson in the bottom half for the winning run and a 4-3 victory.

The non-district win lifted Halls to 7-1-1, while Karns slipped to 3-2.

"It was a good game," said Halls Coach Bryan Gordon. "We're struggling a little bit at the plate right now. Sometimes you've just got to grit them out."

Stamper, a Carson-Newman signee, gave up six hits, but she struck out the side in the second and fourth innings and fanned two more in the fifth to halt a scoring threat.

Karns Coach Michael

Spain said: "The difference in the game was we earned our runs; they did not. When you score three runs against an arm like that, you got a chance to win in this game."

In regard to his team's defense, Spain said: "I think we made some really good plays all game long. There at the end when it mattered, we had a couple of errors that cost us."

Karns pitcher Ella Swafford went the distance but took the loss. A 6-4-3 double play in the second inning helped her blank the Lady Red Devils for four straight innings.

Halls' Emery Bales had a RBI single in the first inning and scored a run in the sixth. MaKalye Hutchison contributed a double and single and scored a run. Landry Bernard had a single but it



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Halls' Atiana Stamper fires a pitch from the circle in the Red Devils' game against Karns last week. Stamper struck out 11 batters in a 4-3 victory.

was erased by the double play. Adree Johnston had the single up the middle that tied the score in the sixth.

For Karns, Kennedy

had a single in addition to her home run and Brown had a double to go with her homer. Amari Clark chipped in a single, Emma

Cont. on page 4

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Bulldogs get offensive West defeated in district opener

By Ken Lay

Bearden High School baseball coach Dave Prichard had some high praise for his opponents after his team's District 4-4A opener Wednesday.

The Bulldogs notched a 14-6 victory over West High on a warm night at Lindsay-Hawkins Park in Marble City but Prichard commended new Rebels' coach Rob Stacy and his team after the Bulldogs' league opener.

Cont. on page 3



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KNOXVILLE



TVA EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION

TSSAA STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

TKA Girls Basketball Finishes Second at State

By Mark Nagi

The King's Academy Lions have become a perennial state championship contender. Their run at the gold ball in Division II-A finished one win short of a title, but that shouldn't take away from what was a terrific 2024-2025 season for their girls basketball team. "We had a roller coaster ride, up and down," said TKE head coach Dante Turnipseed. "We had some really good games that we played against some really good teams. At Regionals, we turned it around and got really good at the right time. They bought into what the coaches were trying to do for them. It didn't become a selfish thing. More of a 'we will do what we need to do when our backs are against the wall' thing."

On Thursday, March 6, the Lions played one of



The Kings Academy Lady Lions came away from state as runners-up this year. Photo courtesy of TKE head coach Dante Turnipseed.

their best games of the season in the state semifinals at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville. It was a convincing 57-36 victory over Providence Christian.

"That game was great for us," said Turnipseed. "We have been to Cookeville a couple of times. We were

like, 'Hey, let's go win a game.' We had motivation and fire behind us. We are here to win, not just to be here. We defended and rebounded well. Everybody bought in and it came together."

In that game, TKA sophomore Skylar Walden led all scorers with 24 points.

"She is a hard worker and will do whatever you ask her to do," said Turnipseed. "She is a really good player. She is very skilled and has a great head on her shoulders. It is easy to coach her. She is going to do whatever it takes to win. She will take more responsibility and not complain about it."

TKA faced Webb School-Bell Buckle in the finals on Saturday, March 8. The Feet (yes that is their nickname) won 3 state titles from 2021-2023, spent one year in Division II-AA, and returned to Division II-A ball this season. It was a close game throughout, but in the end, Webb was a little too strong. Senior Daria Biriuk, an Ohio State signee, had a game-high 26 points for the Feet in their 66-59 victory. TKA finished their season at 27-7.

"I think we battled and fought through some adversity," said Turnipseed. "We were down but made some big plays. Then they made some big plays. It was a good lesson for us too. You'll play good teams that will make some shots and make some runs, and you have to try to stop that. I was happy to see our girls fight and keep playing to

the end."

Walden led the Lions in that game with 22 points. She has two years remaining at TKA. Forward Emily Atchley and guard Kyle Young will be back for their senior years. While they do lose forward Brady Branam, a Wofford signee and guard Lillian Sims to graduation, another run to Cookeville is certainly possible next season.

"We have the majority of our team coming back," said Turnipseed. "Having them there (in Cookeville) to see what goes on, they enjoyed it and want to go back. We want to get back and maybe win that game. But they know it takes hard work, summer ball and early conditioning. They have been there and now it is time to ramp it up."

Young Fulton team falls, 57-49

Cont. from page 1

Steen had 10 points and eight rebounds but was 0 for 5 on 3-point attempts. Womble contributed nine points, six boards and three assists.

Fulton only led once in the game (3-2) and trailed 16-9 at the end of the first period. Fayette-Ware went on an 8-2 run in the second period to extend its lead to 24-11 and went into the locker room ahead 28-16. A 7-0 run by the Falcons late in the third period pulled them within three points (35-32). In that spurt, Smith connected on a 3-pointer from the right wing, Womble scored on a rebound shot and Smith hit a jumper on the baseline after taking a charge.

The Wildcats answered with a 12-2 run to start the final period and were in command at 49-34 with some three minutes remaining. The first two

baskets in the run saw Terry score a layup all alone and Quaylan Hampton tally on a snowbird.

The Falcons didn't quit and got within six points (55-49) on a 3-pointer by Smith in the closing seconds.

"I told them, first of all, there's never any shame when you finish your season in Murphy Center. Never," said Coach Wright. "This is your ultimate destination. This is where you want to be.

"I didn't feel like we were tough enough today to win and that hurts me to say that. But I felt we competed hard and these two guys right here (Smith and Steen in the media interview room) they laid it out there. So I'm proud of our effort. We played a really good basketball team and it could have gotten ugly there, but we continued to compete and fight and I'm proud of them for that."

Green honored as Miss Basketball in Division II-AA

By Steve Williams

Meeyah Green of Webb School was among the Mr. and Miss Basketball winners for 2025.

The awards presentation took place at Tucker Theater on the campus of MTSU on Tuesday, March 18.

A statewide committee of sportswriters selected the winners based on performance during the 2024-2025 regular season. Academics and character were also taken into consideration. High school head basketball coaches and members of the media nominated the finalists.

"This is such an



outstanding honor for all 36 of the young men and women," said Mark Reeves, Executive Director of the TSSAA. "They were honored not only due to their athletic ability that they displayed on the court throughout the season, but just as much for their outstanding character and academic achievements."

This was the 40th year that the Mr. and Miss Basketball Awards

have been presented in Tennessee.

"Meeyah's accomplishment of winning Miss Basketball and leading her team to a state championship is a true testament to her relentless work ethic and consistent approach to the game," said Webb Coach Greg Hernandez. "I couldn't be prouder of her. She's put in countless hours of practice, stayed focused, and always led by example. This recognition is so well-deserved, and I'm thrilled to see her hard work come to fruition. There's truly no one more deserving of this honor."

A junior this season, Green will return for her senior season in 2025-26 and no doubt will have an eye on helping the Lady Spartans bring home another Division II-AA state title.

Kimora Fields of Bradley Central, which defeated Bearden in the Class 4A state semifinals and went on to capture the state championship, is among the Miss Basketball honorees.

Ty Glasper of Gatlinburg-Pittman was chosen the Mr. Basketball honoree in Class 2A.

Registration open for Kickball Tournament

The highly anticipated

annual Neighborhood Kickball Tournament will take place on Saturday, April 26, at Caswell Park and registration is open.

Teams need to be made up of 9 to 11 players.

This neighborhood event promises a day of fun, friendly competition, and camaraderie for players of all ages and abilities.

Food will be provided by Parks and Recreation's concession stand, and refreshing drinks will be provided by KUB Fiber.

You do not want to miss this chance to connect with neighbors and friends while enjoying some springtime fun.

For more details or to register, please contact Shannett Riley at sriley@knoxvilletn.gov

Local players part of ETSU win over Vols

Several East Tennessee State University baseball players from Knoxville were on the ETSU team that upset previously unbeaten Tennessee, the No. 1 ranked team in the nation, 7-6 on March 18.

They included Brady Frederick (Bearden), Logen Sutton (Powell), Walker Trusley (Powell), Eli Evans (Farragut), Ashton King (Farragut) and Andrew Hill (Central).

Cont. on page 4

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Webb School's Meeyah Green smiles among the Miss and Mr. Basketball winners who were announced last week.

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'Stories are where you find them'

Every now and then I look back at a number of stories from past writings. One question comes to mind more often than not. Did I really write this or did someone else commandeer the computer? For better or worse, the answer is often "Yes, I did." This is an ever-so-brief summary of some stories I found.

Here follows a report from, 1) a parking controversy on campus, 2) a eulogy for Hal Wantland, a respected former Vol captain from Columbia, Tennessee, and 3) a look at former Vol Herman Hickman's career in the early days of Sports Illustrated.

1) Welcome to Campus
Several years ago, my wife and I took a vacation to Maine. One of the dominant memories of the trip was spotting a bumper sticker as we arrived that read, "Welcome to Maine."

That was a good sign, a welcoming touch. Then came the tagline, the next sentence. "Now go home."

I thought about that when the powers-that-be on campus once offered free parking for the Orange and White Game. That was good. Then came the other

half of the story. "Don't stay on campus too long and expect to find your car in its appointed place." That came from a local media story. "There might even be a bill on your windshield. There's a concert at TBA, \$10 cash to park."

Welcome to campus. Just don't stay too long.

2) Hal Wantland
There are football players who, by their very nature, are memorable because of the way they played the game. Hal Wantland was one of them, near the top. "One good blocker is worth three ball-carrying stars," Gen. Neyland often said. He could have been talking about Wantland, who played wherever he was needed and played with great passion.

He played a little quarterback for Doug Dickey in early 1964 but contributed more as a hard-nosed wingback the remainder of his career.

He won the 1965 Jacobs Trophy as the SEC's best blocker. More than once, he made the block that propelled Walter Chadwick into the wide-open spaces or made the tough catch, just when it was needed. Many Vol fans remember him as an unquestioned leader.

It's hard to believe that it's been almost 60 years since Hal was captain of an 8-1-2 team that led Vol

fans to believe that Dickey was the "real deal" as head coach and the Vols were "back" as a national power. After the Vols battled defending national champ Alabama to a 7-7 tie at Legion Field in Birmingham, Hal had a concise recap of the game, reflecting the spirit of that Vol squad.

Asked about the final result, he said, "Alabama tied us."

When three assistant coaches were killed two days later at a West Knoxville railroad crossing, Hal swallowed hard and talked of their impact on the Vol squad.

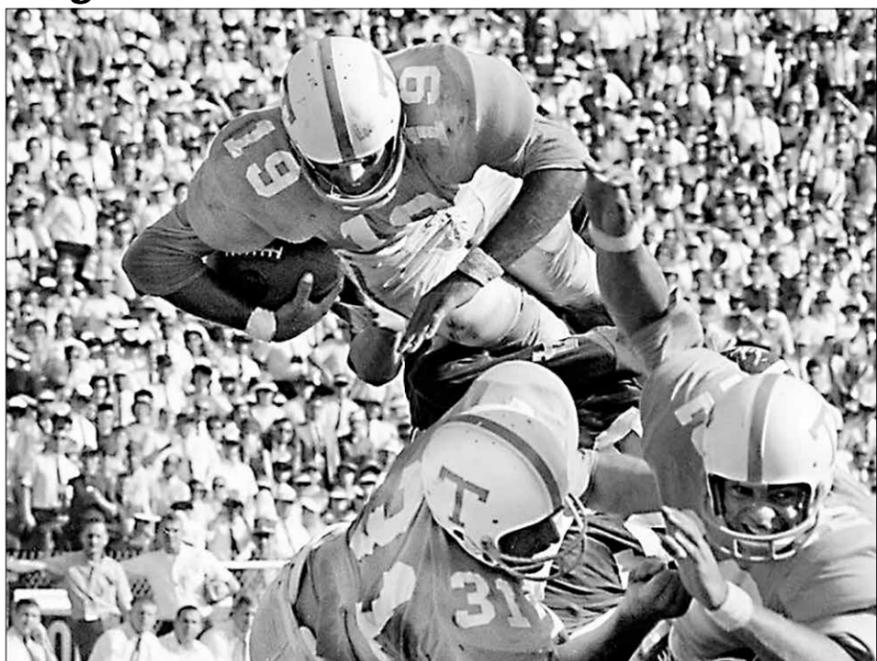
"You don't just play for coaches," he said. "You learn to love them and respect them. I don't know what to say. I'm too shocked. It's hard to believe."

His impact on Vol fortunes was such that it's hard to see a Tennessee player wearing No. 19 without thinking of Hal. When you think about those somber days in mid-October 1965, remember that Dickey and Hal Wantland stood tall when tragedy struck the Vol program.

There is something special about teams that turn around a school's fortunes. That's what happened in 1965.

Hal Wantland was a part of it, front and center.

3) Carpeted Offices and Marilyn Monroe



Hal Wantland (19) dives for the end zone in the 1965 Alabama game.

Roger Kahn had covered the Brooklyn Dodgers during the team's glory days, then became part of a fledgling publication called Sports Illustrated. Kahn later authored numerous books about baseball, the best of which was "The Boys of Summer" (1971). Kahn never really escaped the lure of writing about sports.

Herman Hickman was a former Volunteer, an oversized tackle in the early days, 1929-31, who earned a spot on Grantland Rice's All-American team with a scintillating performance in the 1931 Charity Bowl. That was the Depression-era

game the Vols won 13-0 over New York University at Yankee Stadium, with the city of Knoxville receiving a check for \$18,583 from game proceeds.

Herman Hickman became a member of the College Football Hall of Fame in 1958, the year of his death on April 25.

The duo's paths had crossed at the new magazine, but Kahn felt some frustration in his role.

"Sadly, it was no go at the magazine," he wrote. "Sports Illustrated was improving, and I was growing, but along divergent roads, and when I found myself assigned to

ghost-write the football articles of Herman Hickman, my patience snapped, and I resigned."

He always said he thought about going back to cover baseball, but, "I had seen carpeted offices and Marilyn Monroe."

These are just three of the stories that have caught my attention over the years. They say stories are where you find them. Yogi Berra once said you could hear a great deal by listening. I have been fortunate to be in the vicinity when some amazing things have taken place. Many of them have been chronicled under my byline.

Knox teams do well on and off the field in Spring Break trips

By Steve Williams

Farragut High's baseball trip to Panama City Beach on Spring Break last week began Monday night (March 17) with a game against Buchholz (FL), which was 13-0 and ranked No. 1 in the state of Florida in Class 6A.

Bucholz won the game 3-1 in eight innings. The Admirals tied the game on an RBI double in the sixth inning by sophomore Braxton Tye.

In its second game in the Sunshine State on Wednesday afternoon, Farragut defeated Mosley (FL) 4-1 in another 8-inning contest. The Admirals tied the game with two outs in the top of the 7th inning on an RBI double by Travis Brummitt, Jr.

Farragut scored three runs in the top of the 8th to win it on a bases loaded triple by Zain Kureshi-Smith. Sophomore Braiden Meredith was the winning pitcher out of the bullpen. Senior Benny Miller earned the save.

In Game 3 Wednesday night, Farragut walloped Oakleaf (FL) 14-6. Oakleaf led 3-0 after one inning, but the Admirals' offense dominated from that point on.

Farragut (8-3 overall) was scheduled to play Lincoln (FL) on Thursday. Through the first three games in Florida, the Admirals were 2-1.

Fulton starts off 2-0 in Florida

Coach Buzz McNish's Falcons rolled past Crescent City (FL) 18-3 and handed Sarasota Military a 10-4 loss.

A highlight on the trip was being at the Yankees versus Braves Spring Training game.

Powell's Grant pitches 2-hitter

Coach Josh Warner's Powell Panthers topped



Fulton High's baseball team takes a break to relax at Clearwater Beach.

Spanish Fort 13-0 in their first game on the trip to Gulf Shores in Alabama.

Austin Grant threw a complete game two-hitter. Parker Blankenship and Trey Purdom each had two hits.

On Day 2, Powell lost a 6-5 game against Greenbriar.

Central goes 2-2 on the week

Coach Brandon Roberts saw his Central Bobcats notch wins over Fleming Island 11-4 and Cottondale 8-4, while losing to Buchholz 4-0 and Lincoln 6-2.

During the week's action on the field, Nick Riordan went 6 for 11 with a home run and double. Kaylin Chesney also had a good average at the plate, going 7 for 11. Braden Davis pitched three shutout innings.

"Overall it was a great trip," said Coach Roberts. "We got to face two of these teams in the state of Florida. The boys also were able to spend a lot of time together. We were able to get a lot of practice in around the games as well."

Freshman baseball comes to Knoxville for 2025 season

By Ken Lay

When Rob Stacy was named West High School's baseball coach over the summer, he knew that he would inherit a young team facing a rebuild.

The Rebels have several young players, including multiple freshmen. So Stacy, an ambassador for baseball, has now started a freshman baseball league in the Knoxville Area. The league is currently comprised of four teams. West, Bearden, Halls and Anderson County are currently competing in the league and Stacy is hoping that the freshman league will continue to catch on throughout East Tennessee.

"We have great kids here and I thank God every day that I came here and got the opportunity to coach these kids," said Stacy, who took the reins at West after reversing the fortunes at Clinton, a long-suffering program. "We have a young team and we have a lot of freshmen."

The rigors of a District 4-4A schedule don't allow for freshmen to see much time on the diamond at either varsity or JV. And Stacy wants to give all of his players the chance to play somewhere.

"We have freshmen in our

program who have the right to compete and contribute," Stacy said. "We have kids who eat, sleep and live baseball and they need to feel like they contribute."

"Everything here is going in the right direction, but if kids don't feel like they can contribute, then your program is not going in the right direction."

The four-team league may not seem like much. But it's a start as the Rebels, Bulldogs, Red Devils and Mavericks are benefiting in a big way.

"We have Halls, Bearden, Anderson County and us playing freshman baseball and that's important to the development of your program," Stacy said. "Hopefully, we can get some more teams. We've played about eight games."

High school freshman baseball is finally getting started in the Knoxville Area, but before coaching at Clinton and turning things around for the Dragons, Stacy worked as an assistant coach in Northeast Tennessee, where freshman baseball has long been in place.

"When I coached in the Tri-Cities, where I'm from, we had freshman baseball," Stacy said. "And sometimes, at some schools, they've had JV 'A' games and JV 'B' games."

Bulldogs get offensive, West defeated in district opener

Cont. from page 1

"He's doing a good job over there and he's really got something good going," Prichard said of Stacy.

Following the 2025 season, the Rebels (8-6 overall, 0-3 in the district) will move to District 3-4A and replace defending district champion Oak Ridge, and Prichard said he thinks that West will "do well."

"The teams in that district better watch out next year," Prichard said. "Oak Ridge is leaving and they'll be going over there and

they could win it."

Before the season, Bearden (8-1, 1-0) had lofty expectations but Prichard, the Bulldogs' fourth-year head coach, was concerned about his squad's offense. Bearden was inconsistent at the plate last season.

But they enjoyed success last week against the Rebels.

Bearden pounded out 15 hits and drew three walks. The Bulldogs also took advantage of five errors by the Rebels. Bearden

collected six extra-base hits as Evan Cope, Tyler Cline, Sammy Greene, Logan Benko and Hunter Harris all doubled in the contest. Grayson Wright had a three-run triple

"Tonight, they finally did what we wanted them to do offensively," Prichard said. "They finally hit the ball well and they hit the ball the way we wanted to see them hit it."

Bearden scored runs in bunches. After the two rivals played a scoreless first inning, Bearden plated

four runs in the top of the second frame. Greene and Cameron Cooper both had RBI singles. Cope drove in a run with a double and the Bulldogs added another run on an errant pickoff throw.

The Rebels responded and took the lead as they scored five runs in the bottom of the inning. Dylan Stenstrom pulled West to within 4-1 with a scoring single that plated Will Lenczynski who was hit by a pitch. The big offensive blow for the Rebels

came when Mason Dugan clubbed a grand slam to give West a 5-4 lead.

"Mason is a great player and he crushed that ball," West coach Rob Stacy said.

In the third, Greene's two-run double keyed another big inning for the Bulldogs. They added another run in the fifth thanks to some shaky defense by the Rebels to take a 9-5 lead.

Bearden scored five more runs in the sixth as Hunter Harris clubbed a pinch-hit three-run double and Wright had a two-run

triple.

West scored its final run in the sixth.

Stacy took the blame for his team's loss.

"This one's on me," Stacy said. "I'm failing these guys right now. We've got to do better and we've got to get one of these games that really count."

"When I say we've got to get better, I'm not talking about intensity. I'm saying that I've got to step it up a notch."

Karns takes the lead, but Halls gets it back

Cont. from page 1
Conover a sacrifice bunt and Lauren Martin a bunt single.

TITLE HOPES: Halls is still looking for its first state title under Coach Gordon, whose team came close to bringing home a championship trophy from the Spring Fling in Murfreesboro last season.

"It's a little early yet," said Gordon. "We've got some young kids playing that hadn't played a whole lot for us. If we can get everything going by the end of the year, we should be okay. You never know how they are going to jell and come together."

"We've got the pitching (Emery Bales and Stamper) that's going to keep us in every game. I mean we've got a chance, so we're going to have to start



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Karns' third baseman YuYu Kennedy and teammates meet in the circle before the start of the next inning in last week's game at Halls. Kennedy hit a two-run homer for the Lady Beavers but made one throw across the diamond she probably would like to have back.

hitting it a little bit." In addition to Emery Bales (UT-Chattanooga)

and Stamper (C-N), Halls has two other signees - Brianna Smith (Roane

State) and Hutchison (Chattanooga State).

Green honored as Miss Basketball in Division II-AA

Cont. from page 2
Frederick, a sophomore right-hander, pitched 3 2/3 innings in the game. The extra inning thriller was played in front of a record-breaking regular-season crowd of 6,331 at Lindsey Nelson Stadium.

Boone High School from 2013-2018, where he led the girls' varsity team to their first ever Class AAA state tournament appearance. His overall coaching record is 235-112.

Mains switches to Catholic's boys basketball position

Travis Mains has taken over the reins of the Knoxville Catholic's boys basketball team after being the girls' head coach since 2020 and guiding the Lady Irish to state titles in 2023 and 2024.

Mains' coaching experience also includes his alma mater Daniel

Circle April 15 on your calendar!

It's three weeks and a day until the Knoxville Smokies' 2025 home opener in their new stadium in downtown Knoxville.

The first home game of the season will be on Tuesday, April 15th at Covenant Health Park, where they will play the Chattanooga Lookouts.

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