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School board approves contractor for new school, name for Gibbs field

By Ken Lay

Things were short and sweet for the Knox County Board of Education at its regular session meeting at The Summer Place Thursday afternoon.

The proceedings were concluded in approximately 45 minutes as all measures passed unanimously with little or no discussion.

One item concerning teachers' retirement benefits was tabled and will be up for consideration in May.

The board approved the contractor Merit Construction for a new elementary school in Farragut. The school is projected to cost more than \$473 million.

The campus will be located at the intersection of

Kingston Pike and Boring Road on land that was purchased by KCS in 2023. The decision to build the school on the 41-acre parcel was made last year.

Farragut Primary and Farragut Intermediate will also be renovated. Construction on the new school is set to begin in May and it is scheduled to open for the

2027-28 school year.

Board member Lauren Morgan, who represents District 5, expressed her gratitude to the board at its work session meeting, which was held on Monday, April 7.

"I just wanted to thank the board for your vote ahead of time for our new elementary school," Morgan said.

"It's an exciting time."

The new school will have the capability to serve between 1,200-1,400 students in grades K-5. It will be a single-story 144,255-square foot building.

The board also approved naming the Gibbs High School baseball field. The facility will be named in honor of country singer

Morgan Wallen, who played baseball for the Eagles. Wallen has made multiple contributions to Gibbs High's baseball, band and core programs.

The board will hold a community meeting to discuss its 2026 budget on Tuesday at 5 p.m. It will also vote on its budget on April 29.

Holston Hills Celebrates Dogwood Season



PHOTOS BY JAMIE SCHNELL.

Lauren Adams, painter and Holston Hills Community Club member, works on a painting of the entrance to Holston Hills Community Park at the community's Dogwood event held earlier this month.

Holston Hills Community, Country Clubs Host Dogwood Arts Kick-Off Party

By Jamie Schnell
schnellj@knoxfocus.com

Historic Holston Hills Community Club members and guests celebrated the 69th anniversary of the Holston Hills Dogwood Trail on Sunday, April 6 with local art, music and fellowship.

East Knoxville's two trails, Holston Hills and Morningside, are the 2025 Dogwood Arts Featured Trails. The Holston Hills Trail was established in 1956, the second trail in the county following Sequoyah Hills in 1955.

The Holston Hills community comprises over 500 homes and features beautiful gardens, a Community Club Park, The Garden (a 501c-3 non-profit organization garden club), a book club, and many social gatherings.

The community club's Dogwood Arts Committee includes Lauren Adams, Georgia Bacon, Karen Bacon, Clarita Buffalo, Danielle Hanson, Tobias Knight, John Pollock, Tracy Sanbronn, Allyn Schwartz and Millie Ward. Georgia aims to "promote community artists—most of whom are from Holston Hills and the surrounding areas of Knoxville—and to raise money for the park." Over 200 tickets were sold for this event.

Jim and Martha Coppock attended the party and told The Focus they have lived in Holston Hills for



The Community Club's Dogwood Arts Committee includes (L-R) Karen Bacon, Tracy Sanbronn, Clarita Buffalo, John Pollock, Tobias Knight, Allyn Schwartz and Millie Ward. Not pictured in the group photo is committee member Georgia Bacon, the daughter of Karen Bacon.

52 of their 66 years of marriage. Jim pointed out the golf course map and shared fond memories of his time as a caddy at the Holston Hills Golf Course.

Vicki Baumgartner, Dogwood Arts Trails and Gardens Manager, told The Knoxville Focus, "The goal of this annual event is to connect various neighborhoods and to keep the legacy alive after 70 years."

The event featured fifteen local artists who showcased their work, all of which was available for purchase. The participating artists were

Lauren Adams, Natalie Calcaterra, Scottielynn Pottery, David Clowe, Joe Crozier, Wanda Cazaubon, Mack Hickey, Andrea "Andy" Lyle, Shelley Mangold (a retired art teacher who taught in Knox and Anderson counties), Andrea McCulley, Deb Shmoller, Caroline Trotter, Honey-mouth (Georgia Vogel), Rachel Waddell, Jodi Warner, and Dewfall Flowers (Caroline Zengel).

Each ticket included heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks, while attendees enjoyed live music performed by Tom Johnson on the piano.

Chief Long unveils new fire and rescue training facility

By Joe Rector

The Knox County Fire and Technical Rescue Finance Subcommittee enjoyed a special treat after their April 9 meeting. Jenny Holden, senior director of Grants and Community Development, quickly busied herself in requesting federal funds to help with the construction. Money from the ARPA program was received, and Knox County contributed \$420,000 toward construction, with Karns Fire Department also contributing.

Located on Waterville Road, the rescue tower is a 48-foot cinderblock structure that will be an essential part of training individuals in becoming firefighters. Its uses include rescues from inside and outside of the building, dealing with rescues in stairwells, and rappelling from the structure. Trainees and certified firefighters from across the area will be using the structure to perfect their skills.

Mayor Glenn Jacobs

had wanted such a structure to better train new members of the Karns Fire Department and other units across the county. Fire Chief Daron Long showed off the new fire and rescue training building to members. The project is ready to go after about a year's work.

Fire Chief Daron Long

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Federal funds may be discussed by commission

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The acceptance of federal grant funds by Knox County may be discussed when the county commission meets for its agenda review Monday and during the commission's regular session on April 28.

The commission routinely approves the application or acceptance of federal funds, and two similar resolutions are on the agenda. The commission will vote to accept a grant award with Tennessee

Emergency Management Agency for \$21,000 for the Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Management Agency (Knox911) for off-site emergency planning and response equipment. No matching local funds are involved in accepting the Department of Energy "pass-through" funding.

The commission will also consider accepting anticipated federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development of \$1.2 million in Community Development Block

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Trump And His Tariffs

From a distance



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

In early 2016, I became one of the first members of Congress to endorse Donald Trump for the nomination of the Republican Party as our candidate for president.

I did this because he seemed to be by far the least hawkish of all the Republicans running at that time, and I also agreed with his America First platform.

One of his campaign officials told me he wanted to call and thank me, and the next morning he called and we spoke for about 20 minutes.

He was in a very good

mood, and I told him about some of the things we agreed on, especially trade and stopping illegal immigration.

I know that no two people agree on everything, and even husbands and wives and best friends disagree sometimes.

I also have said and written that even Trump's strongest supporters do not like some of the things he has said or done.

I have been very disappointed – but not the least bit surprised – that he has not criticized Israel or done more to stop the killing of thousands of little children in Gaza.

But I am strongly in favor of his efforts to cut all the waste and fraud in the federal government. I know that we must do this in order to pay our social security and have our money be worth much at all in the very near future.

The Democrat way for far too many years has been to

approve any and all spending and then pay for it by printing more money and borrowing more and inflating the heck out of our currency.

Now our national debt is almost \$37 trillion, a humanly incomprehensible figure, and it will go much higher very soon if we don't do the very unpopular things Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency are trying to do.

I have always heard inflation referred to as the cruelest tax of all because, in a way, it is a secret, underhanded kind of tax that hits the poorest hardest of all.

Now Trump is trying to get more fairness in our international trade by imposing some tariffs on countries that impose them on U.S. goods.

In the month of January alone, we had a trade deficit of \$131 billion. For the year 2024, it was a record \$918.4 billion. This means we have been buying

hundreds of billions of dollars worth of goods and services from other countries for many years.

This also means that we have sent millions of good jobs to other countries, and is why so many college graduates can only find jobs as waiters and waitresses.

With only four percent of the world's population, we buy almost 30 percent of the world's goods and services. This means every country desperately wants to enter our market. We have tremendous leverage on trade that we haven't used effectively or really hardly at all in the past.

Some multi-national companies that benefit from cheap labor have hired think tanks and professors to put out studies and articles saying tariffs will hurt the U.S. economy.

They have used scare tactics such as blaming the U.S. depression on the Smoot-Hawley tariffs of

1930. Yet the situation was totally different then. We even had a trade surplus at that time, not a \$918 billion trade deficit.

The Great Depression started in 1929, yet the Smoot-Hawley Act was not enacted until June of 1930. According to Wikipedia, "The average tariff rate, which was applied on dutiable imports, was 40.1% in 1929, and increased to 59.1% in 1932."

It was applied across the board to over 20,000 imported items. Trump is not planning on placing tariffs on that many items, and the tariffs are not nearly that high.

Already, some major companies have announced plans to put factories here in the U.S. that they had planned on putting in other countries. Trump is trying to use the threat or temporary imposition of some tariffs as a negotiating tool to get more fairness in our trade system and bring

thousands of jobs back to the U.S.

These are good and worthwhile goals that most Americans support. If Congress would cooperate, I believe what Trump is trying to do would make this country stronger, given a little bit of time.

I do not like to see anyone lose a job. However, I knew that there would be tearjerker stories about many people who were losing jobs in our bloated federal bureaucracy, but it really needed to be done.

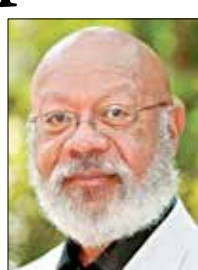
In the same way, there will be tearjerker stories about people who lose jobs because of Trump's tariffs.

The one thing you can always count on with the national media is that they will put the worst possible spin on anything a Republican does.

But I think the overwhelming majority know this country can't keep going the way it has been.

Trump's Tariffs: Beyond Dumb

The Wall Street Journal called Trump's tariffs "dumb," and then he rolled out his plan for all to see. Now the Journal is calling them "dumbest." Let's recount. First, he said he was going to impose a 25% tariff on



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

Mexico and Canada until they stopped the flow of illegals and fentanyl. Both were threatened equally, even though most of the influx comes across the southern border. Strangely, China, the source of fentanyl, was only hit with a 10% tariff threat. Mexico and Canada took steps, but Trump kept the tariffs on. I had called the "stop illegals and stop fentanyl" demand a ruse. And it was. Trump then said that he wanted to bankrupt the

Canadian economy and that the only way to avoid the tariffs was to move production to the U.S.

Trump then said that he was going to impose reciprocal tariffs on all our trading partners to equalize the tariffs across the board between countries. Then came the great reveal of "Liberation Day," where the reciprocal tariffs were not reciprocal at all. Rather, Trump's new tariffs were a mixture of tariffs, the trade (goods) deficit and "currency manipulation." The result was that when Israel announced that it had lowered all its tariffs to zero, the Trump "reciprocal" tariff was not zero but 17%! This was because we run a deficit with Israel. Therefore,

in order to get their tariff down to zero, Israel must tell its companies not to sell any more goods to the U.S. when the amount sold equals the amount purchased by the U.S. This is beyond stupid. This means that, because the trade deficit in goods (which ignores the trade surplus in services) is \$1 trillion, in order to eliminate Trump's tariffs, Americans must stop purchasing foreign goods. And this is supposed to make America great again?

The total amount of tariffs on Chinese goods was 54%. When asked how China could get the tariffs lower, Trump officials said that China needed to stop the flow of fentanyl. Trump accused China of subsidizing chemical companies to export fentanyl and of providing a safe haven for

Chinese criminal organizations that launder the revenues from the opioid trade.

A statement from the White House said, "Despite multiple attempts to resolve this crisis at its root source through bilateral dialogue, PRC officials have failed to follow through with the decisive actions needed to stem the flow of precursor chemicals to known criminal cartels."

The Chinese, of course, denied being complicit in the fentanyl trade. But really? In a country as tightly controlled as China, do you seriously think that the government does not sanction the fentanyl trade? The drug and its damage to China's enemies in the West are surely part of China's overall strategy to weaken

Western economies. What do you want to bet that Xi and his cronies are getting wealthy off the fentanyl trade? There is enough money there to bribe hundreds if not thousands of Western partners.

Yet even if China did take tough action to stop the flow of fentanyl, Trump's "reciprocal" tariffs would not vanish. They would not go away even if China reduced its tariffs to zero. Again, look at the example of Israel. Since the U.S. runs a trade deficit with China, Trump would still keep his tariffs in place until that deficit goes to zero. The same is true for Mexico and Canada. Even if they reduce the flow of fentanyl to a mere trickle, Trump's tariffs will stay in place until the trade deficit

goes to zero. However, even with zero tariffs, no country in the world is capable of matching U.S. wealth, making a zero trade deficit virtually impossible.

Trump surely knows this. I once wrote that Trump was like Herbert Hoover, who signed the Smoot-Hawley tariff act that helped plunge the country into the Great Depression. Well, both Smoot and Hawley lost when they ran for re-election. Hoover lost and the republicans lost 100 seats in Congress.

Some have written that the Democrat party is dead. Well, Trump has revived them. Unless Trump stops this madness, look for the Democrats to take back the House and possibly the Senate in 2028.



Knox County Trustee Justin Biggs (standing) addressed the April 8 meeting of the Halls Republican Club at the Boys & Grills Club. Biggs will be hosting a re-election campaign kick-off on April 22 at Covenant Health Park at 4:30 p.m.

Federal funds may be discussed

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The agenda "establishing new procedures in reviewing grants" and has stated he is opposed to accepting federal grants because he sees the funds being borrowed by the federal government as contributing to the national debt.

Fox has voted "No" on resolutions involving incoming federal funding. District 4 Commissioner Shane Jackson has a

related item on the agenda simply titled "Discussion: Federal Grants."

In other business, the commission may discuss renewal of drug and alcohol testing for the courts and probation services; a second reading of changes relating to the Technology Corridor Agency; and extending the audit contract with Pugh & Company.



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Publisher Steve Hunley

Editor, Art Director Marianne Dedmon

editor@knoxfocus.com, design@knoxfocus.com

Mike Steely, Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com

Jamie Schnell schnellj@knoxfocus.com

Sales sales@knoxfocus.com

Pam Poe phpoe2000@yahoo.com

Ruthie Akers Ruthie@knoxfocus.com

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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

Do They Think We Are Stupid?

Four and a half years after the fact, and in some instances longer, the New York Times is coming to grips with what many of us have known as fact. Zeynep Tufekci, a Times columnist and professor of sociology at Princeton, published a column on March 16 proclaiming, "We Were Badly Misled About the Event That Changed Our Lives." Tufekci's column stated the scientific community long thought it likely COVID-19 began in a Wuhan laboratory, yet "hid or understated crucial facts" in an effort to deliberately mislead the American public about the lab's "terrifyingly lax" or

nonexistent safety precautions. "We have since learned, however, that to promote the appearance of consensus, some officials and scientists hid or understated crucial facts, misled at least one reporter, orchestrated campaigns of supposedly independent voices and even compared notes about how to hide their communications in order to keep the public from hearing the whole story," Tufekci acknowledged. Most readers remember not so long ago an admission like that would have been labeled a "conspiracy theory."

Way To Go, Wisconsin

Largely overlooked by the corporate media was the fact that the people of Wisconsin voted to make the requirement of a photo ID to vote part of their state constitution. 63% of the electorate in Wisconsin voted for the measure, meaning it had both Republicans and Democrats in voting for it. Fully 36 states now have some kind of voter identification

requirement in their laws. Yet Washington Democrats were in a tizzy over the SAVE Act (Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act), which would require proof of citizenship rather than simply checking a box and swearing you are a citizen. Only one form of proof is required, such as a government-issued ID, birth certificate, a passport and several other forms of identification. Democrats in Washington have squalled that would pose problems for those women who don't use their maiden names to vote any longer. Congresswoman Laura Friedman shrieked it was a "modern-day poll tax, targeting American women and low-income Americans." Bull. It would be more accurate to describe the virtual slave labor used in China to make everything from socks to satellites as a modern-day form of slavery. Congresswoman Friedman hasn't been outspoken in opposing letting biological men play women's and girls' sports, so her concern for her fellow womankind seems spotty at best. Congresswoman Lauren

Boebert told her Democrat colleagues, "Bless my colleagues' hearts on the other side of the aisle, using women as a 'gotcha' for voting. I've never had to bring my birth certificate to prove that I was a registered voter. I have an ID that has a different name than my birth certificate."

"Since we're using women as bait here, in the next round of debates they can explain to us exactly what a woman is."

Of course, that is apparently a daunting task for many Democrats; one who could not, Ketanji Brown Jackson, now sits on the US Supreme Court.

While Democrats cry their little hearts out about "voter suppression," it's just another issue where they are on the opposite side of not only logic and common sense, but also the great majority of the American people. A recent Gallup poll found 84% of Americans favor requiring a photo ID to be able to vote.

208 Democrats in the US House of Representatives voted against curtailing illegal aliens' voting in our elections. The right to vote is and should be one of the

most cherished rights of those who are citizens. Democrats are finding themselves defending some mighty strange notions these days, including why they don't wish to see violent noncitizen gang members deported. Maybe they hope they can stay here and vote.

There Oughta Be a Law

In terms of tariffs and trade, something you are not likely to hear from the corporate media is the United States' increasing reliance on China for the continued good health of average Americans. The US accounts for fully 40% of the global pharmaceutical market. China plays an outsized role in supplying APIs, a key and active ingredient in drugs, both name-brand and generic, which are used in a very large number of prescriptions used in America. Some of the most common drugs used on a daily basis by Americans, like antibiotics, acetaminophen and ibuprofen, come from - either directly or indirectly - from China. COVID provided a stern warning

to the United States, both in terms of Americans being increasingly dependent upon medicines and medical supplies from an ostensibly unfriendly foreign power. How many of us recall that masks had to be ordered from China because companies in the US weren't making enough of them? The COVID pandemic also showed us the fragility of our supply chain and its importance. Remember the lack of formula for babies? In 2023 alone, our country suffered a \$139.5 billion deficit in pharmaceuticals. That same year, the US imported roughly \$176.7 billion worth of pharmaceutical products.

The United States should not be dependent on any other country in the world for pharmaceuticals, especially a country that is hostile to America. It is a matter of national security as well as protecting the people of our country. There oughta be a law that at least 90% of our pharmaceuticals are manufactured right here in the USA.

Chief Long unveils new fire and rescue training facility

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couldn't hide his pride over the new facility.

"This is a dream come true. Our ability to train new firefighters has just improved dramatically. Instead of having to send them to middle Tennessee for it, we can complete the work in our own back yard. The money we save by staying home will be tremendous for our departments."

Herman Lathers is the training officer. He says that most classes begin with between 10-15 individuals. That number decreases before long.

"The first part of training is physical fitness, and some people just can't keep up with the demands that are required to be a firefighter," the former Vol football player and instructor said.

The Karns Fire Department began in 1978 as a volunteer organization. Over the years, the demands for service grew until the decision was made to become a subscription-based department. Many residents choose to subscribe for services, but others aren't aware of the help they can receive from the department.

"The cost of services



PHOTO BY JOE RECTOR

The new firefighter training center in Karns.

for non-members is steep, much more than a yearly subscription. No one thinks he or she will ever require our help, but when they do, they realize just how important it is financially to subscribe," Long said.

Serving Karns, Ball Camp,

Solway and Hardin Valley, the Karns Fire Department responds to about 3,000 incidents each year. That number could well increase as more homes are built in all four areas, and the need for trained and certified firefighters increases.

Knox County Fire and Rescue Committee elects officers

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Fire and Technical Rescue Committee met Wednesday afternoon in the new Karns Fire Department training facility on Waterville Lane just off Lovell Road to elect officers and tour the new station.

The committee's chair position rotates between the three volunteer fire and rescue captains and Seymour Chief John Linsenbiger was chosen to lead the group. Knox County Rescue Chief Bryan Townsend was chosen as vice chairman and 911 Executive Director Brad Anders was re-elected to head the finance committee.

Linsenbiger replaces outgoing Karns Chief Daron Long in the position.

Anders told the group that a budget of \$600,500 is being requested of the Knox County Commission for the upcoming year for operations and debt reduction. The funds are divided between the three volunteer groups.



Seymour's Chief John Linsenbiger was chosen as chair of the Knox County Fire and Technical Rescue Committee last week during a meeting at the new Karns Fire Station and Training facility. Photo by Mike Steely.

At-large Commissioner Larsen Jay, new to the group after the commission voted to add a second member to the group to join Commissioner Kim Frazier there, asked about how the funding is requested and used. Anders said the county funding is part of the Memorandum of Understanding and each member organization reports how the funds were used, promising, "It couldn't be more transparent."

Members of the committee include the various chiefs of each fire and rescue organization including the Karns and Seymour Fire Departments, Rural Metro and the Knox Rescue Squad; two Knox County Commissioners; and representatives from the Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Communications District, the county health, community development and finance departments, and the mayor's office.

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Honor ceremonies on commission agenda

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Three Honorary Resolutions are in the works for the Knox County Commission's April meetings.

Knoxville businessman and former state Representative Eddie Mannis will be featured for his continuing efforts with HonorAir Knoxville. The nonprofit organization has taken military veterans on 36 trips to the nation's capital to visit military sites including the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and other important sites.

Mannis founded HonorAir in 2007 and is a successful Knoxville business owner, supporter of various

efforts and events, and served as Knoxville Deputy Mayor.

The West Valley Middle School Girls Basketball Team will be honored by Commissioners Shane Jackson and Angela Russell. The team went undefeated this season and earned the title of Knox County District Champions.

Several local organizations will be honored for their efforts to remove trash and create awareness of litter control across our region. At-large Commissioner Larsen Jay is sponsoring the honors that include Keep Knoxville Beautiful, Keep Tennessee Beautiful, Ijams Nature Center and Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful.



Four members of Rural Metro Fire Department were honored last month by the Knox County Commission for their heroism. Engineer David Dragan and Firefighter Hunter Mitchell from Engine 233 and Captain Andrew Fizzano and Firefighter Thomas Kearley from Engine 234 were applauded for preventing the massive explosion of a propane truck on February 25 on East Emory Road.

City council to meet April 29

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

With the City Council meeting once planned for Tuesday, the same day as the new Covenant Health Park opens, the meeting has been merged with the Tuesday, April 29, meeting. An agenda for that meeting may be due next week, but the items passed on first reading on the council's regular meeting on April 1 will apparently face a second and final reading during the council's second April meeting.

Normally, with five Tuesdays in a month, the city council meets three times, but the opening day of the stadium trumped the second meeting date.

The council's rules committee, however, is planning to meet Tuesday at 3:30 to continue reviewing various rules for meetings.

Within those "First Reading" agenda items that should appear on the April 29 meeting are several ordinances, ranging from a \$1,500 donation to Camp 24, a community football camp, to a zoning approval for 413 East Inskip Drive to change the residential category there to "Office."

The much-debated One Year Plan is back for a second reading and includes permitting duplex housing in all city zones with a special-use permit for RN-1 and RN-2. The plan passed first reading with some hesitation but

with an 8-1 vote.

Gennisi Charitable Birth Services may get \$1,500 from the Community Safety and Empowerment budget to support healthy eating among youth and young adults.

An unnamed and unapproved street on the east side of Waverly Street may be permanently abandoned and closed. The council may also vote on reducing interior side, corner and rear setbacks for C-N zoned property.

Several properties along Atchley Street may get final approval for switching from general commercial to industrial mixed-use zoning.

Knox County Election Commission to meet April 22

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Election Committee will meet next Tuesday, April 22, in the Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building.

The committee members will take the oath of office administered by the Honorable Christopher Heagerty.

The election administrator will then be elected by the members, and the oath for that office will be given by the Honorable Kristi Davis.

The oaths will be followed by a public forum,

and the committee will look at appeals for rejected voter resignation forms and hear the administrator's report.

No changes are expected for the committee or the administrator

positions. Christopher S. Davis serves as administrator of elections. The committee members are Hanna Hooper, Julie Gautreau, Bob Bowman, Eddie Smith and Adronicus Thomas.

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(no strollers will be allowed in the search area)

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Making A Difference

Blind support is just as bad as blind opposition.
Scott Atlas, M.D.

No sane person would deny that our country is in a mess. We are polarized like no time since the Civil War, and we are \$36 trillion in debt. Jesus said a house divided will not stand (Matthew 12:25). And institutional corruption, wasteful spending and ruinous trade imbalances are non-sustainable and will lead to certain collapse.

There are powerful people in Washington, and there are people with common sense in the Capitol. However, no one has shown the political courage, common sense and power to address the fundamental problems facing our nation until President Trump.

We are all imperfect beings. And as the apostle Paul wrote, we have different gifts. In ancient times, leaders of a country

projected the image and zeitgeist (spirit, mood) of the people. Examples are the biblical kings of Israel. With good kings the people prospered. When kings were bad, the people suffered. This is true even today because Americans suffered with Dark Brandon as leader.

In my book club, we just finished reading "Freedom's Force" by Arthur Herman. The subtitle reads "How American business produced victory in World War II." What impressed me was how America's industrial base revved up to produce more planes, ships, trucks, tanks, bombs, guns and bullets than the Axis powers of Germany, Japan and Italy combined. Additionally, American industry supplied England and Russia with armaments, food, clothing, etc., and at the same time supplied the needs of the American civilian population.

We no longer have that industrial base. It was shipped away in search of cheap foreign labor. As a result, jobs were lost as American factories closed, trade imbalances developed, other countries became richer as our national debt increased exponentially, and critical raw materials became increasingly subject to chancy foreign supply lines. Furthermore, pollution became even more of an issue because other countries have less stringent regulations on pollution than America. China is building scores of coal-fired power plants resulting in terrible air pollution.

Tariffs imposed by President Trump continue to be the raging issue. I don't know the right answer to our problems, but neither does anyone else. President Harry Truman once quipped that he would like a one-armed economist, because after rendering an opinion his expert with two arms would always say, "on the other hand..."

I was a pretty good internist and geriatrician, so rendering a medical opinion or finding a solution for a patient's ailment was usually not a problem. But on non-medical issues, I often need help.

I have a good friend who maintains, "None of us is as smart as all of us together." Therefore, I reached out to an economist, two

businessmen, an investment banker, and an international shipping manager for their opinions on tariffs and a thought-provoking article by Tanvi Ratna, which appeared April 5, 2025, at FOX News online. The article was entitled "Trump's Tariff Gambit: Debt, Power and the Art of Strategic Disruption."

Ms. Ratna concludes that "Trump's Gambit" is more than tariffs or trade imbalances. It is a move to "build up leverage and resources to manage America's debt, reset its industrial base and renegotiate its standing in the global order." To translate the techno verbiage, Trump is trying to lower the interest on our debt by creating uncertainty in the markets and driving investor money to long-term U.S. Treasury Bonds. Yes, this is very complicated. Some have described the necessity of "detox for the overheated financial system." One of my consultants said this strategy "has too many moving parts."

The machinations are certainly above my pay grade.

But there is more. A few weeks ago, I wrote about mercantilism, a policy which promotes a country's industries and protects its farmers. There are 180 countries that use protectionist tariffs. As examples, Australia exports billions of dollars of beef to the U.S., but refuses

our beef exports. Germany exports luxury cars to the U.S., but through tariffs and VATS (value-added taxes), Cadillacs are unattractive to purchase in Germany. And China uses currency manipulation and subsidies to support its producers, limiting American competition. The bottom line is free trade does not exist, and Trump has the courage to demand that if you want access to U.S. markets, you are going to treat us fairly.

But of greatest importance, the Trump strategy aims to reestablish our industrial base and produce what we need in the United States. It's called reshoring, the opposite of offshoring. This has become a national security issue. We can't be dependent on foreign nations for antibiotics. Nor can we confront "China on the battlefield if they make our parts."

Trump is also distancing us from Europe and NATO. He's insisting NATO countries pay their dues and take more responsibility for their defense. Trump is also fostering relationships with countries in this hemisphere, such as Panama and El Salvador, and also the Pacific Rim.

Lastly, Trump's DOGE is auditing the government and Washington, D.C. The DOGE team is finding and publishing their discoveries of fraud, waste and abusive spending in government. DOGE is also

making recommendations for much-needed modernization and efficiency. If you haven't watched the YouTube "Bret Baier interview of DOGE," you have no business complaining about Elon Musk, DOGE or marching in the streets and chanting like a fool.

President Trump has a unique blend of common sense, presidential power, love of country, courage and political resolve to make a difference. He wants to make America great again. You may disagree with Trump's policies, but a rational person cannot argue with his objective.

But Trump is also a gambler of sorts because in his past life, he was a developer in New York, and succeeding demanded a certain mindset of risk-taking. I don't know Trump, but I've had close relationships with three developers, and they succeeded by being willing to take risks. Ms. Ratna says Trump's policies are "the most ambitious fiscal and industrial resets in a generation."

I agree. But what are our options? If we do nothing and continue as we have for the last 50 years, we are doomed. Maybe it's time to bet on the gambler who is developing a new world order. He usually seems to be right.

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

Our odd little towns

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

I've lived in a lot of places around the nation, but I always end up returning to East Tennessee because it's my home. I've been in most East Tennessee counties, all the large cities, many of the county seats, and much of the rural areas. What continues to interest

me are the odd little towns, or almost towns, that seem curious or unusual to me.

Take **Limestone**, for instance, on Highway 371 between Greeneville and Jonesboro and near Davy Crockett Birthplace State Park. This unincorporated community is similar to our own Powell in that it has a downtown section on a railroad. But unlike Powell, Limestone's downtown is almost totally empty of active businesses. Limestone was the home of Washington College, the first university to bear the name of America's first president. Limestone was the home of the fictional Daisy May



Downtown Limestone is mostly a ghost town now and well worth a visit. Nearby is Washington College and the Davy Crockett Birthplace State Park. Small towns often have a "downtown" section, whether or not they are incorporated as a city.

Moses from "The Beverly Hillbillies," better known as Granny as played by Irene Ryan.

Pall Mall is north of Jamestown near the Kentucky state line. No, it

Continue on page 4

Pink Princess Party to benefit the Love Kitchen

Mothers, daughters, grandmothers, sisters, aunts and friends are all invited to put on their favorite pink outfits and celebrate relationships at the Pink Princess Party on Saturday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Teen Center on Kingston Pike.

"There will be dancing, cupcake decorating and the ladies can decorate a wand," organizer and UIE Ms. Tennessee Senior Legend Cheri Doane told The Focus.

"The Teen Board ladies will be painting fingernails at our nail bar and there will be birthday cards on hand to sign that I will take to a local nursing home."

Tickets to the benefit are \$10 each and can be bought online. Guests are also invited to bring bars of soap to donate at the door, which will also go to the Love Kitchen.

For more information or to buy tickets please go to: www.ticketleap.events/events/pinkprincessparty

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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

The Democrat Knox County meeting drew 127 delegates and kicked off the party's 2025 season with the election of officers and two members from each district to serve on the Board of Governors. Above, City Councilwoman Seema Singh calls the new officers and delegates to the front.

Knox Democrats reorganize

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knox County Democrats rallied and reorganized recently, re-electing Stuart Hohl as chairman and choosing Domonica Bryan as vice chair, Terry Whitaker as secretary and Shannon Webb as treasurer. The convention took place at Bearden Middle School with 127 delegates chosen from the county's districts. Hohl noted the Democratic Party "flipped

seats in every election" and stressed building the party and the community.

The meeting included a report of various committees from Linda Haney, Shannon Webb and Sylvia Wood. Bill Owen moved to support the area and the nation as a "diverse melting pot" and urged equality and inclusion.

Knox County Commissioner Shane Jackson spoke briefly to the large crowd.

The districts then split up,

Board of Governors

District 1: Kristin Tocci and Jack Vaughan
District 2: Elizabeth Rowland and Drew Harper
District 3: Pepper Van Tassel and Brooke Carter
District 4: Stephen Hood and Thomas Handler
District 5: Damond Boggess and Chelsea Smith
District 6: Cadence Collins and Jason Richards
District 7: Eric Richter and Nathan Beauchamp
District 8: Dean Lowry and Lorraine Jacques
District 9: Sylvia Woods and Ken Stephenson

and each district elected two members and a secretary to become part of the Board of Governors. Amanda Collins invited the audience to attend the "Hands Off" march downtown Knoxville that weekend (April 5).

Dentist Days

I just returned home from an unexpected visit to the dentist. I have four teeth that were sore, and I was scared that my troubles might be many and expensive. Fortunately, the visit I took



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

older folks simply quit taking them. Life isn't worth living for them if it is dominated by pills and capsules and syrups. Their last few days might be short, but they live normal lives without

dependency on a fistful of medicines.

I am afflicted with dry mouth. If I don't have something to drink at all times, I develop "cotton mouth" and find speaking difficult.

The problem is caused by one of the other medications that I take. The results are that my teeth begin to deteriorate, and the enamel begins to break down. I'm left with cavities that continue to grow and that will, at some point, lead to root

canals and crowns.

Dental problems have been a problem for my entire life. As a child, I had a terrible problem with buck teeth. Others called me "beaver" or "bottle opener." The teasing was incessant, and it contributed to a temper that was set off in a split second. In the sixth grade, my parents finally could afford to have me fitted with braces. Back then, the first step was placing wires between teeth and tightening them to develop spaces where bands could be inserted. Soreness lasted for several days. Eventually, the braces were set in place, and the soreness was so bad that even bites of mashed potatoes sent me shivering with pain. Yes, eventually, the hardware was removed; however, a retainer was given to me. In all, I spent nearly six years wearing those braces, and I was grateful for having had them.

Having my bare teeth behind my lips was a dramatic change and gave me more confidence about myself and my future.

I have always tried to have regular check-ups,

regardless of how painful the repairs to teeth have been. I dodged a bullet today because the dentist told me the teeth were probably bruised from my bite. I arrived home and collapsed on the couch in relief.

At some point, I'm sure that my teeth will succumb to the effects of dry mouth. At that point, a decision will have to be made. I know that root canals will be one choice I have, but that procedure requires a crown for each tooth. More economical will be to have all my teeth pulled. Implants also cost a fortune. That leaves only one choice. I'll have all my teeth pulled and will attempt to wear dentures. Of course, another possibility is that I leave this earth; that would save a fortune and take care of the problem once and for all.

Everyone should take care of their teeth. Brushing for two minutes and flossing doesn't take that long, but it can make a big difference in overall health and happiness. As for me, I'm glad that for the time being I am okay. I can also still smile and say thank you for the good report.

Beyond the Cross: The Power of Easter and the Death of Jesus

It's Easter—one of the most wonderful times of the year! Easter is often seen as a celebration of resurrection, but the significance of the resurrection goes far beyond the grave. Jesus's death was a pivotal moment in the Christian faith, and Easter invites us to reflect on the transformative impact of what a resurrected and living Jesus means.

Jesus' resurrection was not only a victory over death but also a powerful reminder of hope, renewal and the promise of eternal life. This historical event reshapes our understanding of suffering, grace and redemption, offering a message of triumph that transcends time and circumstance. In this way, Easter is not just a historical event; it is a living testament to the power of God's love and the victory of life over death.

We often overlook the connection between the Easter narrative and the book of Revelation. However, there is one powerful verse in the first chapter that John writes while on the Isle of Patmos, inspired by the Holy Spirit. Revelation 1:18 states, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." This statement carries immense significance. The fact that Jesus holds the keys to hell and death indicates His supreme authority. It underscores His victory over death and the grave.

On that first Easter morning, when Jesus took control of these keys, He triumphed not only over sin and its consequences but also secured eternal life for all who believe in Him. A living Savior means the chains of hell have been broken, and redemption and hope are available to all of humanity. Death is no longer a force that enslaves; it is now subject to the authority of Christ, who has the power to release anyone



By Justin Pratt,
Clear Springs Baptist
Church Senior Pastor

who is bound by death.

It's important to remember that we are a death-sentenced generation living in a dying world. The Bible clearly states that "it is appointed unto all men once

to die," as "the wages of sin is death." We cannot ignore the fact that none of us will be here forever. Each of us will walk through the valley of the shadow of death sooner or later. I know this may not be an uplifting thought, but have you considered what makes this hard truth more bearable? Only a living Christ!

When the earth shook and the stone that sealed His borrowed tomb was rolled away, Jesus emerged from the grave with the ring that held the keys of death, hell, and the grave. This one glorious truth gives us transformative hope in the face of this harsh reality.

Is there an answer to the curse of death that has haunted every person since Adam? Do we have any hope beyond the grave? Yes! His name is Jesus Christ. On the very first Easter morning, He emerged victorious from the tomb, defeating the devil and his demons in the process. This is our assurance and our hope. Death cannot prevail because our Redeemer is alive.

I hope you are reminded this Easter of the power of what happened beyond the cross. I would like to conclude with the words of Robert Lowry, which many have sung since 1874:

Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior.

He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord.

Up from the grave He arose,

With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.

He arose a victor from the dark domain

And He lives forever with His saints to reign.

He arose, He arose, Hallelujah, Christ Arose.

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Cordell Hull and Reciprocal Trade

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Tariffs are much in the headlines these days, and it occurred to me that it would be an appropriate time for a column relating to reciprocal trade treaties. Many readers may not know that it was a Tennessean who was responsible for brokering most of our country's reciprocal trade agreements. That Tennessean was Cordell Hull, our country's longest-serving secretary of state.

Cordell Hull was the third of five sons born to William and Elizabeth Riley Hull. Orestes was the oldest, followed by Senadius, Cordell, Wyoming and Roy. William, known to locals as "Uncle Billy," was a successful businessman who had made money through floating timber, meat, corn and other products down the Cumberland River. Cordell earned money as a teenager by floating products down the Cumberland to New Orleans and taking a steamboat back home. "Uncle Billy" became quite prosperous through being an entrepreneur, but he was also a man of steely determination who settled his own debts. One of those debts was having been shot and left for dead, a bullet passing through his head. Miraculously, "Uncle Billy" was nursed back to health and unimpaired. Billy Hull walked from Tennessee to Kentucky and back again to find the man responsible for having nearly ended his life. Once Billy Hull found the man, he shot him dead without hesitation or mercy before turning around and walking back to Tennessee.

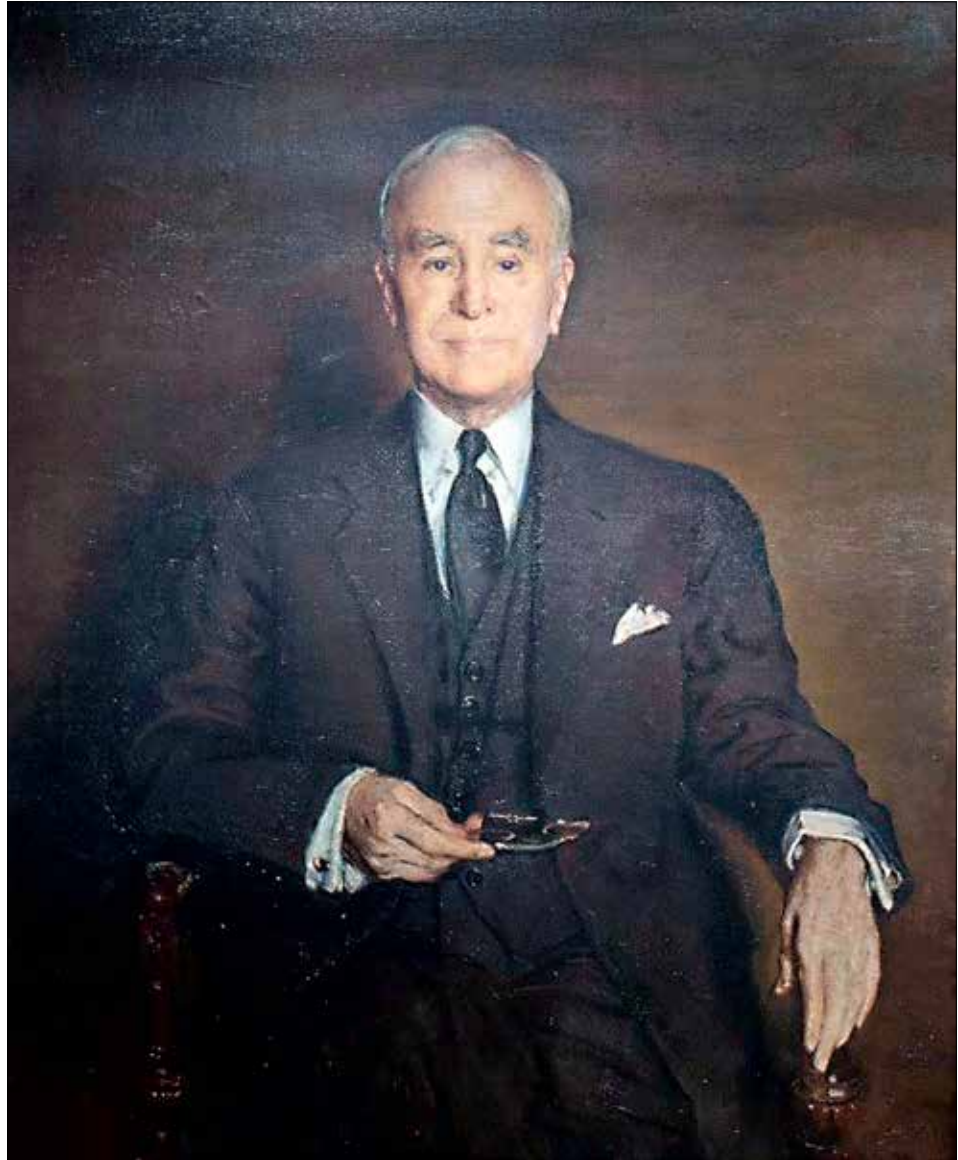
Prior to having been selected by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to become secretary of state, Cordell Hull had held numerous offices, beginning with being elected chairman of the Clay County Democratic Party at age 18 at a time when a man was not allowed to vote until having turned 21 years of age. Years later, after having retired as secretary of state, Hull told a visiting Governor Gordon Browning and a delegation of Tennesseans, including veteran state legislator, I. D. Beasley, "the Mockingbird of Capitol Hill," that having been elected party chair before being eligible to vote was the achievement of which he was proudest in his long career. After having graduated from Cumberland College, Hull was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1892 when he was 21 years old. Hull was reelected in 1894 and went to serve in the Spanish-American War. Sporting a moustache at the time, Hull proved to be a formidable card player and reputedly won more than \$6,000 (an amount equal to about \$230,000 in today's dollars) playing poker with his comrades.

Cordell Hull was appointed a judge of the circuit

court by Governor James B. Frazier and was elected to a term of his own by the people. Judge Hull ran for Congress in 1906 against the incumbent and a well-known attorney who was quite an orator. Hull won the primary by about fourteen votes. Congressman Hull faced attorney James Miller again in 1908, but having had the opportunity to entrench himself, won decisively. Hull served Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District, a collection of about fourteen counties with the largest city being Cookeville. Almost entirely rural and agricultural, the Fourth District had been represented by Benton McMillin for 20 years before he ran for governor in 1898. For the next eight years, the Fourth Congressional District became hard to hold for its incumbent congressman, none of whom were reelected until Hull managed it in 1908. Hull was a great admirer of Benton McMillin, and the former congressman's brother, Joe, had been one of Hull's favorite teachers. Like McMillin, Hull proved to be highly popular with the people of Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District.

Cordell Hull was routinely reelected to the House of Representatives every two years until 1920, when the unthinkable occurred. Hull had been largely opposed to the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote. Like many of his peers, Congressman Hull insisted it was a state, rather than a federal issue. So, too, had Governor A. H. Roberts been a foe of the Nineteenth Amendment, right up until Tennessee became the final state to ratify it, adding it to the Constitution. Not all Tennessee Democrats had been opposed to ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment; the most prominent Democratic supporter of giving women the right to vote in the Volunteer State was U.S. Senator Kenneth D. McKellar. In 1920, women expressed their dissatisfaction, and the Republicans carried Tennessee in the general election. Warren Harding beat James Cox in the presidential election in the Volunteer State, and Governor Roberts lost to 72-year-old Alf Taylor. Republicans won five of Tennessee's ten congressional seats. Veteran Congressmen John A. Moon of Chattanooga and Cordell Hull lost to their GOP opponents.

Hull was elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee in 1921, and his first order of business was regaining many of the seats lost by the Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S.



Official portrait of Secretary of State Cordell Hull, 1933-1944

Senate, including his own. Hull made no secret that he would seek reelection from the Fourth District in 1922. Cordell Hull presided over a Democratic revival, and he beat Republican Congressman Wynne F. Clouse easily to return to the House. Hull was reelected every two years until he ran for and was elected to the United States Senate in 1930. It was in 1933 that President Roosevelt picked Hull to serve as his administration's secretary of state.

Hull was no southern firebrand, nor was he an especially gifted orator. Rather, Cordell Hull succeeded through intellect and sheer hard work. Hull's contemporaries in Congress respected his knowledge of finance and taxation. Prior to 1913, the United States government was funded solely through tariffs on goods and products. It was Hull who became the father of the income tax, which was negligible when first conceived but became confiscatory during the Second World War when some citizens were in tax brackets as high as 90% and 95%.

Democrats in the 1880s were, by and large, opposed to many of the high tariff policies pushed by Republicans. Benton McMillin had argued that the tariffs brought in so much money it could be lowered and still pay the expenses of the federal government. Tariffs existed for trade and protectionism. The Republican Party was largely the more protectionist of the two, although the Democrats were solidly for protecting native products of their own, including sugar, cotton and tobacco. Countries adopted tariffs to protect their own products and industries. That protectionist policy frequently helped the industries maintain their factories and kept the employees of those factories employed. Protection shielded industries and provided opportunity for greater economic development.

Tariff policy could and did affect the outcome of elections. The 1890 election was a disaster for Republicans due almost entirely to the

tariffs pushed by William McKinley, then a congressman and chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee. The electoral backlash to the higher tariffs cost McKinley his own seat in the House of Representatives.

With the advent of the Great Depression and his becoming secretary of state, Cordell Hull argued that virtually every war started because one country coveted either the territory or natural resources of another. Hull became the chief apostle of America negotiating reciprocal trade agreements with other countries, which he believed would negate the possibility of friction between countries and greatly reduce the possibility of war. Hull approached the task with zeal equal to that of an apostle.

Reciprocal trade can best be described as agreements between nations to either remove or lower tariffs and other barriers to trade, the object being to increase trade between countries. It was, Hull insisted, beneficial to all. Throughout his time as secretary of state, Cordell Hull was quite nearly obsessed with the notion of fostering reciprocal trade agreements across the globe. The idea oftentimes involved both countries making some concessions with regard to tariffs or quotas.

Secretary of State Hull pushed the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act of 1934, which gave President Roosevelt the power to negotiate with other countries, in an effort to reduce tariffs and trade barriers with the trading partners of the United States. One important feature of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act of 1934 was the provision that required a two-thirds majority to repeal a tariff reduction.

Hull, a veteran of 24 years in Congress, had watched the Republicans and many Northern Democrats seek protection for the products manufactured in their region of the country. The South's economy was largely dependent on exporting products, mostly agricultural products rather

than manufactured goods. Like many Southerners of his time, Cordell Hull firmly held the conviction that any country which taxed imports would most certainly find it more difficult to export goods. Like most of his Democratic brethren from the Southland, Hull was a proponent of low tariffs.

Throughout his congressional service, Hull sought to push the idea of a world trade conference, although unsuccessful, the Tennessean's belief in reciprocal trade agreements evolved and became the cornerstone of his beliefs where trade was concerned. Hull had positively loathed the Smoot-Hawley Act, which had seen the height of protectionism with virtually every state and product protected through increased tariffs. The bill was authored and sponsored by Senator Reed Smoot, an austere Mormon elder who had been in the United States Senate for almost 30 years, and Congressman Willis C. Hawley of Oregon. Hawley was a former educator who had been in Congress since 1907, arriving in Washington, D.C., for the first time along with Cordell Hull. Both Smoot and Hawley were Republicans.

Tariffs in America were at historically high levels already and the average tariff was raised some 20% by the Smoot-Hawley Act, which was signed into law by President Herbert Hoover. The governments of other countries around the world raised their own tariffs on products and goods from the United States accordingly. That startled Wall Street, which started a significant loss of confidence. International trade was sharply curtailed due to the high tariffs as the economies of countries all over the world began to diminish. Cordell Hull believed Smoot-Hawley

was one of the chief reasons for the onset of the Great Depression. Evidently, voters agreed as both Senator Smoot and Congressman Hawley were defeated in their 1932 reelection campaigns. Smoot lost the general election to a Democrat while Hawley did not survive his primary contest.

Congressmen and senators regularly engaged in what came to be known as the practice of "logrolling" which was supporting other members and protecting the products and goods of their states in return for the support of their own state's industries and products. Few members of Congress considered the long-range effect upon the economies of other countries, content to focus upon the people who had sent them to Washington, D.C. With the decade of the 1950s, the differences between the two major political parties on tariff issues had become relatively the same.

Cordell Hull pushed the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act in 1934 as something of a remedy for the Depression as well as the prevailing high tariffs. As a result of its passage, Franklin Roosevelt was able to renegotiate tariff agreements with other countries to the mutual benefit of the United States and its trade partners. The Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act ended the era of high protectionism for decades. The result of the act between its passage in 1934 and 1945 at the end of the Second World War was 32 trade agreements between the United States and 27 other nations. The Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act was extended routinely, with one exception, until 1961 when the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade took effect.

Cordell Hull lived to see world trade expand dramatically with world markets burgeoning. Hull was the architect of the United States' "Good Neighbor" policy with Latin America and is remembered today for being the "Father of the United Nations," a title bestowed upon him by President Franklin Roosevelt.

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Note from Ray Hill

I have completed a book manuscript on Cordell Hull, and my biography of Tennessee's longest-serving U.S. senator, Kenneth McKellar, is available for pre-order on Amazon.com. "Senator Kenneth McKellar: Feudin' Son of Tennessee" is published by the University of Tennessee Press. Get your copy now!

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HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL



PHOTO BY CLINT GODDARD

South-Doyle third baseman GiGi Komeshak went 1 for 3 at bat in the Lady Cherokees' 4-3 win over West last week.

Lee and Thomas lead South-Doyle's 4-3 win

By Steve Williams

For a few minutes, it looked like West's softball team was going to get a special revenge victory at South-Doyle Wednesday. The Lady Rebels led the host Lady Cherokees 3-2 going into the bottom of the sixth inning. If that score had held up, West would have matched South-Doyle's 3-2 win early in the season between the two teams. But instead, the Lady Cherokees scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth to take a 4-3 lead and it held

up for another one-run win over the Lady Rebels. Haylee Richards led off S-D's sixth inning with a base on balls and courtesy runner Rheagan Thomas entered, stole second base and came around to score on a double to left centerfield by Aleigha Bates to tie the game at 3-all. Emma Hogan, the next batter, bunted back to the pitcher and was thrown out at first, but the play moved Lee's following bunt single in front of the plate allowed Bates to score what proved

to be the winning run. Lee relieved Richards, the starting pitcher for S-D, the last two innings and set down the Lady Rebels in order both times to earn the win in the circle. The victory in the non-district game evened South-Doyle's record at 6-6 overall. Thomas, the courtesy runner, was a key factor in the win as she stole second three times and scored three runs. "She suffered a nose injury in practice and it turned out she needed

surgery on it last week," said Coach Courtney Styles. "It was uplifting for our team to see her back in uniform." Thomas also is her team's centerfielder. West took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first and went ahead 3-1 in the fourth inning on a two-run double by Ella Jenkins that brought in Claire Davenport and E.B. Bibee. Natalie Smithers had a RBI single to right field in bottom of the fifth that cut West's lead to 3-2. **Continue on page 3**

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL Opportunistic Admirals top West, take sole possession of first place

By Ken Lay

A standout pitching performance from Cole Draper and timely hitting helped the Farragut High School baseball team take sole possession of first place in the District 4-4A standings last week. The Admirals (16-6 overall, 6-1 in the district) were advantageous on offense and received a solid performance on the mound on their way to capturing a 6-1 victory over West High Wednesday night at Lindsay-Hawkins Park. While locked in a 0-0 tie in the third inning against the Rebels (16-12, 0-7), Farragut picked up a big break when Aidan Flagg lifted a foul ball to first base to lead off the frame. It was mis-played by the Rebels and prolonged Flagg's at-bat, which ended with the Farragut right fielder coming up with a double. He was later erased when Neyland Williams rapped into a fielder's choice. But his hit began a rally that resulted in a three-run inning as Jake Harris had an RBI single and Travis Brummitt Jr. drove in two runs with a hit, making the score 3-0. "Sometimes, that's just how baseball is, and we have to take things as

they come to us," Farragut coach Garrett Copeland said. "I thought we started a little slow at the plate." The Rebels, under new head coach Rob Stacy, have won 16 games this season, and they've been close to winning a league game in the state's toughest districts. And the frustration in Marble City is beginning to fester. "We've got guys working hard and we expect them to make plays, and that's why they're out there," Stacy said. "We expect them to make plays, and nine times out of 10, they make those plays." "But tonight, we dropped two fly balls, and that cost us two runs. We've been so close in these district games." Despite seeing his team get a victory, Copeland, Farragut's first-year head coach, wasn't totally pleased. The Admirals made three errors. "We've still got some things that we need to clean up on defense," he said. "We're still making too many errors." "It's a credit to Draper's veteran leadership that he was able to pitch around those errors." One of those errors **Continue on page 4**

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Irish notch three consecutive matches, shuts out top-ranked Bearden

By Ken Lay

When the 2025 high school boys soccer season began, Catholic High School was at a crossroads. The Irish faced adversity before the campaign got underway as longtime coach Gordon Heins abruptly resigned just days before the side's opening match. After Heins departed, Josh Martin took the reins for the boys program, and the roller-coaster began as the Irish opened its season

with a 2-1 victory over Maryville early last month. Before a brief hiatus over Spring Break, the Irish (5-3-1 overall, 0-1 in the Division II-AA East Region) dropped back-to-back matches against Grace Christian Academy (6-2) and Region 2-3A Champion Hardin Valley Academy (4-0). After returning to the pitch, Catholic closed out March with just one win in three games. The Irish defeated Lenoir City, 4-1, before playing Powell to

a 2-2 draw and dropping their region opener against Chattanooga Christian School, 2-0, on March 31. Early April brought more challenges for Catholic and Martin. But so far, Catholic has passed the tests by posting three consecutive victories. After the loss to Chattanooga Christian, the Irish headed into the Bearden Invitational, a top tournament in the Volunteer State, which annually features state championship contenders.

Catholic made the short trip to Bearden and came away with back-to-back victories over two traditional-rich programs. First was a 4-3 win over 2024 Class 2A State Tournament qualifier Alcoa on Friday, April 4. Freshman midfielder Michael Palacios recorded a hat trick and junior Jack Tucker, another midfielder, also tallied for the Irish. The following day, Catholic had to play the host Bulldogs, the state's top-ranked team and the

defending Class 3A State Champions. Bearden entered the match with a perfect 9-0 record. And things looked bleak for the Irish early as starting goalkeeper Tate McCarty was injured in the first half. He wouldn't return and was replaced by sophomore Xander Levins, who wasn't expecting to play. But play, he did. He closed out the first half, and the match was locked in a 0-0 tie at halftime on an unseasonably warm afternoon at Turner-Allender

Field. The match remained tied until Tucker scored the lone marker of the match in the 72nd minute, netting Catholic a 1-0 win, but not without a couple of big late saves from Levins. He stoned Aidan Ainsworth on a penalty shot with 36.9 seconds left in the match. The sophomore netminder came up with one more late stop just before time expired, preserving the biggest win in Martin's brief tenure. **Cont. on page 4**

Play ball! Smokies to start a new era against an old rival

By Steve Williams

The Knoxville Smokies' opening game at its new home park is Tuesday (April 15). It will be the inaugural baseball game at the Smokies' brand-new Covenant Health Park in downtown Knoxville. The stadium will come alive with fans, food, fireworks and festivities as the Smokies take on the Chattanooga Lookouts.

The Knoxville Smokies have announced that mascot Smokie Joe would be the team's third mascot, along with father and son bear, Knox and Jackson. One source said Homer, a mascot favorite of many fans at the former Smokies Stadium in Kodak, has moved to Hollywood and is pursuing an acting career.



Farragut High's new 2025-26 cheer team. Front Row (from left to right): Henley Bedwell and Laura Guinn. Second Row (from left to right): Khloe Capps, Piper Belcher, Kinley Bothman, Natalie Borton, Ava Kincaid, Camden Kraemer, Caitly Penn and Emelia Bellmore. Third Row (from left to right): Avery Ericksen, Emma Gerwin, Briley Webber, Addison Gohn, Harper Hudgens and Cate Fowler. Fourth Row (from left to right): Coach Dana Jacobs, Caroline Nichols, Nora Vaughn, Alexandria Wetherington, Ella Elkins, Kiley Prosan, Lydia McCurry, Hailey Coulter, Kayla Lyon and Fallon McKeenan.

Farragut to host Blue-Grey football game

Farragut High will have its Annual Blue-Grey Game on Thursday, May 8 at 6 p.m. at the Farragut stadium. The spring event gives the community a first look at the 2025-26 Admirals and is packed with entertainment for all ages.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and each ticket purchase includes free Farragut merch, while supplies last. All proceeds from ticket and concession sales go directly toward the completion of the team's new Team Room Project – a vital addition to the program's future success.

Start of a new rivalry?

West's softball team has swept Bearden and Hardin Valley this season for the first time ever, according to new West coach Brandy Weaver last week.

Weaver played softball in high school at Bearden.

But now, she says, "When we play Bearden I'm like I'm sorry Alma Mater. You're going down. I'm a Rebel now!"

KFOA Hall of Fame set for July 11

The annual Knoxville Football Officials Association's High School Football Media Day and Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, July 11 at Three Ridges Golf Course, the KFOA's Harold Denton announced last week. The

media event will start at 8:00 a.m.

Legislative Council addresses Residence Rule

The TSSAA Legislative Council met at the TSSAA office building in Hermitage on Tuesday (April 8) and voted on six proposed changes to the TSSAA

Bylaws.

The Council voted to remove the Residence Rule from the bylaws. Students with athletic records would still have to have a bonafide change of residence to be eligible at the varsity level. International students who have not completed their terminal grade would continue to be eligible if they stay with a host family and

meet all other eligibility requirements.

TSB to get new turf field

Some good news for Tennessee School for the Deaf. The Vikings will be getting a new turf football field soon!

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL CAREACTER STAR ATHLETES



Damoni Kapana



Shiloh Taylor



Jyree Shepard



Sha'Nary Cobb



Dee Williams

Kapana and 'Fulton Five' ranked high in character

By Steve Williams

Fulton High's 2024-25 girls basketball team was loaded with good character this season, according to Coach Tony Cooper, and The Knoxville Focus is proud to share Coach Cooper's comments along with the other local teams and their Careacter Star Athletes in this week's issue.

Damoni Kapana: Jersey No. 21

During conditioning, when adversity struck, Damoni Kapana showed true leadership by running alongside a teammate, offering support and encouragement. Her unwavering commitment to the team shines through in moments like these, demonstrating her selflessness and dedication. Damoni consistently

puts the team first, proving that leadership isn't just about skill – it's about heart, determination, and lifting others up when they need it most.

Shiloh Taylor: Jersey No. 23

Shiloh Taylor is relentless in her pursuit of improvement, pushing herself to grow each day. She puts in extra work after practice, constantly refining her skills and striving to elevate her game. Fearless in her approach, she embraces challenges with confidence and never backs down.

As one of the best on-ball defenders in the game, Shiloh's ability to lock down opponents sets her apart. Her unwavering determination, positive attitude, and strong work ethic make her a

true leader—someone who leads by example and inspires those around her to be their best.

Jyree Shepard: Jersey No. 2

Jyree Shepard plays with passion and intensity, bringing an undeniable fire to the game of basketball. A true gym rat, she is constantly working to improve, driven by her deep love for the sport.

Jyree is not only dedicated to her own growth but also to uplifting her teammates—always encouraging, supporting, and pushing them to be their best. Her commitment to doing whatever it takes for the team makes her an invaluable leader both on and off the court.

Sha'Nary Cobb: Jersey No. 24

Sha'Nary Cobb has a natural talent for tracking down the basketball, making her an invaluable asset on the court. As our leading rebounder this season, she plays with relentless energy and an incredible work ethic. Standing at 5'10", she dominates the paint like a true powerhouse, playing far beyond her height with toughness and determination. Sha'Nary is a fierce competitor, always pushing herself to improve—not just for her own growth, but for the success of the team. Her drive, intensity, and commitment make her a force to be reckoned with.

Dee Williams: Jersey No. 12

Damieona "Dee" Williams is

the embodiment of leadership and relentless effort. Every day, she brings a competitive spirit that translates into game-changing performances, consistently making her presence felt on the court. Her ability to contribute across all aspects of the game ensures she fills up the stat sheet with her dynamic play.

More than just an athlete, Damieona is a mentor and role model, always eager to support underclassmen and help them grasp their assignments. Her dedication, strong work ethic, and uplifting attitude make her an absolute joy to coach. Her impact reaches beyond basketball, inspiring her teammates to push themselves and strive for greatness both on and off the court.



- AUSTIN-EAST**
Ja'Onna Witt
Tymirrianna Brown
Karmen Tribble
Marshiya Smith
Sammie Stewart
- BEARDEN**
Caitlin McVeigh
Riley Hunt
Katie Foster
Cadence Nesbit
Emma Rainey
- BCS**
Ava Jennings
Rayleigh Jacobs
Jaidyn Baird
Allie Savage
Jordyn Baird
- CARTER**
Olivia Craig
Marah Yeo

- Aleeya Blair
Caleigh Wilson
Chloe Hicks
- CATHOLIC**
Maggie Frana
Tinsley Walker
Kayla Krueger
Ensley Perry
Ari Swain
- CENTRAL**
Avery Brewer
Rhealee Haunhorst
Malia Moore
Ayauna Ramsey
Ja'Ryah Winton
- CAK**
Karlie Whited
Marinn Hubbard
Ali Wilkinson

- Sophie Carroll
Annie Leadbetter
- CCS**
Irelan Fender
Katie Phillips
Sheridan Patterson
Haylee Hamilton
Avery Orlando
- FARRAGUT**
Kyra Wray
Annie Priest
Jaci Neubert
Lilly Mullins
Anna Corum
- FBA**
Sydney Pytel
Ashlyn Mercer
Kaili Carter
Miley Stewart

- Makayla Carr
- FULTON**
Damieona Williams
Shiloh Taylor
Jyree Shepard
Sha'Nary Cobb
Damoni Kpana
- GIBBS**
Jadyn Parker
Raley Qualls
Maddi Whaley
Annie Buckner
Faith Hayes

- GCA**
Abby Roberts
Kendall Mavroff
Sarah Beth Butler
Charli Pancratz
Tenlee Bruce
- HALLS**
Mollie Addison
Turner
Erynn Brewton
Emma Huiting
Kadence Fisher
Brimley Wilson
- HVA**
Audree Riehn

- Marley Edwards
Sarah Galloway
Rylee Taylor
Holly Lindsey
- KARNS**
Macy Price
Yuleesa Kennedy
Rylee Roberts
Reese Roberts
Lauren Martin
- POWELL**
Anna White
Claire Campbell
Hannah Hayes
Miliana Espiritu
Karmani Fenner
- SEYMOUR**
Chloe McCoy
Belle Cardwell

- Makenna Sharp
Emily Schultz
Callie Stinnett
- SOUTH-DOYLE**
Cloey Wade
Bailey Conkin
Vada Farr
Peyton Rollins
Sydney Godfrey
- TSB**
Kerbbeh Ballard
Abebech Marks
Addison Simpson
Y. Lombera Abarca
Luz Gil Hernandez
- TKA**
Brady Branam
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Adit Kuol

- Emily Atchley
Kyle Young
- WEBB**
Meeyah Green
Corisa Lowery
Avery Green
Z Rockett
Kyndall Mays
- WEST**
Charleigh Freeman
Addalee Adams
Paislee Scott
Lillyann Freeman
Maliyah Queener
- UT LADY VOLS**
Jewel Spear
Alyssa Latham
Sara Puckett
Tess Darby
Jullian Hollingshead

2024-25 CAREACTER STAR GIRLS BASKETBALL ATHLETES

Always a masterful storyteller

John Ward, the legendary "Voice of the Vols," was a masterful storyteller over the course of his lifetime (1929-2017) and his tenure on the Vol Network.

Ward had seen it all over the years and was not hesitant in the least to share his experiences with anyone who might ask.

He once told what happened early in the evening of Oct. 21, 1967, when the Tennessee football charter arrived at Knoxville's McGhee-Tyson Airport from Birmingham after the Vols had defeated Alabama 24-13.

It was the Vols' first win over the Tide since 1960. Vol fans were singing head coach Doug Dickey's praises. Tennessee ended up winning the SEC title and finishing No. 2 nationally.

Someone once asked John about his remembrances of that season and how the fans had reacted when the plane was coming to a stop at the gate.

"I was always the first man off the plane," said Ward, "because I was always nervous about getting the film processed. They opened the door, and I saw fans right up against the plane."

Ward called it a "throng, several thousand, people as far as you could see."

As always, John instinctively knew what to do. "I told Coach Dickey to go down first. He told me to come with him."

This all happened in

those long-ago days when fans could meet the team on plane and see their heroes up close. That was at the old McGhee-Tyson terminal, on the tarmac.

In later years, players departed the charter, walked maybe 100 feet to a waiting bus, and left the airport without incident. Fans were left to line Alcoa Highway or ended up on campus at Gibbs Hall.

Somewhat, you have to think it was more fun in the old days.

What happened that afternoon in Birmingham was football the way the gods had ordained it. Alabama wore its crimson jerseys and lined up precisely on the east side of Legion Field under the tutelage of head coach Paul "Bear" Bryant.

Tennessee wore its orange shirts and was on the west side. When he took the job in late 1963, Dickey had said the fourth year would be something special. This was the fourth year.

Tennessee, 2-1-0 on the season, was ranked No. 7. The Vols had lost to UCLA in the season opener and had defeated Auburn and Georgia Tech. Alabama was ranked No. 6 and was 3-0-1, tying Florida State and defeating Southern Mississippi, Ole Miss, and Vanderbilt.

The usual 70,000-plus were present. For those who couldn't make it, George Mooney and John Forney had the call on each school's radio network. The game was not on television. Arkansas and Texas were.

That night, Vol fans were in a state of euphoria,

suffused with victory, whether they were on their way home up I-59 in Alabama and U.S. 11 and I-75 in Tennessee, or celebrating somewhere across Big Orange Country. The Interstate system had a number of gaps in those days, so the trip home took longer than it does today. It was still enjoyable, however.

Vol defensive back Albert Dorsey picked Snake Stabler's pocket three times in the fourth quarter on his way to earning All-American honors. He also scored the game-clinching touchdown.

Sports Illustrated feted the Vol victory on its cover, showing a Tennessee defensive back battling for the pigskin with Alabama wide receiver Dennis Homan. The initial thought was that Dorsey was the Vol player pictured.

Not so. It was actually Mike Jones, a sophomore safety from Nashville. There are those, however, who are still convinced it was actually Albert.

Bubba Wyche led the Vol attack capably, working behind one of the most famous fronts in Tennessee history, center Bob Johnson, guards Charles Rosenfelder and Joe Graham, and tackles Elliott Gammage and John Boynton. Rosenfelder was a junior, the rest were seniors. Having Richard Pickens and Walter Chadwick in the backfield didn't hurt, either.

Richmond Flowers was a force to be reckoned with at wide receiver. Ken DeLong was a man among boys at tight end. Wyche had been a third-string quarterback just a few weeks



TENNESSEE'S JOHN WARD AND BILL ANDERSON THE KICKOFF CALL-IN SHOW JCPenney

John Ward (L), shown with football broadcast partner Bill Anderson, was a leader in the development of the Sunday afternoon coaches show.

earlier, until Dewey Warren banged up a knee against Auburn and Charley Fulton did likewise against Georgia Tech. Steve Kiner and Jack "Hacksaw" Reynolds were sophomores with enormous potential at linebacker.

So, Tennessee had gone on the road with a third-string signal-caller under center and a whole bunch of sophomores in key positions and lived to tell the tale.

Sometime that evening,

there had been a call to the News-Sentinel's Sports Department, the "-" being part of the paper's masthead at the time. An obviously excited caller had a question.

"A bunch of us were wondering about Coach Dickey's return from Birmingham. Does he intend to come up on the plane with the team, or will he just walk up the river?"

This was the pivotal game (and win) of the Dickey era,

according to no less of an expert than Dickey himself. "Our biggest win," he said after the game and anytime anyone asked him in ensuing years.

There's nothing like a big win to stir up the fan base. This Vol aggregation is no doubt a fan favorite. Dickey was right. His fourth season was special. The team overcame a number of injuries to reach the top of the SEC and come T-H-I-S close to a national title.

Vols Non-Conference Schedule Fails to Impress

By Mark Nagi

College football is the greatest sport in the world... no matter what the powers that be do to destroy our love for it.

Remember out-of-conference home and home contests? I certainly do.

In 1990 and 1991, Tennessee and Notre Dame played late in each season in games with National Championship implications. The Irish held off a furious Vols rally in 1990, but Tennessee got revenge in "The Miracle at South Bend" a year later, a game that ranks among the favorites in program history for UT fans.

In 1994, Tennessee went west to face UCLA. They lost that day in the Rose Bowl, but we saw Peyton Manning's debut.

In 1998, the Vols hit the road to start the season at Syracuse. Jeff Hall's FG on the last play of the game started Tennessee on the road to a national championship.

In 2006 and 2007, Tennessee and California made cross-country trips and played memorable games.

The 2015 Oklahoma/Tennessee contest, which the Sooners won in double overtime, was one of the loudest games ever played at Neyland Stadium.

There are other notable trips, like the one to Oregon in 2013, but these games are getting harder

and harder to come by... why, you ask? Because somewhere along the line, athletics directors chose to embrace neutral site games, ensuring at least seven home games a year, and the ticket revenue that comes with it.

So now we get trips to Charlotte and Nashville and Atlanta to play FBS opponents in NFL stadiums.

Woo Hoo. Wouldn't it have been better to see those games in Knoxville or Morgantown or Raleigh or Charlottesville?

Over the last 25 years, Tennessee has had trips to Wyoming, BYU, West Point, North Carolina, Southern Cal, and Ohio State canceled outright, bought out, or moved to neutral sites. Those would have been trips to allow some Vols fans to see parts of the country they otherwise would never visit.

We were told that the expansion of the College

Football Playoff would lead to more entertaining out-of-conference home and home games in the sport. With added room for error, teams would be more willing to venture out of their comfort zones and avoid scheduling "Directional Kentucky."

That might be the case for some schools, but apparently not Tennessee.

Recently, Nebraska backed out of a home-and-home series with the Vols, forcing UT AD Danny White to go into scramble mode to find a replacement on short notice. The Vols recently announced that in 2026 the Vols will play at Georgia Tech, with the Yellow Jackets making the return trip to Knoxville in 2027.

Probably the best White could do, and the game in 2026 could be played at Bobby Dodd Stadium, but it's yet another Atlanta trip, and the game still could be moved to Mercedes-Benz

Stadium.

There is hope (even if it is the hope that kills you). In a few years, Tennessee is scheduled to play Washington, with the Vols heading to the Pacific Northwest in 2029 and the Huskies in Knoxville in 2030. Those would be great games to see, and wonderful trips to make...

but do you have any confidence these games will happen?

If the past is prologue, I'd avoid making non-refundable reservations.

Lee and Thomas lead South-Doyle's 4-3 win

Cont. from page 1

First-year West Coach Brandy Weaver felt "pitch selection" on offense was the difference in the game. "We have an aggressive hitting team and I think we didn't wait for the right

itches to capitalize on." On a bright note, Weaver said: "I was proud of Ella. She had a big hit and got us back in the game. I was happy about that. She's our one and only senior."

The loss left West with a 6-8 record.

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A-E has a signing day with a 'sports touch'

By Steve Williams

In the early years of signing college scholarships one of the most popular ways simply saw the athlete put on a ball cap with their new school's name and colors.

Later on and to this day some college bound athletes try to keep their future team a secret right up to their signing.

Sometimes a sly athlete will try to trick the fans once or twice before ending the suspense.

No matter how it's done, smiles and cheers immediately flood the occasion.

Katrina Thaxton, M.Ed, and Professional School Counselor at Austin-East Magnet High School, wanted to make last year's A-E College Signing Day just as fun for college bound students who were not athletes and it went off so

well A-E held its 2nd annual Academic College Signing Day Friday afternoon, April 4.

In other words, Thaxton gave the event "the sports touch" again.

Currently, out of the over all 167 seniors in the Class of 2025 at Austin-East, 105 have received 372 acceptances into 95 different colleges, programs, or technical schools.

"We had 29 of those students who were willing to share their post-secondary paths on Academic College Signing Day," said Thaxton.

"What I wanted to do was bring some excitement around the college learn process the same way you get excited about an athletics signing day.

"And so last year was our first year kind of doing it in that fashion and our kids enjoyed it, so we decided to

do it a second year in that fashion because we want to make sure our kids get excited about doing something after high school – whether that be college two-year or four-year, military, TCAT, anything that they decide to do, we want to celebrate."

At the recent signing day, A-E school registrar Hannah Humphrey was in her second-year helping kids backstage with the props they use to reveal where they are going to extend their education.

"All of the seniors get the opportunity to sign up to do it and then the other ones we still celebrate and recognize," she said.

Thaxton and Humphrey mentioned some of their favorite skits this year that took place in the school's Performing Arts Auditorium. They liked Myles

Crayton's energetic signing skit, where he popped out in the crowd and took friends on stage to converse where he may be attending college. Once they name-dropped his choice, Crayton said "No, I'm waiting to go to this school." They even had a 'theme song' playing when he ran up on stage.

Humphrey enjoyed the skit Deyonce Glover was in and assisted by faculty member Senetra Weaver. It was about going to TCAT for Cosmotology. "The crowd kind of hyped Ms. Weaver up," said Humphrey. "She snatched off her cape." The skit also showed one of her clients coming in so she could beautify them and the crowd was her mirror."

Thaxton was impressed by Quinton Calhoun's lively skit, which had a backdrop with all colleges. Calhoun



A happy time in the Performing Arts Auditorium for Austin-East Magnet High School students and their families and friends on April 4, 2025.

first had a Miami Hurricane toboggan on, then mentioned Western Kentucky as a possibility, but quickly said "No," that he was

going to UT and he ripped up the other posters.

College representatives were invited to attend the signing day.

Opportunistic Admirals top West, take sole possession of first place

Cont. from page 1

would prove costly for Farragut, the three-time defending Class 4A State Champion, when West would cash in on the mistake as Jack Moffett came up with an RBI double with one out.

The Rebels, however, left the bases loaded as they failed to do more damage.

"Execution," Stacy said. "It all comes down to execution, and we just didn't execute.

"We talk about that all the time, and these kids are working their tails off,"

The Admirals extended their

advantage to 4-1 in the top of the fifth when an RBI single by Jackson Zeller plated Williams, who singled to lead off the frame.

Farragut added two more runs in the seventh on a two run single from Flagg, who finished the contest with two hits and two RBIs, came up with a two-run single.

On the mound, Draper threw a complete game, going seven innings. He gave up one unearned run and three hits. He also hit a batter and struck out seven.

Irish notch three consecutive matches, shuts out top-ranked Bearden

Cont. from page 1

Levins said his parents were planning to come to the match, but he told them that it wasn't necessary. He also had to borrow shin guards from a teammate.

"I told my parents that they could just go ahead and run errands because I didn't think I would get into the game," Levins said. "I didn't even have my shin guards, so I had to borrow some from one of my defenders."

For his part, Martin wasn't about to downplay the importance of the win over the Bulldogs.

"This was really big for these kids," said Martin. "They've really been through a lot."

Catholic continued its winning ways Tuesday night as it edged Halls, 6-4.

Levins, back in the net, came up with eight saves and Tucker had a hat-trick and was credited with an assist. Marcos Garcia tallied twice and dished out an assist and Josh Palacios scored a goal and dished out two assists against the Red Devils, who dropped to 6-3-2 after a 1-0 loss to Jefferson County Thursday night.

Catholic played Farragut to a 0-0 draw on the road Friday night.

Bearden bounces back: The loss to the Irish was a wake-up call for the Bulldogs (10-1 overall, 2-0 in District 4-AAA). Bearden notched a 10-0 victory in a district match against Heritage on Thursday night.

Lucas Ford, Preston Ford and Joshua Garcia each scored twice to lead the Bulldogs past the Mountaineers. Omar Ardahji, Ujulu Lind, Aidan Zalk and Adam Charara also had goals in the match.

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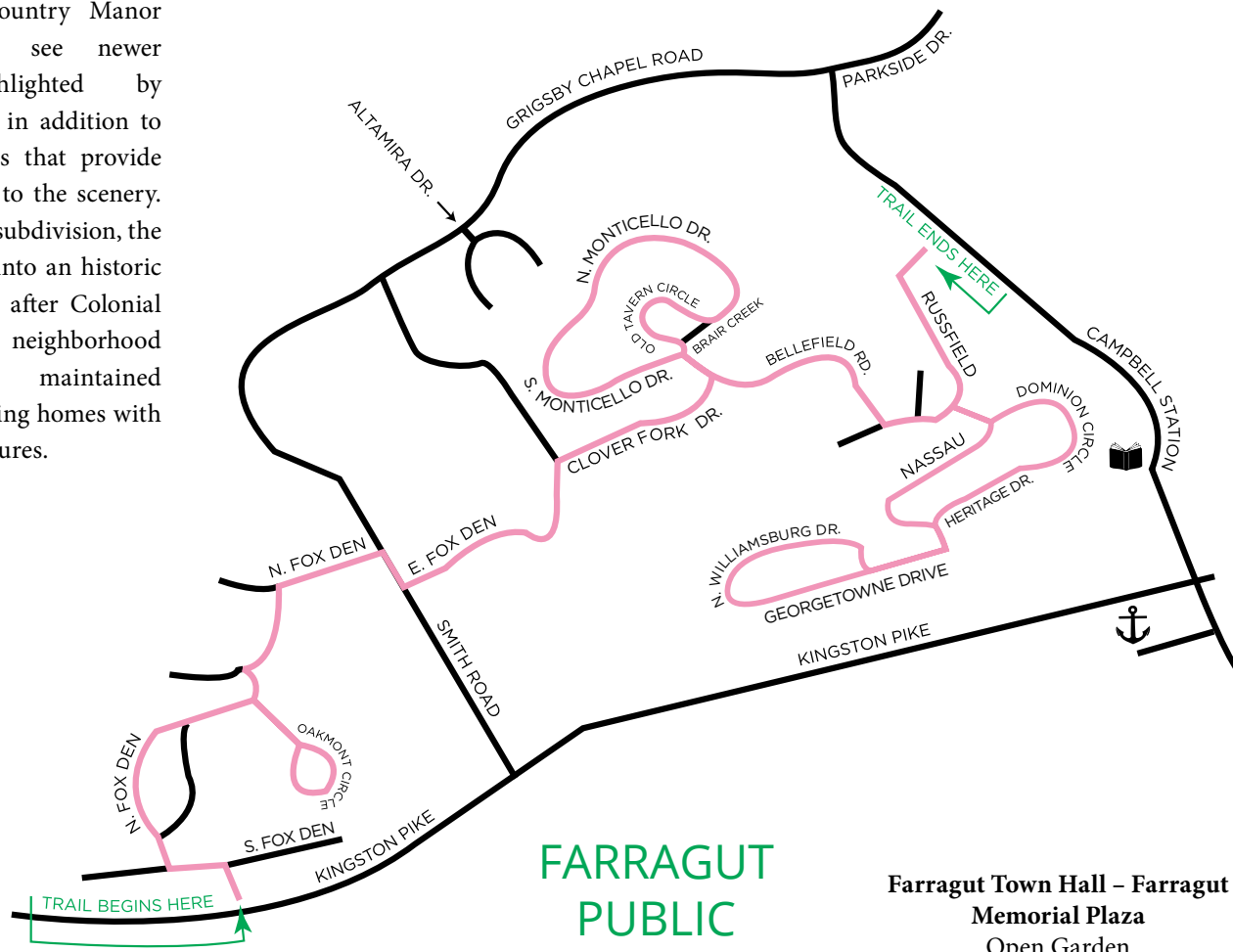
2025 Featured Trails: West Knox

Farragut

7.9 Miles | Established in 2000 | Trail Begins at 12251 S Fox Den Drive (37934)

Follow the pink lines beginning at the entrance to the Fox Den community to experience the beauty of the Farragut Dogwood trail. Established in 2001, the trail wanders thru three distinct neighborhoods covering 7.9 miles of impeccably maintained properties. Most of the homes in Fox Den were built in the 70s and 80s and are surrounded by mature trees with beautiful landscapes. The path begins near Willow Creek Golf Course and the entrance to Fox Den subdivision, deep in the heart of Farragut.

Continuing to Country Manor subdivision, you'll see newer construction highlighted by beautiful dogwoods, in addition to other flowering trees that provide shade and character to the scenery. In the Village Green subdivision, the trail is transformed into an historic experience. Modeled after Colonial Williamsburg, the neighborhood features carefully maintained landscapes surrounding homes with classic American features.



FARRAGUT OPEN GARDENS & CAMERA SITES

- Mary Bates**
Camera Site
513 Altamira Drive, 37934
This spring woodland garden originated 25-years ago with plants acquired from the owners' mother and grandmother. Pink and white dogwoods mingle with azaleas, spring bulbs, and perennials.
- Becky Howard**
Open Garden
12420 Hound Ears Pt., 37934
This hillside garden features a wide variety of perennials, hydrangeas, dogwoods, azaleas and many unique garden features. Note: Steep slope; street parking only.
- Russ & Stacey Walters**
Open Garden
124 Champions Point, 37934
Large water garden with koi and goldfish bordering the fifth hole of Fox Den's golf course. Pond features two waterfalls and is surrounded by blooming dogwoods and azaleas.

While you visit, be on the lookout for homes with 'Open Garden' and 'Camera Site' yard signs (open daily from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.).
 Open Garden = get out of the car and enjoy a stroll through the garden
 Camera Site = photos only, please do not enter the property

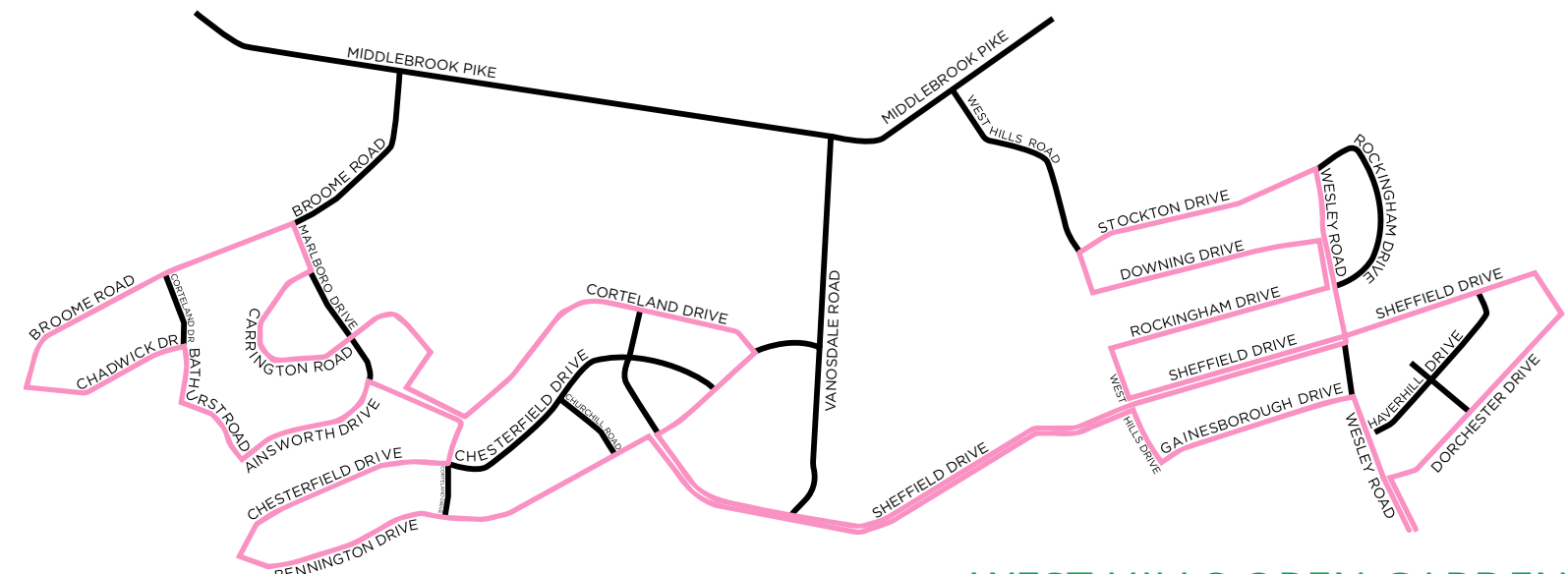
FARRAGUT PUBLIC GARDENS

- Founders Park at Campbell Station**
Open Garden
405 N Campbell Station Road, 37934
Hours: Daylight
A beautiful 17-acre park offering extensive walking trails.
- Farragut Town Hall - Farragut Memorial Plaza**
Open Garden
11408 Municipal Center Drive, 37934
Hours: Daylight
A Civil War Trails Historical Marker commemorates the Battle of Campbell Station fought in 1863. The Farragut Memorial Plaza features a life-sized bronze statue of Admiral Farragut and Civil War era cannons on loan from the U.S. Naval Yard honor his life.

West Hills

8 Miles | Established in 2022 | Trail Begins at 100 Wesley Rd. (37919)

Established in 2022, West Hills added over 8 miles of blooming trails to the Dogwood Trails & Garden Program. Originally developed in the 1950s, West Hills was the city's first major post-World War II subdivision and the first to consist primarily of modern ranch-style houses. In the late 1940's, the demand for new houses spiked, and vacant lots in Knoxville's older, pre-war neighborhoods quickly filled up. To meet the rising housing demand, developer Morgan Schubert purchased the Walker, Kirby, Hickey, and Van Osedale farms, and established the West Hills subdivision (the name "West Hills" was likely coined by Schubert). Knoxville's 1954 Parade of Homes featured new houses on Stockton Drive in West Hills, attracting many of



the neighborhood's earliest residents. While West Knoxville experienced a boom in commercial development in the 1960s and 1970s, West Hills managed to retain its residential character. This was due in large part to its neighborhood advocacy group which later became known as the West Hills Community Association. In 1972, this group worked

with Knoxville's Metropolitan Planning Commission to create the West Hills Plan, which provided a development model subsequently adopted for all Knoxville neighborhoods.

WEST HILLS OPEN GARDEN

- West Hills Baptist Church**
409 N Winston Road, 37909
West Hills Baptist Church's beautiful gardens are dedicated to the glory of God's creation and with love and thanksgiving to Dr. Robert M. Overholt for his care and commitment to establishing and maintaining a worshipful place of peace for the church and community.



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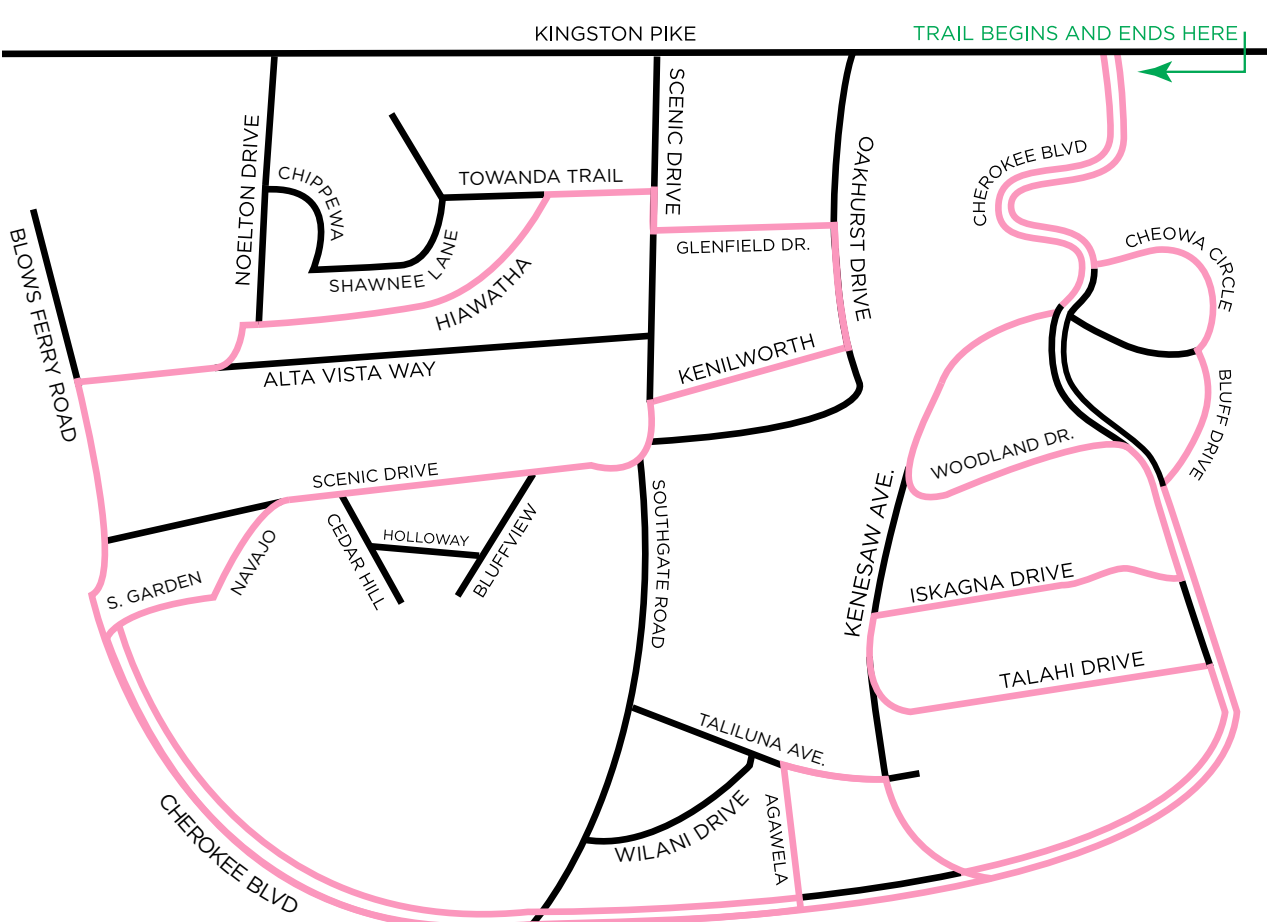
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Sequoyah Hills

6.5 Miles | Established in 1955 | Trail begins at 415 Cherokee Blvd (37919)



Knoxville's first dogwood trail was established in Sequoyah Hills in 1955 and includes some of the city's most beautiful scenic landscapes. The trail begins on Cherokee Boulevard, which was named for the Native American tribal lands that became Knoxville. Many of the streets throughout the neighborhood have names inspired by the prehistoric, Woodlands-era culture, such as Iskagna, Agawela, Keowee, Taliluna, and Tugaloo and a 1,000-year-old earthen mound rises in the median of Cherokee Boulevard.

Between 1927 and 1929 several landscape features were built, including gateposts at either end of

Cherokee Blvd, two fountains (Sunshine Fountain & Panther Fountain), stone benches, and Papoose Park. Cherokee motifs decorate these features, suggesting inspiration from both Cherokee folklore and the Art Deco movement. These early improvements endured as a hallmark of the area and are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In the springtime, the neighborhood rolls out the pink carpet with abundant flowering dogwoods, spectacular landscapes, and a line of ancient cherry trees along the boulevard which is a popular trail for walkers and runners.

SEQUOYAH HILLS OPEN GARDENS & CAMERA SITES

Bill Pittman & Tina Rolan
Camera Site
3929 Kenilworth Avenue,
37919

Private Residence
Camera Site
841 Cherokee Boulevard,
37919

Private Residence
Camera Site
3649 Iskagna Avenue,
37919

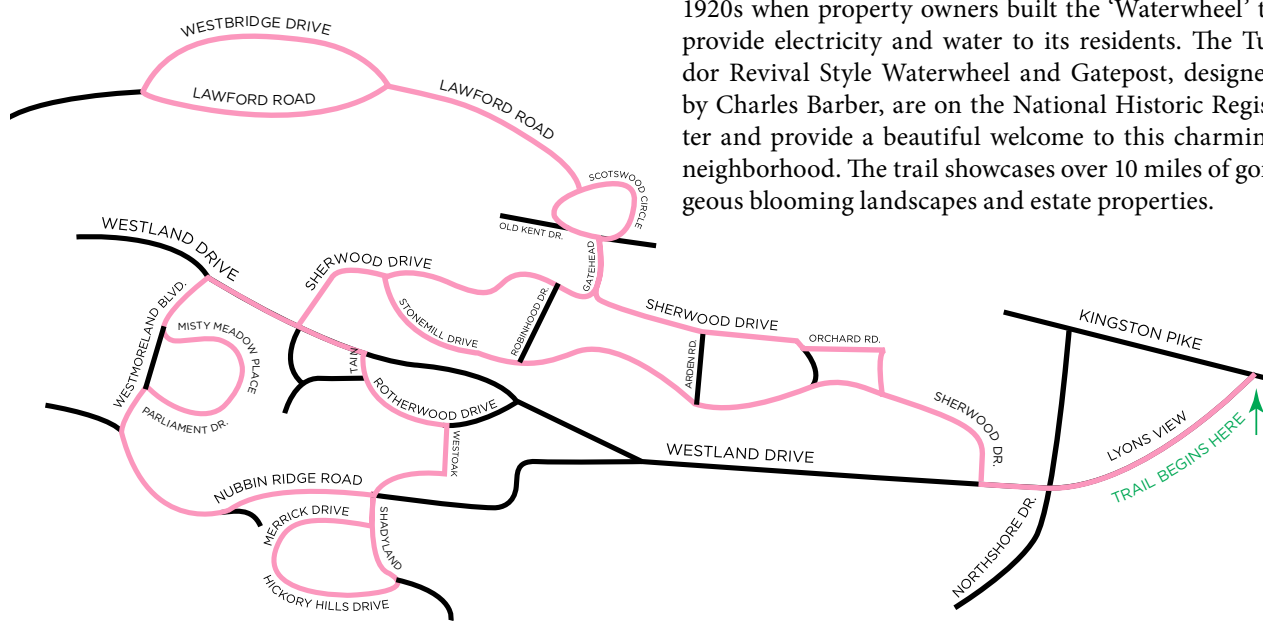
Private Residence
Camera Site
1964 Cherokee
Boulevard. 37919

Talahi Fountain
Open Garden & Camera Site
1034 Cherokee Boulevard, 37919
Hours: Daylight

While you visit, be on the lookout for homes with 'Open Garden' and 'Camera Site' yard signs (open daily from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.).
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Westmoreland

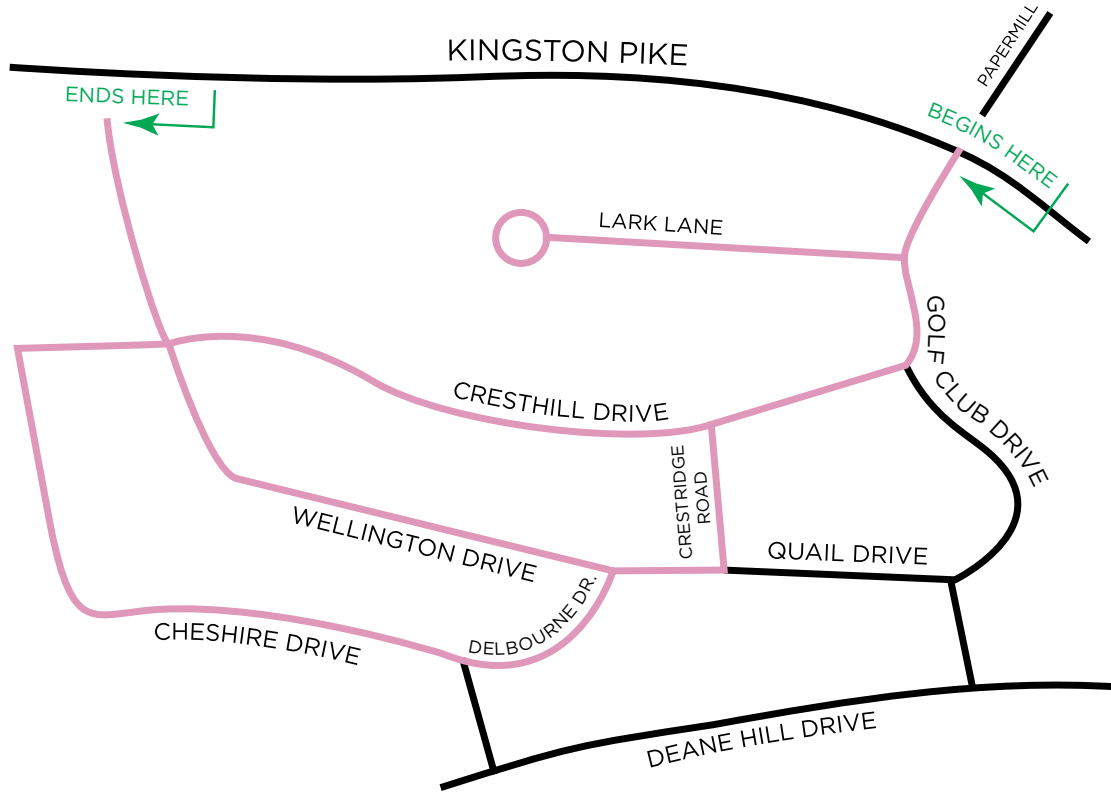
8 Miles | Established in 2022 | Trail Begins at 100 Wesley Rd. (37919)



The grandeur of the Westmoreland Dogwood Trail, established in 1957, attracts many to its quiet wooded lanes. This historic neighborhood dates back to the early 1920s when property owners built the 'Waterwheel' to provide electricity and water to its residents. The Tudor Revival Style Waterwheel and Gatepost, designed by Charles Barber, are on the National Historic Register and provide a beautiful welcome to this charming neighborhood. The trail showcases over 10 miles of gorgeous blooming landscapes and estate properties.

Deane Hill

2.6 Miles | Established in 1978 | Trail Begins at 101 Golfclub Drive (37919)




The Deane Hill Community is named after Thomas Jellis Deane who owned the Appalachian Marble Co. In 1928, Deane built a 16 room house on 192 acres of farmland where the neighborhood stands today. The area later became Deane Hill Country Club and was home to a beautiful golf course with rolling hills.

Today, Deane Hill is a mid-century modern neighborhood with most of the classic ranchers and split level homes dating to the 50s & 60s. The neighborhood has large well-kept lots with beautiful mature trees boasting gorgeous springtime blooms.

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