

# Juvenile center reorganization approved amid politics

**By Mike Steely**  
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The Knox County Commission spent several hours last week approving changes at the Richard L. Bean Juvenile Service Center. The 53-year-old facility has been mired in controversy in recent years that came to a climax recently when the director, Richard Bean, fired the place's only nurse and another employee over their complaints about conditions there.

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs stepped in and reinstated the employees and called for Bean's retirement. Bean will leave in August, and the mayor proposed that the Knox County Sheriff's Office take over the management in January.

In the interim, the commission debated approving the mayor's proposal, which includes naming a five-member board and an interim director. Brian Bivens has been suggested by the mayor to fill that position in August and serve until the sheriff takes over.

Mayor Jacobs and District 2 Commissioner Courtney Durrett each sponsored a resolution on the juvenile center's management that saw lots of debate, especially regarding which four commissioners would serve on the new transition board for one year.

The Emergency Ordinance by Mayor

**Continue on page 3**



PHOTOS BY JAMIE SCHNELL

*Ijams staff members (left to right) Leigh Feld, Sarah Brobst, Ben Nanny, and CEO of Ijams Amber Parker, Subaru sales manager JC Marquardt, Subaru staff members Abigail Ward and Andra Lenz, and Ijams staff members Brandy Cox, Katie Brittian and Madison Watson.*

# Grayson Subaru 'Shares the Love' with Ijams Nature Center

**By Jamie Schnell**  
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Thursday's Subaru Share the Love Event at the Ijams Visitor Center featured a generous donation from Grayson Subaru, a longtime supporter of Ijams. They presented a check for over \$46,000, which will help fund Phase 2 of Ijams' property development. Previously, Grayson Subaru assisted in purchasing nearly 14 acres of land, known as the Grayson Subaru Preserve.

Phase 2 will focus on creating a cutting-edge nature playscape in the upland area adjacent to the current playscape, as well as expanding the swim area of Mead's Quarry. This upland area will offer more opportunities for hill climbing and include serene spaces like "forest rooms" for visitors to enjoy.

Subaru sales manager JC Marquardt told The Knoxville Focus, "Grayson is proud that they were able to do this and to be a part of it, and proud of the world that has been created here.

"You have an escape, right in the middle of town, with lakes, caves, summer camps and a first new adult summer camp. As a corporate entity, we want to support the community that



*Ijams CEO Amber Parker is excited to receive the \$46,732 check from Grayson Subaru. Ijams was selected as Grayson Subaru's hometown charity from 2017-2019, and again was chosen as its hometown charity in 2023 and 2024. Support received from 2017-2019 events allowed Ijams Nature Center to acquire 13.46 acres adjacent to Mead's Quarry and create the Ijams Nature Playscape at the Grayson Subaru Preserve for children as well as phenology plots on the first five acres.*

has been good to us for over 40 years."

Marquardt thanked the dedicated volunteers, "The reason you support a place like this, is the amazing work that Ijams does, but also to see how many children are having fun. It's very easy to support that and a privilege to do so."

Amber Parker, CEO of Ijams,

stated, "We aim to create a space that children can enjoy, encouraging them to interact, be creative, and embrace the outdoors. Ijams is for everyone, and nature is for everyone. It is essential for us, as part of Ijams' mission, to meet people where they are and to design experiences that engage everyone. The more we

can encourage people to connect with nature, the better stewards of the environment they will become."

Ijams Nature Center is located at 2915 Island Home Ave in Knoxville. To learn more about Ijams, its programs, job opportunities, or volunteering, please visit [www.ijams.org](http://www.ijams.org).



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

*Janet Testerman, Animal Control Services Executive Director, gave the first year report after the Young-Williams Animal Center became the city-county animal control authority. She said that over the year the organization has received about 26,000 calls or about 2,000 each month. She said the organization is stressing an "educate and assist" policy and told the Knox County Commission that 500 animals were identified and returned to their homes. She said the county and city have about 250,000 pet owners.*

# City voters to decide on sales tax increase in November

**By Mike Steely**  
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The Knoxville City Council voted 7-1 Tuesday evening to place a referendum for a ½ cent increase in local sales taxes on the November city election ballot. Five new council members will also be chosen in that election, but most of the focus is on whether or not city voters approve of the increase that will provide five years of funding for additional street paving, greenway and public facilities repairs, new sidewalks near schools and increasing affordable homes.

The possibility of Knox County also taking part in the decision loomed over the meeting. Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs had

said he would not introduce the idea, but the Knox County Commission could vote to do so. If that happens and county voters vote "Yes," the city would lose about half of the expected \$45 million to the county.

Only At-large Councilwoman Amelia Parker opposed the increase; District 5 Councilman Charles Thomas was absent from the meeting. Three public speakers endorsed the increase.

Most of the council members spoke in favor of the increase, including Andrew Roberto, who said the long-overlooked city projects are needed. He noted that if the county enters the referendum, the city's food sales tax, exempted from the proposed

increase, goes away.

Parker called for a list of the projects that would be funded in the proposed Neighborhood Infrastructure Five-Year Investment Plan. She questioned what might happen if a new mayor or council opposes the increase. Law Director Charles Swanson replied that a current council cannot mandate what a future council does. Parker then suggested that the tax increase be part of the city charter.

In other action, the council approved a contract with River Sports Outfitters Inc. as the service provider at the Augusta Quarry in Fort Dickerson Park for \$168,200 annually. The company will rent flotation equipment,

provide free life jackets, and oversee the much-improved amenities at the quarry. Mayor Indya Kincannon said that Ben Apperson will oversee the quarry operations.

The council also voted to increase the funding of Ijams Nature Center for a new contract amount of \$197,750.

Also approved were four funding grant requests from the Knoxville Police Department for de-escalation training, violent crime prevention, recruitment and opioid policing.

Knoxville Community Media was given a new contract agreement for \$ 300,000 due to the decrease in state and federal funds. Councilwoman Parker,

who serves on that committee, said the public broadcast service was "saved from drowning to treading water."

On the city's consent agenda: standards were adopted for converting existing buildings into two-family dwellings, a \$22,500 grant from Homeland Security was approved for the Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Management Agency, two properties were annexed into the city, and a \$525,942 federal grant application was approved (with a city match of \$27,680) for risk reduction programming and public education for the Knoxville Fire Department.



# This Is Israel's War – Not Our War

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.  
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President Trump, to his credit, demanded a ceasefire between Israel and Iran. Both countries agreed to it. Then, the president became very angry with Israel because, as he said, "As soon as we made the deal, they came out and they dropped a load of bombs the likes of which I've never seen before."

But as I write this column, the ceasefire is still in effect. I hope it lasts. However, just two days before the ceasefire, we dropped ten 30,000-pound bunker bombs on Iran, a country that had not even shot one bullet at us.

Please, God, let this be the end of our involvement in the war between Israel and Iran.

This is Israel's war. It is not our war. Netanyahu and Israel First neocons led us into a very unnecessary war in Iraq that cost the lives of so many young Americans, and led to the blinding and maiming of thousands more. It was not worth their sacrifice.

Donald Trump was elected as president in 2016 primarily because of his opposition to the war in Iraq, and because he promised to put America First.

The overwhelming majority of Americans – both Democrats and Republicans – do not want this country stuck in another war in the Middle East.

This is not our war; it is Netanyahu's war. The very respected foreign policy expert and Columbia professor, Jeffrey Sachs, a Jew, has described Netanyahu as "one of the most violent and dangerous people in this world."

Tom Friedman, the longtime New York Times columnist and also a Jew, wrote in his column of May 9 that "Netanyahu is not our friend."

Israel claimed it had

killed Iran's top eight generals and its nine leading nuclear scientists even before the U.S. dropped its bombs.

Israel also claimed it had destroyed Iran's ground-based air defense capabilities and had achieved total air superiority even before we got involved.

If their claims are true, Israel was already winning this war. They started this war, let them finish it – without us.

Israel supposedly had two main goals in invading Iran: To stop Iran's nuclear weapons program and to foster regime change there.

Well, all of our top intelligence officials in both Democratic and Republican administrations had certified for years that Iran was not building any nuclear weapons. Tulsi Gabbard, now our highest intelligence official, also certified this again in her congressional testimony on March 25.

Netanyahu was so eager to go to war against Iran – he has cried wolf so many times, for 30 years, always falsely saying Iran was just

weeks or months away from developing a nuclear bomb.

Netanyahu claimed many times that Iran was the main purveyor of terrorist violence around the world. Actually, it has been Israel that has spread violence throughout the Middle East.

The late Charley Reese, who in 1999 was voted as the most popular columnist by C-Span viewers, wrote in 2002: "The big pushers for war with Iraq are the usual suspects – Americans with a long record of pretending to speak about American interests, when in fact, they are pushing an Israeli agenda." Today, you can replace the word "Iraq" with the word "Iran."

As far as its goal of regime change is concerned, the very respected foreign policy analyst, John Mearsheimer, said you cannot achieve that goal with only an air campaign. Americans definitely do not want to see the boots of our troops on the ground in Iran.

Too many of our presidents and their top advisors

have seemingly wanted to be new Winston Churchills. They seem to feel more important if they can lead us into another war.

Eisenhower, who spent his career in the military, was strong enough to resist this impulse in 1956 when Israel demanded that we support its war against Egypt.

Mitchell Bard wrote about this in The Times of Israel in 2014: "Eisenhower went on television to criticize Israel's failure to withdraw from Egypt and warned he would impose sanctions if it failed to comply. Eisenhower was prepared to cut off all economic aid, to lift the tax-exempt status of the United Jewish Appeal, and to apply sanctions on Israel." What courage that was.

Today, almost every member of the U.S. Congress is afraid to criticize Israel's bombing, killing, and starving of many thousands of little children because of the Israel Lobby's power and ability to direct massive campaign contributions for them or against them.

President Trump said

on February 13 that he wanted to cut the defense budget in half. Now he is pushing a "Big Beautiful Bill" to increase defense spending by \$150 billion, moving it to over one trillion dollars a year.

On May 13 in Riyadh, President Trump criticized neocons, nation builders, and interventionists. Then, unfortunately, he bowed to the wishes of warmonger neocons by approving the dropping of bombs on Iran.

And, finally, President Trump said in his Inaugural Address: "We will measure our success not only by little battles we win, but also by the wars that end, and perhaps MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE WARS WE NEVER GET INTO."

Candidate Trump reportedly accepted a \$100 million campaign contribution from Miriam Adelson in return for a promise to support Israel in every way. Hopefully, he can resist this pressure and go down in history as an anti-war, peace president like Eisenhower.

## The President and the Bombing of Iran

Did John Bolton sneak into the White House when we were not looking? How else to explain the president joining Israel in its war against Iran? Yes, Trump imposed tough sanctions during



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this first term against Iran that Biden lifted. Now in his second term, Trump has reimposed the sanctions. They are export oil restrictions, a nuclear program blockade, a disruption of proxy group financing of Iran's terrorist allies (Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis), and various

economic sanctions. But the most significant action is the United States joining Israel militarily in its war on Iran.

Yes, Iran has been conducting a shadow war against the US since 1979. From the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut in 1979 to the drone attack that killed three servicemen in Jordan in 2023, Iran has financed attacks on Americans through its proxies in Lebanon, Syria, and throughout the Middle East. We would occasionally bomb

somebody or something, but we never have conducted a serious campaign against the regime. The president was itching to bomb Iran. Trump has called for Iran's unconditional surrender and said that although the U.S. knows where Khamenei is hiding that the US wouldn't kill him, "at least for now."

I thought that Trump and JD Vance were opposed to intervening in foreign wars? Apparently not so with this one. Yes, Trump has been consistent in saying that Iran should never have a nuclear weapon. But couldn't he just have provided support to Israel's attempt to destroy Iran's

nuclear capacity rather than joining them in the effort?

Will the MAGA faithful fall into line to kiss Trump's ring – like they always do? Apparently not all of them. First, Tucker Carlson remains staunchly opposed to U.S. military involvement as does Steve Bannon. Trump now calls Carlson a kook. Marjorie Taylor Greene has voiced her concerns. Although Bannon says that military involvement will cause most of the MAGA folk to get on board with the president, he acknowledges that it does have the potential to splinter Trump's support among his base.

The president has said repeatedly that Iran should not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon. Yes, they are enriching uranium, perhaps even to weapons grade, but does that mean that they are close to having a bomb and the capacity to deliver it? Many national security experts and scientists contend

that they don't and that they do not have the expertise necessary to do so. I won't go into all the technical details, but consider that there is the possibility that the administration is not telling us the truth. The National Security Director, Tulsi Gabbard, testified in March to Congress that "the intelligence community continues to assess that Iran is not building a nuclear weapon and Supreme Leader Khamenei has not authorized the nuclear weapons program he suspended in 2003." She said that we are closely monitoring Iran's nuclear program. She also noted that the country's "enriched uranium stockpile is at its highest levels and is unprecedented for a state without nuclear weapons."

The president sharply disagreed. He said, "I don't care what she thinks," and that Iran was close to having a nuclear bomb. Given this put down, one would guess that Gabbard would resign. Instead,

she said, "President Trump was saying the same thing that I said." "We are on the same page." Since she didn't resign, if I were Trump, I would fire her. One, for speaking on a sensitive issue without being vetted by me, and two, knowing now that the Congress, the press and the American people will not believe another word she says.

Who to believe, the president or the national security experts, the intelligence community and the nuclear scientists? Regardless, the bottom line is that Iran must not have a nuclear weapon because the zealots running the country will use it on Israel. That threat is intolerable for any people, but especially one that has experienced the holocaust, the pogroms and all the purging and terrorism of the Jewish people throughout history. That said, this is Israel's war and is its responsibility – not ours.



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# Publisher's Position

## Vote no to city tax increase in November



By Steve Hunley,  
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The City of Knoxville appears to have a spending problem. In order to spend even more, it must increase taxes. The last property tax hike was a whopping 40% increase. Now, Mayor Indya Kincannon is asking voters inside the city to increase the already hefty sales tax. The increase in the quite nearly 10% sales tax, one of the highest in the country, supposedly would be for adding "affordable housing," sidewalks, greenways and parks. Keep in mind that the first thing Kincannon did after hiking property taxes was to cut back services in the form of keeping police officers from coming to traffic accidents unless someone is injured. Hiring more police officers and restoring that vital service to city taxpayers might be worth more on the sales tax. Presently, the city administration seems to enjoy dedicating every patch of scrub as a "greenway."

The City of Knoxville does not operate a school system, health department, libraries, or services other than police and fire and

residential garbage pickup. The city does, however, offer very generous defined pensions for its employees and finds any number of ways to throw away money. For instance, the city government proposes to spend \$60 million of taxpayer dollars for a bridge that benefits the University of Tennessee. At any given time, there seems to be roughly a billion dollars' worth of development occurring at UT which is largely funded through tuition costs and appropriations from the state and federal government. The people living inside the City of Knoxville are also county, state and federal taxpayers, and the case for funding a pedestrian bridge across the river has never been adequately made. The city sought a federal grant and loaded down their grant proposal with language to indicate the bridge would be diverse, racially equitable and other such language so as to appeal to the regents of the Biden administration. Surprise! Kamala Harris did not win the presidential election and the bridge proposal was denied by the Trump administration, which doesn't much like woke bridge proposals. The city seems to be struggling to pay for the necessary repairs for the Gay Street bridge to be able to once again bear traffic. As of now, it, too, is a pedestrian bridge, albeit not by design.

Unfortunately, the city council seems less a legislative body than a rubber stamp for whatever the mayor decides to do on any

given day. The number of leaders on the city council is exactly zero. The number of followers is precisely eight, coincidentally, the entire sum of the total membership minus one. The one would be Amelia Parker, a self-described Democratic Socialist, who dissents from the far, far left.

Like many other cities run by leftist Democrats and Democratic Socialists, the city government does its best to be woke and adopt a tax-and-spend philosophy that does little to improve the lives of the people paying the freight. There seems to be increasing pressure for politicians in cities to act as if they are Santa Claus and give away things. Zohran Mamdani is a young and proudly socialist candidate running for mayor of New York City, who, if possible, is proposing to run New York City straight into the ground. Mamdani proposes to refit New York City's school buildings with "renewable energy infrastructure," which would cost \$3.27 billion over ten years. Mamdani wants to open and run city-owned grocery stores and provide free transportation for people.

Mamdani's proposals would dramatically increase the size of government and, of course, taxes - all in the name of "affordability." The question becomes affordable for who exactly? For a city, state or country to function properly, there must be a tax base to provide funding. When the recipients of government "freebies" becomes greater

than those paying to provide them, a big problem occurs. The roof becomes too heavy to support and collapses on the house. Yet the specialists, planners and wokesters never find a penny of fraud or waste, unless it is to fund law enforcement or the military. They all follow the wisdom of that old saying that the best tax is one that someone else pays while you derive the benefit. That statement is the core of their philosophy for everything they do propose.

As housing costs continue to rise and the government's response is to raise taxes, folks are catching it from both ends. Raising property taxes increases both rent AND mortgages. Kincannon and the council raised property taxes 40% the last time and are back to raise the sales tax now because they can't manage the city government. When was the last time you heard a single member of the city council describe something other than law enforcement as a waste of taxpayer dollars? When was the last time you heard a member of the Knoxville City Council say we would like to do it but can't afford it and can't keep raising taxes? The last member I heard say that was Carlene Malone, and that has been a long time ago.

People have been leaving New York City in droves and should Zohran Mamdani be elected this November, even more people will leave and take their money with them. When the "haves" have departed, it leaves

only the "have-nots" and nobody to pay for the freebies, which are NOT free after all.

The City of Knoxville is finally having to face the music by having candidates for the council run inside the districts they are supposed to represent instead of running city-wide. That is a BIG improvement to have council members who actually represent the people of their district instead of the mayor. With Kincannon's proposed sales tax increase on the ballot this November, the people of Knoxville have good reason to come out and vote. It also gives candidates for the city council ample opportunity to state whether or not they favor the proposed sales tax increase. In fact, it is an opportunity for Knoxville's to ask candidates running for city council to clearly state whether or not they would support continuing the tax-and-spend policy of the last twelve years. The people have a right to know where their elected representatives stand, and at some point, the city government can't keep increasing its costs while doing less and less, all while spending more and more. The City of Knoxville, under Madeline Rogero and Indya Kincannon, has adopted an attitude of continually spending more and more and accomplishing less and less. There has been no voice of reason on the city council, nor has there been any council member to speak on behalf of the people who pay the bills. The advocates on the

council have all been for those who soak up taxpayer dollars and pay little to keep the government running. Completely absent from the conversation are council people who urge economy or wish to eliminate waste. We need council members who will question the wisdom of paying \$1.7 million for an alleged piece of art that looks like a melted mushroom. Should the City of Knoxville be in the art business in the first place when we have more pressing needs? Yes, there are a lot of people who believe it would have been better to spend the \$1.7 million to help repair the Gay Street bridge to handle traffic issues than to erect the melted mushroom downtown. Unfortunately, none of them occupy a seat on the city council.

The people of Knoxville need to be heard and make your own viewpoint heard. Now that city council members must answer to the people they supposedly represent, it is long past time for the city's legislative body to consider some economies and spending within its means. Even the taxpayers do not have bottomless pockets. Knox County has not raised property taxes since 1999, while the City of Knoxville has raised them constantly.

There is a powerful argument waiting to be made to the people of Knoxville, and hopefully, the candidates running for city council this year will make it.

## Juvenile center reorganization approved amid politics

**Cont. from page 1**

Jacobs called for revising the county code to name a new board and move the operation of the facility to the KCSO. Durrett's motion called for hiring a transition director or superintendent to serve through December, a comprehensive assessment of the facility, continued weekly visits by the Office of Child Welfare Services and naming four commissioners to the center's board, with one person named by the juvenile court judge, to serve through August of next year.

The Emergency Ordinance by Mayor Jacobs passed 9-1, with only District 1 Commissioner

Damon Rawls voting "No." Commissioner Shane Jackson was absent.

Durrett's motion saw sometimes heated comments when Chairwoman Gina Oster moved to name Rawls, Jackson, Larsen Jay and Terry Hill to the new board of directors. That board will then vote to hire a temporary director and coordinate with Child Welfare. The facility is also down by 10 employees who may be added by the board or the sheriff.

The suggestion of the four board members saw immediate objection from District 9's Andy Fox and District 5's Angela Russell. Fox failed in a substitute motion

to name District 7's Rhonda Lee to the board. Oster said she was trying to achieve a political balance on the board. Rawls and Jackson are Democrats and Jay and Hill are Republicans.

Lee questioned why two Democrats were on the list and some commissioners pointed out that Lee, an attorney, could have a conflict of interest. Lee said she was "very interested in serving." The Fox motion failed, but Russell noted that Knox County isn't 50-50 in local politics, and the board should have three Republicans and one Democrat. Fox agreed and Rawls, a Democrat, said he did not appreciate Russell's "ugly"

comments.

At-large Commissioner Jay said the commission should focus on the children in the center and said there's time to come back

and add changes.

The Fox motion failed in a 4-5-1 vote with Durrett, Oster, Jay, Rawls and Terry Hill voting "No." Commissioner Kim Frazier passed

on the vote. Oster's appointments of Rawls, Jackson, Hill and Jay passed in a 7-3 vote with Russell, Lee and Fox voting "No."

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# What is Sequestration?

If you find yourself sitting in a courtroom, you might hear a lawyer stand up and say, "Your Honor, we request the rule of sequestration." That phrase probably doesn't mean much to most people, but it can have a big impact on how a trial unfolds.

Sequestration simply means keeping witnesses out of the courtroom until it is their turn to testify. The idea is to prevent witnesses from hearing each other's testimony so that their own statements are not influenced by what someone else says. When the judge grants sequestration, all potential witnesses—except the parties to the case—are asked to leave the room and wait in the hallway or another designated area.

This rule exists to help keep testimony honest and independent. If you're a witness, the court wants to



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hear your version of events, not a version that accidentally (or intentionally) lines up with someone else's story just because you heard them say it first.

Now, if you're a party to the case—like the person being sued or someone in a criminal trial—you usually are allowed to stay in the courtroom even if you plan to testify. However, expert witnesses (like doctors or accident reconstructionists) may sometimes be allowed to stay and hear testimony if the judge believes it will help them form their opinion.

So, what happens if a witness breaks the rule and listens to testimony anyway? That's a big no-no. It can lead to the judge not allowing that person to testify at all, or it may damage their credibility in the eyes of the judge or jury. It might even result in a contempt of court charge if the person

was knowingly violating the rule.

Sometimes people confuse sequestration with a "sequestered jury," which is a totally different concept. That term refers to jurors being isolated—often in a hotel without outside contact—to keep them from being influenced by media or public opinion during a high-profile trial. While both use the word "sequester," they deal with very different situations.

The next time you hear a lawyer request sequestration, you'll know it's a standard part of keeping the trial fair. It's not dramatic or mysterious—it's just about making sure everyone tells their own truth.

*Jedidiah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knoxville County and surrounding counties. He works in many areas, including family law, criminal, and personal injury. Visit attorney-knoxville.com for more information about this legal issue and other legal issues.*

# Fox and allies thwarted on commission votes

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Andy Fox, the District 9 Knox County Commissioner, has stated in every meeting that he opposes accepting any federal funds or grants for county programs, whether coming directly from the federal government departments or funneled through the state, because the federal funds are "borrowed money."

Fox's motions on several agenda items have been supported by Commissioners Rhonda Lee and Angela Russell.

In last week's meeting, Fox challenged five different federal funding resolutions on the consent calendar and moved them to the regular agenda one by one.

As each Community Development request was read into the meeting, Fox voted "No." He said he asked the Knox County Law Department if he could go on record to object to federal grants and could not, so each of the five was read in the meeting. The resolutions dealt with funds for home rehabilitation loan applications, case management, the Community Action Agency, elderly services, and 10 contracts with companies doing home

rehabilitation.

Fox objected to the federal funds because each requires "special consideration of minority and women businesses."

He then moved to postpone the distribution of the Opioid Settlement Program funds to various local organizations, but his motion died for lack of a second. Fox then objected to a resolution to distribute county funds to 28 local organizations and cited four groups: Centro Hispano, Freedom Schools, the Family Justice Center and the Beck Cultural Exchange. He said some groups failed to submit requests for funding. At-large Commissioner Larsen Jay said the Defined Service Agreements that approve the funding have a budget to use as they wish and told Fox, "If you don't like a certain organization, then vote against the resolution."

Fox withdrew his motion that the funding violates the county charter.

The funding passed 7-1-2, with Fifth District Commissioner Angela Russell voting against, and Commissioners Fox and Lee both passing.

At the end of the meeting, Fox sponsored an amendment to the county code to prohibit fluoride

from being added to the water of the Knox-Chapman Utility District. Three speakers addressed the issue, supporting the Fox position that fluoride in drinking water has harmful effects, causes lower IQs in children, and introduces substances to be ingested without the person's permission.

Deputy District Attorney Mike Moyers told the meeting that the county has no power to regulate a utility district. Fox said the utility district board would go along with no fluoride being added if the commission asked it. Fox said that state Representative Elaine Davis plans to introduce legislation limiting fluoride.

Given Moyers' statement, at-large Commissioner Larsen Jay asked Fox to withdraw his ordinance and go to the utility district as a private citizen and customer.

Fox responded he wanted to proceed, adding that a position on the issue could affect support in the upcoming race for Knox County Mayor, where Jay is a candidate.

Jay called for the vote, and it failed 7-3, with Shane Jackson being absent. Fox, Russell and Lee voted "No."

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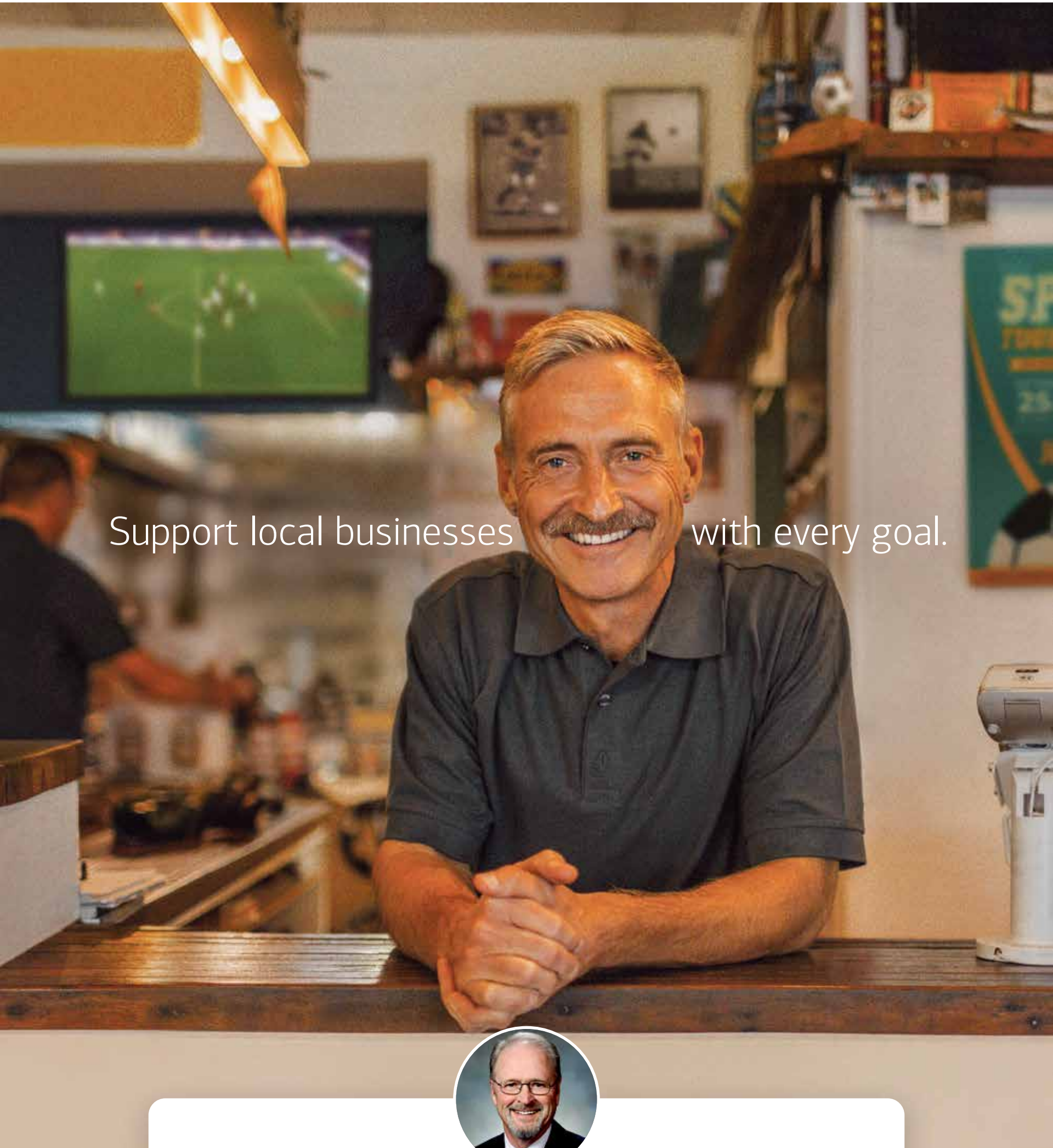
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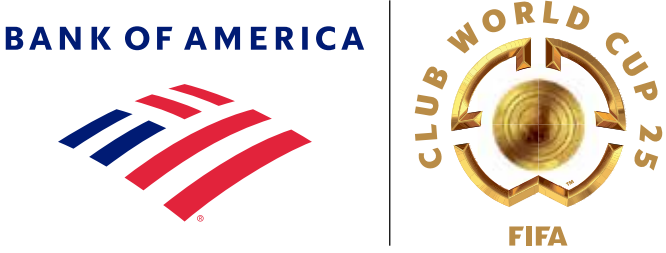
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# Dayton is celebrating 100 year anniversary of Scopes Monkey Trial

Some special is happening in Rhea County in July to mark the 100th anniversary of a very important event there, a trial that brought national

## A Day Away



By Mike Steely

attention to the courthouse in Dayton.

Today, the historic courthouse, built in 1891, is on the National Register of Historic Places and was recently renovated in preparation for the event. One hundred years ago, a local teacher was tried for violating Tennessee's anti-evolution legislation in what was to become known as the "Scopes Monkey Trial."

That trial, actually a publicity stunt by local businessmen to draw attention to their city, began on July 12 in 1925. By the end of the trial, it had drawn national media attention. Most people don't remember that the teacher was found guilty of violating

Tennessee Law by a local jury, but that decision was later overturned. The trial pitted attorneys Clarence Darrow against William Jennings Bryan in a heated debate about evolution versus creationism.

Dayton is a bit more than an hour southwest of Knoxville, and the historic courthouse has the original courtroom and a Scopes Trial museum in the basement.

The Rhea Heritage Foundation is sponsoring events during the two weeks beginning on the 10th, and two re enactments of the trial on Fridays and Saturdays, July 11 and 12, and July 18-19.

Tom Davis, vice president of the Rhea Heritage Preservation Foundation, told The Focus that tickets are going fast and, as of last Tuesday, tickets were still available for the July 18th

and 19th shows.

"The 19th show is being sold as a 'Dinner with the Cast' package. Following the play, the audience will be seated under tents in the courthouse lawn and served a special dinner. The cost is \$45 and Chattanooga Sound, a big band group, will provide period music."

He said the first weekend features family fun around the courthouse lawn, and the second weekend features a 1920s Classic Car display.

Wednesday and Thursday, July 16 and 17, will feature a symposium of speakers on various aspects of the trial and related topics.

John Thomas Scopes was the accused and, although vindicated when the conviction was overturned, he had a hard life after being denied a teaching job in the Volunteer State. He became an oil industry employee and died in 1970 after he wrote a book about his life.

In March, the Preservation Foundation partnered with Bryan College, the



The historic Rhea County Courthouse still stands today and draws visitors to the scene and the actual courtroom where the Scopes Monkey Trial took place. Dayton is gearing up for the 100th celebration of the event and you are invited.

Rhea Historical Society, the Rhea Economic and Community Development Office and the county office of tourism to offer a lot of related activities celebrating the centennial of the Scopes Trial.

Whether you plan to attend the play or simply visit Dayton during those

two weeks, you may want to plan now. The publicity sought by those local businessmen a century ago seems to have extended well beyond expectation.

The easiest way to reach Dayton from Knoxville is to take I-75 south to the main Athens exit and then go west along Highway 30. You

could return by taking Highway 27 North to Harriman and then I-40 back home.

If you'd like more information about Dayton, Rhea County, or the Scopes 100th anniversary, you can call the Rhea Heritage Preservation Foundation at (423) 680-9896 or email admin@rheaheritage.com.



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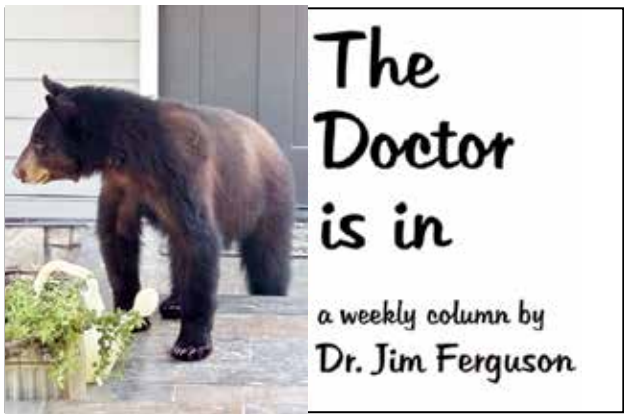


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## Surprises

And who knows if perhaps you have come to the kingdom for a time such as this.

Esther 4:14

In the Myers-Briggs typology of personality, I am an ISTJ. These designations define me as slightly introverted, a careful observer who is logical and prefers to get his work done rather than delaying chores. Waiting until the last minute to produce a thousand-word essay is not my style.

Each week, the deadline for my column is Thursday, so after routine chores are done, I try to sit down at my desk on Tuesday - and for sure by Wednesday - and see what happens. I can identify with author Ray Bradbury, who said that he sits down at his desk, surveys his eclectic office and lets his imagination run

wild to produce his stories.

I'm an essayist so my stories do not arise from the imagination, but from researching the world of events and thoughts. And since I'm now retired from medicine, I am better able to manage my creative time. I sometimes make notes as I read, watch and think. Sometimes I use these notes, but often I don't because you never know when a bombing campaign in the Middle East may occur. Or you never know what may appear on your porch!

We live in the UT Hospital area and, yes, that is a young black bear on my porch in the above picture. We've had deer, turkeys, foxes and coyotes stroll through the yard, but a bear sauntering just twenty feet away is a bit disconcerting.

Last week I wrote of "Two Americas" metaphorically

represented by the celebratory parade of the U.S. Army's 250 years of service to the country and the No Kings hate-filled protest of President Trump. If the protesters knew any history, they'd realize we celebrate "no kings" every July 4th. (If you missed that essay, all of my columns are online in The Knoxville Focus archives.)

I write because I can. I write because it gives me (and others) a "voice" at The Knoxville Focus, which affords me a platform to express my thoughts. And I write because it gives me purpose and creative joy.

However, research and constructing an essay takes work. The creative joy actually comes from polishing the essay's prose. And when finished, the sense of accomplishment arrives when I hit the send button linked to The Focus publishing staff.

Last week, as an experiment, I gave the principal topics in the "Two Americas" essay to Grok, an online AI (artificial intelligence) platform, and asked it to construct an essay for comparison to my own. It took me about ten minutes to scan last week's essay, list the topics and send them to Grok. The AI spit out a pretty good essay in less than a minute.

Since Becky is my

editress, thankfully proofing all my work, I asked her to read Grok's essay and offer critique. She liked the concluding paragraph, but found the rest of the essay lacking the "human touch" which comes from an "author's bias." She said Grok's essay read like a "sterile" newspaper article rather than a heartfelt opinion piece. My partner in life is obviously kind to her husband, but also sharp. "The Doctor is in" will not be replaced by "Grok is in" any time soon. The Fergusons still have job security!

Since the world was unaware of the bear on my porch, the big story last week was the destruction of Iran's nuclear weapons program. Of course, loathsome Democrats, like bartender AOC and swivel-head Jasmine Crockett, were enraged that President Trump didn't notify them of the secret mission. This would have endangered our pilots, planes and soldiers because the attack would have been leaked to the equally loathsome NYT, CNN and the media. Chuck Schumer was also upset because he will now have to eat the TACOs (Trump always chickens out) he's been calling Trump for weeks. What a bunch of Democrat losers. Maybe Schumer should be working the window at Taco Bell.

The coordinated attack on Iran's nuclear weapon facilities comprised seven stealth bombers, which flew halfway around the world to drop fourteen 30,000-pound precision bombs on weapon factories. The bombers were supported by more than 100 other aircraft, while our submarines fired dozens of Tomahawk missiles at Iranian radar and surface-to-air missile sites. What an impressive, coordinated, courageous mission. And the B-2 bombers are technologically amazing and look almost otherworldly.

I was proud to be an American whose armed forces were able to remove the terrorist Iranian regime's nuclear threats. It may seem like a technicality, but Secretary Marco Rubio said, "We are not at war with Iran; we are targeting Iran's nuclear weapons program." But the media and Democrats' vile hatred of President Trump causes them to hate everything he does, even making the world safer by eliminating Iran's ability to construct a nuclear weapon. These Democrat losers are anti-MAGA, anti-American, anti-military, anti-ICE and anti-semitic.

Who knows what surprises await us tomorrow or next week? A radical Democrat socialist was just

elected as the Democratic nominee for mayor of New York City, the epicenter of American capitalism. I have no sympathy for the liberal elites of Gotham whose "suicide empathy" vote will seal their own doom.

Despite what the media gutter snipes say, Trump was right again. And no, Mr. President, I'm not tired of winning. Patriots support you in the MAGA struggle. Democrats and their media stooges have become objects of ridicule. Inflation is down, real income is up. We are moving toward energy independence again. Illegal criminals are being deported. The judicial resistance movement will continue to fail, and hopefully, it'll lead to the impeachment of rogue activist judges. And finally, tyrants around the world will forever think twice after the Saturday attack.

The prophet Elisha was trained for 10 years before his ministry began. And it has been 10 years since President Trump "came down the elevator." I believe Trump was called for a time such as this.

I am thankful that Trump 2.0 is our president and truly the leader of the free world.

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

# Forgotten African-American Cemetery rests in Solway



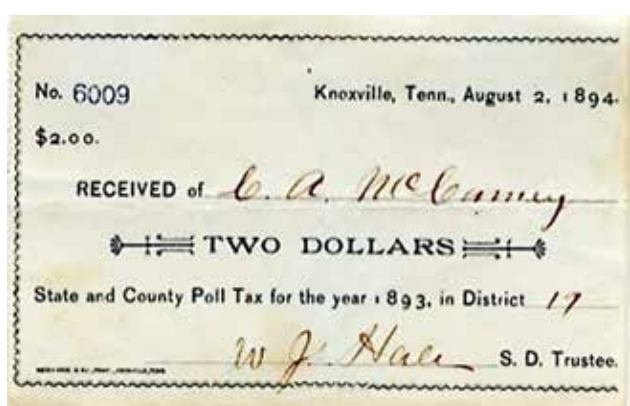
PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

One of the interesting graves in the cemetery is that of Dr. Charles A. McCamey, son of William and Sarah McCamey. William may have been a former slave. The family played an important part in the history of Knox County.

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

There is a small cemetery on the George Light Road in Solway that has a very interesting history. The Knoxville Focus would not have learned about the historic burial ground or its importance had it not been for a relative of the original family contacting us with a request.

Markeicha Mitchell, now living in Oak Ridge, emailed The Focus with the following: "Did you know that Solway, TN has an African-American Historical Cemetery? It was just recently added to the Tennessee Historical Registry. Some of the people buried there can be found at the Tennessee State Museum. It would be



Ms. Mitchell shared this receipt for one of the McCamey family members paying a poll tax in order to vote.

such an honor to have an article put in The Focus to honor them."

After conversing with Mitchell and a drive to the Branch Hill Cemetery, The Focus asked her a series of questions, including her family's history and its involvement with the cemetery. Here's her reply

about the cemetery and the McCamey or McKamey family.

"The Branch Hill Memorial United Methodist Cemetery is historically significant due to prominent middle-class African Americans buried there from the early 1800s. The earliest grave dates back

to 1813 of the late Willis McKamey. According to the artifacts at the Tennessee State Museum, he was a farmer who contributed heavily to the wheat industry. In addition, Willis McKamey served as an exhorter at the Methodist Episcopal Church. Branch Hill was supposed to be a church or was a church that burnt down.

"Another interesting grave was that of Dr. Charles A. McKamey. His headstone is very tall and has a large Mason symbol. Dr. McKamey studied at Meharry Medical College in Nashville and practiced medicine in Knoxville. He owned properties, voted (paid \$2.00 poll tax), did banking, and had insurance. The Tennessee State

**Continue on page 2**

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# Sacred Silence: Making Room to Hear the Voice of God

The intention of this article is not political. I assure you that it does not lean toward Republican rhetoric or Democratic declarations. There is no attempt to sway you, the reader, into forming an opinion about the geopolitical chaos we see across the world today. Instead, I want to express a deeper truth that I encountered through a text message that went viral to the president of the United States from former governor and current U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee.

In his message to President Trump regarding the current situation in the Middle East, Ambassador Huckabee said, "You have



**By Justin Pratt,**  
Clear Springs Baptist Church Senior Pastor

many voices speaking to you, Sir, but there is only ONE voice that matters. HIS voice." He followed this with, "I don't reach out to persuade you. I only want to encourage you. I believe you will hear from heaven, and that voice is far more important than mine or anyone else's."

As the conflict between Israel and Iran intensified, Huckabee urged the president to listen not to the voices of men but to hear the voice of God. Regardless of our personal opinions about current global affairs, we can agree on one thing: amidst political calculations and military strategies, Huckabee's words offer a solemn reminder that true

wisdom is not found in war rooms or media studios but in quiet moments spent seeking God's will. In a world filled with noise—loud headlines, buzzing social media, and competing opinions—it's becoming increasingly difficult to hear the one voice that truly matters: the voice of God. No matter the chaos or conflict we may encounter in our lives, we need to remember that clarity comes not from louder voices but from a deeper connection to the still, small whisper of the Divine. Hearing God is not just for the powerful or prophetic; it's a spiritual discipline accessible to every believer. In the midst of life's noise, the real question is not whether God can speak, but whether we can hear Him when He does.

Hearing noise is nothing new, but the challenge of hearing the voice of God is not unique to our generation. In 1 Kings 19, the prophet Elijah found himself in a dark and desperate place. Chaos surrounded him, and he felt utterly alone. He had just called down fire from heaven, but now he was fleeing for his life—discouraged, exhausted, and emotionally drained. He took refuge in a cave on Mount Horeb, hoping to hear from God. When God did speak, it was not in the way Elijah expected.

Elijah anticipated that God would communicate through powerful natural elements like wind, an earthquake, or a fire. To his astonishment, God did not speak through these dramatic displays, but rather through a whisper. It was not in the storm that Elijah recognized God's voice, but in the sweet, still, small voice that followed.

It's important to understand that God still speaks, often in ways we least expect. In our fast-paced culture, everything is designed to grab our attention and drown out the stillness. However, if we want to hear the voice of God, we must learn the discipline of quieting the external noise and tuning in to the inner stillness where we can truly hear Him. Our ability to hear God is not a luxury; it's a necessity.

I believe that Huckabee's encouragement to the president to seek God's voice is not just political wisdom—it's a spiritual urgency. My prayer is that the president of the United States takes this advice from the U.S. Ambassador to Israel seriously. The decisions being made are of great consequence.

We all face critical and consequential choices in our lives. Therefore, I encourage you to set aside time to be with God. Silence is not empty—it's sacred. Fill your mind with scripture, as it is the primary way God communicates with His people. Listen for His voice to whisper promises and provide direction, and be willing to obey what He has revealed to you.

Seek counsel as well: godly voices in our lives often serve as instruments of God's direction. In the days ahead, whether for our families, our churches, our nation, or our souls, we must ask ourselves: Am I listening to the loudest voices or to the One voice that is by far the most important?

# Everyone Gets a Trophy

I'm old school when it comes to schools and education and make no apologies for being so. Spending 30 years in the classroom as a teacher should allow me to at least voice an opinion on the school system and the board's decisions. I'm taking the liberty of putting my thoughts on a recent change to the status quo.

The Knox County School Board announced that it



**By Joe Rector**  
joerector@comcast.net

is changing the way academic success is acknowledged in each year's graduating class. The change will begin in 2030. In its "infinite wisdom," the board has decided to do away with the naming of valedictorians and salutatorians. In place of this practice, schools will begin recognizing the top 5% of the class by using the Latin honors system. That one confers the top 5% with "summa cum laude," which means "with highest honors."

The reason for adopting this system over the long-used valedictorian/salutatorian system is that it recognizes a larger number of students for academic achievement. Yep, the board defaulted to the ol' "everybody gets a trophy" way of doing things. Why, we don't want to hurt a student's feelings by not publicly recognizing them. No longer is self-satisfaction with one's hard work enough. A top grade isn't a reward.

The hard, cold fact is that winners and losers exist in the world. In schools, one student outshines all others in the class. Yes, ties exist, but the weight of course difficulty breaks them.

Instead of honoring the one person who stands above all others in academic achievement, if only by the slimmest percentage point, the school board caves to the multiple awards idea. I suspect that another reason exists for the board's changing merit system. More than one parent has pitched a fit when their children lost out to a classmate in the academic competition. The last thing board members want is a meeting room full of upset parents. So, the politician sides come out, and they begin to contort an accepted practice so that something new will soothe sore parents.

If a student graduates with excellent grades, she will receive money from Tennessee. The universities to which students go will offer academic scholarships and other rewards. Thousands of grants and scholarships are available to students. Perhaps parental anger could fuel internet searches for those funds that are never taken by students. Yes, that way, moms and dads can invest some time to uncover financial aid for their children.

Folks, not everything old is bad. The naming of a valedictorian for a class is a time-honored tradition. The competition is sometimes brutal, and, yes, all but one who enters the fray will lose, but they will have gained so much from the process, and our country will have profited by the development of students who have so much to offer.

Parents say they want schools that provide quality education. If that is the case, then they should demand that the Knox County School Board retain the valedictorian/salutatorian system. Tell the board that following national trends is not necessarily the right thing to do. At the same time, I doubt that keeping things the same will lead to hundreds of students swapping schools to find an easier place to become the top student. I sometimes wonder whether those in central offices and on boards realize that high school is so much more than just grades. It's about friends, and activities, and heartbreaks, and championships, and lifetime friends. Folks, step back and let students learn how to become happy, eager individuals.

I'm glad that I no longer have to deal with the unimportant things of education. For this manufactured change, the response to a change to give more people a trophy and to keep disgruntled parents out of school offices might be "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

# What Is a Neighborhood Urban Forestry Plan?

Do you want to increase the number of trees in your neighborhood? The Neighborhood Urban Forestry Plan is a strategic guide designed to protect, enhance, and expand the tree canopy within a given neighborhood inside the City of Knoxville. A Neighborhood Urban Forestry Plan is initiated when a neighborhood has a tree-related goal that they want to achieve and needs help identifying the proper steps in achieving that goal.

How is a Neighborhood Urban Forestry Plan developed?

- Members of a neighborhood reach out to the City of Knoxville Urban Forester to initiate a Neighborhood Urban Forestry Plan.
- The neighborhood decides a location and place to hold a community event to discuss the urban forestry goal.
- The Urban Forester shares a draft plan with the neighborhood and puts the draft out for comments.
- The Urban Forester finalizes the Neighborhood Urban Forestry Plan.

A Neighborhood Urban Forestry plan is customized to meet specific goals identified by the neighborhood which could include increasing tree canopy and reducing heat in the neighborhood, planting trees on private property and identifying resources and partners, improving tree maintenance in the neighborhood such as proper planting or pruning, developing a neighborhood arborum, and getting rid of Kudzu from a specific area in the neighborhood.

Once the urban forester finishes the Neighborhood Urban Forestry Plan, the plan will be placed on the City of Knoxville Urban Forestry resource page for future reference.

If you would like more information, please contact the City's Urban Forester, Kasey Krouse, at [kkrouse@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:kkrouse@knoxvilletn.gov).

# Forgotten African-American Cemetery rests in Solway

**Cont. from page 1**

Museum has the McKamey Collection and its artifacts (consists of business transactions). The museum even has the original deed of Branch Hill Cemetery.


"The deed shows the original transaction between some of the people buried at Branch Hill. It includes Dr. Charles McKamey, William and Sarah McKamey, A. Rather, A. Carmichael, and Joseph Sharp. I tried to locate the deed years ago but Knox County had no record of it. Later, I reached out to the Tennessee State Museum, and it was in the artifacts.

"My grandmother, Johnnie Mae McKamey, was a descendant of these free, highly-educated, phenomenal people who, despite Jim Crow, segregation and discrimination, were able to be successful, outstanding citizens in Knoxville.

"It is my duty to honor them and my grandmother, Johnnie Mae McKamey (married last name Hardin), who was an heir of most of their land. She donated land to Solway Park, True Light Baptist, and to some African-American families on George Light Road so they could own land."

Mitchell shared that she wants to raise awareness of Branch Hill to help preserve and maintain the historical cemetery.

The Focus suggested she contact the United Methodist Church and possibly the Knox County Commission or the East Tennessee Historic Society to get the recognition the cemetery and her family deserve.



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# The Gentleman From Kentucky

## J. C. W. Beckham

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

John Crepps Wickliffe Beckham was the first U.S. senator to be popularly elected by the people of Kentucky. Beckham was the leader of a powerful wing of the Bluegrass State's Democratic Party and was an imposing figure in its politics for decades.

J. C. W. Beckham was the scion of a well-known family that had been prominent in Kentucky's politics for years. His mother's father, Charles Wickliffe, had been governor of Kentucky and served very briefly as postmaster general under President John Tyler. If the young J. C. W. Beckham had aristocratic roots, the family did not have family money to go with the pedigree, as he was forced to drop out of school in order to support his mother, who had been widowed. A young man of ability and determination, within a relatively short time and before he was twenty years old, J. W. C. Beckham was a school principal. At the same time he was working, Beckham was attending the University of Kentucky and studying the law. Beckham earned a degree and began practicing law in Bardstown, Kentucky.

Beckham had earned his law degree in 1893, and as the following year was an election year, the young man took his first plunge into politics by running for Kentucky's House of Representatives. It is remarkable to note that the 23-year-old Beckham was unopposed. Apparently, Beckham was a natural-born politician as he rose through the ranks of the House and served as speaker in 1898.

Kentucky has held its gubernatorial elections in the off-year and still does. William Goebel was the Democratic nominee for governor in 1899 and selected Beckham as his running mate. J. W. C. Beckham was not quite 30 years old when Goebel chose him to run for lieutenant governor. The gubernatorial race was hard fought and William Goebel lost to Republican candidate William S. Taylor, but the Democrats immediately challenged the results of the election. As expected, with the Democrats controlling both houses of Kentucky's state legislature, it appeared they would overturn the verdict of the voters. Ironically, Goebel had been the author of an election law which created a three-man board of elections, all of whom were Democrats and friendly to the Democratic nominee. The Kentucky Board of Elections rendered a 2-1 decision saying the ballots under dispute in the 1899 election should be counted, a position diametrically opposed to that of virtually

all Democrats seeking to void the election returns. Tempers flared and thousands of Kentuckians were incensed, and some historians have described the situation as being close to civil war inside the Bluegrass State.

The legislature was still arguing on January 30, 1900, when William Goebel was shot as he was walking into the Capitol Building. No one seems to know how many shots were fired; some estimate five or six, but one struck Goebel in the chest, mortally wounding him. The day after being shot, William Goebel took the oath of office as governor of Kentucky. Surrounded by no less than 18 doctors, Governor Goebel managed to sign only a single proclamation and died on February 3, 1900. J. C. W. Beckham assumed the office of governor following Goebel's death.

To quell the chaos resulting from the controversy and the assassination of William Goebel, a special election was called to determine who would be the governor. J. C. W. Beckham beat the GOP candidate in the special election and by that time had turned 30, which was the required minimum age by the state constitution.

By state law, Kentucky's governors at the time were not allowed to run for a second consecutive term. Governor Beckham filed to run once again in the 1903 election, and his right to run was immediately challenged in court. The ruling from the court affirmed Beckham's right to be a candidate again, stating he had not served a full term in office after succeeding Goebel and was therefore eligible to run. Beckham was elected to a full term as governor in his own right by the people of Kentucky.

Consolidating his power as chief executive, J. C. W. Beckham stunned the political class when he sought to move the primaries for governor and the United States Senate well before the mandated dates. In the instance of the governorship, Beckham wanted the primary moved up a year and the senatorial election by two full years. It was a naked move to grab the senatorial nomination for himself while he still sat in the governor's chair. Using the levers of power and patronage adroitly, Beckham also backed Samuel W. Hager for the gubernatorial nomination. With the full backing of the Beckham administration, Hager won. Governor Beckham also secured the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate for himself through a preferential primary held two years before the 1908 election.



PHOTO COURTESY STATE OF KENTUCKY.

Official state portrait of Governor J. C. W. Beckham.

Kentucky Republicans put up former Governor William O. Bradley for the Senate seat, but Beckham's heavy-handed tactics had alienated just enough fellow Democrats to make his election to the United States Senate impossible. Senators of the United States were still elected by state legislatures and were not legally bound by the results of Kentucky's preferential primary. Sixty-nine votes were needed to win the Senate seat, and Governor Beckham peaked at 66. The balloting lasted weeks, and the governor could not get the 69 votes needed and William O. Bradley was close behind with 64 votes. Several Democrats pleaded with Governor Beckham to withdraw and let the party rally around another nominee, but he refused. Beckham's stubbornness collapsed his candidacy on the 29th ballot when four Democratic legislators crossed over party lines to vote for former Governor William O. Bradley. Kentucky's state legislature, with Democrats in the majority, had elected a Republican to the United States Senate.

Defeated for the United States Senate, J. C. W. Beckham resumed his law practice and waited for another opportunity. That opportunity came six years later. The passage of the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States removed the power of state legislatures to elect members of the U.S. Senate and called for direct election by the people. Kentuckians would go to the polls for the first time in 1914 and elect their own senator.

The former governor was hardly the only Democrat hankering to go to the United States Senate. Congressman Augustus O. Stanley, a 12-year veteran of the House of Representatives and a vocal opponent of prohibition, entered the primary, as did Governor James McCreary. Beckham won the Democratic nomination and the general election,

defeating another former governor, GOP nominee August Willson.

During the senatorial campaign, Beckham had pledged to support another Wilson, President Woodrow Wilson. Beckham went to Washington and kept his word, remaining a firm supporter of the president and Wilson's administration. It was during Beckham's service in the Senate that the Eighteenth Amendment was added to the Constitution, making the sale of alcohol illegal in the United States. The adoption of the Eighteenth Amendment destroyed the various distilling and brewery business located in the Bluegrass State. Kentucky bourbon was famous, and it is said there were those who preferred it to Tennessee whisky, hard as that is to imagine. To the delight of fellow prohibitionists, women's temperance leagues and many churchgoers, saloons closed their doors and boarded up their windows.

Senator Beckham took a dim view of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, giving women the right to vote. The Kentuckian took the position that politics was too vulgar a thing for the womenfolk to participate in; to the contrary, it would be a travesty to expose women to the sordid doings of government and politics. Senator Beckham voted against the Nineteenth Amendment twice. It passed despite Beckham's opposition and was ratified by the states.

Beckham had to face the voters again in 1920, and there were a goodly number of women, both Democrats and Republicans, who were not at all pleased that their senator had voted to deny them the right to vote. So, too, were the "wets" in Kentucky angry with the senator for his support of prohibition; Beckham lost the votes of those whose businesses had been shuttered or lost, as well as many of those who enjoyed a cold beer now and then. Another factor

in the election was the American people having tired of Woodrow Wilson's stubborn insistence that America join the League of Nations. The president, a bitter invalid locked inside the White House, had lost considerable popularity with the American people and had been rebuffed when he had called for the election of a Democratic Congress in the 1918 elections. Democratic presidential nominee James M. Cox pledged to bring the United States into the League of Nations while GOP nominee Warren G. Harding promised a return to "normalcy." Harding won in a landslide and carried the Bluegrass State. Senator Beckham narrowly lost his Senate seat to Republican Richard Ernest, a 62-year-old attorney who practiced law in Cincinnati, Ohio, and lived in Covington, Kentucky.

Beckham sought to return to public office by running for governor once again in 1927. Democrats had lost statewide elections in 1920 and 1924, but the party had recouped Beckham's seat in the Senate when Alben Barkley had defeated Senator Ernst. Beckham's comeback campaign was significantly aided by the support he received from his friend Robert Bingham, who had purchased the Louisville Courier-Journal. Once again, Beckham faced yet another large obstacle in his political path through the opposition generated by the Jockey Club, a powerful combine of special interests who were hellbent on making parimutuel betting legal in Kentucky. The Jockey Club supported Beckham's opponent in the primary unsuccessfully, then backed Republican nominee Flem Sampson in the general election. Governor William J. Fields, who had not supported Democratic U.S. Senator A. O. Stanley for reelection in 1924, once again bolted his party and refused to help Beckham against the Republicans. While the Democratic ticket swept every statewide race, J. C.

W. Beckham lost the governorship to Flem Sampson.

Resuming his lucrative law practice, Beckham remained a power inside Kentucky's Democratic Party, and every so often, the idea of trying to return to public office came to mind. Many political observers felt sure Beckham would run for governor in 1935, but the former senator was suffering from depression following the loss of a son. Beckham remained quite relevant to the politics of the time, offering his support to A. B. "Happy" Chandler, who was elected governor in 1935. Governor Chandler appointed the former senator to Kentucky's Public Service Commission, but Beckham had a bigger goal in mind. J. C. W. Beckham was looking toward Senator Marvel M. Logan's seat in the U.S. Senate.

The 67-year-old former senator entered the Democratic primary, but the senatorial campaign became a chaotic affair when Congressman John Y. Brown announced his own candidacy for Logan's seat. Brown spent much of the campaign denouncing Governor Chandler as an "ingrate," supposedly because the chief executive had earlier promised to support his senatorial candidacy if the congressman backed "Happy" for the governorship. Brown demanded that the governor meet him in a debate. Instead, Governor Chandler took to the stump to defend himself and hotly replied that John Y. Brown was the ingrate and ticked off every favor he had done for the congressman.

Congressman John Y. Brown was angry because Governor A. B. Chandler was openly backing J. C. W. Beckham in the Democratic primary. Chandler promised that if Kentucky Democrats would nominate Beckham, "together we will fulfill the destinies of Kentucky."

Incumbent Marvel Logan merely campaigned hard and tried to wrap the mantle of President Roosevelt and the New Deal around himself as tightly as possible. That was enough for Senator Logan to eke out the narrowest of victories. Logan won 181,311 votes to 178,926 for Beckham, a difference of 2,385 ballots. John Y. Brown may well have kept Beckham from winning by siphoning off more than 85,000 votes.

John C. W. Beckham suffered a stroke in August 1939 that partially paralyzed him and he never recovered. The 71-year-old former governor and senator died at his home on January 9, 1940.

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Come worship with us

**New Beverly Baptist Church**

3320 New Beverly Church Rd.  
Knoxville, TN 37918  
Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Pastor  
www.newbeverly.org  
856-546-0001

Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening Youth 7:00 p.m.  
Bus Ministry -  
For transportation call 546-0001



# FORECLOSURE NOTICES

## NOTICE OF SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Friday, July 18, 2025, 10:00 a.m., at the front entrance of the Knoxville City County Building located at 400 West Main Street in Knoxville, Tennessee 37902, The Colony Village Association, Inc. (the "Association") will sell to the highest and best bidder, on a credit of six (6) months, in bar of any right of redemption, the following described property, which is located in Knoxville, Tennessee, to wit:

Situated in District No. Six (6) of Knox County, Tennessee, and without the corporate limits of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, being known and designated as all of Lot 26, of The Colonies Subdivision, Unit 11, as the same appears of record in Map Cabinet P, Slide 164D and 165A, in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee, to wit: The Colony Village Association, Inc v. Matthew Hensley and Michelle W. Hensley, by Warranty Deed from Patricia S. Watkins, dated February 28, 2008, and received for recording on February 29, 2008, and also filed as Instrument No. 200802290064847 in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee. The street address of the above-described property is 8926 Natures Pond Way Knoxville, Tennessee 37923.

This sale is being conducted pursuant to the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, 35-5-101, et seq., and as directed by the Default Judgment and Order of Sale entered against Defendants, Matthew Hensley and Michelle W. Hensley in the following case before the Chancery Court for Knox County, Tennessee, to wit: The Colony Village Association, Inc v. Matthew Hensley and Michelle W. Hensley et al. (the "Defendants"), Docket No. 196944-2. Said Default Judgment and Order of Sale was duly recorded as Instrument No. 20250310046830 with the Knox County, Tennessee Register of Deeds.

The sale of the described tract of property will be conducted subject to any unpaid real property taxes and to any other rights, restrictions, reservations, conditions, charges, easements, liens, and encumbrances of whatsoever nature having statutory or lien priority with respect to the claims of the Association. All proceeds of each said sale shall be applied as directed by the Default Judgment and Order of Sale identified above.

The undersigned is aware of no lien claims of the State of Tennessee relating to the described tract of property required to be identified by T.C.A. § 35-5-104. The undersigned is aware of no lien claims of the United States relating to the described tract of property required to be identified by T.C.A. § 35-5-104. The Association and the above-named Defendant has an interest in the described property.

**Other interested parties:** none known.

Except as otherwise provided in the identified Default Judgment and Order of Sale, the sale will be made to the highest and best bidder in bar of any right of redemption in favor of the Defendant or the Defendant's creditors, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 21-1-803 and 66-8-101, for a ten percent (10%) down payment at the close of bidding, and the balance evidenced by a Promissory Note of the purchaser, due and payable six (6) months after the confirmation of said sale, bearing interest at the legal rate from the confirmation date until paid in full. The form of the Promissory Note may be inspected on the date of the sale immediately prior to the sale. The Association may submit a credit bid for the property being sold as set forth in the Order of Sale.

The title to be conveyed at such sale shall be only such title which the Association may convey pursuant to the terms of the identified Default Judgment and Order of Sale or at law or in equity, with no further representations or warranties of any nature whatsoever. The right is reserved to adjourn the day of sale to another day certain without further publication and in accordance with applicable law upon announcement of such adjournment on the day and at the time and place set forth above. In the event the high bidder at any sale shall fail to comply with the submitted bid, the Association shall have the option of accepting the next highest bid in which the bidder is able to comply or re-advertising and selling the property at a second sale.

**HAMILTON HOUSE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION**  
By: /s/ Kevin C. Stevens  
Kevin C. Stevens  
P.O. Box 442  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37901  
(865) 546-7311

*Publication Dates: June 30, 2025; July 7, 2025; July 14, 2025*

Honorable Chancellor Jim Ripley at the Sevier County Chancery Court, located at 125 Court Avenue, Sevierville, Tennessee 37862, and action shall be taken by this Honorable Court to defend the Respondent, and enter Judgment in favor of the Petitioners, and that Judgment in favor of the Petitioners will result in the termination of the Respondent's parental rights and the adoption of the minor-child, L.T.J. in accordance with a separately filed Petition to Terminate Parental Rights for the Adoption.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks: 6/23, 6/30, 7/7, & 7/14/2025.

This 5th day of June, 2025.

Rylee G. Munson  
Clerk and Master  
Sevier County, TN

## NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: JODY L. BENNETT, RESPONDENT**

**IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF: PAYTON BRADLEE BENNETT, D.O.B.: 10/16/2006**  
**ELIJAH LIND BENNETT, D.O.B.: 12/08/2009**  
Children Under Eighteen (18) Years of Age

**BY: JESSICA LYNN BARTLETT, and DUSTIN MICHAEL BARTLETT, PETITIONERS**  
vs.  
**JODY L. BENNETT, RESPONDENT**

**CASE NO. 7547**  
IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, TENNESSEE AT MAYNARDVILLE

IN THIS CAUSE, it appearing from the Order of Publication, that the residence of the Respondent, JODY L. BENNETT, is unknown and cannot be ascertained upon diligent inquiry, it was ordered that publication be made for four (4) successive weeks in The Knoxville Focus newspaper, to notify the Respondent, JODY L. BENNETT, to file an ANSWER with this Court and send a copy to Petitioner's attorney, Darrick L. Edmondson, whose address is: Edmondson & Edmondson, Post Office Box 789, Maynardville, Tennessee 37807, within 30 days from the last date of publication, exclusive of the last day of publication, or a judgment by default may be entered against Respondent. Failure to appear may result in the termination of Respondent's parental rights to the above-named minor children. This cause is set for hearing before this Court on July 21, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., to provide said Respondent with an opportunity to appear and defend.

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

This the 28th day of APRIL, 2025.

Sandra Edmondson  
Clerk and Master

## COURT NOTICES

## NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: TRACY K. ALLEN and CHRISTIE W. KIRKLEN**

**IN RE: DANIEL CROWE V. TRACY K. ALLEN and CHRISTIE W. KIRKLEN**

**NO. 210811-3**  
IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendants TRACY K. ALLEN and CHRISTIE W. KIRKLEN, non-resident(s) of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon TRACY K. ALLEN and CHRISTIE W. KIRKLEN, it is ordered that said defendants, TRACY K. ALLEN and CHRISTIE W. KIRKLEN, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Daniel Crowe, whose address is 1556 Tsuga Drive, Alcoa, TN 37701 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing ExParte as to you before Chancellor Christopher D. Heagerty at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division II, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

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

This 12th day of June, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold  
Clerk and Master

## SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

**TO: JAMES PRYOR, JR., Respondents**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF JACQUELINE PRYOR, Deceased**

**STATE OF TENNESSEE, DIVISION OF TENNCARE, Petitioner**  
v.  
**MARY PRYOR, JAMES PRYOR, JR. Respondents**

**IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY TENNESSEE**  
NO. 88388-1  
TO: James Pryor, Jr.  
IT IS ORDERED that said Respondent, James Pryor, Jr., file an answer with the Clerk of the Probate Court at Knox County, Tennessee and with Matt Jarboe, an Attorney whose address is 310 Great Circle Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37243, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication. Failure to do so may result in the case proceeding without you and an Order may be entered against you without further notice.

ORDER ENTERED March 12, 2025, by John F. Weaver, Chancellor

Published in The Knoxville Focus for four consecutive weeks - 6/23, 6/30, 7/7, and 7/14/2025.

## NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

**TO: JAMAL LASEAN JOHNSON, Respondent / Biological Father**

**IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF A MALE CHILD, L.T.J. (DOB: 01/03/2011)**

**JUANITA FAYE JOHNSON, Petitioner / Mother, and CHRISTOPHER JAMAR JOHNSON, Petitioner / Stepfather**  
v.  
**JAMAL LASEAN JOHNSON, Respondent / Biological Father**

**DOCKET NO. 24-9-187**  
IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR SEVIER COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, JAMAL LASEAN JOHNSON, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose current whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon JAMAL LASEAN JOHNSON, it is ordered that said defendant, JAMAL LASEAN JOHNSON, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Sevier County, Tennessee and with Petitioners' Counsel, Brennan P. Lenihan, an Attorney whose address is 200 Prosperity Drive, Suite 216, Knoxville, TN 37923, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice or a hearing will be set for this cause before the

and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 6 day of JUNE, 2025.

**ESTATE OF ROBERT BREUER**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
MATTHEW SCOTT BREUER, EXECUTOR  
203 DOGWOOD LANE  
JACKSBORO, TN 37757

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF TONY WAYNE BROYLES, JR. DOCKET NUMBER 90841-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 20 day of MAY, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of TONY WAYNE BROYLES, JR., who died Dec. 31, 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 20 day of MAY, 2025.

**ESTATE OF TONY WAYNE BROYLES, JR.**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
DALE CLIFTON, ADMINISTRATOR  
9401 SARASOTA DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF DAVID WAYNE DOUGLAS DOCKET NUMBER 90926-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of JUNE, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of DAVID WAYNE DOUGLAS, who died January 6, 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 13th day of JUNE, 2025.

**ESTATE OF DAVID WAYNE DOUGLAS**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
BEVERLY E. DOUGLAS, ADMINISTRATOR  
511 WINDSOR SPRINGS LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37914

**JAMES T. NORMAND, ATTORNEY**  
P. O. BOX 6197  
OAK RIDGE, TN 37831

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JOHN LELAND DUGGER DOCKET NUMBER 91016-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of JUNE, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOHN LELAND DUGGER, who died February 20, 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 13th day of JUNE, 2025.

**ESTATE OF JOHN LELAND DUGGER**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
MARK DUGGER  
1502 NORTH CAMPBELL STATION RD.  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37932

**EDDY R. SMITH, ATTORNEY**  
ADAM B. McDONALD, ATTORNEY  
4TH FLOOR, BANK OF AMERICA BLDG.  
P. O. BOX 442  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901-0442

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF WANDA GAIL GREEN, a/k/a WANDA GAIL GREENE DOCKET NUMBER 90812-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of JUNE, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration) in respect of the Estate of WANDA GAIL GREEN, a/k/a WANDA GAIL GREENE,

who died on March 11, 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 prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication described in (1) (A); 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 13th day of JUNE, 2025.

**ESTATE OF WANDA GAIL GREEN**  
a/k/a WANDA GAIL GREENE

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
WANESHA GREENE  
1031 DUNHILL WAY, APT. 605  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

**RODNEY GREENE**  
5109 DEWINE CIRCLE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

**KENNETH W. HOLBERT, ATTORNEY**  
402 CLYDE STREET  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF CLYDE RAYMOND HOLMES DOCKET NUMBER 90447-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 17 day of JUNE, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of CLYDE RAYMOND HOLMES, who died on December 14, 2024 were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 17 day of JUNE, 2025.

**ESTATE OF CLYDE RAYMOND HOLMES**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
JAMES MICHAEL HOLMES  
PATRICK EDWARD HOLMES

**CHARLES H. CHILD, ATTORNEY**  
116 AGNES ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF AMELIA D. KEASLING DOCKET NUMBER 90826-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of JUNE, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the estate of AMELIA D. KEASLING, who died on February 11, 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 at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or

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

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

This the 13th day of JUNE, 2025.

**ESTATE OF AMELIA D. KEASLING**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES**  
LANCE K. ADKINS  
15 MARKET ST.  
EDGEWOOD, NM 87015

**ALAN D. ADKINS**  
6869 BRIDGEWATER DR.  
NASHVILLE, TN 37221

**TAYLOR A. WILLIAMS, ATTORNEY**  
MATTHEW P. HUBBS, ATTORNEY  
900 SOUTH GAY STREET, SUITE 2200  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JEFFREY RALPH MEREDITH DOCKET NUMBER 90952-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 16th day of JUNE, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of JEFFREY RALPH MEREDITH, who died on the 11th day of March, 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 16th day of JUNE, 2025.

**ESTATE OF JEFFREY RALPH MEREDITH**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
CASEY J. MEREDITH  
12305 BUTTERNUT CIRCLE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

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

**K. RAY PINKSTAFF, ATTORNEY**  
P. O. BOX 31408  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF PATRICIA ANN MORRIS DOCKET NUMBER 91014-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 17th day of JUNE, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of PATRICIA ANN MORRIS, who died March 31, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee Probate Division. 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 abovenamed court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the Notice To Creditor 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 17th day of JUNE, 2025.

**ESTATE OF PATRICIA ANN MORRIS**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
JOHN K. MORRIS, EXECUTOR  
12731 MELTON LAKE WAY  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37932

**PATRICK R. MCKENRICK, ATTORNEY**  
1019 ORCHID DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF RITA ANN PATTERSON DOCKET NUMBER 90857-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of JUNE, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of RITA ANN PATTERSON, who died February 24, 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 13th day of JUNE, 2025.

**ESTATE OF RITA ANN PATTERSON**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
MICHAEL JOSEPH PATTERSON

**STUART I. CASSELL, ATTORNEY**  
707 MARKET STREET, SUITE 1  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF STACEY DAWN SIEVERS DOCKET NUMBER 91012-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of JUNE, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate OF STACEY DAWN SIEVERS, deceased, who died March 31, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and nonresident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same in triplicate with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in paragraphs (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 the first publication; or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of this 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 13th day of JUNE, 2025.

**ESTATE OF STACEY DAWN SIEVERS**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
ELLIOTT TAYLOR SIEVERS  
6920 GREENBROOK DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

**PHILIP R. CRYE, JR., ATTORNEY**  
125 N. MAIN STREET  
CLINTON, TN 37716

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF CHARLES E. STEPHENS DOCKET NUMBER 91017-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of JUNE, 2025, Letters Testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of CHARLES E. STEPHENS, who died on October 18, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 13th day of JUNE, 2025.

**ESTATE OF CHARLES E. STEPHENS**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
CHRISTOPHER TODD STEPHENS  
9101 GREY POINTE DR.  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922



NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF BRANDON GREGORY WHITTLE  
DOCKET NUMBER 90979-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of JUNE, 2025, Letters of Administration in respect to the Estate of BRANDON GREGORY WHITTLE, who died on April 23, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court, Probate Division of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his 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 13th day of JUNE, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF GREGORY MCGRATH CAZALET  
DOCKET NUMBER 91020-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 17 day of JUNE, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of GREGORY MCGRATH CAZALET, who died May 2, 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 17 day of JUNE, 2025.

the Estate of WILLIAM R. DINNEEN, who died on April 9, 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 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 23rd day of JUNE, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JULIA PATRICIA HARDIN  
DOCKET NUMBER 91084-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of JUNE, 2025, letters of testamentary in respect of the Estate of JULIA PATRICIA HARDIN, who died May 6, 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 23rd day of JUNE, 2025.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Knox County Commission shall receive letters and resumés/credentials from candidates seeking appointment to one (1) vacancy to serve an unfulfilled term expiring September 30, 2025 on the Knox County Sheriff's Office Employees' Merit System Board of Directors. Resumés should be submitted by mail, fax, e-mail or hand-delivered no later than ***Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 4:00 pm*** to:

Office of the Knox County Commission  
Suite 603, City County Building  
400 Main Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902  
Phone: 215-2534  
FAX: 215-2038  
E-mail: commission@knoxcounty.org

The Knox County Commission will interview candidates at the Commission Optional Agenda Review meeting on Monday, July 21, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City-County Building, 400 West Main Street.

The Commission's appointment shall be considered during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Knox County Commission on Monday, July 28, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City-County Building, 400 West Main Street.

The following provisions apply in accordance with Ordinance 0-22-6-103:

- Membership is completely voluntary, and members will receive no compensation for their service.
- The board meets quarterly, unless a special-called meeting is held.
- Applicants must be over 21 years of age; of good moral character; a citizen of the United States and the State of Tennessee; and a resident of Knox County.
- No person shall be eligible to serve as a member on the Merit System Board of Directors if they have previously been employed by the Knox County Sheriff's Office department within the ten (10) calendar years preceding his/her appointment by the Commission, or if any member of such person's immediate family is or becomes employed by the Knox County Sheriff's Office or the Knoxville Police Department at any time during such person's term of service as a member of the board council. For purposes of this section, "immediate family" shall include spouse, parent, grandparent, siblings, in-laws, or children
- Members will be required to attend an Ethics training provided by the Knox County Human Resources Department, as required of all employees of Knox County.
- The County Commission finds that the actual or apparent political influence on the members of the Merit System Board is injurious to the credibility of the board and undermines its mission as an apolitical civil service system for KCSO employees. Therefore, membership on the Merit System Board shall be conditioned upon the following:
  - No person holding a position on the Merit System Board shall take an active part in any political campaign while a member of the Merit System Board.
  - No member of the Merit System Board shall solicit money for political campaigns.
  - No member of the Merit System Board shall make any public endorsement of any candidate in any campaign for elected office.
  - A member of the Merit System Board shall not use such position to reflect the member's personal political feelings as those of the Sheriff's department or to exert any pressure on anyone to influence that person's political views.
  - No member of the Merit System Board shall display any political advertising or paraphernalia on such person's body or automobile while conducting business on behalf of the Merit System Board. However, nothing in this part shall be construed to prohibit or prevent any such employee Board Member from becoming or continuing to be a member of a political club or organization and enjoying all the rights and privileges of such membership or from attending any political meetings while not on duty. Such employee Board Member shall not be denied freedom in the casting of a vote.
  - During a Merit System Board Member's term of service, should that Member take active steps toward becoming a political candidate, such member shall immediately resign from the Board of Directors.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JOHNNY NEAL ADAMS  
DOCKET NUMBER 91070-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 20 day of JUNE, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of JOHNNY NEAL ADAMS, who died May 29, 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 20 day of JUNE, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF SCHERAZANNE CHADWICK  
DOCKET NUMBER 90960-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of JUNE, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of SCHERAZANNE CHADWICK, who died March 27, 2025, were issued to Cynthia D. Lolis and Arnold G. Cohen 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 23rd day of JUNE, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF NAOMI OWNBY FARMER  
DOCKET NUMBER 91080-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 16 day of JUNE, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of NAOMI OWNBY FARMER, who died Dec. 3, 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 16 day of JUNE, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF CINDY COOPER INMAN  
DOCKET NUMBER 91058-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of JUNE, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of CINDY COOPER INMAN, who died April 19, 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 23rd day of JUNE, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF HYATT HOYT LANSDSELL  
DOCKET NUMBER 91131-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 18th day of JUNE, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of HYATT HOYT LANSDSELL, who died April 17, 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 18th day of JUNE, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MARK BENNETT  
DOCKET NUMBER 91061-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of JUNE, 2025, letters of administration as the case may be in respect of the Estate of MARK BENNETT, who died intestate on March 26, 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 of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least 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 23rd day of JUNE, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MARCELLUS THERIOT COLTHARP  
DOCKET NUMBER 90632-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 24th day of JUNE, 2025, Letters of Testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARCELLUS THERIOT COLTHARP, who died on the 15th day of October, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 24th day of JUNE, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MARY INEZ FRAZIER  
DOCKET NUMBER 91046-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 13 day of JUNE, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARY INEZ FRAZIER, who died April 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 the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 13 day of JUNE, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JAMES FRANKLIN JOHNSON  
DOCKET NUMBER 91007-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 24th day of JUNE, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of JAMES FRANKLIN JOHNSON, who died on March 24, 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 this 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 24th day of JUNE, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF ROBERT L. MERRYMAN  
DOCKET NUMBER 91065-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of JUNE, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of ROBERT L. MERRYMAN, who died on March 26, 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 abovenamed 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 23rd day of JUNE, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF DOROTHY JAMES BOLING  
DOCKET NUMBER 91043-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 13 day of JUNE, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of DOROTHY JAMES BOLING, who died April 1, 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 date of the publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of 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 13 day of JUNE, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF HILDA WAYNE COOPER  
DOCKET NUMBER 91088-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 13 day of JUNE, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of HILDA WAYNE COOPER, who died March 28, 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 13 day of JUNE, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF EMOGENE B. GRIFFIN,  
A/K/A MATTIE EMOGENE GRIFFIN  
DOCKET NUMBER 91052-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 24th day of JUNE, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of EMOGENE B. GRIFFIN, A/K/A MATTIE EMOGENE GRIFFIN, who died March 20, 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 abovenamed court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 24th day of JUNE, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF NARCIE KATHLEEN KELLEY  
DOCKET NUMBER 90704-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of JUNE, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of NARCIE KATHLEEN KELLEY, who died Jan. 27, 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 6 day of JUNE, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JOAN M. MOWERY  
DOCKET NUMBER 90995-1**

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

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

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

This the 17 day of JUNE, 2025.

ESTATE OF DOROTHY JAMES BOLING

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
TIMOTHY LEE WITT, CO-EXECUTOR  
7704 GROVE ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37924

EULA ANN SMITH, CO-EXECUTOR  
307 GRAHAM ROAD  
BLAINE, TN 37709

HEATHER A. QAUINN-BADER, ATTORNEY  
408 WINDHAM HILL ROAD  
FARRAGUT, TN 37934

ESTATE OF HILDA WAYNE COOPER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
TERESA GILLENWATERS, ADMINISTRATRIX  
7200 REGENCY ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WILLIAM R. DINNEEN  
DOCKET NUMBER 91047-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of JUNE, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of

ESTATE OF EMOGENE B. GRIFFIN,  
A/K/A MATTIE EMOGENE GRIFFIN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
CAROL YOAKLEY-TERRELL, EXECUTRIX  
11463 COUCH MILL ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

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

ESTATE OF JAMES FRANKLIN JOHNSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
KAREN WALLACE  
180 SWEET GRACIE LANE NW  
CLEVELAND, TN 37312

MARK E. TILLERY, ATTORNEY  
P. O. BOX 12257  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

ESTATE OF NARCIE KATHLEEN KELLEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
KAREN E. ANDERSON, ADMINISTRATRIX  
3518 SW 29th AVENUE  
CAPE CORAL, FL 33914

ESTATE OF ROBERT L. MERRYMAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ROBERT J. LANE  
5134 SW 106th WAY  
GAINESVILLE, FL 32608

BAILEY SCHIERMEYER, ATTORNEY  
PATRICIA E. CROTWELL, ATTORNEY  
P. O. BOX 3804  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37927-3804

ESTATE OF THOMAS EUGENE RAMSEY  
DOCKET NUMBER 91116-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 17 day of JUNE, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of THOMAS EUGENE RAMSEY, who died March 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 17 day of JUNE, 2025.

ESTATE OF THOMAS EUGENE RAMSEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
CHARLES RAMSEY, ADMINISTRATOR  
1013 DRIVE E  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920







# Seymour girls lacrosse team has magical 2025, makes state championship match

By Ken Lay

When high school girls lacrosse was a club sport, the Seymour Lady Eagles rose to prominence.

Now that the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association is sanctioning the sport, not much has changed --- at least in Seymour.

The Lady Eagles had another magical campaign in 2025 as they reached the Class A State Championship game with a relatively young team. Seymour lost the state title game, 13-12, to Page High School.

“We had some things go against us in that game that we couldn’t control,” Lady Eagles’ coach Patrick Doyle said. “But it was a learning experience and these girls will be back. We’re losing a few people but this team will be back.”

The majority of the team’s



The Seymour High girls lacrosse team recently ended a successful season. The Lady Eagles won 14 games and played for a state championship. Photo submitted.

top players were sophomores in 2025 and after the state championship game, the young players were eager to begin preparations for the 2026 season.

“We played our last game on May 17 and the next day, the girls

were already asking when workouts started,” Doyle said. ‘And I had to tell them that they were taking a couple of weeks off.”

The Lady Eagles were forced to take a break again as the TSSAA’s mandatory dead period, which

began on June 23 and won’t end until July 7.

“I had to make them take time off,” Doyle said, “They didn’t want to take time off, and you can’t coach that. That’s just something you can’t teach and that makes

my job easier.”

The sophomores began taking leadership roles last season and they’ve emerged as the undisputed team leaders during the summer.

“My Class of 2027 is phenomenal,” said Doyle, who guided the Lady Eagles to 14 wins this past spring. “When things weren’t going well, it was the ‘27s that helped us pull things together.

“I have a few (rising seniors) but the team leaders are the ‘27s. Those girls are the best we’ve had since the 2018 class. That was my daughter’s class and every player in that class played lacrosse in college. “It’s the ‘27s that are sending the texts telling the team and reminding them when to meet up, and it’s always a different player who’s sending the texts.”

In the state tournament, **Continue on page 2**

# TSD’s Fondren ‘just loved running’

Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame will be August 21

By Steve Williams

Forty years ago, a special athlete at Tennessee School for the Deaf not only excelled on the high school level in football, basketball and track, but twice ran on the USA Deaf Track and Field team.

Charles Fondren, a native of Memphis, was a Deaf Prep All-American running back for TSD in the fall of 1984 and also received honorable mention on the All-State team.

The following spring, Fondren earned Deaf Prep All-America honors in four track events – the 100 meters, 200, 400 and 800.

Later that year, he made the United States’ Deaf track team and competed in the 1985 World Games of the Deaf in Los Angeles and won the Gold medal in the 400 and also in the 4x400 relay plus earned

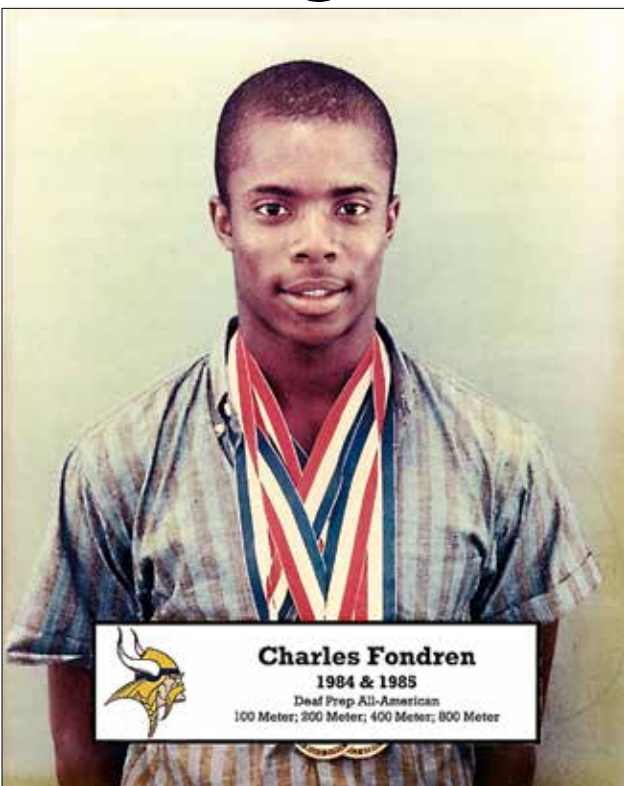
the Silver medal in the 800. His time in the 400 was 47.3.

With his high school days long behind him in 1989, Fondren made the USA team again for the World Games of the Deaf, which were held in Christchurch, New Zealand. But he had to overcome some major adversity prior to that event as he was injured when hit by a car while riding his bike to work.

His lower leg was shattered in the accident and a rod had to be put in his leg, but he still came back to make the team and won two more medals.

Fondren will be one of nine inductees into the 44th Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame this summer. The induction ceremony and reception will be held Aug. 21 at the Knoxville Convention Center.

Jeanne Fair, a longtime coach and teacher at TSD, which is in the historic Island Home Park neighborhood in South Knoxville,



Charles Fondren

still vividly remembers that track was Fondren’s love.

“Troy Haydon was the AD at the time,” said Fair, “and Troy came to us from Carson-Newman and he was a track coach. So Troy could inspire a kid early. And I remember in P.E.

class when Charles was little, Troy saying: ‘He’s going to be a runner.’ You could just tell.

“He never really was interested in anything else,” added Fair. “Of course, they wanted him to play football **Continue on page 2**



## A break at the beach!

*‘Spending quality time with my kids at Santa Rosa beach,’ said Webb School football head coach Don Mahoney Friday. Left to right are Jake, Tulia, Don and Domenic. TSSAA is in its Dead Period and some families are taking time for a vacation. The Knoxville Focus hopes to receive more vacation pictures for its July 7th issue.*



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**Cont. from page 1**  
and basketball, but he never really wanted to. He just loved running.”  
Gus Termon was TSD’s track coach, but the school didn’t have a track. So Missy Kane and Tiny would bring Fondren over to UT and work with him, Fair said.  
Others to be inducted:

**Nicky Anosike (Basketball)**

Anosike grew up in Staten Island where she attended St. Peter’s High School for Girls. She played for the Lady Vols from 2005-08 under head coach Pat Summitt and was named to the 2005 SEC All-Freshman Team. She was a member of two Tennessee national championship teams (2007-08).  
Anosike was named to the WNBA All-Rookie team in 2008 and was a 2009 WNBA All-Star. She played for the Los Angeles Sparks and the Minnesota Lynx.  
In 2018-19, Anosike returned as a graduate assistant at UT.  
Nicky became the girls’ head coach at Anderson County High School in 2020-23.  
Since then, she has been a Program Director and Athletics Director at the Girls Inc. of Tennessee Valley, which offers after-school programs in Anderson, Blount and Knox counties.

**Adam Brock (Tennis)**

Brock was a four-year letter winner at the University of Virginia and the No. 1 singles player his senior year in 1980.  
He competed on the European Satellite Pro Circuit (ATP Minor Leagues), reaching a career high world ranking of 650.

**Bryan Brown (Coaching)**

During his 14-year tenure at Hardin Valley Academy,

Brown guided programs to 13 state championships in cross country, indoor track & field, and outdoor track & field.  
Bryan now serves as System Athletic Director for Knox County Schools.

**Ken Johnson (Football)**

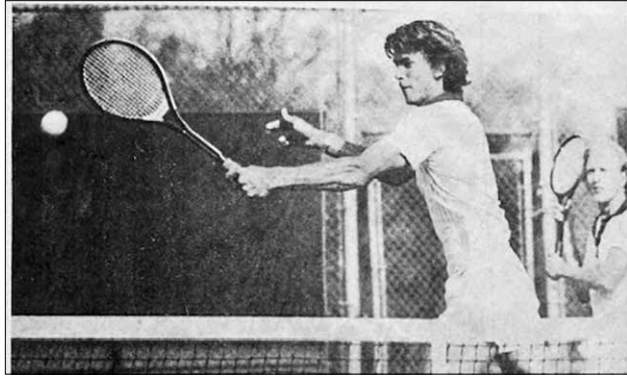
The former NFL defensive end was known for his strength, durability and impact on the field.  
Johnson was a Knoxville College standout and played six seasons with the Buffalo Bills (1979-84) and his pro career extended into the 1987 season with the Kansas City Chiefs during the league’s strike-shortened season.

**Conchita Owenby (Athletic Director)**

A trailblazer in athletics and education, she had a lot of “firsts” in her career.  
Owenby was the first woman to receive a full athletic scholarship at Carson-Newman. She also was the first person in TSSAA to receive the A.F. Bridges Coach of the Year and AD of the Year awards.  
Conchita’s career included four decades in the Sevier County School system.

**Dr. Jerry Punch (Media)**

According to Google, Dr. Punch is currently working part-time in sports broadcasting while also working full-time as a physician in clinical trials. He continues to do some broadcasting for ESPN, including college football sideline reporting. He is also involved in clinical trials, testing new drugs and hoping to make a difference in people’s lives according to his X (formerly Twitter) account.  
Dr. Punch can be heard on the Sports Animal’s Tyler and Will Show on Tuesdays.



**TOP:** Athletic Director Conchita Owenby. **ABOVE:** Tennis star Adam Brock. **RIGHT:** Coach Bryan Brown.



**Frankie Randall (Boxing)**

The 3-time world champion lightweight and junior welterweight is being honored posthumously. He passed away on Dec. 23, 2020 at the age of 59.  
One of the biggest wins in Randall’s career, if not the biggest, came when he handed Julio Cesar Chavez his first loss in 91 fights in 1994.

**Gary Toulson (Golf)**

At age 26 in 1967, Toulson became the head

professional at Cherokee Country Club and held that position for 34 years.  
He was the PGA Knoxville Open winner in 1991.  
The PGA, Tennessee Section, also honored Gary with the Distinguished Career Award in 2006.



**Nicky Anosike and her twins, Cheluchi and Chiemezie.**

**TOP RIGHT:** Broadcaster Dr. Jerry Punch. **ABOVE:** Golfer Gary Toulson. **LEFT:** Boxer Frankie Randall.

## Seymour girls lacrosse team has magical 2025

**Cont. from page 1**  
Seymour routed William Blount, 22-5, and knocked off Gatlinburg-Pittman, 16-7.  
Senior attacker Emma Rose Nault was one of the area’s most potent offensive players as she finished the campaign with 42 goals and 35 assists. She also totaled 45 ground balls, 43 draw controls and forced 10 turnovers en route to

earning All-Region 1-A and all-state honors.  
Sophomore midfielder Addy Clark was an all-region and all-state standout as she amassed 40 goals, seven assists, 25 ground balls and 55 draw controls. She also forced 13 turnovers.  
Senior Savanna Grosche and sophomores Mercy Harrell and Eleanor Berelsman were also key

field players in Seymour’s state tournament run.  
Sophomore goalkeeper Loralie White received All-America honors from USA Lacrosse.  
“She was our first All-American,” Doyle said of White, who had a .578 save percentage and recorded 154 saves. “She is just phenomenal.”  
The 2025 season was a big one for the Lady

Eagles but Seymour has always been a competitive lacrosse team. With the TSSAA now sanctioning the sport, a few things have changed.  
“It’s a little different and you have some more restrictions,” Doyle said. “I think the Tennessee Girls Lacrosse Association did a good job, but I think it was time for the TSSAA to step in and take it over.

“Now the sport is getting support from the schools and the sport is more in the mainstream. When we first started this about 15 years ago, nobody really knew what we were doing. We probably didn’t even know what we were doing and people called (lacrosse sticks) rackets.”  
A family affair: Doyle has coached Seymour girls lacrosse since its inception

and one of the top players in program history is his daughter, Ryann Doyle Benson. She graduated in 2018 and is one of only three female lacrosse players in Tennessee to amass 500 points.  
“My daughter is now married and she’s my assistant coach,” Doyle said.

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# 'A sackful of gimmicks'

## 'And a burning desire to succeed'

**AUTHOR'S NOTE FOR PERSPECTIVE:** This story was first written on June 12, 2007, after news broke a day earlier that Ray Mears (Nov. 8, 1926-June 11, 2007) had died in Knoxville. Much like Elvis and Col. Parker, Mears and Vol broadcaster John Ward were indeed kindred spirits. They brought excitement to Tennessee basketball at the Armory Fieldhouse and Stokely Center and made Tennessee basketball a "can't miss" proposition. The Vols were 4-19 in 1961-62 before Mears arrived in Knoxville. The Mears Era finished in 1976-77 with a 22-6 record and three SEC titles overall. Even though it's been more than 18 years since Ray died, memories of his tenure cast a long shadow over Big Orange Country. There are times a man defines the moment and the moment defines the man. That man was Ray Mears.

ONE MAN'S THOUGHTS ON THE LIFE AND TIMES OF RAY MEARS: When the news came of Ray Mears' death June 11, 2007, it brought Ray's tenure at Tennessee into clear perspective. Mears rolled into town in the spring of 1962, a few months past his 35th birthday, fresh off a national championship a year earlier at Wittenberg (Ohio) College. He brought

a sackful of gimmicks and a burning desire to succeed. When he arrived, the Vols were playing in the rarely filled 7,500-seat Armory Fieldhouse. Four years later, the Vols opened the 12,700-seat Stokely Athletics Center, an expanded version of the Armory. The success of the Mears program ultimately led to the reality of Thompson-Boling Arena. Ray Mears had an indomitable spirit. There wouldn't be the appellation "Big Orange Country" without his promotional genius. Vol hoops were a "happening," becoming the hottest ticket in town.

Mears pioneered the "Long Walk" at Vanderbilt, coming from the dressing room to the team bench during a second half timeout in a late 1960s freshman game. His appearance enraged Vanderbilt partisans and thus inspired the Vol rookies, who caught fire and came from behind to win that night, as did the varsity.

In his coaching career at Tennessee, Mears had his own brand of "Memorial Magic." Mears' teams were 20-10 against the Commodores, 9-6 in Memorial Gym, to go with an 11-4 mark in Knoxville. The Vols swept Kentucky in that first season and went on to play Adolph Rupp and Joe B. Hall to a 15-15 deadlock. Led by New Yorkers Ernie Grunfeld and Bernard King, the Vols won their last contest at Memorial Coliseum and their first at Rupp Arena, winning five of the last six

games in the series overall. Mears showed up at Knoxville's Holston High School one night in the winter of 1965 to watch future Vols Jim England and Fulton High's Billy Justus square off before a packed house. There wasn't a seat to be had, but when Mears entered, wearing an orange blazer, the waters parted, and he found a seat in the Holston student section. The man knew how to make an entrance. At home games, the Vols were introduced with the house lights dimmed, a spotlight focused on a large Big Orange "T." There was a special section called the "Orange Tie Club." The Vols performed pre-game warm-ups to the strains of "Sweet Georgia Brown." Little-used players such as Roger Peltz and Bill Seale juggled basketballs while riding unicycles. There were life-size pictures of the Vol players in the ticket lobby. The pep band marched around - yes, around - the playing floor when it made its pre-game entrance into the arena.

Mears' 1965-66 Tennessee team inflicted a regular-season ending 69-62 loss on a previously undefeated Kentucky team known as "Rupp's Runts." The game was played a week after the two teams had played in Lexington. Mears had shown up in a brown suit, Rupp's trademark game attire. Only much later did anyone find out how Mears' attire had enraged the "Baron



Winners all (L-R): Head coaches (L-R) Chuck Rohe, Doug Dickey, and Ray Mears.

of the Bluegrass." The two became close friends later in Rupp's career. Mears led the Vols to the SEC title a year later, rolling the dice with senior Ron Widby, junior Tom Hendrix, sophomore guards Billy Hann and Justus, and an untested junior post player from Independence, Ohio, 7-0 Tom Boerwinkle. It was Ray's best coaching job, and that's saying a great deal.

Mears gradually changed from his deliberate, defense-oriented style to a run-and-gun attack that saw the Vols' points per game average rise each year. The night of Feb. 15, 1975, Tennessee and Kentucky played one of the all-time classic games at Stokely Center. Tennessee won 103-98. Stokely Center had never been louder. You can get in a lot of

trouble comparing coaches across the generations, but suffice it to say that when the definitive history of University of Tennessee basketball is written, the name of Ramon Asa Mears will be near the top of the list for what he accomplished when his name was called. Give Mears credit for putting the "Big" and the "Orange" in "Big Orange Country."

## Three coaches lead The Knoxville Focus All-County Soccer Team

By Ken Lay

The 2025 boys high school soccer season was a historic one for Knox County teams. Grace Christian Academy made its first-ever trip to the Division II-A state semifinals and came home with a state championship plaque. Hardin Valley Academy won its second Class 3A state championship. Fulton made the Class 2A state tournament field for the first time in program history. Bearden made another trip to Spring Fling. The Bulldogs, however, were eliminated by the Hawks in the quarterfinals. South-Doyle, which won the Class 2A state title in 2024, was the runner-up in Murfreesboro in 2025. The Knoxville Focus takes one last look at the recently completed campaign and honors the accomplishments of some of the top players and coaches on its all-county team.

**Co-Coach of the Year: Ray Dover, Hardin Valley Academy:** Under Dover's direction, the Hawks won their second state championship in school history, and their first since 2011. Hardin Valley was also the Region 2-3A champion. The Hawks won all three of their state tournament matches in thrilling fashion as they defeated district rival Bearden (3-2) in the opening round before edging Hendersonville (1-0) and Bartlett (4-3). They also defeated Bearden to win the region title.

**Co-Coach of the Year: Isaac Brooks, Grace Christian Academy:** Brooks guided the Rams to a state championship in their first trip to Spring Fling in Murfreesboro. Grace went 17-1, suffering its only loss of the 2025 campaign to Chattanooga Christian School. The Rams won 15 consecutive matches on their way to earning a state championship plaque. They defeated Webb School of Bell Buckle in the state title match.

**Co-Coach of the Year: Austin Clow, Fulton High School:** Clow guided the Falcons to the Class 2A state tournament for the first time in school history. Fulton, which lost to 2024 state champion South-Doyle, won both the District 3-2A regular-season title and tournament championship. They won the region tournament on a penalty kick shootout. Fulton won its first state tournament match when it outlasted Crockett County, 4-3, in the quarterfinals.

**Co-Player of the Year:** Ben Brophy, Hardin Valley

*Continue on page 4*

# USA North 2008 girls win Southern Presidents Cup in Texas

By Ken Lay

A local youth girls soccer club will have the opportunity to compete in the national championships. The USA North 2008 girls soccer team recently won the 2025 US Youth Soccer Southern Presidents Cup in Plano, Texas. The region title netted the team, which features players from Knox, Anderson and Blount counties, a trip to the upcoming national tournament in Tampa, Florida. The event will be held July 11-15. USA North claimed the regional championship with a 2-1 victory over Bayou Football Club from Louisiana, after opening a 2-0 lead. Piper Scarbrough scored both of the team's goals in the title match. USA North advanced to the finals with a dramatic 2-1 overtime win over Alabama FC. Avery Smith (Powell) scored the game-winning goal late in overtime.

"We were tied, 1-1, at the end of regulation and then we played two 15-minute overtime periods," said USA North coach Daniel Scarbrough. "And we scored in like the 114th minute. "So we were tied at the end of regulation and through the first 15 minutes of overtime and through the next 10 minutes of overtime." USA North is one of East Tennessee's small clubs and they went to the Lone Star State with just 15 of its players. "We're a small club and we started in North Knoxville and now, we have players from all over," Coach Scarbrough said. "And for us to compete at the regional level is just amazing. "We only took 15 players down there and that wasn't our full starting lineup and then we had two girls who had to leave early, so we finished with 13 players.

I'm beyond proud of these ladies. They battled, dug deep, and gave it their all in every game. This is a true Cinderella story - and they've represented Knoxville and the state of Tennessee with heart and grit." USA North opened tournament play on Friday, June 13, and went undefeated in pool play, posting shut-outs in all three of its pool matches and outscoring its opponents, 9-0. In its first pool game, the club defeated St. Cloud Soccer Club (Florida), 1-0. The club followed that win with a pair of 4-0 victories over Southern Miss

Soccer Club and NC Youth Football Club. Goalkeeper Ella Eakins (Bearden) recorded three clean sheets in pool competition. Offensively, Lilah Kim (Oak Ridge) scored three markers in pool play, while MJ Brooks (Clayton-Bradley Academy) and Anna Sanchez (Powell) scored two goals each in the first three games. Farragut High athlete Carina Plawchan, playing center back, was the anchor for a back line that allowed just two goals in five regional tournament games.



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# ENCORE!



## HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS IN 2024-25

<b>ROW 1</b> Tymirrianna "ReRe" Brown, Austin-East Myles Crayton, Austin-East Evan Cope, Bearden Kendall Anne Murphy, Bearden Abbie DeFoe, Berean Christian Josh Myers, Berean Christian Maggie Frana, Catholic Keegan Smith, Catholic	<b>ROW 3</b> Laynee Farris, First Baptist Academy Jack Whitaker, First Baptist Academy Derrick Smith, Fulton Dee Williams, Fulton Malyiah Smith, Gibbs Zack Turner, Gibbs Nya Burns, Grace Christian Academy Weston Edmonson, Grace Christian Academy	<b>ROW 5</b> Lucas Mayes, Powell Sifa Morgan, Powell Sam Mize, Seymour Ellie Underwood, Seymour Jonah Mitchell, South-Doyle Cloey Wade, South-Doyle Mason Little, Tennessee School for the Deaf Shequita Morris, Tennessee School for the Deaf
<b>ROW 2</b> Ward Sterchi, Christian Academy of Knoxville Larkin Bristow, Christian Academy of Knoxville Daniel Sackie, Central Sayler Woods, Central Esther Pattison, Concord Christian Christopher Rector, Concord Christian Evan Beeler, Farragut Elsa Morrison, Farragut	<b>ROW 4</b> Brody Foster, Halls Makaylie Hutchison, Halls Kaden Cutcher, Hardin Valley Academy Kyndra West, Hardin Valley Academy Lauren Martin, Karns Rowen Moser-Bryan, Karns Jacob Anderson, L&N STEM Academy Kaitlyn Harper, L&N STEM Academy	<b>ROW 6</b> Bella Lawson, The Kings Academy Jonah Weber, The Kings Academy Lennox Langham, Webb Jaylen Pompey, Webb Anna Claire Gibson, West Calley Holbert, West Devyn Martin, West

The Focus has enjoyed recognizing top student-athletes from area schools through our June editions. Congratulations to our high school leaders!

## Three coaches lead The Knoxville Focus All-County Soccer Team

**Cont. from page 3**

Academy: Brophy closed out his high school soccer career with a flourish as he helped lead the Hawks to a Class 3A state title in 2025. He had the game-winning goal in each of Hardin Valley's state tournament matches. He also had a hand in helping the Hawks reach 20 victories and win the Region 2-3A Tournament championship. He scored 31 goals and dished out six assists while playing in the toughest league in the state. He leaves HVA with 80 markers and as the school's leading goal scorer.

**Pedro Ungarello, Grace Christian Academy:** Ungarello, a senior midfielder, led the Rams to a 17-1 overall record and their first-ever state championship. He scored 27 goals,

dished out 17 assists, and was the Division II-AA East Region District 1 Player of the Year and the state tournament MVP. He had a goal and an assist in Grace's victory over Webb School of Bell Buckle in the championship match in Murfreesboro.

Brophy and Ungarello are joined on the team by:

**Finn Struassfogel, South-Doyle High School:** The Cherokee junior was named the District 5-AA Defender of the Year as he anchored a backline that kept opponents at bay. South-Doyle had 10 shutouts and allowed just 15 goals during the 2025 campaign. He was also an offensive threat as he amassed five goals and six assists for the Cherokees, who reached the Class 3A State Championship match

for the second consecutive season.

**Kevin Pendergrass, Halls High School:** Pendergrass totaled 11 goals and seven assists for the Red Devils, helping his team reach the Region 2-3A Tournament.

**Parker Crittenden, Halls High School:** Crittenden had nine wins for the Red Devils between the goalposts and helped Halls make a region tournament appearance.

**Joshua Palacios, Catholic High School:** The senior scored seven goals and had six assists for the Irish.

**Jack Tucker, Catholic High School:** Tucker scored eight goals for the Irish, including the lone marker of the match in Catholic's 1-0 road victory at Bearden.

**Frankie Manrod, Hardin Valley Academy:** Manrod, an all-district performer and all-region standout, had 10

goals and 14 assists. HVA was the region and state champion this season.

**Dane Hammer, Hardin Valley Academy:** The junior scored 14 goals and had 18 assists for the Hawks in 2025.

**Lincoln Unger, Farragut High School:** Unger was the District 4-3A Defensive Player of the Year for the Admirals. He scored five goals and had six assists.

**Logan Nelson, Bearden High School:** The Bulldogs' senior goalkeeper was the Most Valuable Player in both District 4-3A and Region 2-3A. He had nine shutouts and allowed just 16 goals during the season.

**Denis Reina Padilla, Fulton High School:** The senior defender was the District 3-3A Defender of the Year and helped the Falcons make their first-ever state

tournament appearance.

**Lucas Ford, Bearden High School:** An all-district and all-region standout for the Bulldogs, Ford scored 13 goals and dished out 18 assists.

**Roger Cruz, South-Doyle High School:** The junior defender scored 20 goals and had nine assists. Cruz was the District 5-2A Player of the Year. He was also a member of the all-region team.

**Cameron Harp, South-Doyle High School:** A junior forward for the Cherokees, Harp earned both all-district and all-region honors. He scored 13 goals and had 18 assists.

**Colby Stokely, Christian Academy of Knoxville:** The junior forward scored 27 goals for the Warriors and was named all-state by the Tennessee Sports Writers

Association.

**Diego Dourado, Grace Christian Academy:** The junior midfielder scored 16 goals and dished out 13 assists, leading the Rams to a state championship. He was named all-state by the TSWA.

**Carson Lee, Grace Christian Academy:** The defender anchored a back line for Grace that posted 11 shutouts. He was an all-state selection by the TSWA.

**Felipe Evans, Grace Christian Academy:** A forward for the Rams, Evans scored 20 goals and had 15 assists in 2025.

**Yefri Banegas Sosa, Fulton High School:** The senior midfielder had nine goals and nine assists, leading the Falcons to a district title, region championship and a state tournament appearance in 2025.