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## Henderson kicks off mayoral campaign

By Ken Lay

Betsy Henderson takes on tasks during difficult times.

"I moved to Washington, D.C., on 9/11 to go to work for Congressman Duncan," said Henderson, who kicked off her campaign for Knox County Mayor Tuesday night at Louis' Restaurant and Drive-In in Fountain City. "Then, I was elected to school board and was there during COVID."

Henderson, chair of the Knox County Board of Education, is seeking to replace Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, who is term-limited. She is running against Knox County Commissioner Larsen Jay in the Republican Primary. Another candidate, Mike Hammond, recently withdrew from the race for health reasons.

He is now supporting Henderson and was in attendance Tuesday at her kick-off event.

"Mike has dropped out due to a health concern and he's supporting me and he's going to be here tonight," Henderson said during an interview before the gathering.

Henderson decided to run for mayor because she said Knox County stands at a crucial point.

"Knox County is at a crossroads and we've had good conservative leadership," she said. "We need to continue to have good conservative leadership in Knox County."

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PHOTOS BY KEN LAY.

Left to right: Scott Henderson, Logan Henderson, Molly Henderson, Betsy Henderson, Brooke Triplett, Jenna Triplett and Steve Triplett at the campaign kick off last Wednesday at Louis' in Fountain City.



Knox County mayoral candidate and school board chair Betsy Henderson with fellow board member Steve Triplett at an event kicking off Henderson's campaign at Louis'.

## Henderson: We can't afford Kincannon's latest tax increase

"Career politicians always try to raise taxes whenever budgets get tight. We already pay one of the highest sales tax rates in the country. It's shocking that Mayor Kincannon and other politicians think Knox Countians who live and work in the city can afford another tax increase. Four years of the Biden Administration crushed families and we can't allow Knoxville and Knox County to follow suit.

"A lot of politicians think the government is 'underfunded'. This is part of the game politicians play: run up debt, increase spending, and when the debt comes due, make families pay for it with a tax increase.

"I'm making a firm commitment today: I will oppose any tax increase on Knox County families."

## New veterans park now open

By Mike Steely

Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The new French Broad Veterans Memorial Park overlooking the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery will "help to tell the story of service and sacrifice," according to Legacy Parks Director Carol Evans.

She spoke recently as the bluff-side park opened and drew a couple hundred veterans, their families, supporters and elected public officials. Evans mentioned the many people and organizations that came together to build the new park on land donated by Blue Water Industries. The new 8.5-acre park is located just off Governor John Sevier Highway north of the river bridge.

Speakers at the grand opening included Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Veteran

Services Major General Tommy Baker, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, Denise Thorne of

the Deep South Garden Club, Lelia Johnson of the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Janie Bitner of the Blue and Gold Star Memorial Markers, and Lt. Colonel Col Graver of the Flying Cross Society.

Major General Tommy Higgins, commander of Tennessee Veteran Services, described the park's location as "100 percent right" and noted that Knox County has 30,000 military

veterans and the state has 430,000 veterans.

Kelly Shipe sang "Amazing Grace," and veterans of the East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard, two from each military service, were joined by elected officials to raise the flag of their service organization.

Mayor Jacobs spoke of a new monument at the park, the Buzz Buswell Walk, and honored Buswell for his support and service to local veterans. Buswell is the director of Veterans

and Senior Services for Knox County. Another marker honored recipients of the Flying Cross and Blue Star families.

The park features a grand overlook of the river and the veteran cemetery, a large shelter with bathrooms, several markers in the main park and along the trails, and other features are planned as the park is transferred from Legacy Parks to Knox County Parks.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Buzz Buswell, a decorated combat veteran and Knox County Veterans Office director, inspects the monument marking Buzz Buswell Walk at the new French Broad Veterans Memorial Park.

## Knoxville may see ½ cent sales tax on November ballot

By Mike Steely

Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Mayor Indya Kincannon announced Thursday she is going to ask the city council to approve a referendum to be placed on the November ballot for an additional ½ cent sales tax. She said the increase would not apply to groceries but could bring in an additional \$47 million to the city.

That would bring the city's portion of sales tax to 2.75%, up from 2.25%, to make the total city-state sales tax 9.75%.

If approved by council in June, the ballot in November would include the city-wide referendum on the additional sales tax along with the city general election candidates.

The council meets today with a full agenda chock full of zoning changes, many for increased residential use.

An increase from RN-2 residential zone to RN-4 general residential for property at 107 Meadow View Road is requested by David Verner. Three properties at 1608, 1612 and 1616 Eighth Avenue could change from RN-4 to I-MU, industrial mixed-use, in a request from Garrett Jernigan.

The property at 4602 Millertown Pike may switch from Office to RN-4 in a request from Mike Ballinger.

Non-residential changes include a request for 1908 Grand Avenue, from neighborhood commercial to industrial mixed-use, and the property at 305 Randolph Street, 600 E. Magnolia Avenue and 611 E. Depot Avenue may change from industrial mixed-use to Downtown Knoxville warehouse. The lot at 6907 Central Avenue Pike may change from general commercial to highway commercial, and 6714 Keck Road may go from highway commercial to general commercial.

The council may also vote to approve revised guidelines for the Edgewood-Park City Historic Overlay District and revise the city code dealing with landscaping buffer yards.

Also on the agenda is a contract with the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service to evaluate the implementation of Project TLC, its impact on the city's violent crimes by area and levels of community trust. A firm may be hired to design the L.T. Ross Building Re-Roof Project, and another firm may be hired for engineering and inspection of the Mary

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# Great Words From President Trump And Others

From a distance



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

As many people know, I have spent most of my waking hours reading – books, newspapers, magazines – for work and pleasure since probably my early teens.

Two of my favorite nationally syndicated columnists are now deceased: Charley Reese died in 2013 and Georgie Anne Geyer in 2019. Both became columnists after long careers as newspaper reporters.

Both would have loved President Trump’s recent speech in Riyadh in which he attacked neocons, nation builders and interventionists.

Both wrote words in the

early 2000s about our policies in Israel, Palestine and Iraq that are just as applicable today as they were then.

Charley Reese was chosen as the most popular columnist in a vote by many thousands who responded to a poll by C-SPAN in 1999. He wrote in a very plain, down-to-earth way.

In 2002, a few months before we went to war in Iraq, but when it was already the main topic of debate, Reese wrote: “The truth is this: The terrorist attacks against the United States are a direct result of our one-sided support of Israel’s oppression of the Palestinians. That’s it, pure and simple.”

He added: “The big pushers for war with Iraq are the usual suspects – Americans with a long record of pretending to speak about America’s interests when in fact they are pushing an Israeli agenda.” Now, you can replace the word “Iraq” with the word “Israel.”

On Jan. 24, 2005, Reese wrote, “Propaganda aside, our actions have created the almost universal hostility toward the United States in the Arab world. Our actions have been to support Israel 100 percent while it kills and brutalizes the Palestinians and refuses to negotiate with them.”

Georgie Anne Geyer wrote a few months after the war started in 2003 that “critics of the war against Iraq have said since the beginning of the conflict that Americans, still strangely complacent about overseas wars being waged by a minority in their name, will inevitably come to a point where they will see they have to have a government that provides services at home, or one that seeks empire across the globe.”

These words are still true today. Only the names have been changed so that millions more innocents can be brutalized and the U.S. can go many trillions – yes, trillions – more into debt.

When George W. Bush ran for president in 2000, he went all over the country speaking out against nation building (of other nations) and saying that we needed a “more humble” foreign policy. But then he appointed neocons to run his administration and went in an exactly opposite direction.

Columnist George Will once wrote that neocons were “magnificently misnamed” and that they were “really the most radical people in this city” (meaning Washington).

President Trump made some neocon-type appointments during his first term that he later regretted. But I was ecstatic when I heard what he said in Riyadh on May 14: “But in the end, the so-called nation builders wrecked far more than they built, and the interventionists were intervening in complex societies that they did not even understand themselves.”

“No, the gleaming mar-vels of Riyadh and Abu

Dhabi were not created by the so-called ‘nation builders,’ neocons or liberal non-profits, like those who spent trillions and trillions of dollars failing to develop Kabul, Baghdad, and so many other cities.”

He added: “The birth of a modern Middle East has been brought by the people of the region themselves...” and “has not come from western interventionists ... giving you lectures on how to live and how to govern your own affairs.”

Long before this speech, on April 16, 2016, I was invited with five other members of Congress to meet Mr. Trump at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., and hear his first major speech on foreign policy.

He said that day that “our resources are totally over-extended ... we’re rebuilding other countries while weakening our own.” He said he had been “totally against” the war in Iraq and said that “No country has ever prospered that failed to put its own interests

first.”


Tom Friedman, the long-time and very pro-Israel columnist for the New York Times, wrote on May 9th that “Netanyahu is not our friend,” and added: “On the Middle East, you have some good independent instincts, Mr. President. Follow them.”

With Netanyahu, neo-cons and Christian Zion-ists now pushing for war against Iran, I wish they would read the words of the late Republican leader, Sen. Robert Taft, who was featured in John F. Kennedy’s book “Profiles In Courage.”

“No foreign policy can be justified except a policy devoted without reser-vation or diversion to the protection of liberty of the American people, with war only as the last resort and only to preserve that liber-ty.”

# A Fake Constitutional Crisis

The Democ-rats and their sycophants in the media are screaming “Constitution-al Crisis!” Being Trump haters and the guard-ians of unlimit-ed government spending, they are whining about Trump and DOGE. Chris Murphy, D-Conn.: “The president and his allies’ moves represent ‘illegal seizures of power’ that have thrown the U.S. into a ‘constitutional crisis.’” Angus King (I-ME): “We are in the middle of the biggest constitutional crisis our nation has ever seen & every day we’re inching fur-ther from the democracy our founders created.” Only



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

John Fetterman (D-PA) seems to have kept his cool, saying that the courts will decide what is or isn’t constitutional: “There isn’t a constitutional crisis, and all of these things — it’s just a lot of noise.” Who would have thought that Fetterman would continue to be the only Democrat who makes sense rather than nonsense?

Did the Democrats think that Joe Biden’s actions constituted a constitutional crisis when he ignored court orders, including that of the Supreme Court in his efforts to forgive stu-dent debt? The courts said

that it was unconstitution-al. Biden ignored the ruling and bragged, “The Supreme Court blocked it. But that didn’t stop me.” Sounds like a constitutional crisis to me that the left chose to ignore. Hey, Republicans, why wasn’t this an impeach-able offense?

The left only screams “constitutional crisis” when they are not the ones violating the Constitution or advocating an overthrow of it. The left routinely ignores the Second Amendment and hates the electoral college. Doesn’t the left always proclaim that the Constitu-tion is flawed and needs to be rewritten? How is it that all of a sudden they have embraced the sanctity of a document written by a bunch of slave holding old

white men? Isn’t it amazing what Donald Trump can do?

So far, Trump is facing over 70 lawsuits. He has won some and lost some. On those that he has lost, he said he will appeal. To date, there has been no indication that he will ignore the courts like Biden did. What Trump is doing is trying to exert control over the entire executive branch of the government. So is that unconstitutional?

Perhaps the Democrats are confused over our form of government and to what constitutes the executive branch. Primer: the federal government consists of three branches: the execu-tive branch, the legisla-tive branch and the judi-cial branch. The executive branch includes the presi-dent’s cabinet and a myriad of federal agencies such as the SEC, the FCC, CFPB, FAA, FTC, USAID and a host

of others, including the financial regulatory agen-cies the OCC, NCUA, FDIC and the FED. All agencies whose leaders are appoint-ed by the president and confirmed by the Senate are within the executive branch.

Trump says that he has the authority to fire the boards and leaders of these agencies since he has authority over the execu-tive branch. He also asserts that he can have control over their spending even though some budgets are appropriated by Congress and others come from the charging of assessments. Trump argues that these agencies are not “independ-ent.” His argument is that insulation from presiden-tial authority runs counter to Article II of the Constitu-tion. The president should be able to supervise how they do their job. Trump

says these agencies have become unaccountable for their actions and should be reined in. These agencies have exceeded their consti-tutional authority.

Who holds the indepen-dent agencies account-able for their actions? If they are part of the legis-lative branch, then it would be the Congress. However, they are part of the execu-tive branch. Shouldn’t the responsibility then fall to the president? The consti-tutional crisis may well be the lack of accountability of these agencies. I think Trump wants to have a clear ruling from the Supreme Court on the independence of these agencies and their oversight. The hope is to rein in the bureaucratic state.

Constitutional crisis? More like constitutional cleanup.



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## Henderson kick off

**Cont. from page 1**

County.

“I have a heart for ser-vice, whether it be with the school board or working for Congressman Duncan or being county mayor. I worked for Congressman Duncan and I’ve served ever since.”

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Hen-derson, the District 6 rep-resentative on the school board, was an advocate for keeping schools open and fighting the mask mandate.

“I fought to keep schools open and I fought to keep our kids out of masks,” she said.

As Knox County Mayor, Henderson said that she would champion small busi-ness.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our econ-omy,” Henderson said. “Small business is in my family’s roots. My mom and dad were small business owners. My dad came here from Greece when he was 16 and he opened a restau-rant.”

Henderson noted that throughout her campaign that she will tour small busi-nesses in Knox County.

“I appreciate small busi-ness and we’re going to do a small business tour,” she said.


Any candidate who seeks political office must have family support and Hender-son is no exception.

“My family talked about it and we prayed about it,” she said. “My husband is helping and my kids are involved and my parents are involved.

“It takes the whole family and that’s why we talked about it and prayed about it.”

If elected, Henderson said she would keep taxes low and preserve East Ten-nessee’s way of life.

“I want to protect our values and I want to sustain smart growth,” she said.



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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  
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# Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,  
Publisher  
publisher@knoxfocus.com

## Tax And Spend City Mayor

Indya Kincannon, mayor of Knoxville, has announced another half-penny increase on the sales tax inside the City of Knoxville. Kincannon is proposing to let the voters decide in a referendum this November. There are those of us cynical enough to believe Kincannon has waited to place the referendum on the ballot in the off-year when voters inside the city will only be voting on city council races instead of a presidential election, as they did last year.

Kincannon and the city council have already raised

the property tax by 40% a few years ago. Knox County, which operates the school system and every other amenity or service except for police, fire protection and garbage pickup inside the city limits, last raised property taxes more than twenty years ago. The county government spends twice what the city does, and all the funds going toward the school system from local, state and federal taxes make it a billion-dollar enterprise. Indya makes the statement, "It is no secret that more people are moving here, the number of visitors is skyrocketing, and our infrastructure is being pushed to its limits."

That statement begs some very important and pertinent questions, the first of which is: Do the people of Knoxville and Knox County have to continue to build apartments and houses for everyone who wants to move here? Or is it possible some of them might live in Jefferson, Loudon, or Union counties? Even those not too swift on the uptake realize the traffic and congestion here is

FAR worse than it was two years ago. The notion that we must continue building until everyone who wishes to move here is housed is nothing less than foolish. Kincannon and many county leaders are right inasmuch as our infrastructure has been stretched by those moving into Knoxville and Knox County. Just why we would want to speed up the pace of development to house anybody and everybody has never been explained. The only green spaces inside the city will be those where they have spent a couple of million dollars on something they claim is art, even if it looks like a mushroom sliding off a plate. Folks should ponder the question that the daily newspaper never questions a penny of how the city government spends its money, and how it constantly needs more to spend.

Clearly, if we keep building it they will come. The city has one pedestrian bridge leading from South Knoxville to downtown, not by design but rather because it needs to be repaired. The city government is falling all over itself to build a bridge

for the University of Tennessee, supposedly for students to walk across, after having removed something like \$9 million of taxable property from the tax rolls. It is surely a coincidence that the same bridge would allow those folks to disembark from their yachts and big boats to Neyland Stadium on game days.

Both the city and county governments need to be thinking about the quality of life for the people living here now, not those who might wish to come here. As to those visiting, there seem to be plenty of hotels and motels to accommodate them. The City of Knoxville doesn't need to tax people out of their homes in order to build more apartments, or if so, be honest about it. Nor does Knox County need to be one big cookie-cutter subdivision.

Keeping up our roads, parks, schools, and the like does indeed require money and repairing our existing infrastructure, but unlike Knox County, the City of Knoxville clearly has a spending problem, but don't expect to read that in the pages of the Knoxville

News-Sentinel. Just how does a government offering so few services continue to need more and more money to spend? For one thing, the salaries paid to public employees inside the city are larger than those paid to similar employees in the county government who render most of the services. Most county employees have a 401K retirement account rather than a lifetime pension that enjoys regular cost-of-living increases. Out of the last two property tax increases inside the city, the first was largely to keep the pensions solvent. The very notion that an employee or someone in public office should be able to assign pension rights to a child is absurd and just plain wrong.

## Legacy Media Has No Credibility

With every passing day it becomes clearer and clearer that the mainstream news media either looked the other way or just plain lied about the mental condition of Joe Biden. When Biden blurted out one day that he, like millions of other

Americans, had cancer, many of us - including me - thought it was another of his inexplicable out-there comments.

Now it looks as if it was the truth. Numerous medical experts believe that Biden's unfortunate prostate cancer didn't develop within the last few days, but rather over the last several years. Jake Tapper, who played his role in trying to gaslight the American people before trying to turn a buck by revealing how the Biden White House attempted to cover up Biden's decline, has written that aides were talking about putting Biden in a wheelchair after the 2024 election if he won a second term.

Media and news outlets that deliberately mislead or lie ruin their own credibility. They should know that trust takes a long time to earn, but can evaporate in a second. There is a good reason why polls show the media is less popular with the public than Congress. They did it the old-fashioned way: they earned it.

# Commissioners told to get over feelings and move on

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

"We've had probably the most robust and emotionally charged discussion that we've had in a long time. We all have different opinions, we come from different districts, and we come from different walks of life. The fact that we argue, get passionate about things is because we care. It also means that it stops right there, that's what Democracy is. So you need to put on your big boy and girl pants and get over the feelings and move on," said Knox County Commission Chairwoman Gina Oster last week at the end of the commission's monthly meeting.

"Nobody is ever trying to shut anybody's voice down," she said.

The words came after contentious disagreements between some commissioners over agenda items such as what a chair can say publicly and federal grant use in the county.

The question of whether a commission chair could speak out against a resolution that the full commission passed was answered in a 6-5 vote after several commissioners said the vote would limit free speech.

Much of the debates were spurred by District 9's Andy Fox and District 5's Angela Russell, who opposed or abstained on several issues, including the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan, allotting \$8.8 million to non-profit organizations, appropriating \$2.2 million in Opioid Funds to non-profits. Both commissioners demanded that the county departments submit state or federal grant requests to the commission for review.

At one point, several other commissioners disagreed with Russell and Fox over procedure and At-large Commissioner Larsen Jay called out Fox on opposing the approval of the Knox County Budget

because Fox contended he had little time to review the budget. Fox was pushing for a postponement of approval to June.

Russell's idea to remove \$55,000 in the commission's discretionary funds from the budget failed. That fund allots \$5,000 to each commissioner for community projects of the commissioner's choosing. She also unsuccessfully suggested pulling \$8 million from the budget that supports lighting in county parks.

Jay said the many suggestions and amendments offered by Russell and Fox were slowing the meeting. Fox said he was only given two weeks to review the proposed budget and Chairwoman Oster replied that his statement was "disingenuous."

"I get a little annoyed, the showmanship needs to level out," Oster said. Several commissioners countered Fox with Commissioner Kim Frazier saying she saw "no indication more

time is needed" to vote and approve the budget.

Jay spoke of the many budget sessions, finance committee meetings and work sessions held to review the budget and told Fox, "You didn't attend."

"We're ready and prepared," Jay said of the budget vote, adding, "We have other work to do."

The budget vote passed in a 9-1-1 with Russell voting "No" and Fox abstaining.

Fox also questioned some budget funding of the Freedom Schools, questioning the books the 130 summer school students would be reading as having a "world view." The vote to fund the program passed 10-1, with Fox the sole "No" vote.

The debate on reviewing  
**Continue on page 4**

## Knoxville may see ½ cent sales tax on November ballot

**Cont. from page 1**  
Vestal Park Streambank Stabilization Project.

The Baum Drive Stormwater Improvement Project may see a firm hired for engineering and inspections, as well as similar services for the North Cherry Street Stormwater Improvements Project.

City traffic camera enforcement may see an agreement with Blue Line Solutions to reduce injury and fatal crashes.

The Downtown Alliance

may get permission for installation and maintenance of small bronze features at locations downtown. Magnolia Avenue and Chilhowee Park may get some attention for redevelopment.

Ordinances on First Reading include automated enforcement systems for speeding in school zones, and donations from the city to YOKE for summer camps and One Knoxville Collective for East Knoxville Soccer.

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**By Jamie Schnell**  
schnellj@knoxfocus.com

On Saturday, May 17, the Rusty Wallace Family of Dealerships hosted a fundraising event for Isaiah 117 House at Rusty Wallace Honda at 109 Callahan Drive in Knoxville. The Isaiah 117 House is inspired by the profound message found in the biblical passage Isaiah 1:17, which commands us to “defend the cause of the fatherless.” This organization is one of many in the state whose mission emphasizes the importance of advocating for vulnerable children and fostering a sense of safety and belonging. Isaiah 117 House was initially created to provide a comforting home and help reduce trauma for children who have been removed from their homes while they await placement in the foster care system.

The event commenced with a motorcycle ride led by Knox County Sheriff’s Office, featuring the impressive Blue Knights and the dedicated Knox County Tango Unit. The riders enjoyed a day of glorious weather, and later gathered for an unforgettable highlight: a special appearance by the legendary Hall of Fame NASCAR driver, Rusty Wallace himself. With a warm and welcoming smile, he enthusiastically noted the “wonderful turnout,” and



Legendary NASCAR driver and racing icon Rusty Wallace was excited to sign t-shirts for the bikers at the recent benefit for Isaiah House 117. Photo by Jamie Schnell.

voiced his appreciation. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated, taking the time to sign t-shirts and graciously posing for photo opportunities, creating lasting memories that captured the spirit of the gathering.

Another addition to the event was Knucklehead, a dog with a knack for adventure, along with his owner, a veteran and author known as “Patch.” Together, they have journeyed an astounding 75,000 miles, sharing their adventures through a series of children’s books.

Thanks to the community’s generosity, Rusty Wallace successfully raised over \$160,000, which will be distributed among seven Isaiah 117 Houses throughout the East Tennessee region. Adding to the atmosphere were captivating performances by the dynamic band Thor and the Reigns, whose music resonated across the gathering. The air was filled with the aroma of barbecued foods, creating a festive ambiance that brought everyone together in support of a remarkable cause.

The event was more than just a celebration; it was a powerful demonstration of community spirit. Andrea Townsend, the location leader for Isaiah House in Anderson County, expressed her enthusiasm: “The Rusty Wallace Ride for Isaiah House is a truly meaningful event that unites our community for an extraordinary cause. Thanks to Rusty’s remarkable compassion and the support of our attendees, we were able to raise a significant amount of money to provide lavish love and care to children in the state’s custody who are awaiting foster placement.”

This gathering truly encapsulated the essence of generosity and hope, making a profound impact on the lives of those in need.

## Commissioners told to get over feelings and move on

**Cont. from page 3**

grant requests ended up being sent to the Rules Committee to iron out the language and possibly add it to the monthly agenda.

Fox got in the last word in a dispute with Jay.

“The reason you haven’t seen me at some events is because you haven’t been to some events. The impression you left is that I was completely abrogating my role as Ninth District Commissioner. I object to the impression created,” Fox said, adding he works hard and long hours in

preparation for commission meetings and, “I’m not going to be castigated for that.”

### Summary of commission actions last week

Despite the verbal disputes the Knox County Commission passed Mayor Glenn Jacob’s proposed budget, funded non-profits, approved opioid grants for local organizations, restricted what a chairperson in opposition to a disputed passed resolution

can say in public, and sent a proposal to the Rules Committee to possibly add state and federal grant reviews by commission to the regular monthly agendas.

The commission heard an update from Tennessee College of Applied Technology Knoxville President Kelli Chaney and Dwight Van de Vate, speaking for the Knox County Mayor. He said the administration can supply grant application information each month for commission review. Chaney spoke about TCAT’s

many programs and training for students preparing for careers. She invited the public and commission to tour a new facility being built in West Knoxville for medical vocations, which will include a simulated hospital on the first floor.

The commission voted to close a portion of Oliver Branch Lane near Schaad Road and briefly discussed the request to raise the salaries of trustee office employees. The continuation of the tax rate for the new year was approved.



Commissioner Terry Hill (right) spoke with TCAT’s President Kelli Chaney prior to last week’s commission meeting.



# Marsha Blackburn

For U.S. Senate

President Donald Trump is Making America Great Again, ushering in a Golden Age in America, and delivering on his promises to the American people.

I am honored to work alongside President Trump daily to advance the America First agenda, protect our constitutional right to bear arms, secure our borders, and restore the American Dream. But I need your support.

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

  
**Marsha Blackburn**

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### Milestones

Our hearts remain restless until they rest in thee, oh Lord.

St. Augustine

The notion of time is a human concept. We consider our past and the future while living in a whirlwind of present moments. The past shapes the present, which models the future, so our journey through life is a continuum, but one marked with milestones.

It has been 50 years since I returned to Christianity. I was brought up in the faith, but like many, I became lost during college in the proverbial “far country” of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32).

There are many pathways to awakening. Mine began in the crucible of medical school when I realized what I was doing was not working. A Christian friend challenged me with simple but irrefutable logic to try a different path and come with him to church.

I never heard a voice, nor was I blinded on a Damaskan roadway. My journey homeward began with a logical decision to try a different path. Robert Frost in “The Road Not Taken” poetically captured that moment of decision that for me “made all the difference.”

William James is recognized as the father of American psychology and pragmatism, though he disliked the latter accolade. He was an atheist, but was intrigued by a faith perspective. He wrote of his investigations in a book called “The Varieties of Religious Experience.” I don’t recommend his tome, but pragmatically James concluded that if there is no incontrovertible proof for diverse perspectives, the rational man is free to choose the perspective that works best for him.

There are no incontrovertible proofs for the presence or absence of

God. But the probability of a Creator of the Universe is far superior to a creation which happened by mere chance. Long before William James, Paul recognized this reality 2000 years ago in Romans 1:20. And 1000 years before Paul, Solomon penned wisdom in Proverbs 3:5 which “made all the difference” in my life.

This month, I begin my 75th trip around the sun. But this milestone is less important than this September, when Becky and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary, made possible by my return to faith. I am blessed to still be in love with my wife, the CEO of our home and also my editress. Becky’s favorite verses are from Ecclesiastes 4, where Solomon explains why two together are better than one. Purportedly, the wisest man concludes in verse 12 that “A cord of three strands is not easily broken” when that 3rd strand is God.

Regretfully, I leave the lofty realms of scripture and the recounting of this Pilgrim’s Progress. But I live in this earthly reality of the present moment. I once stood in four states simultaneously in the Four Corners area of the Western United States. Now, I metaphorically stand astride the two worlds of earth and heaven. Paul explained this geographical mystery

in Acts 17:28, stating, “in Him we live and move and have our being.”

I have lived long enough to understand my place and purpose, to recognize my mistakes and the important milestones of my journey. It is troubling to see others, so confused and utterly lost to reason. Hatred of President Trump has driven them to the far country of the Prodigal. And unless they acknowledge their mistakes, the watershed November 2024 election and the will of the American people, the progressive socialist Democrat leadership will remain lost.

But the Democrat Party is not alone in the insanity of Trump Derangement Syndrome (TDS). The alphabet media of ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC, MSNBC, NYT and WP are equally culpable for inculcating TDS into the minds of their sycophants. Open borders importing millions of uneducated, unvetted and unvaccinated illegals promoted drugs and cartels as well as crime and human trafficking. Promoting trans sexuality issues and gender reassignment for children was perverse and destructive. But the journalistic crime was shielding Biden’s dementia, America’s greatest political scandal. The Democrats and their media toadies have done generational harm to our country and Americans.

I envision four

possibilities to explain the scandal surrounding former President Biden:

Democrats and the media were ignorant of Biden’s dementia due to incompetence

They all knew he was impaired, but lied to us for years

TDS has made them insane and, like a schizophrenic who hears voices, they can’t be held responsible for their actions

They were so ideologically driven by party, power, money and prestige that honesty, honor, decency and justice were subverted

The Democrats and the media fail to accept the watershed milestone of truth. Chuck Schumer says he wants to just move forward rather than address Democrats’ failures. Their message, “we hate Trump and oppose everything he does,” is unacceptable. And the claim from Democrat faux journalists that Biden’s staff duped them is also an unacceptable lie. Sane Americans weren’t duped. Rational people saw the truth of Joe Biden’s dementia.

Biden was the perfect Democrat, Progressive, Socialist Trojan Horse. He never had a record of open borders or any number of other far left policies his handlers promoted. and with the Robert Hur report, investigative revelations, the rush of politics and faux journalists

to cover their booties and now Biden’s diagnosis of advanced prostate cancer, many are asking who was running the country? One analyst stated that the country was run by Otto Penn (autopen). We are lucky, no, we are blessed to have survived this dark period and again have a real president.

With the recent revelations, numerous people have asked me about prostate cancer. I’m sorry Joe Biden has incurable cancer, which will require toxic treatments to prolong his life. The chance for early diagnosis and cure has long since passed. According to oncologist Ezekiel Emmanuel, only 7% of men present with such advanced disease, so Joe Biden has had prostate cancer for conceivably a decade. Perhaps Biden, Dr. Jill, and his Delaware doctor decided not to screen him for prostate cancer with PSA blood testing.

America recognized its milestone of truth with the watershed election of Donald Trump. We have moved on, but the Democrats, the mainstream media and those with TDS have not. Opposition voices are important in a healthy democracy. But until Democrats own up to their lunacy, Daddy needs to take away their car keys.

You may email Dr. Ferguson at [fergusonj@knoxfocus.com](mailto:fergusonj@knoxfocus.com)

## Eddie Mannis recognized for HonorAir work

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
[steelym@knoxfocus.com](mailto:steelym@knoxfocus.com)

“Whereas HonorAir Knoxville recently completed its 36th flight and, to date, has taken over 4,300 veterans to Washington, D.C. to see their memorials, including two flights specifically honoring female veterans.”

That’s one of the lines in the recent Knox County Commission’s honor to Eddie Mannis, who began flying military veterans to the nation’s capital in 2007 and chartered HonorAir as a nonprofit corporation in 2008. Mannis honors

veterans of all the military service that served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and other conflicts. The former Tennessee legislator and successful Knoxville business owner even created “virtual flights” for those veterans physically unable to make the trips.

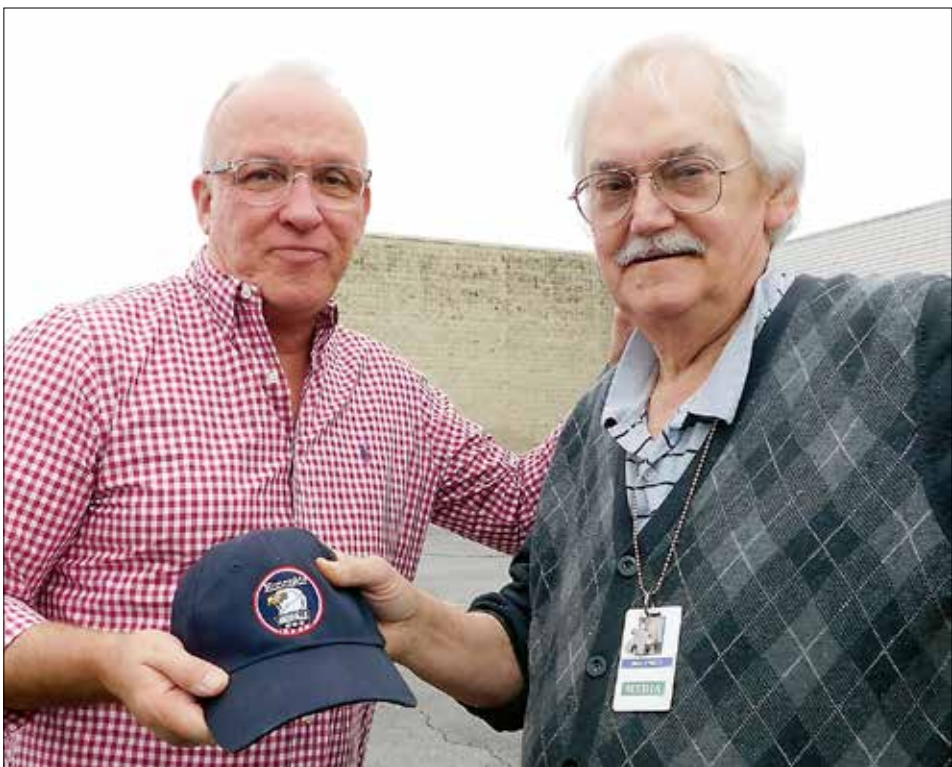
“Unwavering dedication” was the key statement in the honors when Mannis appeared before the commission last month.

I had the privilege of traveling to D.C. with Mannis several years ago. As a military veteran and reporter, I spoke with him and was

amazed at his care and concern for our many veterans. HonorAir has only seven board members, and the team of volunteers is vital in honoring regional veterans before, during and after the flight.

On the trip I took, we visited many of the sights there, including seeing the guard change at the National Cemetery, the then-new Air Force monument, and many other monuments, thanks to a shuttle bus. Some of those veterans seldom talked about their experiences in the

**Continue on page 4**



Always promoting HonorAir, Eddie Mannis made sure my tattered hat was replaced by a new one.

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# Strawberry Plains library unveils summer programs

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Strawberry Plains is a neat little unincorporated community of about 2,000 residents and basically straddles Jefferson, Knox and Sevier counties between Knoxville and Jefferson City. Its popular Parrott-Wood

Memorial Library is located just off the Andrew Johnson Highway, or Highway 11E, on Hamilton Street. The Color Our World Reading/STEM program will take place each Tuesday through July 22, starting at 1:30 p.m. The June 3rd program features Hands on Experiments and

Wonderworks with Malmcum Hale. Singapore will be the featured country on this date. June 10 brings the John Welton Magic Show, the 17th features a program about India, June 24th is Norway, July 1st is Peru, and July 8th is Argentina and special guest Lucas Bales and his goats. July

15th features Spain and Lost Creek Flowers from New Market and July 22nd is a presentation about Taiwan. Family Movie Time will be held on Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. with popcorn and water, or you can bring your own refreshments. Wednesdays from 10-11 a.m. is Story Time for

Babies and Preschoolers. Programs for grown-ups are scheduled June 5 through August 7 with Arts and Crafts on Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m., and "Step back in time" with the Heartland TV series will be shown Mondays from 3-5 p.m.. "This summer the library is excited about these wonderful programs for all

ages," said Director Donna Phillips. For more information you can find the Parrott-Wood Memorial Library on the internet and Facebook. The address is 3133 Old Andrew Johnson Highway and you may call the library at (865) 933-1311.

## Retired arborist W. Jim Cortese publishes first book

Lifetime professional arborist, W. Jim Cortese has published his first book: John Muir Climbs a Tree and Other Tree Tales – An Anthology of Tree Stories. This anthology celebrates humanity's enduring relationship with trees. Through thirty-two diverse stories – ranging from John Muir's exhilarating ascent of a Douglas fir during a storm to Native legends, personal childhood memories, historical anecdotes, and reflective essays – the book explores how trees shape lives, landscapes, and legacies. W. Jim Cortese, a seasoned arborist, infuses the collection with personal nostalgia, ecological insight, and admiration for the natural world. The anthology honors trees not only as biological marvels but as silent witnesses to human history, sources of solace, symbols of resilience, and bridges between

generations. Whether it's a mythic tale of transformation, a humorous childhood misadventure, or a scientific observation wrapped in narrative charm, each piece invites readers to reconnect with nature and reflect on their own "tree stories." Cortese has a degree in Forestry from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville - Class of 1976. He started a tree service from scratch in February 1977. He is the first person in Tennessee to refer to himself as an arborist or urban forester. He is now mostly retired and transitioning to becoming a full-time writer. He has collected these stories over the last fifty years. Every story is terrific! Book can be purchased at online retailers such as Xlibris, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Booksamillion and Bookshop.

## A Fifty-Year Reunion

In 1970, I graduated from Karns High School. Four years later, I received a B.S. degree from my favorite university, Tennessee Tech. Those who are trained in the simple mathematical operations can quickly see that both of these graduations occurred over 50 years ago. My teaching career began in 1974 when Mildred Doyle saved me and offered me a job at Doyle High School for the coming year. This job materialized only a few days before the school year was to begin, and I've always been thankful for the ways things turned out. A few years into my career, I realized that living on a teacher's salary would put a financial strain on my family, so I left the teaching ranks in February and began a job as a fundraiser

who recruited schools to use subscriptions to raise cash. The idea seemed to be a solid one that helped both the schools and me. As it turned out, I felt guilty sending small children out to sell items to their families, friends and neighbors. I spent small fortunes on rewards for sales by students until I just couldn't take it anymore. I left the company and found a new position as an engineering recruiter ("head hunter") and part-time job director for Dunhill. My skills of persuasion were weak, so convincing engineers to pick up their lives and move to another state or city only happened a couple of times. Heading the light industrial division of part-time jobs drove me nuts. Too often, people failed to show up at jobs, and that left me hustling to find a

replacement before shifts started. This week, I was scrolling through Facebook and came across an interesting post. Pam Ketron Greer posted a list of names of former Doyle classmates. As it turns out, this class is having a special reunion. The class of 1975 will gather to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation. Congratulations to you. This bunch is the first graduating class from my teaching career. They broke me in as a teacher and yanked my chain as a rookie in the classroom. In those days, paddling was still allowed, and I applied a board to a few behinds. Most of all, I remember how special those students were. The oldest one was the same age as my wife. Others had personalities so large that I couldn't help but love them. A few didn't like me one bit, and I don't blame them. They were looking for ways to graduate and get on with

life, and I was still "wet behind the ears" as I choked them with writing compositions while using correct grammar. One boy did nothing for the entire second semester, and his parents brought a lawyer to school with the threat of suing me if I didn't pass him. Their plan failed. So, I've invited myself to this big event if and when it happens. Thank you, Pam, for saying it would be alright if I attended. I want to see what's become of the first graduating class of my career. My one mistake was not buying a yearbook because I don't remember names as well as I used to. Those of you whom I see, be kind and patient if I don't recognize you. I can't wait to meet again and catch up on the last 50 years. Just understand that I might not recognize you, nor might you recognize me. By the way, thank you for the best first year of teaching that anyone ever could have had. Go Doyle High Pioneers!



By Joe Rector  
joerector@comcast.net

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# Making a New Senator

## Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

Estes Kefauver, Tennessee's senior United States senator, was having a bad day on Thursday, August 8, 1963. Kefauver was in the midst of the rough and tumble of debate while the Senate considered an appropriation bill for NASA. The Tennessean was hoping to attach an amendment to the NASA appropriation bill, which involved research done by the space agency. The Kefauver amendment required companies that reaped a profit from research subsidized by NASA to reimburse the agency for that research. Washington's sweltering heat and oppressive humidity, as well as Senator Kefauver's heavy smoking and fondness for drink, all contributed to his suffering a heart attack on the floor of the Senate that day. Fortunately, it was a mild attack, and the senator was rushed to Bethesda Naval Hospital. Doctors told Kefauver he needed surgery, but the senator put it off, as he expected his wife Nancy to return from out of town, and he wished to wait for her arrival. It was a fatal decision. Nancy Kefauver never saw her husband alive again. Kefauver's aorta ruptured, and he died in his sleep around 3 a.m., just about the time Nancy Kefauver reached Washington, D.C.

When members of the U.S. House die or resign from office, the governor of his/her state calls a special election; when a member of the United States Senate dies or resigns from office, it falls to the governor to appoint someone to fill the vacancy and serve until the next regular election. Since Tennesseans began electing their own U.S. senators in 1916, not a single senator from the Class 1 seat has died in office or resigned. Of course, that is the same Senate seat held by Kenneth D. McKellar, who served continuously for 36 years. In the Class 2 seat, three senators died in office, while Cordell Hull resigned to accept appointment as President Roosevelt's secretary of state.

Lawrence D. Tyson had died in office, and Governor Henry Horton first offered the appointment to former senator and newspaper titan Luke Lea, who turned it down. Governor Horton then offered the appointment to William E. Brock, the founder of one of the most successful candy-making businesses in the country. Brock was the grandfather and namesake of William E. Brock III; "Bill" Brock was elected to the United States Senate in 1970 as a Republican. The elder Brock was a Democrat and served from 1929-1931.

When Cordell Hull resigned his Senate seat in 1933, Governor

Hill McAlister appointed Nathan L. Bachman, a former justice of the Tennessee State Supreme Court. Senator Bachman won the 1934 special election and 1936 regular election for a full six-year term. Bachman died in April of 1937, only three months into his six-year term. Governor Gordon Browning appointed George L. Berry, head of the Pressman's Union, to fill the vacancy. Senator Berry ran hard for the remaining four years of the term in the 1938 special election, but he lost to Tom Stewart.

Estes Kefauver was the third popularly elected Tennessee senator to die in office. The governor of Tennessee in August of 1963 was Frank Clement. Governor Clement had flashed across Tennessee's political horizon like a comet in 1952 when he won his first term at age 32, beating incumbent Gordon Browning. Clement was the first governor to serve a four-year term under the revisions to the State Constitution in 1954. Barred from running for a second consecutive four-year term, Clement thought of running for the United States Senate in 1958 against Senator Albert Gore but decided against it. In 1960, Clement had pondered making a bid for the Senate to oppose Kefauver and once again chose not to run. Frank Clement waited until 1962 when he sought a political comeback by running for governor once again. Clement won the Democratic primary and the general election.

Opponents quickly fanned rumors that Frank Clement would resign as governor to allow the lieutenant governor to become acting governor and appoint him to the senatorial vacancy. It had been done several times in other states across the country. Clement was acknowledged as a political animal and disliked private life. A seat in the U.S. Senate offered a six-year term and one could be reelected until death, retirement or being ousted by the people of Tennessee. As governor, Clement was confined to the single four-year term and then forced out of office to wait.

Virtually nobody in Tennessee believed Frank Clement would be satisfied to serve out his term as governor and quietly resume his law practice. The only options available to the governor were to resign, elevate James Bomar to the governorship, with the understanding the new chief executive would appoint him to the senatorial vacancy. A second option would be to appoint a caretaker who would hold the seat until the 1964 special election when the governor could run himself without the stigma of



ASSOCIATED PRESS WIRE PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

**Governor Frank Clement (left) and Senator Herbert S. Walters of Morristown (right), whom Clement had appointed to the Senate following the death of Sen. Estes Kefauver, August 1963.**

having appointed himself to the U.S. Senate. The third and last option was appointing a senator who would be a strong candidate to hold the seat in the 1964 election. Very few political observers believed Governor Clement would choose to hand off a seat in the United States Senate to someone who could run and win the next election.

Speculation immediately focused upon Herbert S. "Hub" Walters, a millionaire businessman who had long been active in Tennessee's Democratic politics. Walters (for whom Walters State is named) was Tennessee's Democratic National Committeeman and had been closely identified with the late Senator Kenneth McKellar and was known to be close to Governor Clement. Known as "Mr. Democrat" throughout Tennessee, few would dispute giving the honor of serving briefly in the United States Senate to someone of Hub Walters' stature. Appointing Walters was also a signal that Clement intended to run for the Senate himself in the 1964 election, as the prospective senator was quite nearly 72 years old and his voice was diminished to just above a whisper due to successful surgery for throat cancer.

Frank Clement was too shrewd a politician not to realize that those governors who had engineered their own appointment to a vacant seat in the U.S. Senate usually fared poorly in the next election. Clement also knew many Tennesseans would look askance as he was less than eight months into a four-year term as governor. Such an arrangement had once before occurred in Tennessee history when Governor James B. Frazier, who had just been reelected, resigned to accept election by the Tennessee General Assembly to the U.S. Senate. Lieutenant Governor John I. Cox became governor. Cox lost the Democratic primary to challenger Malcolm Patterson, who decried the alleged deal, and Senator Frazier found he could not

be reelected when his term expired.

Wild rumors ran rampant, and there was speculation that Governor Clement would appoint either his father, Robert, or his sister, Anna Belle, who served as the governor's executive assistant. William L. "Dick" Barry, speaker of Tennessee's House of Representatives, was also mentioned as a prospective appointee. Asked if he would accept the appointment, Hub Walters replied, "I am not a candidate for any public office. If the appointment were offered to me, I would be glad to accept, because I think I might be able to render some service to the State of Tennessee and the Democratic Party." Walters reminded the reporter, "It would be a big sacrifice for me to have to walk off and leave my business."

Aside from Joe L. Evins, the veteran congressman from Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District, only Ross Bass seemed like a possibility as a senatorial prospect. Tennessee had two young freshmen legislators in its congressional delegation, but Dick Fulton and William Anderson were too new to be seriously considered, even were Governor Clement so inclined. Nor did Senator Kefauver's widow, Nancy, seem to have any interest in being appointed, although the Nashville Tennessean insisted, she at least deserved the opportunity of an "offer" of the appointment from the governor.

Thousands of Tennesseans gathered in Kefauver's hometown of Madisonville for the senator's funeral. The delegation of U.S. senators attending included not only Albert Gore Sr., but also the newly elected senator from Massachusetts, Edward "Ted" Kennedy. Most notable Democrats and not a few Republicans traveled to Madisonville to pay their last respects to the man Lyndon Johnson once called, "The greatest campaigner of them all."

The mighty and the humble were mingled together and among those who attended was my grandmother, a native of Madisonville and a firm admirer of Estes Kefauver. My grandfather, a devout Republican, remained in the car.

As is always the case in such situations, the political class was talking politics before, during and after Senator Kefauver's funeral. As the mahogany coffin of Senator Estes Kefauver was lowered into the soil of his family plot, rain trickled down and drenched the mourners who had come to say a final goodbye to their friend. The rain was democratic, trickling down the faces of Vice President Lyndon Johnson and my grandmother. One-time opponent Adlai Stevenson, who had twice won the Democratic presidential nomination against Estes Kefauver, sat with rain running down his bald head. The two had become friends when they were the Democratic nominees for president and vice president in 1956.

Newspapers were beginning to report Congressman Ross Bass was interested in running for the Senate in 1964. Friends of the congressman scoffed at the notion Bass wished to be appointed by Governor Clement. Those same friends told eager reporters the congressman was giving serious thought to making the race.

Hub Walters again let it be known he would accept the senatorial appointment, but only with the understanding he had the option of running himself in 1964.

Governor Clement, attending a governor's conference in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, announced on August 19,

1963, he would make an announcement as to an appointee the following day in Nashville. Up to that point, Clement had adamantly refused to comment on the successor speculation which had swirled continuously in the newspaper since Senator Kefauver's death.

Clement announced he was appointing Herbert S. Walters to the United States Senate. In his rich resonating voice, Governor Clement told the packed room, "Senator Walters goes to Washington at a doubly critical time in our domestic and foreign affairs."

As the cameras rolled and newsmen scribbled on their pads, the governor said, "It was obligatory that we send to Washington a man possessing the highest possible combination of qualifying background, foresight, fortitude, calmness in his evaluations and resoluteness in his actions."

"Tennessee and the nation have that man in Senator Walters," Clement told the assembled press.

The Nashville Tennessean, bitterly opposed to Frank Clement and his administration, huffed in a petulant editorial, "Despite all the dawdling dramatics and the efforts to attract attention to himself the governor surprised nobody with the appointment" of Hub Walters. The Tennessean sniffed that Walters had been Clement's "advisor and political step-father for more than a decade." The Nashville daily newspaper had long ardently backed Senator Kefauver, and the crux of its editorial was that the editor didn't much like the idea of Frank Clement running for the United States Senate.

Frank Clement did aspire to go to the U.S. Senate, and Hub Walters, 73 years old in 1964, was not a candidate. Congressman Ross Bass was as openly interested, if not more so than Clement, in his quest to win a Senate seat for himself. The death of Estes Kefauver had sparked a senatorial contest that would pit the charismatic and eloquent Governor Frank Clement against Bass, who inherited much of the support that had once belonged to Kefauver. In fact, the rivalry for Kefauver's seat in the Senate would rage for two full years with Clement and Bass both seeking the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate in 1964 and once again in a bitter rematch in the 1966 primary.

What most Democrats did not anticipate was the growing Republican Party, which would play an outsized role in both the 1964 and 1966 elections.

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# Eddie Mannis recognized for HonorAir work



**Cont. from page 1**

service and found memories flooding back, especially at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall.

A few years later when I was attending an event at the Knoxville EXPO Center, Mannis noticed my faded HonorAir cap and went to his car and returned to give me a new cap. I was struck

by Mannis' commitment and compassion for veterans, not only on the charter flights, but in his everyday life as well.

Mannis isn't boastful or self-centered, and his efforts were well-deserved of the recognition by the Knox County Commission.

*Knoxville's Eddie Mannis was honored recently by the Knox County Commission for his ongoing HonorAir flights that take military veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit the many monuments there at no cost.*

## MLK Jr. Parade/March & Juneteenth Celebration Returns to Knoxville

The MLK Commemorative Commission invites the entire community to join in a day of unity, remembrance, and celebration at the 2025 MLK Jr. Parade/March and Juneteenth Celebration. Beginning with a community march and ending with an afternoon celebration, this annual event honors freedom, progress, and the enduring legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**Thursday, June 19, 2025 Event Schedule:**

- Parade Lineup: 8:30 a.m. at Chilhowee Park
  - Parade Step Off: 10:00 a.m.
  - Juneteenth Celebration: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Dr. Walter Hardy Park
- Last year's celebration brought together over 1,000 attendees and more than 50 vendors, making it one of Knoxville's most anticipated summer events.

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## TSSAA SPRING FLING 32: BOYS' SOCCER

# Grace Christian wins Division II-A title

By Mark Nagi

The Grace Christian Rams made all sorts of history this season in boys' soccer. They advanced to the state tournament for the first time in program history... and didn't stop there.

On Thursday, May 22 in Murfreesboro, the Rams dominated the Webb School Feet 3-0 to capture the Division II-A championship.

"Last year we were in the state quarters, but it was one of those games where, like when we get to that level, we're really having to play out of our element," said Grace Christian head coach Isaac Brooks. "But this year we knew we were going to be a little bit different, and the guys have had that in mind from day one, and they saw the quality we had in practice, and practices looked more like college practices. I



The Grace Christian Rams dominated the Webb School Feet 3-0 to capture the Division II-A championship Thursday in Murfreesboro.

mean, a lot of the games we played this year, practices were harder than the games. It means a lot. It means a lot."

The Rams got a serious

challenge in the semifinals against Boyd Buchanan. It took a goal from Micah Stevens in overtime to survive 1-0. But in the title game the next day,

Grace Christian (17-1) got off to a dream start when junior midfielder Vitor Robazza beat Webb keeper Max Williams-Angmor

Continue on page 4



## TSSAA SPRING FLING 32: GIRLS' TENNIS

# Local girls shine at state tennis championships

By Ken Lay

One of the Volunteer State's most accomplished girls tennis players ended her high school career on a winning note Friday afternoon.

Catholic High School senior Lillie Murphy culminated her career by winning the Division II-AA State Singles Championship at the Adams Tennis Complex at Old Fort Park in Murfreesboro.

Murphy, a Furman signee, claimed her second consecutive singles championship with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Chattanooga Baylor's Magarette Berdy.

Murphy, who was part of three team state championships with the Lady Irish, also won a pair of state doubles titles in 2023 and 2024.

In the 2025 state championships, she didn't concede a game in her first two matches cruising past Hutchison's Anna Caroline Domas in the quarterfinals and Ensworth's Mimi Bowen, 6-0, 6-0, in the semis.

She also led the Lady Irish to a fourth consecutive appearance in the team championship match on Wednesday. Catholic faced Baylor for the fourth consecutive year, and the Lady Raiders won this time, claiming a 4-1 victory.

Murphy scored the Lady Irish's lone point when she defeated Berdy, 6-1, 6-1, at No. 1 singles.

Catholic defeated Harpeth Hall, 4-0, to open team play on Tuesday as Murphy, Nalla Webb and Lauren Murphy won in singles. Lillie and Lauren Murphy won in doubles.

In Division I Class 2A doubles: West High's tandem of Gray Feaster and Callie Schroeffel defeated Soddy Daisy's team of Laura Jenkins and Weatherly Barker, 6-0, 6-0.

The Lady Rebels' duo opened tournament play Thursday with a three-set victory over Siegel's Ellie Zolt and Coco LaLance (6-1,

Continue on page 3

## TSSAA SPRING FLING 32: GIRLS' SOFTBALL

# Gibbs wins three close ones for 12th state title

By Steve Williams

Only once in four games did Gibbs High's softball team trail in this year's TSSAA Class 3A state tournament. But Coach Carol Mitchell's Lady Eagles also had three opponents breathing down their necks.

Heritage took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning last Wednesday afternoon, but it didn't last long.

Gibbs leadoff batter Malyiah Smith produced an infield single, stole second and advanced to third on a fielder's choice. Shelby Williams'

Continue on page 6



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS



## Four digits and counting!

Gibbs High School Coach Carol Mitchell speaks to her softball team following the Lady Eagles' 3-2 win over Heritage in the TSSAA Class 3A state tournament last Wednesday afternoon. Mitchell logged career victory No. 1,100 when Gibbs defeated Covington in the first round of the tournament at McKnight Field in Murfreesboro on May 21. Later that day Mitchell's Eagles defeated Heritage 3-2 for career win 1,101. Her win total now is 1,103 after her team defeated Creek Wood 1-0 Thursday and DeKalb County 1-0 in 10 innings Friday to wrap up the championship. Earlier this month, CAK baseball coach Tommy Pharr (pictured left) notched his 1,000th win on May 6. Mitchell and Pharr are believed to be the only softball and baseball high school coaches in Knoxville that have reached a four-digit number of wins!

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## TSSAA SPRING FLING 32: BOYS' BASEBALL

# Young Rams finish third in Division II-A State Tournament

By Ken Lay

Grace Christian Academy baseball coach Brandon Walsh couldn't help but feel a bit disappointed once he and his team returned from Spring Fling late Friday afternoon. But the bad feelings won't last long since the Rams, who have one of the youngest rosters in the state, finished third in the TSSAA Division II-A State Tournament.

They were eliminated Thursday night when they came on the short end of a 4-2 decision against Clarksville Academy at Middle Tennessee Christian School.

"There's a little disappointment but once it keeps further and further out, you start to get a little more perspective," Walsh said. "We feel great about where we're at."

"Once it gets further out you start to think about the future and think about what's next. I think we came a long way if you look at where we started, and we finished third in the state. We had a great season."

Grace (24-15) started two eighth graders and had only one senior, Makai Derry, on its 2025 roster. Still, the Rams won 24 games and had victories over Catholic, Bearden, Hardin Valley Academy and Division II-A East Region District 1 rival Christian Academy of Knoxville.

Once the Rams got to the Midstate, they knocked off league rival

and district tournament champion Providence Academy Thursday afternoon to advance to the loser's bracket final.

"We had a great year. We split with Bearden and we split with Hardin Valley and they're a really good team, and we beat CAK," Walsh said. "Then, we beat Providence Academy down there and we hadn't beaten them since I've been here. I think we were 0-8 against them."

Grace defeated Providence Academy, 7-4, as Treyson Derry went 1-for-4 with a double and three RBI's. Chase Collin singled, scored and drove in a run. Ben Hamilton singled and scored twice.

Collin started on the mound for the Rams. He posted a solid performance as he went 5.1 innings. He surrendered four runs (two earned) and seven hits. He had three strikeouts before giving way to reliever Max Misenhimer, who allowed one hit and one walk over one inning. Tyler Kiely picked up the win in relief for Grace.

"The win over Providence Academy was a big one for our program," Walsh said.

Grace opened tournament play Wednesday with a 6-0 loss to Clarksville Academy at MTCS. In their tournament opener, the Rams managed just four hits and committed five errors.

Eighth grader Easton Housewright had s double in the contest.



The Farragut High School baseball team celebrates its fourth consecutive Class 4A state championship Saturday. The Admirals claimed the title by notching an 11-3 comeback victory over Clarksville at Oakland High School in Murfreesboro. Photos by Jack Tate.

# Admirals win fourth consecutive state championship with comeback victory over Clarksville

By Ken Lay

When the 2025 baseball season began in March, uncertainty surrounded Farragut High School's program as the Admirals were coming off three consecutive Class 4A state championships.

During the previous campaign, the Admirals said goodbye to a senior class that was perhaps the biggest in the team's recent history. Many of those players have gone on to play in college, and last year's team is arguably the best ever assembled in TSSAA history.

Hall-of-Fame head coach Matt Buckner retired and Garrett Copeland took the reins, facing a rebuilding project.

But the Admirals, as it turned out, would find themselves back at the Spring Fling after winning five elimination games during the district and region tournaments as well as in a state sectional series on the road.

"We are 5-0 in elimination games and that's pretty special," Copeland said after his team took down Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett in the recent sectional series to punch its ticket back to the state tournament.

"This team has to have their backs against the wall. Apparently, we don't want to things the easy way."

The Admirals got tired of making things hard for themselves as they would post a perfect record in the Midstate and not face elimination. They had to stay an extra day as rain pelted Tennessee on Tuesday.

But in the end, the Admirals were hoisting another state championship trophy after defeating Clarksville, 11-3, Saturday afternoon at Oakland High School.

The Admirals fell behind, 2-0, in the bottom of the first inning, but took the lead with single runs in the second, third and fourth frames. Clarksville would knot the game, 3-3, before Farragut would take control by tallying once in the fourth, and three times in the fifth. The Admirals closed the game with a flourish as they plated five runs in the top of the sixth.

Braxton Tye, a sophomore for the Admirals, went 2-for-3 and belted a grand slam in the sixth to give his team a 10-3 lead, and Farragut would add an insurance run later in the frame.

Aidan Flagg also homered for the

Admirals (32-11) to give them the lead for good in the fourth, while Owen Stelzer had three runs and drove in three runs in the contest.

On the mound, Farragut got a solid performance from senior ace and Wofford signee Cole Draper, who closed out his high school career by pitching a complete game, going seven innings. He surrendered three runs, eight hits and one walk, while striking out five.

Farragut, which has now won four consecutive state titles, did not win the district tournament or region championship.

The Admirals, however, won four straight games in the state tournament. They edged Independence, 3-2, and blanked Siegel 1-0 at Siegel before eliminating Independence with a 9-5 victory on Friday.

"These kids showed up and competed every day," Copeland said. "That's how it happened."

This makes the Admirals'14th state championship win and they now hold more titles than any other team. Christian Brothers has 13 state championships.



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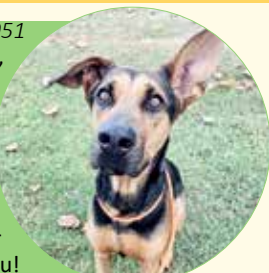


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## TSSAA SPRING FLING 32: BOYS' TENNIS

# TKA boys doubles team wins state championship

By Ken Lay

The King's Academy boys tennis program now has a state championship.

The Lions' doubles team of Chris Cook and Jonah Weber won the Division II-A Doubles Title Friday with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Lausanne's tandem of Nate Wittke and Lockard Richardson at the Adams Tennis Complex at Old Fort Park.

TKA has had state tournament qualifiers in the past but the win by Cook and Weber secured the school's first-ever state tennis championship.

Cook and Weber opened

tournament play with a 6-1, 6-0 win over Battle Ground Academy's duo of Evan Patel and Max Brisili, earning a victory in straight sets, 6-1, 6-0.

In the semifinals, Cook and Weber, both seniors, outlasted University School of Jackson's team of Erick Brasfield and Sam Hathcock, 6-2, 6-3.

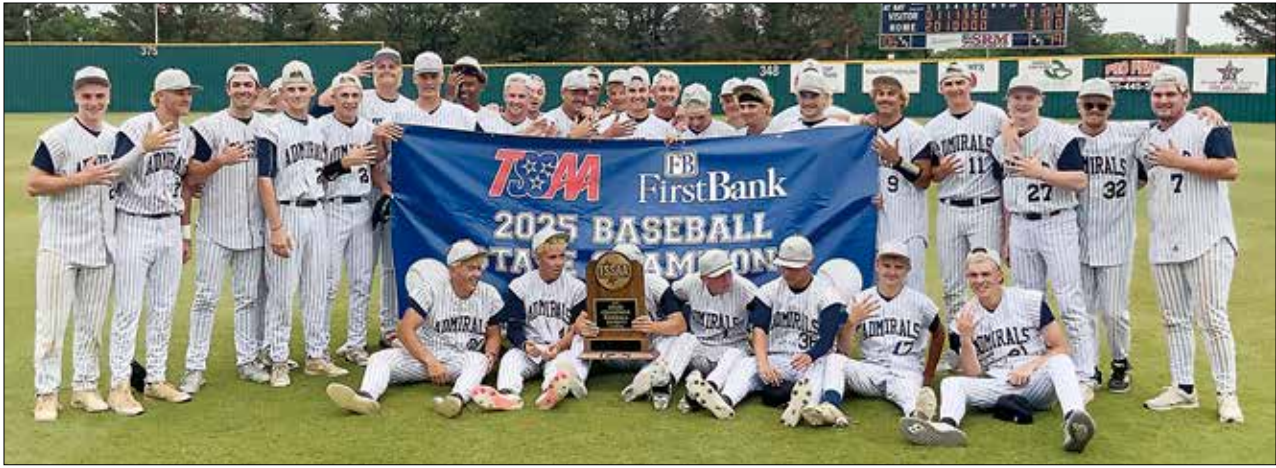
Also in Division II-A doubles, Concord Christian School's tandem of Lincoln Shine and Oliver Houston made the tournament field but lost to Wittke and Richardson in the sets (1-6, 6-4, 6-1).

**In Division II-A singles:** Christian Academy of

Knoxville's Tate Campbell, a freshman, lost in the state quarterfinals, falling, 6-2, 6-0, to Jackson Christian School junior Jack Veasey.

**In the Division II-AA Team Championships:** The Warriors posted a runner-up finish on Wednesday as they dropped the title match to Lausanne, 4-1. Quinn Campbell had CAK's lone win in the match.

In the state semifinals, the Warriors defeated league rival Grace Christian Academy, 4-0, as Tate Campbell (No. 2), Caleb Climer (No. 3), Sam Duzan (No. 4) and Camden Oakley (No. 5) claimed singles victories.









TSSAA SPRING FLING 32: BOYS' SOCCER

Three wins in three days lead HVA to AAA soccer title

By Mark Nagi

Time and time again this season, the Hardin Valley Hawks boys soccer team fought through adversity. At the state tournament in Murfreesboro, the Hawks did it again, winning three games in three days to capture the AAA championship, their second in program history. “These guys, their bond, the strength of their relationships... I think it's why that happens,” said HVA head coach Ray Dover. “They love each other so much that when something bad happens, you're not going to let it go... they're not going to not going to go quietly.” The Hawks rallied from a 2-0 deficit against rival Bearden in the quarterfinals to win 3-2, and followed that up with a tight 1-0 win against Hendersonville in the semifinals. But the ultimate sign of their perseverance came in the title game on Friday, May 23 against Bartlett. The Hawks led 2-1 and 3-2, only to see the Panthers tie the game each time. Bartlett scored with less than five minutes remaining to even the game at 3. “They were equalized twice and still won the match,” said Dover. “This is so crazy that it's hard for me to put it into words. I would never have thought that that, you know, that I would be lucky enough to be in this position.” With less than three minutes remaining, senior Ben Brophy finished off his HVA career in style. He collected a loose ball, struck it clean from 25 yards away, and beat the Bartlett goalkeeper thanks in part to a fortunate bounce. That was his 80th and final goal at Hardin Valley, which now puts him at the top of the Hawks' record book. “That was kind of like, you know, something that you'd see in the movie,” said Dover. “That was just incredible.” Brophy, a Maryville College commit, had the game-winning penalty kick goal against Bearden and then converted a PK in the 79th minute of a scoreless game to beat Hendersonville. In the finals, Asher Stimson was named tournament MVP after scoring the first two goals for the Hawks. Midway through the second half, Hawks senior forward Nathan Holbrook put HVA ahead 3-2. But it was Brophy's late game heroics that secured the biggest victory of the season. Their run to the championship this season basically started last May, when Hardin Valley was beaten in Sectionals. “They didn't want that pain again,” said Dover. “We talked about this year, is like we're just chasing a feeling. What kind of tears do you want to have at the end of this? Do you want to have joyous tears, or do you want to have sorrow tears?” That joyous feeling followed the Hawks all the way back to Knoxville.

The Hardin Valley Academy Hawks were excited to bring back the state title last Friday.

South-Doyle falls in AA title game

By Mark Nagi

The South-Doyle Cherokees knew that defending their AA state title in boys soccer was going to be tough. They got past Hume-Fogg 4-0 in the state quarterfinals and then beat Knox County rival Fulton 3-1 in the semifinals. But on Friday, May 23, the Cherokees ran into a talented and motivated Station Camp team in the AA title game, falling 3-1. Station Camp had outscored their opponents an astounding 16-0 in their first two games in Murfreesboro, and then jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead over the Cherokees, with both goals coming in the first 16 minutes. But South-Doyle (18-2-3) wasn't going down without fighting back. In the 22nd minute, Jude Straussfogel and Roger Oseguera Cruz pushed into the Bison box and fed Cameron Harp. He turned and put it into the Station Camp net with his left foot, bringing S-D within a goal. The Cherokees had found their footing and played the Bison to a stalemate for nearly the rest of the half. But with 33 seconds left, Cherokees defender Finn Straussfogel was whistled for taking down a Bison player in the box. The referee immediately pointed to the penalty spot. Despite Straussfogel's protests, a penalty kick was awarded, and Ryan Hendon beat Jonah Mitchell, giving Station Camp a 3-1 lead at the break. It was his second goal of the game. Hendon would later be named tournament MVP. Midway through the second half, things started to fall apart for South-Doyle. Their head coach, Sam Mitchell, was ejected after receiving two yellow cards. A couple of minutes later, South-Doyle had signs of life when they were awarded a penalty kick of their own. But Roger Oseguera Cruz's effort was stopped by Bison goalkeeper Holden Preston. South-Doyle never seriously threatened after that, and their dreams of going back-to-back were squashed. “Honestly, I thought it was a great game, great fight by both sides. I hate when officials take it over,” said Mitchell. South-Doyle beat Station Camp in last year's semifinals on their way to the state championship. This year, the Bison returned the favor.

Defending champs South-Doyle lost to Station Camp, 3-1, in the state championship Friday.





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Grace Christian wins Division II-A title

Cont. from page 1

put your guys into positions, and you say, ‘Hey, go hit this shot’ and holy moley, he hit a shot. So yeah, that was a great, great goal. That's really put the icing on the cake.” Grace didn't let up, scoring their third goal only a couple of minutes later when senior striker Felipe Evans forced a turnover and pushed the ball through a wide-open goal. After that, only 20 minutes remained, and there was no rally coming from the Feet. “This is about how the season's gone so far for us,” said Brooks. “I mean, if you look at our shot counts, where, you know, there have been a couple of games where we've been over 40 and allow one shot on frame the entire game. So, this is definitely the best team (The Webb School) that we've played all season. I mean, they're very good. But it's one of those things where we tell the guys, this is how we're going to play today. Just make sure you do your jobs. And then we let the guys go be creative on offense. And that's one of the things that with high school teams, you don't see a whole lot of creativity and you see our guys moving into positions and making moves and combinations and stuff. So that's the most challenging game we've had, probably this year. But the guys were ready to play.”





Members of the Farragut High track team on the podium after winning the TSSAA Class 3A state championship Thursday at MTSU. At far right, Head Coach Chelsea Osborne holds the championship plaque. Osborne is retiring from coaching after this season.

# Admirals give their coach a nice ‘going away’ present

By Steve Williams

Farragut’s boys track and field team gave Coach Chelsea Osborne quite a going-away present by winning the Class AAA state championship by one point Thursday night at the Dean A. Hayes Track & Soccer Stadium at MTSU.

The longtime Farragut head coach in track and cross country had announced earlier this season she would be stepping down after 18 years.

The Admirals edged Whitehaven 65-64 in the team scoring. Brentwood placed third with 47 points.

Farragut clinched the

state title in the final event (4x400).

Senior Evan Beeler played a big part in the victory by winning the 1600 and 800 runs in 4:16.93 and 1:53.29, respectively. Evan also may have had a hand in the 4x400 relay win (3:20.50).

Bryce Thompson also played a strong part in the surprise as he won the shot put with a mark of 58-4¾ and took second in the discus event with a throw of 171-4.

Every little bit helped, like senior Tanner Coggin’s second place showing in the 3200 run (9:21.19).

Hardin Valley’s Garrett

Hawkins won the 3200 with a time of 9:16.16. Teammate Gabe Allen took third in the 1600 (4:20.13).

Rylan Moser-Bryan scored points for Karns with his third place finish in the 800 (1:56.48).

Central’s 4x100 relay team was runner-up with a time of 41.86.

In the field events, Bearden’s Gavin Bailey placed second in the pole vault, crossing over the bar at 14-6. Halls’ Brody Foster cleared the same height but was third.

Myles Crayton of Austin-East was a double winner in Class AA as he won the 200 dash in 22.33 and the

400 in 48.44.

Gibbs’ Milo Willets won the 300 hurdles in 39.39 and took third in the 200 (22.45).

John Caldwell, Gibbs senior, placed second in the high jump at 6-2.

In Division II-AA, Catholic’s Jr Fowler placed second in the shot put (61-5¾) and discus (175-10).

CAK’s 4x800 relay placed second in Division II-A with a time of 8:20.48.

Silas Fulford came in third in the pole vault at 12-0.

Teammate Graham Lloyd took third in the 3200 run (10:04.05).



Farragut's Evan Beeler looks pleased with his performance in the 800-meter run at the TSSAA state track meet Thursday. He also won the 1600.

# Smith misses state meet with stress fracture

By Steve Williams

High school track and cross country standout Keegan Smith was unable to run in the TSSAA state meet last week due to a stress fracture in his right femur bone.

“I was feeling some symptoms of it at the KIL meet,” said Smith last Thursday.

Running in a qualifying race for the state meet was the last time he ran. He had planned to run the 3200 and 800 in his last TSSAA state meet.

“It was definitely not how I wanted to end it,” said Keegan.

“The recovery process is four to six weeks of no

running and maybe longer,” said Smith, who has been working with his personal trainer. “Right now I just finished the second week.”

The University of Colorado signee said he is scheduled to leave in late June for Colorado. He

thinks he should be able to run by the time he moves out there.

“Hopefully in about four weeks I will be back to jogging,” he said.

Keegan also said he might red shirt his freshman year.

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# SPRING FLING 32: GIRLS' TRACK AND FIELD



PHOTOS BY BARRY HOUGHIN

Webb's 4x800 state champion team on the awards podium at MTSU last week during Spring Fling 32. From left to right: Emma Cissna, Gaby Bainbridge, Ariana Vargas and Carolina Areheart.

## Webb sparkles with 130 points in Division II-AA

By Steve Williams

Webb School's girls were just too talented for the rest of the state this year.

The Lady Spartans captured three state titles in the Division II-AA distance events, two in the dash events and one each in the relays and field events to pile up 130 points at MTSU last week. Harpeth Hall (87) and Lipscomb Academy (81) were a distant second and third while rival Knoxville Catholic came in fourth with 77 points.

Carolina Areheart ran an

impressive time of 2:09.43 in the 800 run, finishing better than six seconds ahead of the runner-up.

Calysta Garmer was clocked in 4:49.41 in the 1600 run, while twin sister Jazzlyn Garmer came in second at 4:51.32. They also finished 1-2 in the 3200, with Calysta just a little ahead with her time of 10:31.20.

The Lady Spartans also prevailed in the 4x800 relay (9:39.72) and placed second in the 4x200 (1:42.07).

Senior Lennox Langham

racked up points with first place in the triple jump (40-2). She finished second in the long jump (18-7), an inch short of the winner.

Freshmen Lacy Young and Simone Romain placed first and third in the 100 and 200 dash events, with Lacy timed at 11.79 and 24.97. Catholic's Chloe Truss came in second in both events.

Tallulah Carney contributed third place points to Webb's total with her high jump of 5-4.

Senior Maggie Frana led the Catholic girls, finishing

in first place in the discus (132-9) and third in the shot put (35-11 ¼).

Catholic junior Payton Sipos placed second in the 300 hurdles (44.9) and third in the 110 hurdles (14.68). The Lady Irish also took third place in the 4x400 (4:04.64).

In Division II-A, CAK's Amelia Wedemeyer placed second in the 300 hurdles (45.95) and third in the 100 hurdles (15.41). The Lady Warriors' Lily Johnson came in third with a 34-6 mark in the triple jump. CAK also placed third in the



Carolina Areheart of Webb crosses the finish line about 20 meters ahead of the runner-up in dominating the 800-meter run Wednesday at the TSSAA state meet.

4x400 (4:14.90).

In Class AAA, Westsophomore Mackenzie Elsenberg took second place with a 5-4 high jump. Farragut senior Katie Edmunds was runner-up in the pole vault at 11-6.

Fulton's 4x100 relay

team came in second place with a time of 48.9 in Class AA. Gibbs junior Addison Miller was third in the 400 dash with a time of 57.36. Josalyn Thompson, Seymour junior, took third in the 100 hurdles (15.63).

## Gibbs wins three close ones for 12th state title

Cont. from page 1

RBI double over the right fielder's head easily scored Smith. With only one out, Brianna Baker's ground out to second brought in Williams to tie the score.

Neither team scored in the second inning, but Lacey Keck's sizzling single past first base in the third brought courtesy runner Madilynn Rutherford into the game. Williams' RBI double scored Rutherford to break the tie, but Williams was thrown out trying to stretch her two-bagger into a triple.

Gibbs' 3-2 lead held up the rest of the way, much like it has all season ... and that's with Lacey Keck in the circle.

"I've pitched every game but I think maybe two," said the senior left-hander, who has signed with Carson-Newman.

"I like that I have the ball every single play and I can control what happens on the mound. I'll know where the ball is going if I hit it in the right spot."

Lacey has been Gibbs' main pitcher for four seasons.

After rain postponed Spring Fling 32's opening day of softball, Gibbs posted a 12-1 win in 4½ innings with the mercy rule in effect in its rescheduled state opener against Covington Wednesday morning.

Gibbs won its side of the bracket, which included four teams, with a 1-0 win over Creek Wood Thursday. The Lady Eagles scored the

game's only run in the top of the first inning. Smith got aboard on a base on balls and then stole second base. Williams' RBI single to left field scored Smith.

Gibbs outlasted DeKalb County in the winner-take-all game 1-0 in 10 innings Friday.

With the international tie-breaker rule in effect, both teams placed a runner on second base to start the 10th inning. After the Lady Tigers (26-6-1) didn't score, Savanna Melo was placed on second base at the beginning of Gibbs' 10th inning. After a fly out, Smith bunted for a single and then took second base on defensive indifference. Keck's line drive to right field scored Melo for the winning run.

Williams and Smith were Gibbs' top two hitters at state. Williams totaled three runs, eight hits and five RBI in 13 at-bats. Smith scored five runs and had eight hits in 15 at-bats.

Williams' hits in the tournament included one home run, two triples and two doubles. Lacey Keck had three doubles in the first game. Baker and Maddi Whaley each had a home run in the first game.

In the 29 innings Keck pitched at state, she gave up only 13 hits, two earned runs and four bases on balls, while recording 23 strikeouts.

It was the 12th state championship for Gibbs, which ended the season with a 41-3 record.

## Farragut goes two and out at state

Farragut made it back to state, but the stay was a short one.

Dickson County handed the Lady Admirals a 5-1 loss Wednesday morning and Stewarts Creek eliminated Coach Nick Green's team 15-5 in five innings that afternoon.

The Cougars jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first two innings.

Elsa Morrison drove in Rylee Raby in the third inning to cut the deficit to 3-1, but Farragut would get no closer.

Sophomore pitcher Hallie Grace Johnson took the loss.

Winning pitcher Coralee Lee Grove struck out 10 and also went 3 for 4 at the plate.


In the second game, the opposition again built an early 3-0 lead. Farragut battled back to get within 7-4 in the fourth inning, but the Red Hawks scored eight in the fifth inning and the game was called via the 10-run rule.

Stewarts Creek had 19 hits.

Farragut's season ended with a 30-13-1 record.



Webb freshman sprinters Simone Romain (left) and Lacy Young contributed to the Lady Spartans' big point total at TSSAA state meet last week.

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## CAREER MAGNET



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Valedictorian



**Trystan Davis**  
Salutatorian

## CARTER HIGH



**Alyssa Allen**  
Valedictorian



**Bryden Chesney**  
Salutatorian

## KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC



**Maggie Frana**  
Sedes Sapientiae recipient



**Grant Odom**  
Sedes Sapientiae recipient

## CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



**Jack Magee**  
Valedictorian



**Tim Acosta**  
Salutatorian

## CONCORD CHRISTIAN



**Ada Aytug**  
Valedictorian



**Christopher Rector**  
Salutatorian

## HARDIN VALLEY



**Lauren Johnson**  
Valedictorian



**Kaylin Mata**  
Valedictorian



**Sameer Nathawat**  
Salutatorian



**Jackson Townsend**  
Valedictorian

## THE KING'S ACADEMY



**Allie Daft**  
Salutatorian



**Jonah Weber**  
Salutatorian

## FARRAGUT HIGH



**Shuyu Sophie Lu**  
Valedictorian



**Eric Zhang**  
Salutatorian

## KARNS HIGH



**Garet Lopez**  
Valedictorian

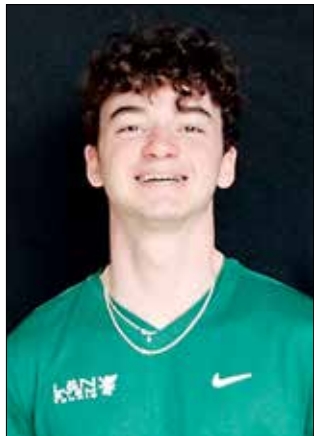


**Chase Bowin**  
Salutatorian

## L&N STEM



**Yuqi Wang**  
Valedictorian



**Jacob Anderson**  
Salutatorian

## POWELL HIGH



**Grayce Barnes**  
Valedictorian



**Ellie Garland**  
Salutatorian

## WEST HIGH



**Ian Anderson**  
Valedictorian



**Gabriella Harrison**  
Salutatorian







NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JAMES DOUGLAS GRIFFIN  
DOCKET NUMBER 90896-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 1st day of MAY, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of JAMES DOUGLAS GRIFFIN, who died on September 4, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the CHANCERY COURT OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against this estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) below, otherwise, their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 1st day of MAY, 2025.

ESTATE OF JAMES DOUGLAS GRIFFIN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
CLARA CASSIE GRIFFIN  
9335 DEXTER LANE  
OOLTEWAH, TN 37363

JANE KAUFMAN JONES, ATTORNEY  
8517 KINGSTON PIKE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MICHAEL WAYNE HALL  
DOCKET NUMBER 90892-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 1st day of MAY, 2025, Letters of Administration in respect of the Estate of MICHAEL WAYNE HALL, who died February 1, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured and unmatured against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 1st day of MAY, 2025.

ESTATE OF MICHAEL WAYNE HALL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ROSEMARY HALL  
831 FREEMASON STREET  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

MELISSA WORTLEY LAWING, ATTORNEY  
3715 POWERS STREET  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF ANTHONY FOSTER HARRIS, SR.  
DOCKET NUMBER 90918-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 8 day of MAY, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of ANTHONY FOSTER HARRIS, SR., who died March 6, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will

be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 8 day of MAY, 2025.

ESTATE OF ANTHONY FOSTER HARRIS, SR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ANTHONY F. HARRIS, JR., ADMINISTRATOR  
447 WEST BROAD STREET  
CLINTON, TN 37716

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF PATRICIA ANN HEATON  
DOCKET NUMBER 90925-3**

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

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

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

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

This the 2nd day of MAY, 2025.

ESTATE OF PATRICIA ANN HEATON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
RICHARD DWAYNE BARBEE  
926 GLENNSHIRE DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

DUSTIN LANDRY, ATTORNEY  
859 EBENEZER ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF LUCY L. JETT  
DOCKET NUMBER 90916-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 2 day of MAY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of LUCY L. JETT, who died Feb. 13, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 2 day of MAY, 2025.

ESTATE OF LUCY L. JETT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
PHILIP B. JETT, EXECUTOR  
445 TIMBERCREEK DRIVE  
MARYVILLE, TN 37803

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF HORACE WAYNE JONES  
DOCKET NUMBER 90650-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 2 day of MAY, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of HORACE WAYNE JONES, who died Jan. 26, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 2 day of MAY, 2025.

ESTATE OF HORACE WAYNE JONES

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
TERESA JONES, ADMINISTRATRIX  
7405 WOOD ROAD  
CORRYTON, TN 37721

K. DAVID MYERS, ATTORNEY  
P. O. BOX 13  
MAYNARDVILLE, TN 37807

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MILDRED M. LOWE  
DOCKET NUMBER 90917-1**

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

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

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

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

This the 2 day of MAY, 2025.

ESTATE OF MILDRED M. LOWE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
KELLEY KINCAID, EXECUTRIX  
109 WHITES SCHOOL ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF PHYLLIS ANN MCGAHA  
DOCKET NUMBER 90914-1**

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

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

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

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

This the 7 day of MAY, 2025.

ESTATE OF PHYLLIS ANN MCGAHA

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ROBERT LAWRENCE MCLEOD, III, EXECUTOR  
4103 TOPSIDE ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

N. CRAIG STRAND, ATTORNEY  
7610 GLEASON DRIVE, SUITE 200  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

(60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or

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

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

This the 2 day of MAY, 2025.

ESTATE OF PHYLLIS ANN MCGAHA

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JOHNNY ARTHUR MCGAHA, JR., EXECUTOR  
1515 REAVES ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JAMES HENRY MCGINNIS  
DOCKET NUMBER 90957-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 21st day of FEBRUARY, 2025, letters of testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of JAMES HENRY MCGINNIS, who died December 28, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates described in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 21st day of FEBRUARY, 2025.

ESTATE OF JAMES HENRY MCGINNIS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MATTHEW HODGSON  
4400 WOODVALE DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

ANDREW J. CRAWFORD, ATTORNEY  
5344 NORTH BROADWAY  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF POLLY MILES MCLEOD  
DOCKET NUMBER 90834-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 7 day of MAY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of POLLY MILES MCLEOD, who died Feb. 14, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 7 day of MAY, 2025.

ESTATE OF POLLY MILES MCLEOD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ROBERT LAWRENCE MCLEOD, III, EXECUTOR  
4103 TOPSIDE ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

N. CRAIG STRAND, ATTORNEY  
7610 GLEASON DRIVE, SUITE 200  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF PENNY KELLOGG MCMILLAN  
DOCKET NUMBER 90665-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 7 day of MAY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of PENNY KELLOGG MCMILLAN, who died Feb. 14, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 7 day of MARCH, 2025.

ESTATE OF PENNY KELLOGG MCMILLAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
GREGORY MCMILLAN, EXECUTOR

GREGORY MCMILLAN, ATTORNEY  
400 W. MAIN STREET, M-44  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF DAVID DEAN RUSSELL  
DOCKET NUMBER 90910-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 2 day of MAY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of DAVID DEAN RUSSELL, who died March 4, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 2 day of MAY, 2025.

ESTATE OF DAVID DEAN RUSSELL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ANTHONY RUSSELL, EXECUTOR  
2115 MISSISSIPPI AVENUE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF LYNN EARLY SEXTON  
DOCKET NUMBER 90845-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 7th day of MAY, 2025, letters administration (or letters of testamentary as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of LYNN EARLY SEXTON, who died January 18, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident, and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 7 day of MAY, 2025.

ESTATE OF LYNN EARLY SEXTON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
DANNY E. SMITH, CO-ADMINISTRATOR  
449 COOPER LAKE ROAD  
ONEIDA, TN 37841

REBECCA KING, CO-ADMINISTRATOR  
P. O. BOX 4496  
ONEIDA, TN 37841

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

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

This the 7th day of MAY, 2025.

ESTATE OF LYNN EARLY SEXTON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ELIZABETH S. WILLIAMSON  
1301 WOODCREST DR.  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

COURTNEY D. SCOLLARD, ATTORNEY  
10004 MEADOW VISTA CIR.  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MARY LYDA SHELTON  
DOCKET NUMBER 90889-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 1st day of MAY, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARY LYDA SHELTON, who died March 4, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 1st day of MAY, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARY LYDA SHELTON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
KAREN C. DAVIS  
17611 E. FORT VERDE ROAD  
RIO VERDE. AZ 85263

MATTHEW C. HARALSON, ATTORNEY  
217 EAST BROADWAY AVENUE  
MARYVILLE, TN 37804

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF RANDY SMITH  
DOCKET NUMBER 90874-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 7 day of MAY, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of RANDY SMITH, who died Jan. 24, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 7 day of MAY, 2025.

ESTATE OF RANDY SMITH

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
DANNY E. SMITH, CO-ADMINISTRATOR  
449 COOPER LAKE ROAD  
ONEIDA, TN 37841

REBECCA KING, CO-ADMINISTRATOR  
P. O. BOX 4496  
ONEIDA, TN 37841

PUBLIC NOTICE

TIERED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR REPAIR, REHABILITATION, OR RENOVATION OF OLDER-ADULT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

BROAD-LEVEL REVIEW SUMMARY & SITE-SPECIFIC COMPLIANCE STRATEGY

Knox County Community Development has prepared a Tiered Environmental Review (ER) for Repair, Rehabilitation, or Renovation of Older-Adult Residential Properties, Broad-Level Review Summary and Site-Specific Compliance Strategy.

Pursuant to 24 CFR Part 58, all U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-assisted projects must undergo an Environmental Review (ER) to evaluate the environmental impacts of the project and ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable local, state, and federal environmental laws.

This tiered review follows regulations set forth in 40 CFR 1508.28, which allow agencies to streamline the environmental review process by separating it into two stages:

1. A broad-level review, which evaluates issues common to similar projects and establishes compliance procedures; and

2. Site-specific reviews, conducted later for each individual project, using the framework established in the broad-level review.

This approach eliminates repetitive documentation and ensures consistent environmental compliance across similar activities. The tiered review is not considered complete without both components. Broad-level reviews are typically updated every five years.

Knox County originally developed this tiered review on August 21, 2020, and has updated it to reflect regulatory changes and evolving program needs.

To solicit feedback from citizens, public agencies, and other stakeholders, Knox County is placing the Tiered Environmental Review for Repair, Rehabilitation, or Renovation of Older-Adult Residential Properties on public display for 30 days, beginning May 28, 2025, and ending June 29, 2025.

The document is available for review:

• In person at: Knox County Grants and Community Development ,400 Main Street, Suite 364, Knoxville, TN 37902

• Online at: <https://knoxcounty.org/communitydevelopment/>

• By request via email or mail: [grants@knoxcounty.org](mailto:grants@knoxcounty.org)

“Si usted necesitara asistencia para este aviso en otro idioma, por favor llame al 865-694-8880 para mayor información y mencione del Desarrollo Comunitario del Condado de Knox.”

Publication Date: May 27, 2025

KNOX COUNTY

KNOX COUNTY

PUBLIC NOTICE

TIERED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR REPAIR, REHABILITATION, OR RENOVATION OF SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

BROAD-LEVEL REVIEW SUMMARY & SITE-SPECIFIC COMPLIANCE STRATEGY

Knox County Community Development has prepared an updated Tiered Environmental Review (ER) for Repair, Rehabilitation, or Renovation of Single-Family Residential Properties, Broad-Level Review Summary and Site-Specific Compliance Strategy.

Pursuant to 24 CFR Part 58, all U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-assisted projects must undergo an Environmental Review (ER) to evaluate the environmental impacts of the project and ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable local, state, and federal environmental laws.

This tiered review follows regulations set forth in 40 CFR 1508.28, which allow agencies to streamline the environmental review process by separating it into two stages:

1. A broad-level review, which evaluates issues common to similar projects and establishes compliance procedures; and

2. Site-specific reviews, conducted later for each individual project, using the framework established in the broad-level review.

This approach eliminates repetitive documentation and ensures consistent environmental compliance across similar activities. The tiered review is not considered complete without both components. Broad-level reviews are typically updated every five years.

Knox County originally developed this tiered review on August 21, 2020, and has updated it to reflect regulatory changes and evolving program needs.

To solicit feedback from citizens, public agencies, and other stakeholders, Knox County is placing the updated Tiered Environmental Review for Repair, Rehabilitation, or Renovation of Single-Family Residential Properties on public display for 30 days, beginning May 28, 2025, and ending June 29, 2025.

The document is available for review:

• In person at: Knox County Grants and Community Development ,400 Main Street, Suite 364, Knoxville, TN 37902

• Online at: <https://knoxcounty.org/communitydevelopment/>

• By request via email or mail: [grants@knoxcounty.org](mailto:grants@knoxcounty.org)

“Si usted necesitara asistencia para este aviso en otro idioma, por favor llame al 865-694-8880 para mayor información y mencione del Desarrollo Comunitario del Condado de Knox.”

Publication Date: May 27, 2025

KNOX COUNTY

KNOX COUNTY



