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Greenways and streets to get some city attention

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The Knoxville City Council meets Tuesday evening, and improvements to greenways, streetscapes and city streets will get some discussion.

Among those items is a \$2.5 million contract with Stansell Electric Company,

Inc., for the Middlebrook Pike Advanced Traffic Management System Project.

The Pleasant Ridge Road Phase II Project may also get \$17.6 million in a contract with Charles Blalock & Sons, Inc. The council will also consider upping the First Creek Greenway - Broadway Streetscape Project by adding \$6.2

million, bringing the total allocated for the project to \$1,245,019.

Geosyntec Consultants Inc. may be contracted in a \$357,716 agreement to provide engineering services for the Loves Creek Hydrology Study - Phase II.

The Pleasant Ridge Road Phase II Project may see a \$1.2 million contract

with Johnson Mirmiran & Thompson for engineering and inspection services.

Also on the agenda are two items dealing with special event flagging and traffic control, one for Superior Traffic Control LLC and one with AWP Inc.

Several zoning requests are also on the agenda, including a request to

change 4423 Ball Camp Pike from RN-1, single-family, to RN-3, general residential.

The council is being asked to remove a previously approved zoning for 2727 Tecoma Drive, change the zoning at Zero Keck Road from agricultural to single-family residential, and change the zoning

at 3309 Boyds Bridge Pike from low-density residential to medium-density density.

Mayor Indya Kincannon will appoint Markus Chady to the Airport Authority, and Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie will appoint Craig Pickett Jr. and Shante Southwood to the African American Equity Restoration Task Force.

MAKING A SPLASH

Mermaids swimming daily at
Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies



Mermaids have started swimming daily at Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies. Guests can experience the underwater world of mermaids as they swim with tropical fish in Coral Reef at the Aquarium. The mermaids will be performing daily at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. daily through Labor Day. Breakfast with the mermaids is available by making advance reservations. For information: call 888-240-1358 or see us on the web at www.ripleysaquariumofthesmokies.com.

New Juvenile Service Center Board to meet July 17

By Mike Steely
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The new Juvenile Service Center Board of Directors is to meet at noon, Thursday, July 17, in the juvenile courtroom. It's the first meeting of the new board and comes after some partisan fighting among commission members.

After much debate, the Knox County Commission chose the four positions allotted to them. The discussion drew charges that the new board members contained too many Democrats.

District 9 Commissioner Andy Fox put forward District 7's Rhonda Lee's name for one of the commissioner slots on the board. Lee questioned why two Democrats, Damon Rawls and Shane Jackson, were chosen to join Republicans Terry Hill and Larsen Jay on the board.

Chairwoman Gina Oster, a Republican, said she was recommending the four to "try to be non-political" and have a diverse board. Lee said the county isn't 50-50 in local politics, and the board should have three Republicans

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Junior Commission Youth Civics Education Program receives national award

A Knox County program designed to get high school students interested, educated and aware of local government recently won a national award from one of the most prestigious county government associations.

The Knox County Commission's Junior Commission Youth Civics Education Program has received a 2025 National Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The NACo awards program recognizes innovative county government initiatives in 18 categories covering a wide spectrum of county responsibilities. The Junior Commission program was honorably selected under the Civics Education category. NACo represents the interests of America's counties and local governments by advocating for county priorities and providing resources and education to local elected leaders. With a membership of thousands of county elected and professional officials, NACo unites leaders from across the country to shape national policies, share best practices and strengthen counties for a stronger America.

"Knox County Commissioners believe that community engagement and civic education are vitally important to a healthy republic and functioning democracy," said Junior



Commissioner founder and program co-chair Commissioner Larsen Jay (At-Large, Seat 10), "And it's a proud moment when Knox County helps lead the way in local government civics education because our youth are more engaged and informed citizens at a much younger age."

Since 2022, the Junior Commission Youth Civics Education Program has been open to Knox County high school juniors and seniors enrolled in a full-time public, private or accredited home schools. Participants learn the functions of their local government and further develop healthy citizenry habits while promoting the importance of community engagement and public service.

"Already, we've seen these bright, young high school students elevate the role of public service from the knowledge, engagement, and dedication they experienced through the program," added Jay, "I have no

doubt that one day, one of our Junior Commissioners will decide to run for office and serve their community."

Program co-chair, Commissioner Courtney Durrett (District 2) stated, "I am very excited that our Junior Commissioner program is being recognized on a national stage. This award is an incredible honor and validates the hard work of our students, the support of our community, and the importance of investing in civic education at the local level."

Each of the 11 Knox County Commissioners chooses one student from the submitted applications each fall. Junior Commissioners serve alongside their Knox County Commissioners and participate in unique programming over a three-month period beginning in January, including attending an orientation session, attending work sessions, commission meetings, and zoning meetings, and going on experiential field trips.

The students also join their elected representatives at a community public event and learn hands-on governing in a mock session where they serve as the official commissioners of the Junior Commission.

Applications being accepted for Knox Merit Board

By Mike Steely
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Christopher Manning was selected three years ago to chair the Knox County Sheriff's Office Employees' Merit System Board. Kenny Boatman currently serves as vice chairman and members include Clarence Vaughn, Lindsey Willis, Brock Goetz, Michael Crichton and Dan Johnson.

The merit board office confirmed last week that Manning is leaving the board, creating a vacancy.

On Monday, July 21, the

Knox County Commission meets in its 3 p.m. afternoon agenda session and will hear from the applicants seeking to replace Manning. People interested in serving on that board, which reviews complaints from KCSO employees, are encouraged to apply. Resumes may be emailed, mailed, faxed or hand-delivered to the county commission office no later than Wednesday, June 16.

The commission may vote on a replacement in its regular meeting on July 28.

Continue on page 4

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The Way Most Americans Feel About Foreign Wars

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.
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When I was in Congress, the least popular, least respected members were the biggest publicity seekers – the ones who were the first and quickest to run to the cameras. They were not regarded as serious legislators. Thus, I have not been a big fan of Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene. However, several days ago, she wrote some words on her X account which I think express the feelings and frustrations of the overwhelming majority of Americans. The following are her words:

"I'm 51 years old. I'm GenX.

"I've watched our country go to war in foreign

lands for foreign causes on behalf of foreign interests for as long as I can remember. I was in 10th grade when Desert Storm started and my father before me was sent to Vietnam, another senseless foreign war.

"America is \$37 TRILLION in debt and all of these foreign wars have cost Americans TRILLIONS AND TRILLIONS of dollars that never benefited any American.

"American troops have been killed and forever torn apart physically and mentally for regime change, foreign wars, and for military industrial base profits.

"I'm sick of it.

"I can easily say I support nuclear armed Israel's right to defend themselves and also say at the same time I don't want to fight or fund nuclear armed Israel's wars.

"Nor any other country for that matter.

"I'm sick of funding foreign aid and foreign countries and foreign everything.

"I want to fund American interests and issues.

"I want GREAT trade deals so American businesses and people can afford goods and be successful.

"I want low inflation and low interest rates.

"I want American construction, housing, and manufacturing to BOOM.

"I want Americans to be rich and have security in their future.

"I want my children's generation to HAVE A GREAT FUTURE!!!

"My kids are 22, 25, and 27.

"It pisses me off beyond comprehension that my children's generation can't afford to buy a house, can't afford insurance, and have little hope for their future!!!

"Americans are exhausted by all of this and rightfully so.

"I can also support President Trump and his great administration on many of the great things they are doing while disagreeing on bombing Iran and getting involved in a hot war that

Israel started.

"That's not disloyalty. Critical thinking and having my own opinions is the most American thing ever.

"Because contrary to what brainwashed Democrat boomers say, Trump is not a king, MAGA is not a cult, and President Trump has surrounded himself with people who once disagreed with him and even ran against him for President.

"Also the same Democrats in Congress that are all of sudden clutching their pearls about Trump bombing Iran FULLY SUPPORTED AND VOTED TO FUND Dementia ridden Biden's proxy war against Russia in Ukraine and stood by Biden's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.

"Hypocrites is all they are and they are just desperately trying to find solid ground to oppose Trump on because so far they've failed at grasping anything yet.

"Now what has been done is done and Americans now fear Iranian

terrorists attacks on our own soil and being dragged into another war by Netanyahu when we weren't even thinking about any of this a week ago.

"We don't know what the future holds and I pray for the safety of all people and an end to the constant demand for America to go to war.

"Enough is enough."

Rep. Greene is right. We should never fight another country's war. President Reagan said we should fight only for a "cause that is vital to our national interest."

He also said that "our troops should be committed to combat abroad only as a last resort, when no other choice is available."

Sen. Robert Taft, sometimes referred to as Mr. Republican in the 1940s and 50s, was so respected that he was one of only six senators featured in John F. Kennedy's book "Profiles In Courage."

Taft said: "No foreign policy can be justified except a policy devoted

without reservation or diversion to the protection of liberty of the American people, with war only as the last resort and only to preserve that liberty."

Both Reagan and Taft used the words "last resort." We were not anywhere even close to that point when we bombed Iran on June 24.

We have far too many military leaders, presidents and presidential advisors who have been far too eager to go to war. They seemed to lust for the power and feeling of importance that leading this country in time of war would give them.

This eagerness for war has also been led in part, or at least aided and abetted by, members of the House and Senate who wanted to show how tough and patriotic they were.

What a great day it would be if peace could be seen as more patriotic than war.

Budget time is wasted time

Budget time, where the congressional baseball game is just as productive as any appropriations debate. But that devalues the baseball game. I would say that Congress is wasting

its time, but that is probably redundant.

Budget time is when Congress thrashes around, pontificates, says a million words, writes 1,000-page bills, yells at each other, tweaks the tax code to hand out favors, and spends more borrowed money. Let's waste a few words on the hapless, hopeless morass.

Even if Congress decided



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not to appropriate another penny but to keep last year's budget, federal spending would grow because of the cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) built into programs like Social Security, the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) and civilian and military pensions. In all, there are over a dozen federal programs with COLAs. A modest suggestion would be to eliminate all COLAs, but few politicians (if any) have the will to do so. What about other items in the budget?

Here is basically a repeat of what I write every year at

this time, only with a revision of numbers.

Last year, the government spent \$6.75 trillion. Of that, \$4.1 trillion was nondiscretionary, \$1.8 trillion was discretionary, and \$900 billion was interest. The major components of nondiscretionary spending are Social Security (\$1.45 trillion), Medicare (\$865 billion) and Medicaid (\$618 billion). The federal government collected \$4.9 trillion, meaning that if the government were to use its tax collections to pay only the mandatory components and the interest on the debt, it would not have a penny for everything else. Therefore, it borrowed to fund all discretionary spending, leaving a deficit of \$1.75

trillion. Thus, it is literally impossible to not add to the debt unless mandatory spending programs are addressed. But Congress ignores entitlement reform, so the debt must grow every year, regardless of what Congress is doing during budget time. Instead, Congress is doing high-fives on passing a rescissions package that cuts \$9.4 billion in spending already appropriated. Mind you, \$9.4 billion is a rounding error in a \$7 trillion dollar budget.

Nondiscretionary spending increases gobble up a growing percentage of GDP simply because the escalators increase faster than the growth in GDP. One solution is to cap the percentage of GDP allocated to nondiscretionary spending, eliminating the automatic escalators. Next, raise the full benefit age for Social Security to

70 for those aged younger than 50. Remove the limits on annual contributions to 401(k)s to allow people to increasingly fund their own retirement. Next, limit the federal budget to grow no more than the growth in the previous year's GDP. This would allow the budget to increase, but not at an increasing rate. Finally, codify these suggestions into law with the provision that only if the president declares a national emergency and both houses of Congress agree with a two-thirds majority will these limits change.

A shorter-term solution was suggested by the sainted Thomas Sowell, who says that the federal government should sell some of its vast holdings of land currently valued at around \$2 trillion. "The amount of land owned by the National Park Service alone is larger than Italy.

The land owned by the Fish and Wildlife Service is larger than Germany. The land owned by the Forest Service is larger than Britain and Spain combined. The land owned by the Bureau of Land Management is larger than Japan, North Korea, South Korea and the Philippines combined." Of course, trying to sell the land would incur the wrath of the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, the Rainforest Trust, the Nature Conservancy, and all the rest of the environmental organizations who would lose all of their funding and would have to look for real jobs. Donald Trump has no love for these organizations, so why doesn't he follow Sowell's advice and have a land sale?

But don't look for Congress to do any of this. No single Democrat would ever suggest cutting one penny – unless it is to the military. No single Republican – not even the so-called fiscal hawks – would ever suggest anything of value. Every single member of Congress and every single member of any administration (who wants to keep his/her job) is completely totally gutless. Rather than effect real change, they are all content to make the appropriate clucking sounds and keep passing the problem off to the next group of legislators and bureaucrats. Trump is not the only one saying, "What, me worry?"



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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City Of Knoxville Scores Very Low On Beacon Center's City Freedom Index Study

The Beacon Center has released its latest City Freedom Index for Tennessee, which is very interesting. The City Freedom Index quantifies how local government has affected the daily lives of its citizenry.

Among those things, the Beacon Center rates Tennessee's 30 most populous cities in four areas:

- **Free Enterprise:** How much does the city inhibit different types of businesses from thriving, whether through regulation, fees, or direct competition with the private sector?

- **Property Rights:** What costs or prohibitions does the city place on citizens'

use of their own property?

- **Individual Liberty:** What restrictions or requirements does the city place on constitutionally protected activities?

- **Cost of Government:** How much in taxes does the city collect from its residents, and what is its overall fiscal health?

Unfortunately, the City of Knoxville ranks among the bottom five in Tennessee. The rankings put Knoxville at 28 out of 30. The report cites Knoxville as having "considerable obstacles," which it identifies as "its high cost of government and its regulations on private property rights and free enterprise."

Over the past ten years, the City of Knoxville government has become bigger, more bloated and less responsive to the people it taxes. The administration of Mayor Indya Kincannon has particularly tried to embrace every woke remedy in the Santa Claus sack of goodies and tools. There is quite a lot of talk about "affordable" housing, "affordable" living and so forth. Yet the City of Knoxville's solution to making things "affordable" for some is to increasingly reach its hands into the wallets and pocketbooks of others. The

40% increase in property taxes certainly didn't make things more affordable for anyone. There are some not very bright people who don't seem to realize a basic fact of economics: **raising property taxes also raises mortgage payments and rents paid by renters.** Now Kincannon and her minions on the city council are trying to convince residents of Knoxville to increase the already high sales tax on themselves. It's very nearly 10% on every staple of life: food, clothing, toilet paper, baby formula, but that is not enough for the City of Knoxville. They need more money to spend, ostensibly to build housing for the "homeless." So, if Knoxville is going to provide housing for every homeless person, are we going to outfit them with phones, free cable from KUB, free food, free medical care and free utilities? Will taxpayers be expected to provide housing for every homeless person who makes his or her way to Knoxville because they've heard the taxpayers are awfully nice and generous people? Where exactly does that end? Why are there no voices on the city council who speak up for working people? Who is the voice of the working people on the city council? There is none. Kincannon

is certainly the poster child of a comfortable, White elitist, liberally sprinkled with guilt for her privilege while making out just fine, courtesy of the University of Tennessee, which, let me remind you, is also funded by the taxpayers.

The fact is, Knoxville is not presently working for everyone; no, not every voice is heard. Why is no one asking "Where do the giveaways end?"...and "Just how long and how much of the load are working people supposed to carry?" Is there an expectation on the part of the city government to drive elderly people out of their homes by continuously raising property taxes to provide free housing for a different group of people? Who among the council members has raised that issue? Who among the council members has regularly questioned why the city provides so little in the way of services, yet continues to spend more and more? Those voices are not heard. It's irresponsible.

Yet you get what you vote for. The people of Knoxville have been too willing to ratify any amendment to the city charter proposed by the powers that be. That stopped when voters rejected Andrew Roberto's anti-democratic attempt

to circumvent state law by having every member of the Knoxville City Council elected city-wide. That has always diminished the voices of neighborhoods since the heyday of Jean Teague, Carlene Malone and Nick Della Volpe, who stood up for neighborhoods. There should be some members of the city council who speak for the existing neighborhoods instead of planning to raze them and replace them with towering brick buildings with cubicle apartments. There should be some members of the city council who are more interested in representing the people who elected them instead of rubber-stamping whatever the mayor dictates. There should be more city council members who are less interested in the latest Leftist violence interrupters playset and more interested in actually working to make the streets and neighborhoods safe for families. There should be more city council members who realize that an administration and government that encourages business, especially small business, should not only be diverse but should also create a healthy tax base, which obviates the need to constantly raise property taxes

on honest working people.

In short, there are a lot of things the city council and the City of Knoxville need and an increase in the sales tax is not one of them.

Jeff Hagood, A Great Choice For TVA Board

Congratulations to Jeff Hagood on being nominated by President Donald Trump to serve on the board of directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority. TVA has meant much to our community over the years and while the role of the directors has been evolving and changing, Hagood has all the qualities needed to make a truly excellent member of the board. An attorney by profession, Jeff Hagood has very deep roots in our community and has always given back to Knoxville and Knox County through his civic involvement. Hagood has always tried to make ours a better community, and his nomination to serve on the TVA Board is a good choice made by Tennessee's United States senators, Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty. The Focus applauds the nomination of Jeff Hagood and hopes he will be swiftly confirmed by the Senate.

Catching Up With Jim Snowden

By Mike Steely
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One Knox County official heard the most often in public meetings is Jim Snowden, director of Engineering and Public Works. Whether it is providing an update on the massive reworking of Schaad Road, describing future projects or Engineering's work, or responses on weather, codes, fire prevention, sidewalks, fleet services, stormwater management and much more, Snowden is often the answer person in various county meetings. He often appears on television news interviews, is probably quoted as much as Mayor Glenn Jacobs, and provides clear answers and remarks.

The Knoxville Focus caught up with Snowden and asked a few questions.

How did you become interested in engineering?

My high school guidance

counselor suggested it. He said I was really good in math and really bad in English/grammar, so engineering was for me. And, he was right.

Tell us about your family.

I grew up on a farm in rural Blount County with my parents and grandparents. I lived there until I met my wife at UT and got married in 2000. My wife, Amanda, is the operations director of TDOT Region 1, and we have one daughter, Ellie, who is 17 years old.

What is your educational background?

I have a Bachelors and Masters of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of TN (1997 and 1999, respectively). I'm a licensed engineer in the State of TN since 2003.

What are your hobbies and interests?

I enjoy spending time with my family and working on our farm, as well as shooting sporting clays and target shooting.

Tell us about your duties.

As senior director of EPW, I oversee a department of 200 folks who provide essential services to

the public, including road maintenance, road construction, land development permitting and oversight, fleet services, and trash disposal at the seven area convenience centers.

What's the largest problem your office has had?

Retaining and hiring good, quality staff.

Will cutbacks in federal funding affect your department and projects?

None at present, thankfully.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Hopefully, here, still serving the department and the community.

How would you like to be remembered?

As someone humble, honest, loyal, and hard-working, who gave the county the best he could every day.



Jim Snowden heads up Knox County Engineering and with his many duties he is a frequent speaker at various meetings. What are his duties, his interests and his background?

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The EMS "Moving Honors" tribute stopped at the World's Fair Park in Knoxville on Wednesday to pay tribute to all Emergency Medical Service professionals. Sponsored by Priority Ambulance, the event featured colors by the Knoxville Fire Department's Honor Guard, remarks by EMS members, and a view of the Tree of Life memorial. The caravan of ambulances began in Riverside, California, and the event will end in Arlington, Virginia, on July 18, where the Tree of Life will be unveiled during National EMS Weekend of Honor. Present during the stop were Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon and Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, as well as representatives of local EMS organizations. (Photo courtesy of Priority Ambulance)

New Juvenile Service Center Board to meet July 17

Cont. from page 1
and two Democrats. Jay suggested that the board should also have some public members with experience in juvenile justice. Lee, an attorney, said she was interested in serving, but the Fox motion to make her one of the four commission members on the board failed in a commission vote. Then the commission approved Rawls, Jackson, Hill and Jay in a 7-3 vote, with Angela Russell joining Fox and Lee to vote no. The final vote on the emergency resolution to appoint the members and have the Knox County Sheriff's Office assume control of the facility on January 1st passed in a 9-1 vote.

The board will serve for 18 months, overseeing the center. Last week, after the commission made its four appointments, Juvenile Court Judge Tim Irwin made his appointment and chose Rhonda Lee, reflecting her desire for a 3-2 Republican majority. She said that Judge Irwin contacted her about the appointment. Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs has asked the Tennessee Department of Children's Services to continue supervising the facility during the interim period. On Wednesday, Brian Bivens was named interim superintendent to replace Richard L. Bean, who will retire on August 1.

Applications being accepted for Knox Merit Board

Cont. from page 1
The requirements for the position, as listed on the commission's legal ad are:
• 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.

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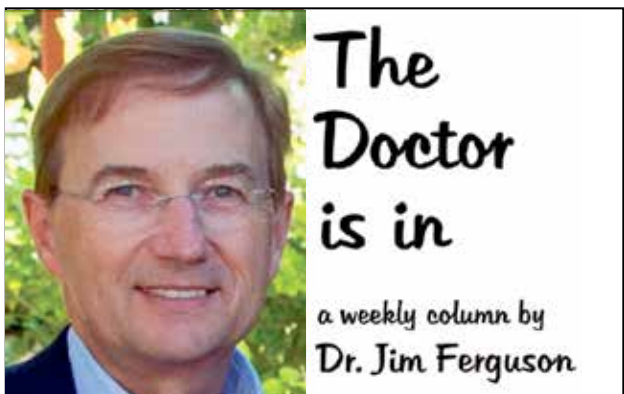
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a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Winning

It ain't over 'til the fat lady sings

Our war for the soul of America continues. It may not end in my lifetime, even though I pray for peace, as does President Trump.

As war with Great Britain approached, Patrick Henry in 1775 passionately challenged fellow Virginians to resist tyranny with the famous lines, "Gentlemen may cry, peace, peace - but there is no peace. The war has actually begun! Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased by chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."

America is no longer faced with occupying British soldiers. We are challenged by aliens who swarmed into our land and joined homegrown subversive progressives, socialists and leftists. Together,

these are more dangerous, destructive and anti-American than King George's redcoats.

Hopefully, most know the stirring words of the Declaration of Independence, penned by Thomas Jefferson and unanimously adopted at the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776.

These days, I don't know if children are introduced to the foundational principles of our country. So, in addition to fireworks, I pledge to share these historical words of our Founders with my grandchildren on the July 4th holiday.

Signers of the Declaration of Independence were taking huge risks. The British Empire was preeminent in the 18th century and had the most powerful army and navy to project that power. The Founders signed, "With a firm Reliance on the Protection

of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

Famously, John Hancock penned his signature large so that King George could read his name without glasses. Ben Franklin signed and quipped, "We must all hang together or we will all hang separately." Stephen Hopkins of Rhode Island scrawled with the shaking palsy of Parkinson's Disease, saying, "My hand trembles, but my heart does not."

Five of the 56 signers were "captured as traitors and tortured to death." Nine served as soldiers and died of wounds or privation. Twelve lost their homes. Two lost sons serving in the Continental Army.

After suffering defeats, Washington and his army were encamped at Valley Forge in the bitter winter of 1776. Hunger and disease were prevalent. Famous for his prewar "Common Sense" pamphlets, it was there that Thomas Paine began his essay, "The Crisis," on the snare of a drum. He wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

Our current struggle is

nothing compared to the Revolutionary or any of America's wars. Last week, I whined when our internet connection went down. And I expect electrical power to flow to lights and, especially, the AC. After the blizzard of '93, we installed a generator, but it won't work if the Kingston coal fired electrical plant isn't producing power. I once challenged a young patient with the reality that electricity doesn't just come from the wall plug. That went over well.

As I write this July 4th essay, Washington, D.C.'s battle and high drama is playing out with the Big Beautiful Bill (BBB). But every bill and everything in Washington is soap opera quality. Bismarck, the 19th-century chancellor of Germany, once said, "Laws are like sausage, it is better not to see them made."

I like opera; Becky does not. Some years ago, I had season tickets to the Knoxville opera with a coterie of women with similar eclectic tastes. Beautiful music with soaring vocals, pageantry and drama at the end ... "Who could ask for anything more?" (How interesting that TV soap operas were so named because the drama was often sponsored by soap companies.)

The old cliché goes, "It ain't over 'til the fat lady sings." The reference is to the large Nordic diva, Brunnhilde, in Ricard

Wagner's Ring series of three, three-hour operas performed back-to-back. I don't care for Wagner. I might prefer to be dropped off at the emergency room for tests rather than endure nine hours of Wagnerian opera, awaiting Brunnhilde's concluding aria.

It's easy to become discouraged by leftists, socialists, progressive Democrats and their media goons. Along with activist judges, they call themselves "the resistance." A steady diet of their hate-filled bilge can sour the soul. I study them in order to resist their tyranny. If you want fantasy, I'd advise Wagner opera instead of the legacy media.

The fat lady - and I'm not talking about The View - has not sung of America's demise because President Trump and patriots are winning. And no, Mr. President, we're not tired of winning. Iran's nuclear weapons program was decimated. The economy is recovering from Bidenomics. The border is again secure. Illegals are self-deporting. Industry and investment are returning to America with tariffs and America first policies. NATO is ponying up for defense. Trump negotiated the end of warfare in Africa (Congo/Rwanda) and Asia (India/Pakistan). And the Supremes have put the kibosh on universal injunctions by federal

district judge activists and reaffirmed parental rights regarding education. And Alligator Alcatraz opened last week!

The fat lady has not yet sung in Congress as the BBB squeaked by Democrats and now pings between the House of Representatives and the Senate. I don't know how long the next phases of this Kabuki theater drama will last, but President Trump has exhorted Congress to get the work done by July 4. Sane people with lives don't watch speechifying and sausage-making of politicians on C-Span. I predict the BBB will eventually pass the reconciliation process because otherwise our taxes will skyrocket and lynch mobs may arrive on Capitol Hill.

President Trump also scored wins for America as the University of Pennsylvania settles Title IX violations, ABC, Stephanopoulos and CBS fork over huge sums for their abuses. Lately, the Democrats' only "win" is their socialist/communist candidate for NY mayor. Perhaps Mamdani will visit the newly opened Alligator Alcatraz.

"Thank you for your attention to these matters," and happy Independence Day!

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

Famous Grainger Co. Tomato Festival coming soon

If you've never attended the Grainger County Tomato Festival, you've missed one of the region's largest free events. It's coming on Friday and Saturday, July 18 and 19, and it's our neighboring county's opportunity to show off and entertain.

The festival kicks off its 32nd year on that Friday at noon until 6 p.m., with the Grainger County Opry running from 6:30 to 9 p.m. that day. On Saturday, the festival starts at 9 a.m. and will end at 6. The event is located at 7480 Rutledge Pike at Rutledge Elementary and Middle School. If you plan to attend, you probably

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

should arrive early. Parking is available, but the festival is usually very well attended.

The family-friendly event will have many local crafts, art, produce, jewelry and chocolate vendors. The annual Tomato Wars start at 10 a.m. Saturday,

where individuals and teams actually throw ripe tomatoes at each other. Even if you don't take part, it's a fun and camera-worthy battle. Revenue goes to the middle school football team.

There will be a blacksmith exhibit and speakers and authors featuring Angel Kitts, Lin Stepp, Robert McGinnis, Betty Martin, Jim Claborn, Don Sheradon, Ken

Coffey and the Grainger County Historical Society. The Grainger County Opry takes place Friday evening starting at 6:30 p.m. in the middle school gym.

Children will enjoy games and contests, plus rides on the Kərbela Shriners' Elmo Train.

Storyteller Harry Bumgardner will share stories of the American Revolution at the long hunter's camp near the Living History area. There is also a wide selection of food, produce, and, of course, Grainger County tomatoes.

Your pets are welcome and there will be watering stations and misting tents for you and your pets to cool down. On Saturday, the Ridge Runners Car Club will be there with a wide variety of antique and classic vehicles.

The festival has been recognized as one of the top festivals

in the nation, and the idea is to promote the county and its many local artists, authors, talent and craftsmen.

From Knoxville, the best way to reach the festival is to take Rutledge Pike north, pass through downtown Rutledge, and look to the right as you approach the schools. If you wish, after the festival, you can continue up the pike, or Highway 11W, to historic Tate Springs and Bean Station along the lake and then turn south on Highway 25W to Morristown, Highway 11E through Jefferson City, New Market and Strawberry Plains to



Knoxville.

You can find more information online at www.graingertomato-festival.com or on Facebook. You may email the event at gctomato-festival@gmail.com or call (423) 438-7715.

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Augustus O. Stanley of Kentucky

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Every state conjures politicians who are highly controversial and two of Kentucky's most polarizing political figures were Augustus Owsley Stanley and his rival, John Crepps Wickliffe Beckham. Both men were Democrats and could hold their own in any dispute. Stanley held every high office within the gift of the people of the Bluegrass State, being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, the governorship, and finally the United States Senate.

Stanley was a powerful and gifted orator of the old school and routinely removed his necktie, coat and vest as he spoke. A. O. Stanley was an equally good storyteller at a time when there was no radio or television and the primary forms of communication with voters was through speaking, the mails, and newspapers. Stanley delighted audiences in the thousands with his masterful use of the English language and his vocabulary. Augustus O. Stanley was one of the most colorful politicians at the turn of the century.

The bitter campaign for governor between A. O. Stanley and Republican Edwin Morrow became legendary. Both were magnificent speakers and equally adept at hurling verbal bolts of insults and ridicule. The two men battered one another without mercy during the course of the campaign, with the result being the closest in Kentucky's history.

Stanley was recognized as the leader of the progressive Democrats in Kentucky during his prime, while his nemesis J. W. C. Beckham headed the more conservative of the Bluegrass State's Democrats. The two fought over almost everything, but they were miles apart on their stance on the issue of prohibition. Stanley was openly "wet" and drank that way. Beckham also enjoyed his liquor, but advocated for temperance, a stand Stanley ridiculed mercilessly. Stanley had been a reformer and was reputedly the principal author of the Clayton Anti-Trust Act. As a congressman, A. O. Stanley was a fierce foe of giant corporations and won a well-deserved reputation as one of the premier "trust-busters" in Congress. A. O. Stanley was a dogged investigator while in the House, and his probe into the American Tobacco Company led to its eventual dissolution. Likewise, Congressman Stanley led an 18-month investigation of the U.S. Steel Corporation; Stanley's investigation caused the attorney general of the United States to go to court asking for the corporate giant to be dissolved. Both corporations were dissolved through decisions

made by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Congressman Stanley's battle with the American Tobacco Corporation began due to his outrage over the company reaching an agreement with British tobacco manufacturers to control the global market. For the many tobacco farmers inside his congressional district, it meant there were no other companies bidding to buy their product; they had no choice but to accept whatever price the American Tobacco Company cared to offer.

In speaking on the House floor, A. O. Stanley turned his formidable oratory on the U.S. Steel Corporation. "They [the individual consumers] are compelled to buy cooking utensils, stoves, tools, railroad rails, plows, trace chains. They cannot live, they cannot labor, they cannot die without paying tribute to the United States Steel Corporation. I do not care who buys their stocks, we must buy their wares, and we are entitled to buy them at a fair price. Before this committee gets through we will buy them at a fair price," Stanley thundered.

Augustus O. Stanley served for 12 years in the House of Representatives. Stanley opted not to seek reelection to the House in 1914, instead running for the U.S. Senate. The congressman had daunting competition inside the Democratic primary from former Governor J. C. W. Beckham, who coveted a seat in the Senate as much as Stanley. Governor James McCreary also entered the primary, but the contest came down to Stanley and Beckham. Stanley lost the primary election to Beckham and rebounded by announcing he was running for governor in 1915.

Once again, A. O. Stanley encountered stiff opposition from the Beckham wing of Kentucky's Democratic Party, but the former congressman won the nomination rather easily in a three-way race. Unlike some border states, Republicans were not altogether scarce. Kentucky Republicans had nominated Judge Edwin P. Morrow for governor, one of the most brilliant speakers in the state. While they pounded one another verbally, the two were friendly and toured the state together. Dr. Nicholas Burckel wrote in a study of Stanley's career in the House of Representatives that the two gubernatorial contenders would relax with a bottle of bourbon after a hard day of campaigning. One of the most often told stories about Augustus O. Stanley involved his enjoyment of adult beverages and his becoming sick just before he was to speak. Stanley vomited during Morrow's speech. Rising to talk,



COURTESY OF THE STATE OF KENTUCKY

Official state portrait of Congressman, Governor and United States Senator Augustus O. Stanley of Kentucky.

Stanley asked the audience to excuse him and said, "That just goes to show you what I have been saying all over Kentucky. Ed Morrow makes me plain sick to my stomach."

The contest became the closest in the history of the Bluegrass State with Stanley winning by less than 500 votes.

Some Kentucky historians credit A. O. Stanley's administration as governor as one of the most progressive in the state's history. One of his most significant accomplishments as Kentucky's chief executive was reorganizing the administration of the University of Kentucky. When the Kentucky legislature passed a bill during the First World War prohibiting the teaching of German in Bluegrass State schools, Governor Stanley vetoed it, despite the intense reaction of many Kentuckians. "We are at war with an armed despotism, not a language," Stanley retorted.

Augustus O. Stanley did not complete his term as governor. U.S. Senator Ollie M. James died unexpectedly on August 18, 1918, despite having a variety of ailments, including kidney disease. James was already the Democratic nominee to succeed himself in the U.S. Senate when he died. Kentucky's Democratic State Executive Committee met to name a new nominee, and finally, A. O. Stanley's long-cherished desire to sit in the Senate of the United States was one step closer to reality. Governor Stanley became the Democratic nominee for the Senate in the 1918 election. Even Senator J. C. W. Beckham supported Stanley, as he had fully expected the governor to challenge him when his own seat was up for election in 1920.

Senator Stanley loved his job and worked hard at it. When he sought reelection in 1924, he encountered several obstacles; Senator Beckham had been

defeated by a Republican in 1920, and the Ku Klux Klan was becoming a powerful force in Bluegrass State politics. The KKK was opposed to Senator A. O. Stanley, as well as those voters who favored temperance. Stanley had the additional handicap of being undermined by Governor William J. Fields, a fellow Democrat. Senator Stanley's defeat had much to do with his opposition to prohibition. Stanley lost the general election to GOP nominee Frederic Sackett, giving the Bluegrass State two GOP senators for the first time.

Hoping to reunite Kentucky's fractured Democratic Party, the former senator backed his former rival J. C. W. Beckham, who was attempting a political comeback of his own by seeking the governorship in 1927. Beckham lost to Republican Flem Sampson, which dimmed A. O. Stanley's hopes for a comeback of his own.

Following his defeat, A. O. Stanley started a law practice and divided his time between Kentucky and Washington, D.C. In May 1930, President Herbert Hoover appointed former Senator Stanley to the International Joint Boundary Commission, which was charged with settling any water boundary disputes between the United States and its neighbor to the north, Canada. Although a Democrat, Stanley's appointment came at the hands of a Republican. Stanley gave up his law practice and concentrated on his duties as a member of the commission, which provided a comfortable salary. So, too, did Stanley give up his notion of attempting to run for the U.S. Senate again in 1930. Stanley lived primarily in Washington, D.C. from 1930 until his death. Former Governor Stanley chaired the commission in 1933 and was proud of his service.

Although he resided in Washington, Stanley

traveled back to Kentucky on occasion. The former governor attended a meeting in Louisville when he provided half the funds needed for a "Bookmobile" for Franklin County; the other half of the money was donated by the Farmers Bank & Trust Company of Frankfort. "Books are an essential part of a nation's capital assets," Stanley told the group, quoting Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Macauley, the prominent British historian. Jefferson had said, "I could not live without books." The quote from Macauley was, "I had rather be a beggar with a garret full of books than be a king who could not read." At the time Stanley spoke, he was 86 years old.

The gift for the \$3,000 Bookmobile had been prompted by a telephone call to the former governor by the president of the bank, Pat Sullivan. "I telephoned him and reminded him he still had some money lying in our bank," Sullivan recalled. The banker then wondered if Stanley might make a contribution toward purchasing the bookmobile. "I can't think of a better way to use it," Stanley replied immediately.

Stanley was reappointed by successive presidents and did not leave office until 1954, and then only because of efforts by the Eisenhower Administration to push him out of office. The seat A. O. Stanley held on the commission paid \$10,600 (more than \$120,000 today) and doubtless the Eisenhower Administration wanted to give that plum to a deserving Republican. Stanley had refused to be budged until he announced in January 1954 that he would resign his seat on the International Joint Commission effective February 1, 1954. The former governor told a reporter it was evident "the administration is hard up for jobs."

One Republican who had thought he was

deserving of Stanley's seat on the International Joint Commission was former U.S. Senator Owen Brewster of Maine. Brewster had lost the GOP primary in 1952 and had been searching for an appointment, summoning support from former colleagues. Brewster laid siege to the Eisenhower Administration and, for a time, he lobbied hard to replace Stanley. Brewster's determination in replacing him likely had the effect of allowing the stubborn former governor to hold his sinecure even longer, especially as Secretary of State John Foster Dulles was unenthused about the prospect of giving Owen Brewster any kind of appointment. Indiana's U.S. senators, Homer Capehart and William E. Jenner, had already endorsed yet another former senator, 78-year-old Raymond E. Willis, to fill the vacancy caused by Stanley's resignation.

Stanley was quite nearly 87 years old at the time. The Lexington Herald published an editorial commending the old warrior for his long service on the International Joint Boundary Commission, recalling the former governor who had "thrilled" thousands of Kentuckians with an "eloquence that surpassed the masters even in a commonwealth where oratory once was always in flower. . ." At the time of his resignation as a member of the commission, A. O. Stanley was still serving as the chair. The Herald noted Stanley was still very active at his advanced age and "remained keenly alert and daily proficient in performing the duties of the commission which he heads."

Former senator A. O. Stanley died at his home in Washington, D.C., on August 12, 1958, at the age of 91. Stanley had been in declining health and died from complications resulting from a heavy cold. As befitting a one-time governor of Kentucky, his body was put on a train bound for Frankfort, where he would lie in state at the Capitol. Stanley's casket was draped with the state flag while two white-helmeted members of Kentucky's National Guard stood watch nearby. The shifts changed every two hours while the former governor's body lay in the Capitol Rotunda.

Stanley's earthly remains were buried in a grassy knoll in Frankfort Cemetery, which overlooked the Kentucky River, the City of Frankfort, and the State Capitol where he had presided as governor decades before.

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The Power of Staying in a World that Often Walks Away

I was recently introduced to a story that had somehow evaded me all these years: the story of Hachikō, the Akita dog who was adopted and would walk with his owner, Professor Ueno, to the Shibuya train station every morning. Each evening, he would return to that same spot to greet him, tail wagging and eyes full of joy. Tragically, one day the professor never came home; he passed away unexpectedly at work. Despite this, Hachikō continued to return, not for a week or a month, but every day for nine years, nine months, and fifteen days. Come rain, snow, or shine,



By Justin Pratt, Clear Springs Baptist Church Senior Pastor

he would wait, watching each train, hoping to see the face of the one he loved. Over time, Hachikō's unwavering devotion captured the hearts of an entire nation and became a national symbol, representing the power of loyalty. Loyalty is a rare treasure in today's culture, often overshadowed by convenience, quick exits, and self-interest. In a world that continually shifts and realigns its values, breaking commitments when it suits our interests, loyalty represents the integrity and commitment to stay true to the people we love. True friendship is one of the greatest gifts from God. Real friends walk with us through both ups and downs; they celebrate our victories and help us bear our burdens. Friendship isn't just about laughter and making memories; it's fundamentally built on loyalty. Loyalty means standing by a friend when others walk away, defending

them in their absence, and praying for them even when they don't know it. It's about being there not just when it's convenient, but also when it's challenging. In 1 Samuel 18, we see one of the most beautiful examples of loyalty in the Bible: the friendship between Jonathan and David. Once their connection was established, they formed a sacred bond of love and loyalty, becoming the best of friends. As their relationship deepened, so did the challenges they faced. When things were tough and times were hard, they remained loyal to one another. Jonathan not only gave David his robe, sword, and armor but also relinquished his claim to the throne of Israel, fully supporting God's plan. Even when his own father tried to kill David, Jonathan came to his rescue. David never forgot the experiences that forged their friendship. He remembered

Jonathan's loyalty, and years later, after Jonathan's death, he sought out any living relatives to repay that kindness and honor his friend's memory. This led him to Mephibosheth, Jonathan's grandson, who was living in Lo-debar and was crippled. Out of loyalty to his friend, King David brought Mephibosheth into the palace, restored his land, and gave him a seat at the king's table. Loyalty says, "I choose you, even if it costs me." The story reminds us that real loyalty is not driven by convenience, competition, or gain – it's rooted in covenant, love, and character. True loyalty ought to outlive jealousy, survive betrayal, and span generations. It's a deep, deliberate commitment to stand by someone or something, not only when it's easy, but especially when it's not. In Proverbs 17:17, the Bible says, "A friend loveth at all times

and a brother is born for adversity." That kind of love isn't flaky or fickle. It stays the course, it shows up, and it stands firm. Loyalty builds a friendship that no storm can shake and no time can erode. Whether it's friendship, leadership, ministry, or our walk with God, loyalty is needed and necessary. On March 8, 1935, Hachikō the dog, passed away at the very spot where he had waited every day for nearly a decade. His unwavering loyalty was so touching that a bronze statue was erected at Shibuya Station in Tokyo, where it still stands today. This statue serves not only as a memorial to a beloved dog but also as a tribute to a rare form of loyalty in our world. In a society that often celebrates the flashy and fleeting, Hachikō reminds us of the profound power of simply showing up—again and again.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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 which specific reference is hereby made for a more particular description. Being the same property conveyed to 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.

THE COLONY VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.
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

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, Hamilton House Condominium Association (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, lying and being in the Fifth (5th) Civil District of Knox County, Tennessee, within the 24th Ward of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee.

and being Units G and H, Third Floor, Building No. 1 in Hamilton House Horizontal Property Regime, being a Horizontal Property Regime located at 1400 Kennesaw Avenue SW, Knoxville, Tennessee, as shown on the Final Subdivision Plat of Hamilton House Horizontal Property Regime recorded in Map Book 85-L, pages 57-63, in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee, and described in a Master Deed recorded in Deed Book 1651, page 896, as amended. Being the same property conveyed to Lillian J. Redmond under Special Warranty Deed recorded on April 30, 2021, as Instrument Number 202104300089811 in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee. The street address of the above-described property is 1400 Kennesaw Avenue, #13G, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919.

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, Estate of Lillian J. Redmond and Michael D. Redmond in the following case before the Chancery Court for Knox County, Tennessee, to wit: Hamilton House Condominium Association v. Estate of Lillian J. Redmond and Michael D. Redmond (the "Defendants"), Docket No. 209303-1. Said Default Judgment and Order of Sale was duly recorded as Instrument No. 202505090058945 with the Knox County, Tennessee Register of Deeds.

The sale of the described 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 Defendants have 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 Defendants or the Defendants' 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

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-residents 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 III, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

This notice will be published in 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 Knoxville, 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 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 default the Respondent, and enter Judgment in favor of the Petitioners, and that Judgment in favor 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

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: AMBER RENEAE MCDANIEL, Respondent/Biological Mother

IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF A RELATED CHILD, J.L.M. (DOB: 11/28/2010)

BY: KEVIN EUGENE MALLORY, and TARA KATHLEEN MALLORY, Petitioners, and JORDAN KEITH MALLORY, Co-petitioner/Biological Father
v.
AMBER RENEAE MCDANIEL, Respondent/Biological Mother

DOCKET NO. 7CHI-2025-CV-112
IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR CAMPBELL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, AMBER RENEAE MCDANIEL, 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 AMBER RENEAE MCDANIEL, it is ordered that said defendant, AMBER RENEAE MCDANIEL, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Campbell 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 Honorable Chancellor Elizabeth C. Asbury at the Campbell County Chancery Court, located at 570 Main Street, Suite 110, Jacksboro, Tennessee 37757, and action shall be taken by this Honorable Court to default the Respondent, and enter Judgment in favor of the Petitioners, Kevin Mallory and Tara Mallory, and that Judgment in favor of the Petitioners, Kevin Mallory and Tara Mallory, will result in the termination of the Respondent's parental rights and the adoption of the minor-child, J.L.M. in accordance with a separately filed Petition to Terminate Parental Rights for the Adoption.

This 2 day June, 2025.

Elizabeth C. Asbury
Honorable Chancellor
Campbell County, Tennessee

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks: 7/7, 7/14, 7/21 and 7/28/2025.

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: LARRY "JODY" WILSON, Respondent/ Biological Putative Father, and AMBER RENEAE MCDANIEL, Respondent/Biological Mother

IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF A RELATED CHILD, R.F.M. (DOB: 11/24/2021)

BY: KEVIN EUGENE MALLORY, and TARA KATHLEEN MALLORY, Petitioners, and JORDAN KEITH MALLORY, Co-petitioner/Presumptive Legal Father
v.
LARRY "JODY" WILSON, Respondent/ Biological Putative Father, and AMBER RENEAE MCDANIEL, Respondent/Biological Mother

DOCKET NO. 7CHI-2025-CV-91
IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR CAMPBELL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendants, LARRY "JODY" WILSON and AMBER RENEAE MCDANIEL, non-residents 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 LARRY "JODY" WILSON and AMBER RENEAE MCDANIEL, it is ordered that said defendants, LARRY "JODY" WILSON and AMBER RENEAE MCDANIEL, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Campbell

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 Honorable Chancellor Elizabeth C. Asbury at the Campbell County Chancery Court, located at 570 Main Street, Suite 110, Jacksboro, Tennessee 37757, and action shall be taken by this Honorable Court to default the Respondents, and enter Judgment in favor of the Petitioners, Kevin Mallory and Tara Mallory, and that Judgment in favor of the Petitioners, Kevin Mallory and Tara Mallory, will result in the termination of the Respondents' parental rights and the adoption of the minor-child, R.F.M. in accordance with a separately filed Petition to Terminate Parental Rights for the Adoption.

This 22 day April, 2025.

Elizabeth C. Asbury
Honorable Chancellor
Campbell County, Tennessee

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks: 7/7, 7/14, 7/21 and 7/28/2025.

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.

ESTATE OF JOHNNY NEAL ADAMS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHRISTINA LARENE NICLEY

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

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.

ESTATE OF MARK BENNETT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ERIC BAXTER
7735 EVAN WAY
HIXSON, TN 37343

DAVID H. LUHN, ATTORNEY
310 N. FOREST PARK BLVD.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

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.

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
BOLING, TN 37709

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

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.

ESTATE OF GREGORY MCGRATH CAZALET

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
DAVID J. CAZALET, JR., ADMINISTRATOR
2012 ELIZA GLYNNE LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

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. Lollis 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.

ESTATE OF SCHERAZANNE CHADWICK

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CYNTHIA D. LOLLIS
132 PARK DRIVE
DECATUR, GA 30030

ARNOLD G. COHEN, ATTORNEY
6025 BROOKVALE LANE, SUITE 204
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919-4031
P. O. BOX 51785
KNOXVILLE, TN 37905

TSSAA DEAD PERIOD

CAK's Speck watched his boys learn how to surf

By Steve Williams

Chad Speck, Christian Academy of Knoxville head football coach, took his family to Hawaii in this year's TSSAA Dead Period. "Highlights of the trip were just being together, going on an ATV tour of Kualoa Ranch in Oahu, and watching my boys learn how to surf," said Chad. An ATV tour is a guided excursion where participants ride all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) through various terrains, typically for recreational purposes. The Speck family also visited Maui, Hawaii.

Powell Coach Matt Lowe and his three daughters and wife traveled Highway 30A on the northern part of Florida, which is better known as "the panhandle." The beaches along the scenic highway are known for their sugar-white sand and clear, turquoise waters. Brent Hughes, Halls' coach, along with his wife and three kids, stopped in at the Owl café in St. George Island, Florida. "We're just enjoying time at the beach and highlights have been crab hunting and fishing," said Brent. Bearden Coach Brad Taylor and his family checked out the beach and ocean at Surfside, South Carolina.

Webb Coach Don Mahoney and his family enjoyed the Sunshine State the first week of the Dead Period before heading back home. I'm sure that on a cold October or November night during this fall's football season, the coaches will look back fondly on these Dead Period days of summer and the time spent on the beach with their families.



TOP: CAK Coach Chad Speck and family enjoy time in Oahu, Hawaii.
ABOVE: Heather, Sutton, Cortland, Ava and Coach Brent Hughes from Halls at the Owl Cafe in St. George Island, Florida.
UPPER LEFT: Linni, Lizzi, Erica, Stacy and Powell Coach Matt Lowe enjoy the sights on scenic Highway 30 in Florida.
LEFT: The Taylors get some sun in Surfside, South Carolina. Tyson, Kinsey, Will and Bearden Coach Brad Taylor are pictured.



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688 4121

Molly's tears come from joy and sadness

Team manager will 'do good' in music career

By Steve Williams

A girl on the Farragut High softball team broke out in tears during a post-game team meeting out in left field after the Lady Admirals were eliminated from the Class 4A state tournament this year.

Some teammates tried to console her as she wept.

Coach Nick Green walked over closer and politely listened to everything she was saying.

This reporter's first question to Green was why was the young lady so emotional?

"Molly Barber has been our team manager for the past four years and she was saying that she didn't have a lot of friends when she came in and was very thankful for the opportunity to be the manager and the friendships she created being part of the team," explained Coach Green. "We always made sure we included her in everything we did. She gets a little emotional sometimes."

Being a senior, Molly will now move on to college, said Green. "Then she will have all these friends for the rest of her life hopefully."

The Farragut coach is



Molly plays Levi in the musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at Farragut High School this past school year.

expecting Barber to pursue a music career, since she has been involved in performing arts in high school.

"I think she is going to probably focus on that

in college and be good," said Green. "She enjoys that. She does a really good job. We've gone and watched her in several of our musicals at the high



Molly Barber, in her fourth season as the team manager for Farragut High softball, was presented flowers on Senior Night.

school. This year they did "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," so she had a pretty good role in that one. Last year they did "Chicago" and the

year before that they did "Mamma Mia!"

And those tears in left field?

"They were from partly joy and sadness," summed up

Coach Green. "She enjoys all the friendships she's made, but she's sad to see it end. Just like everybody is sad to see it end."

Hook, line and sinker: Carson-Newman's Helton and Wheat take Bassmaster College Series team honors

Carson-Newman University's Zach Helton and Blake Wheat won the Bassmaster College Series Lunker Trail Division Team of the Year. The duo landed the top spot by earning the most points throughout the three regular-season events.

"This accomplishment is very impressive because it recognizes the most consistent team throughout the season," said Hunter Sales, Carson-Newman's Eagle Anglers head coach. "Bass fishing is all about consistency, and these two demonstrated a wide skill set as they racked up top finishes from Florida to North Carolina and back to Tennessee."

Earning the title opens the door for sophomores Helton and Wheat to represent Carson-Newman as two of eight anglers fishing in the Bassmaster College Classic Bracket this fall. The individual winner of this bracket qualifies for the 2026 Bassmaster Classic on Fort Loudoun Lake and will receive usage of a school-branded truck, boat, and entry fees paid into the 2026 Bassmaster Opens.



Carson-Newman Eagle Anglers Blake Wheat (left) of Dayton, Tennessee, and Zach Helton (right) of Halls, Tennessee, won the Bassmaster College Series Lunker Trail Division Team of the Year. The teammates will go on to compete in the Bassmaster College Classic Bracket later this year.

Baseball, football and basketball dates to know

By Steve Williams

The Chattanooga Lookouts and the Biloxi, Mississippi Shuckers are the Southern League first-half divisional champions and will be automatic qualifiers for the season's final playoffs.

The Knoxville Smokies' next home stand begins on Tuesday, July 8. The Smokies will be playing the Montgomery Biscuits and the six-game series will run through Sunday, July 13.


The Smokies can be heard on the radio at 92.5 FM and 1180 AM WKCE.

KFOA MEDIA DAY starts at 8 a.m. Friday (June 11) at Three Rivers Golf Course.



THE ANNUAL Elston Turner Summer Basketball Camp is just around the corner and will be held at Austin-East High School's Clifford H. Ross Gym starting July 21.

The elementary camp (Grades 1-5) will take place from July 21-23, and the middle and high school camp (Grades 6-12) will be held from July 24-26. Both camps will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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Never a dull moment

In this business, Vol fans are always asking intriguing questions – whether it’s on the street, in restaurants, via social media, or on the telephone.



By Tom Mattingly

There was a postal employee in Chattanooga who called one year and asked who the third string tailback was in the 1950s, probably in 1956 or 1957. When I said “Al Carter,” he said, “Thanks,” and hung up.

There was apparently a bet in his section of the post office, and I never had a chance to find out who won. I also got the impression he dropped 50 cents into the cash box to cover the cost of the call.

I am often asked who I think is the most underrated player. My answer is Shawn Bryson, one of the captains of the 1998 national championship team. He could do it all: run, block, and catch passes. He always seemed to be in the right place at the right time. Think about his touchdown catch in the 1999 Florida State game and a very big fourth down reception when the Vols were trying to kill the clock late in the game.

One December, a

lawyer asked when the Vanderbilt game the previous Saturday had started and ended. He also wanted to know what the weather conditions were. That was all readily available on the official play-by-play distributed after the game. It seemed one of his clients had fallen outside the stadium, and he was preparing a lawsuit. That’s about all I could get out of him. There was also no word about the disposition of the case.

When fans ask about my favorite teams, I always ask, “What generation?” It does make a difference. I try to discuss teams I actually saw play.

The 1965 team was the one that put the Vols back on the national radar. There’s something special about those teams. The 1967 and 1970 teams were flat-out good. I give Doug Dickey credit for reinstalling the “swagger” in Vol football during those years.

The 1985 team that defeated Miami in the Sugar Bowl was a personal favorite later on. Then there was 1989, the 11-1 Cotton Bowl team. The 1991 team rallied from down 31-7 to win at Notre Dame. That was an unforgettable memory. There was also the 11-1 team in 1995 that defeated Ohio State.



The final play of the 1991 Notre Dame game, a missed field goal that secured a 35-34 Vol victory. Jack Williams photograph.

The 1998 national championship season was exciting week by week, including some tense times along the way. Once the Vols got to No. 1, things became very exciting, but not without a few anxious moments.

The day was Nov. 14, No. 1 Tennessee versus No. 10 Arkansas. It was late in the game. The Razorbacks led and had the ball.

Then came a moment never to be forgotten, one that led to a Vol win. Billy Ratliff not only caused a Clint Stoerner fumble but recovered it as well. The Vols then moved quickly

to the winning score in five plays, 43 yards, all carries by Travis Henry. That’s what Gen. Neyland said to do in Maxim No. 2: “Play for and make the breaks and when one comes your way – SCORE!”

Billy was an exceptional player, who suffered more than his share of injuries. He was injured once on the practice field in a non-contact drill and left via ambulance. That was a scary time.

There was a sad sidebar to this game. The Arkansas lineman Billy faced off against was Brandon

Burlsworth, a very good player who bore a striking resemblance to comedian Drew Carey. Brandon was later killed in a traffic accident on April 28, 1999, near Alpena, Arkansas. He was a walk-on who became an All-American selection and third-round draft choice of the Indianapolis Colts.

I liked the way the 2001 team came back from the loss to LSU and took Michigan apart, piece by piece, on New Year’s Day 2002. Hearing “Hail to the Victors” played by the Michigan band was very

impressive. Watching Vol receivers, especially Jason Witten, slice through the Wolverine secondary was even more impressive. That 2001 team, led by Casey Clausen under center, won at Arkansas, Alabama, Notre Dame, and Florida.

I once received a call from SEC official Jimmy Harper about getting a copy of a Volunteers Magazine cover that showed the coin toss of the 1989 Auburn game. There was this deep voice on the phone identifying himself, and my response was to the point: “Should I really be talking with you?” He said, “Yes, of course,” and later profusely thanked me for the photo.

One of the officials from the 2001 SEC Championship Game, I believe his name was Mike Wallace, called with a similar request. He also asked the following pertinent question: “Why couldn’t No. 14 come up with an interception when he had the ball right in his hands?”

No. 14 was Julian Battle, and he nearly had an interception that might have changed the course of the game. I never came up with a good answer why he didn’t.

Interesting questions about significant moments around the Vol football program abound. There’s never been a dull moment.

ETHC celebrates Sam Dow, the Founding Father of Knoxville baseball

By Ken Lay

Baseball has deep roots in the Knoxville Area, which has long been home to some of the best Minor League teams in the sport. Minor League Baseball returned to Downtown Knoxville for the first time in a quarter century in 2025 as the Smokies, the Class AA Southern League affiliate of the Chicago Cubs, are back in Knoxville after a long stint in Sevier County.

Baseball’s roots are deep in Knoxville, but just how far the sport goes back in the city’s history is up for conjecture.

The city has been home to Double-A baseball and the Southern League for decades, but the game was around before the days of Caswell Park, Bill Meyer Stadium, Smokies Stadium or Covenant Health Park and the modern game.

The game’s beginnings in K-Town can be traced back to the mid-19th century, just after the Civil War. The man credited for bringing baseball (then called base ball) to Knoxville was Samuel Billings Dow.

Dow, who brought the game to Knoxville circa 1867, and other Knoxville baseball pioneers were remembered Wednesday afternoon at the East Tennessee History Center as part of its seasonal exhibit, “Home Runs and Home Games.”

The exhibit, which celebrates baseball from its beginnings in the Volunteer State, will run through late September as it marks the return of the Smokies to Knoxville. Dr. William Hardy, the speaker

“The first players who played were well-educated and probably upper-middle class and business owners. They had leisure time and they had time to exercise because they didn’t have to work from sunrise to sundown.”

- Dr. William Hardy

at Wednesday’s lunchtime lecture, remembered Dow and his team, the Knoxville Knoxville and their long-time crosstown archrivals, the Knoxville Holstons.

In his presentation, Hardy attempted to answer whether or not Dow was the man who first brought baseball to Knoxville.

“A lot of baseball’s history in Knoxville was lost because the newspapers didn’t cover a lot of it, but there is an interview in 1921 with Sam Dow in the Knoxville Sentinel newspaper where Dow claims to have started baseball in Knoxville in 1865,” Hardy said. “He claimed to start the first team in the South, south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

“He was 80 years old and there were some people alive then who played the game when he did, who could call him on that.”

So the looming question is: “Was Dow the founder of baseball in Tennessee?”

“From what I can tell and from what I know, he was,” said Hardy, a history professor at Lincoln Memorial University and a former employee at the East Tennessee History Center. “He was a merchant and went to Louisville (Kentucky) with his older brother to work as a clerk in a grocery store

and learn a trade.”

Dow later worked in the military as a revenue officer. He wanted to fight for the Union Army in the Civil War, but was stricken with the measles and sent home.

He founded the Knoxville. Baseball first came to Knoxville when Union soldiers played the game after liberating the city from the Confederates.

The Knoxville, who were born in a local billiard hall, played their games on Gay Street, while the Holstons played in the Cripple Creek Community.

But as time went on, the game went into other parts of the city.

“The first players who played were well-educated and probably upper-middle class and business owners,” Hardy said. “They had leisure time and they had time to exercise because they didn’t have to work from sunrise to sundown.”

Two players in the early days of Knoxville baseball were notable brothers. Both Samuel B. Luttrell and James C. Luttrell would become mayors of Knoxville.

As time went on, baseball found its way to others, and one of the Luttrell brothers passed a city ordinance against throwing baseballs because players

were breaking windows in residential areas.

“If you were caught throwing a baseball, you got a \$10 fine,” Hardy said.

Since a good deal of baseball’s early days in Knoxville have been lost, researching those days is an ongoing process.

“Research is never done and you never know what you’re going to find,” Hardy said.



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Lincoln Memorial University history professor Dr. William Hardy discusses the early days of baseball in Knoxville at the East Tennessee History Center in Downtown Knoxville.

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Mitchell, Weaver and Keck highlight all-county softball team

By Ken Lay

The 2025 high school softball season packed plenty of excitement as Gibbs High School won a 12th state championship and Farragut had a short stay in Murfreesboro at the Class 4A State Tournament.

And those were just a pair of the storylines that made the recently completed campaign memorable.

The Knoxville Focus honors the area's top players and coaches on its All-County Team.

Co-Coach of the Year: Carol Mitchell, Gibbs High School: Mitchell, the long-time head coach of the Lady Eagles, guided her team to the Class 3A State Championship. Gibbs went 41-3 and claimed the state title for the second consecutive year. Gibbs has won 12 state championships in its illustrious softball history. Mitchell has won seven state titles as the Gibbs coach.

Co-Coach of the Year: Brandy Weaver, West High School: For the first time in recent memory, the Lady Rebels posted 11 wins and finished fourth in the ultra-competitive District 4-4A. West went 11-13 overall and 4-6 in the league and made the district tournament semifinals. The Lady Rebels had regular-season sweeps against Bearden and Hardin Valley Academy.

Player of the Year: Lacey Keck, Gibbs High School: Keck went 37-2 as the Lady Eagles' No. 1 starter in the circle. She posted

a 1.06 ERA and hurled 32 complete games and recorded 208 strikeouts.

Keck was also an offensive force for the Eagles as she came up with the game-winning hit in her final at-bat as a high school player to lead Gibbs to a second straight state title. She hit .440 and drove in 56 runs. She amassed 16 doubles and one triple.

Keck's designation as Player of the Year lands her a spot on the all-county team. She is joined by:

Emily Bogoski, Christian Academy of Knoxville: Bogoski is a two-way star for the Lady Warriors, who reached the Division II-A State Tournament. In addition to pitching for CAK, Bogoski played shortstop. The freshman hit .547 and collected 36 extra-base hits. She clubbed 11 home runs, 17 doubles and eight triples. She had 67 RBIs, scored 53 runs and stole 21 bases.

Elsa Morrison, Farragut High School: Morrison finished off her stellar career by being named All-State by the Tennessee Softball Coaches Association. The senior and University of Tennessee signee was also named District 4-4A Player of the Year after helping the Lady Admirals (30-13-1) complete an undefeated run through their league schedule and sweep through the district's postseason tournament. She also helped her team reach the Spring Fling. The catcher-turned-shortstop batted .531 and clubbed 14 home runs and had 14 stolen bases.

Hallie Grace Johnson, Farragut High School: Johnson, a sophomore for the Lady Admirals, helped her team reach the Class 4A State Tournament.

In the circle, she went 21-6 and totaled 175 strikeouts. She threw 18 complete games and recorded nine shutouts. She also hit .383 and had 43 RBIs.

Malyiah Smith, Gibbs High School: Smith led the Lady Eagles in hits, runs and RBIs. The senior infielder hit .605 and helped her team win a second consecutive state championship.

Shelby Williams, Gibbs High School: Williams hit .409 with nine home runs for the Lady Eagles. She stole 11 bases and came up with 12 doubles and two triples.

Maddie Seibers, Karns High School: Seibers helped the Lady Beavers win 28 games in 2025 as she hit .534. The center fielder had 79 hits and scored 49 runs.

Naveah Wells, Powell High School: A freshman utility player, Wells helped Powell win 20 games during the season. She hit .495 and drove in 34 runs and scored 34 more. She also had nine doubles and one triple.

Harper Bales, Halls High School: The sophomore helped the Lady Devils win the District 3-4A and Region 2-4A championships. She had 19 extra-base hits, including two home runs, 14 doubles and three triples. Bales was an all-district stand-out for the Lady Devils.

Atiana Stamper, Halls High School: The senior pitcher closed out a stellar high school career for the Lady Devils (32-7-1) by being named District 3-4A Pitcher of the Year. She helped Halls win both a district title and region crown.

Emery Bales, Halls High School: During her senior season with the Lady Devils, Bales was a force in the circle and at the plate as she was named District 3-4A Player of the Year by the league's coaches. Halls won a district championship and region title in 2025.

Brooke Weaver, West High School: Weaver, a junior pitcher for the Lady Rebels, helped her team reach the District 4-4A Semifinals. West had its best season in recent memory as it won four district games and made a deep district tournament run.

Marah Yeo, Carter High School: Yeo was the District 3-3A Offensive Player of the Year.

Emily LeMaster, Catholic High School: LeMaster batted .355 and belted seven home runs for the Lady Irish, who won 18 games in 2025.

Hadley Troutt, Catholic High School: Troutt hit .500 for Catholic and drove in 31 runs. She had 10 doubles, two triples and two home runs.

Claire Davenport, West High School: Davenport batted .462 and amassed 13 extra-base hits for the Lady Rebels during her freshman season.

Hayden Hill, Grace

Christian Academy: A sophomore for the Lady Rams, Hill hit .574 and clubbed five home runs and had 30 RBIs.

Halle Bedwell, Christian Academy of Knoxville: During

her senior season, Bedwell helped the Lady Warriors reach the state tournament. She hit .550 and had five doubles. She also had 1 home run and 12 RBIs.



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