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PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

State Senator Richard Briggs is joined by Tennessee's leadership delegation at his re-election campaign kickoff at Lakeshore Park recently.

Richard Briggs kicks off re-election campaign

By Ken Lay

Senator Richard Briggs is seeking a fourth term in the Tennessee State Senate.

He made it official on Sunday, Sept. 21, with a kickoff event at Marble Hall at Lakeshore Park.

Briggs, who represents District 7 in the Senate, takes pride in the legislature's accomplishments during his tenure, including improvements in education and the opioid addiction crisis, and keeping taxes low.

"We've improved the opioid crisis, and we've had improvements in education. We don't have a state income tax, and we haven't raised property taxes in Knox County," Briggs said. "We've done a lot in the past, but what's important is what we're going to do in the future," said Briggs, who will seek re-election in 2026. "We still have issues, and I'm really concerned about the quality of life."

"And a big part of that is our traffic patterns. No one

likes sitting in traffic, and we need to make improvements in that area. We still have a lot to do."

He addressed supporters on a humid afternoon and expressed his gratitude to those who had voted for him.

"It's really an honor to serve the people in Tennessee," Briggs said. "It's an honor to be here."

While Briggs officially kicked off his re-election campaign, he didn't take center stage at the event.

Nearly all of the Republicans in the state senate, including Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally, state Senators Becky Duncan Massey, Dawn White, Paul Bailey, Jessie Seal, Tom Hatcher, Shane Reeves, Brent Taylor, Ed Jackson, Ken Yager and others, were among those who appeared to show their support for Briggs, along with Senate Majority Leader Jack Johnson.

State Representative Dave Wright and city council



State Senator Richard Briggs discusses the issues with his supporters at his re-election campaign kickoff event in West Knoxville on Sunday, Sept. 21.

candidate Jeff Talman also attended the event in a show of party unity.

Briggs, who previously served on the Knox County Commission, takes pride in being part of Knox County's delegation in Nashville.

"People used to make fun of us because we talk funny, but when we go to national events, people are envious of our delegation because of what we've been able to accomplish,"

Briggs said.

McNally said that Briggs' experience in both state and local government has been an asset to the state senate.

"One time I needed somebody to help and I chose Rick Briggs because of his experience in both state and local government," McNally said. "We need to re-elect Rick Briggs."

Partial sale of Chilhowee Park to Emerald Youth on council agenda

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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When the Knoxville City Council meets Tuesday evening, the most important item on its agenda is the possible sale of the former Chilhowee Park midway area to Emerald Youth Foundation.

While the city administration claims that

numerous meetings were held and residents were contacted about the proposed sale, many residents argue that they were never contacted, the sale procedure was flawed, and Emerald Youth is neither wanted nor needed in East Knoxville.

Some of the original supporters of Emerald

Continue on page 2

Divided commission chooses two new merit board members

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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"We're not usually this divided," one commissioner said off-mic during a break of the Knox County Commission last week.

The commission was short a member with Commissioner Courtney Durrett out, and the 10 commissioners present split 5-5 on several votes, especially when naming two citizens to the Knox County Sheriff's Office Employees' Merit System Board.

Six people applied to serve on the board: Jaybee Brennan and Michael Crichton are current members applying for reappointment, and the other four applicants included former Knox County GOP chairman Daniel Herrera, Steve McFall, Christopher Smith and Sarah Still.

After a couple of votes, the first position was filled when Herrera received seven votes to Crichton's one and McFall's two.

Following several roll call votes that ended in ties, Brennan and McFall were chosen as the two nominees for the other open position, with the following commissioners voting for Brennan: Andy Fox, Rhonda Lee, Terry Hill, Adam Thompson and Angela Russell. McFall supporters were Kim Frazier, Damon Rawls, Gina Oster, Shane Jackson and Larsen Jay. McFall was selected in a 6-4 decision after Thompson changed his vote.

On the confirmation of the two new members, Jay voted "No," and two commissioners abstained. A roll call vote was taken and passed 6-1-3 with Jay voting against and Russell, Lee and Fox abstaining.

After Phillip Graves was appointed to join fellow new members Jonathan Repass, Ashley Williams and John Elliott on the Board of Zoning Appeals, the commission moved to replace Commissioner Russell on the Audit Committee.

Angela Russell nominated Fox, Hill nominated Thompson, and Jay nominated Oster. Oster declined, and another voice vote was held.

Another 5-5 vote resulted, and the replacement of Russell on the Audit Committee was postponed until the commission's October meeting.

Julie Thompson was appointed to the Knox County Library Advisory Board.

Jay and Frazier clash

Knox County mayoral candidates and At-large Commissioners Larsen Jay and Kim Frazier exchanged some words last week as the commission heard Frazier's proposal to change qualifications for Knox County Sheriff's Office Employees' Merit System Board applicants.

Continue on page 2

Unique venue approved by Knox County Beer Board

By Mike Steely
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The agenda of the Knox County Commission's Beer Board was very light last Monday, but one applicant stood out with a novel concept.

Elizabeth Eckhart appeared before the beer board requesting an on-premise beer sales permit for a business located at the former Creekside

Restaurant and Bar with a different clientele. It's Wagbar, a restaurant for people and their dogs.

Located at 6729 Malone Creek Drive, the business caters to, yes, people and their dogs. The franchise is out of Asheville, N.C., and becomes the first such venue in Knox County. Dog-friendly means customers may dine and drink while their dogs run about outside in a confined space.

Anyone bringing their dog is welcome, and so are people who don't have an animal to bring.

The business offers a secure off-leash park where dogs play and humans can relax and take in the social scene. A grand opening is planned for October. The business promises live music on Saturday nights, food trucks, and beer, seltzers, ciders and other drinks in an

18-year-old-plus environment.

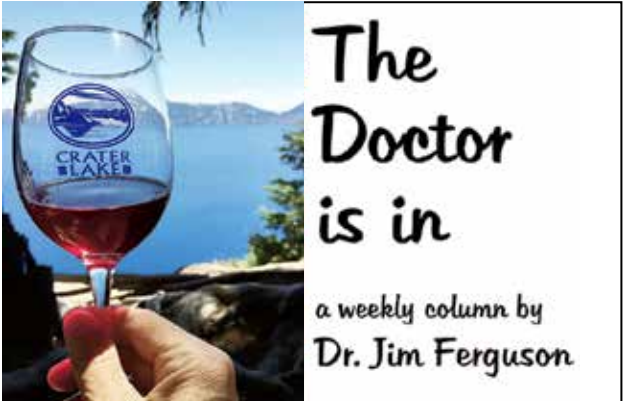
Eckhart and her daughter, Shelby, own the franchise and will operate the business.

The beer board voted unanimously to approve the application pending a certificate of operation and turning in the previous license.

"Knoxville is so dog-friendly," Eckhart told the meeting.

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Anniversary Quest

A quest often connotes something heroic or perhaps noteworthy. My quest was not heroic, but perhaps noteworthy. Mr. Webster explains that a quest is an act of seeking, so my return to Crater Lake National Park in Oregon fits the definition.

For a Tennessean, it is not easy to experience this wondrous place in southern Oregon. But things that are worthwhile usually require some effort. So, Becky and I flew to the Pacific Northwest to be with our Portland, Oregon family, celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary and revisit a place that remains on my top ten list of destinations.

Sharing something beautiful like a piece of music, a great movie or a book with someone gives me joy. And sharing an experience or a place brings people closer together.

Because Crater Lake is relatively remote, my Oregon daughter and her family had never seen this remarkable place. The lake was formed in the crater of an ancient volcano, which blew up 7,700 years ago with an explosion 100 times greater than Mount St. Helen's eruption. As the magma was ejected, the 12,000-foot volcanic mountain collapsed into a caldera, forming a crater with a circumference of 22 miles. And over the millennia, annual snow falls of 44 feet a year have filled the crater, producing a lake with trillions of gallons of water and a depth of 1,900 feet. The water is crystal clear and reflects blue wavelengths of light, giving the lake an intense blue color.

There is a saying that the

journey is more important than the destination. Family road trips are an example. So, we traveled south from Portland through the changing topography of the Columbia River basin to the high desert, which gave way to the national forests of Lodgepole and Ponderosa pines. We saw elk, mule deer, Steller's Jays and groves of quaking aspens. They say Ponderosa pines have a butter-scotch smell, but not to the nose of a 74-year-old man.

Even the ash-like soil and volcanic rocks of the Crater Lake area reflect the ancient eruption and are different from Portland's alluvial soil of the Columbia River basin. Ancient lava flows were commonplace as we approached our destination. Even the gravel along roadways is of volcanic rock.

Forest fires are a constant concern in Oregon forests, as they are in our Smoky Mountains. Most of the majestic Ponderosa pines had blackened trunks from forest fires, which reminded me of the giant Sequoias of Muir Woods in California. The thickened bark is fire-resistant. And when fire has burned away the brush, light can reach the forest floor. Then, as

heat opens pine cones, seeds are released for the next generations of trees.

I remember the terrible fires in Yellowstone National Park some years ago. Becky and I saw the so-called apocalyptic destruction, but several years later, we were back and saw the rejuvenated forest, which even the alarmists agreed was better than ever. We saw the same process at work in Oregon forests.

I have been blessed to have traveled extensively all of my life, visiting scores of countries and traipsing across five continents. In "The Wizard of Oz," Dorothy discovered that "there's no place like home," and I believe she's right. Travel certainly expands your horizons, but it makes you appreciate your own country more. So, Ferguson's axiom is, it's good to go, but best to come home.

You only get one 50th anniversary and mine was blessed. Becky created a marvelous book of pictures of our life together over the last 50 years. She even included captions! We weren't supposed to give each other anything except the trip, so her defense was, "It's for both of us," and it is! And then my daughter wrote

and performed a parody of Paul Simon's song, "50 Ways to [Keep] Your Lover"! They are both so clever.

I told a friend that Crater Lake was on my top ten list of wondrous places. He asked me for my list, and this prompted considerable reflection. I've already mentioned the remarkable Yellowstone National Park with geysers and hot springs, which sit atop a huge magma collection. And I mentioned the magnificent giant Sequoias of Muir Woods. And here are some other notables:

- Views from the south rim of the Grand Canyon and later rafting down the Colorado River through the canyon with the rim a mile above
- Mount Cook, New Zealand
- Fjords of Cape Horn, Chile
- Glacier Bay, Alaska
- Crusader castles in Rhodes and Malta, Carcasonne, France, and in Slovakia - overlooking brilliant yellow rapeseed fields
- Heather in the Scottish Highlands and atmospheric effects like those of our Smoky Mountains as seen from our cabin above the Townsend, Tennessee valley
- The bay entrance to Kotor, Montenegro
- The Sistine Chapel, Vatican
- Niagara Falls and the Thousand Islands
- The Acropolis, Greece
- The ruins of ancient Carthage near Sidi Bou Said, Tunisia
- Butchart Gardens, Victoria, British Columbia

Well, it's obvious I had trouble selecting a "top ten." Thinking about my list has been a trip down memory lane, where I will probably do my traveling in the coming years. I did my best to pare the list, but had to expand to my top 15.

Hopefully, this essay stimulated some memories of your own. Better still, maybe it will generate your own family road trip.

So, if you turned to this column to read about the latest controversy, mayhem or murder, I'm sure you were surprised. However, I've done travelogues before, and if I continue to be blessed with life, you may someday read of another Ferguson adventure. But there will never be another 50th wedding anniversary or a fourth expedition to Crater Lake ... in my memories.

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

Divided commission chooses two new merit board members

Cont. from page 1

Jay, who was involved in changing the merit board's membership requirements several years ago, was

critical of Frazier's proposed changes. Under the current membership rules, applicants may not have served the KCSO in

the last 10 years, cannot be involved in politics, and cannot have a relative employed by the sheriff or the Knoxville Police Department.

Frazier proposes to reduce the 10-year requirement to five and remove the prohibition of having a family member employed by either police outfit. Commissioner Angela Russell moved to change the proposed five years to eight, and Jay accepted that change in his motion

to make the new rules effective in 2027.

Jay referred to the commission's choice of two new merit board members earlier in the same meeting. He said that Frazier's proposal "reeks of making it more political." He said that the sponsor, Frazier, has a relative who serves as treasurer of one of the candidates running for sheriff.

Frazier responded to Jay by saying her proposal would minimize barriers to serving on the merit board. "This is not political," she said, adding Jay's comments were "disrespectful and unprofessional."

Several other commissioners commented on the Jay proposal, and his motion failed in a 6-4 vote. Voting with Jay were Commissioners Russell, Rhonda Lee and Andy Fox. Voting against the idea were Commissioners Frazier, Damon Rawls, Terry Hill, Adam Thompson, Gina Oster and Shane Jackson.

Frazier then moved to postpone the second reading of her proposed changes to the merit board membership for 60 days, and the postponement passed.

Partial sale of Chilhowee Park to Emerald Youth on council agenda

Cont. from page 1

Youth Foundation, mentioned in publicity as supporting the project, are publicly disputing the project and are asking that the twelve acres be turned into a city park with facilities and playground equipment. Some opponents also object to the city selling land to a religious organization.

Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie, who represents the area, has listened to both sides and may lead in the discussion before a vote. Her husband, state Representative Sam McKenzie, said in a recent public meeting held by the city that the meeting was a "waste of time" and added that the people living in the area should be heard. The councilwoman delayed a council vote in August on the issue.

The proposed \$913,518 sale, if approved, would allow Emerald Youth Foundation to build and operate a \$20 to \$30 million complex there. A large turnout of local East Knoxville residents is expected to attend tomorrow's council meeting.

In other business, council may also vote on several procedural rules for future meetings, including establishing a standing Rules Committee and

allowing electronic participation by absent members.

Also on the agenda is an increase to the maximum wrecker rotation fee for vehicles not involved in a collision and towed to a city lot on instructions from a police officer. Council will review raising the performance and payment bonds to comply with state law.

The Ferber Company is appealing a Board of Zoning Appeals decision on five variances involving the maximum sign height for a Midway Road property.

The Knoxville Community Development Corporation may get a \$2 million transfer from the city for the Riverwalk to Cityview Greenway Connection. Other expenditure requests that may see approval include upping the Citywide Facilities Paving Project contract to \$346,932 with PRI of East Tennessee, allotting \$44,978 in a yearly contract with West for online research services, and upping a contract amount to \$359,376 with Johnson, Mirmiran and Thompson Inc. for construction administration services for the Urban Wilderness Gateway Project.

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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,
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Kincannon Losing Support For Proposed Sales Tax Increase

The defection of City Councilman Andrew Roberto in abandoning Mayor Indya Kincannon's bid to jack up the sales tax inside Knoxville is an indication he has finally figured out which way the wind is blowing. The proposed tax increase, which would follow a 40% hike in the property tax by the City of Knoxville, is opposed by many voters across the political spectrum. The proposed sales tax hike is opposed by most of the Left and the Right inside the city, as well as many homeowners who simply think the city government is overreaching and trying to put some taxpayers out of their homes. Roberto voted for the big increase in the property tax and evidently, the councilman, who is almost certain to toss his hat into the ring

to succeed Kincannon, has decided he doesn't much like the idea of being crippled coming out of the starting gate.

Kincannon and the great majority of the city council have raised taxes and cut services to taxpayers, all in the name of "affordability." The city government has failed to define precisely who the recipients of their desired affordability in housing would be. Hiking property taxes RAISES RENTS AND MORTGAGES for everyone except those few residents who benefit from having their rents subsidized by the taxpayers. In other words, if you are dismayed or outraged by the housing crisis in Knoxville and Knox County and don't like your mortgage or rents rising, the blame can be placed squarely on the tax-and-spend administration of Indya Kincannon and the Knoxville City Council. The city has been raising property taxes steadily over the years to pay for its defined benefit pensions and little else. There isn't anybody in town who can remember ANY member of the city council under Indya Kincannon who questioned spending. Kincannon rolled back KPD coming to the site of traffic accidents, relieving the police department from having to write up accident reports, but it makes Knoxville more of a "no-fault" insurance area, which drives up the premiums paid by the same taxpayers

whose property taxes and rents have gone up dramatically by the tax-and-spend Kincannon and city council.

Beggarly old people on fixed incomes and hard-working families to build skyscrapers and high-rise apartments for folks to enjoy more taxpayer subsidized housing is foolish and is NOT cost-effective. A city with an anti-business inclination and silly economic policies supposedly for the welfare of the poor makes the Lord Mayor Kincannon and her sock puppets on the city council seem like watered-down Mamdanis.

Free Speech Hypocrisy

It is astonishing that the hue and cry of some of those on the Left is about the removal of Jimmy Kimmel's late-night "talk show." The hysterical cries about censorship come from those who have positively LOVED censorship as well as practiced it with relish. The very same people who are now trying to wrap themselves in the cloak of free speech are the same people who ruthlessly denied it to those people who did not agree with their political orthodoxies and the holy grails worshipped by the Left. It has been documented that the Biden administration put the full weight of the federal government behind pressuring the social media companies to suppress content it

did not like, which just happened to be from their political opposition or those who did not share their political views. Those who offered the slightest dissent over COVID and vaccines were harassed, cancelled, fired from their jobs, and lives ruined. They have savagely fought to keep free speech off college campuses, which has resulted in the murder of Charlie Kirk. The entire rise of the "cancel culture" in this country was born and bred by the Left, and we all know it. They are guilty of having used every means, including the government, to persecute, prosecute and punish their political enemies, which is any American who does not share the entirety of their political beliefs. In all honesty, can any rational person believe the numerous political figures who today murmur, babble and sputter when asked the simple question of what a woman is? Is there any rational person who believes we should refer to women as "birthing persons"? Crazy Mazie Hirono, U.S. senator from Hawaii, not only let the cat out of the bag recently, but it got up, ran around the room and bit the stuffing out of her when she questioned Kash Patel, the director of the FBI. Hirono was mad about pull-ups and demanded to know if that was to keep women out of passing the new physical requirements for agents because of the

physiological differences between men and women. UH OH! Yet Crazy Mazie is all for letting men play in girls' and women's sports.

The Left did its best to stifle, suppress, and kill off the story of Hunter Biden's laptop and their allies in the news media routinely repeat the same lies for public consumption. For them, it's never about the truth but rather about the narrative.

The Left has tried to cancel book deals for those voices on the right or those who don't agree with them. The Left in this country has weaponized an entire "offense industry" which they use to beat their opponents over the head. Anything the Left dislikes or is contrary to their own views has been censored as "misinformation."

Late-night television is supposed to be entertainment, not political commentary. Johnny Carson set the benchmark when he twitted Republicans AND Democrats, which is something Stephen Colbert and Jimmy Kimmel are incapable of doing. They have become mouthpieces for the Left and are about as funny as leprosy. Why any thinking person would take their political tips from the likes of Jimmy Kimmel, Stephen Colbert, Whoopi Goldberg, Joy Behar, and Sunny What's-Her-Name is inexplicable. Their programs can find new homes on either CNN or MSDNC, where

like-minded people can enjoy them. Comedy ought to be funny. Kimmel and Colbert might as well be North Korean versions of a "comedian." Even Colbert's audience has laughed in his face when he has made statements like CNN is "objective." Both Colbert and Kaitlin Collins were surprised when the audience laughed. The Left ignores the fact that television even in this day and age, is still driven by profits and viewership, not by ideology.

G. K. Chesterton wrote that "the true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind [or next to] him." We now, unfortunately, live in a time when our young people have been taught to hate those who don't believe as they do, rather than cherish their own beliefs and principles.

It can surprise nobody that the ultimate result of the cancel culture is attempts to kill those they hate. It is the most final of all cancellations.

The political left long ago abandoned its absolute support for the idea of free speech, and it is astonishing that they sling their charges of Nazism and "Hitler" while they utilize the same tools as every authoritarian on earth. To use one of their own sayings, the people of this country "see you and hear you."

President Trump Is Making Memphis Safe Again

When now-FBI Director Kash Patel met with me earlier this year ahead of his confirmation vote, I had one urgent plea: Help us end the crime crisis in Memphis. Although



By Marsha Blackburn
U.S. Senator for Tennessee

he was familiar with the city's recent struggles with crime, the statistics I shared shocked him.

In 2024, Memphis posted the highest crime rate in the country. It struggled especially with violent crime, seeing at least four times as many murders per capita as notorious crime havens like Lima, Peru, Islamabad, Pakistan, and Mexico City.

Although disturbing, these statistics fail to capture just how badly violence mars daily life for Memphians. In many parts of the city, residents cannot walk outside without fear of being mugged, carjacked, or murdered. This month alone, the city experienced multiple drive-by shootings, including one that claimed the life of a 47-year-old mother.

When I speak with Memphians about the source of this violent crime, they point to the criminal gangs that terrorize the city. Just last month, I met with city leaders who detailed how gangs prey on children during after-school hours—and before parents get home from work—to recruit them into their operations. The gangs know that juveniles are far more likely to be released back to the streets, where they can

continue their criminal activity.

This lawlessness is inexcusable for any American city. But it's especially heart-breaking for Memphis—the home of blues and rock and roll; the logistics hub of America with all five Class A railroads, FedEx's headquarters, and an international port; and a community with deep cultural and historical traditions.

For years, Memphians have demanded government action to tackle the gang violence that has held the city back for far too long. Yet, time and again, Democrats have enacted soft-on-crime policies that keep criminals on the streets and innocent residents in danger.

No more. To make Memphis safe again, President Trump established a "Memphis Safe Task Force" and is sending the National Guard to the city to work with the FBI, U.S. Marshals, Drug Enforcement Agency, and other federal agencies. It was an honor to join the President at the White House for this announcement last week. In coordination with the Memphis Police Department, Tennessee Highway Patrol, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and other state agencies, law enforcement will work to lock up repeat offenders, lower violent crime across the city, and restore law and order.

This order marks the latest phase of this

administration's multi-pronged strategy to fight violent crime. This summer in Memphis, the FBI under Director Patel conducted Operation Viper in coordination with the ATF, DEA, and U.S. Marshals, surging federal resources to crack down on crime. In total, there have been over 500 arrests and 100 indictments. Last month, Memphis recorded the most encouraging crime stats it has seen in years.

By deploying the National Guard to the city, President Trump is building on this success. While National Guardsmen help maintain order and deter crime, Memphis police and federal law enforcement will be freed up to track down criminals and take them off the street.

We saw this strategy succeed in D.C. In just a month, the President's crime crackdown in our nation's capital brought car thefts down 36 percent, robberies down 62 percent, and homicides down 57 percent. Authorities conducted more than 1,700 arrests, including of MS-13 and Tren de Aragua gang members, cleared out dozens of homeless encampments, and rescued five missing children.

Tennesseans applaud this success, and they want to see it in their communities, too. By sending federal support to Memphis, President Trump is delivering on his promise to make American cities safe again—ensuring that Memphians can live in peace and reclaim their city from violent criminals.

Food City presents School Bucks check to Seymour Primary



Food City officials are in the process of awarding \$800,000 in contributions to area schools from their 2024-2025 School Bucks program. Company officials recently presented a check to Seymour Primary School. Pictured left to right are: Michelle Sanders, Seymour Primary secretary; Dr. Melinda Rainey, principal; Donna Kadron, Food City human relations coordinator; and Joel Wolfe, vice principal. To ensure your points credit to the school of your choice, simply visit foodcity.com/schoolbucks to link your Food City ValuCard to your preferred school for the 2025-2026 School Bucks program.



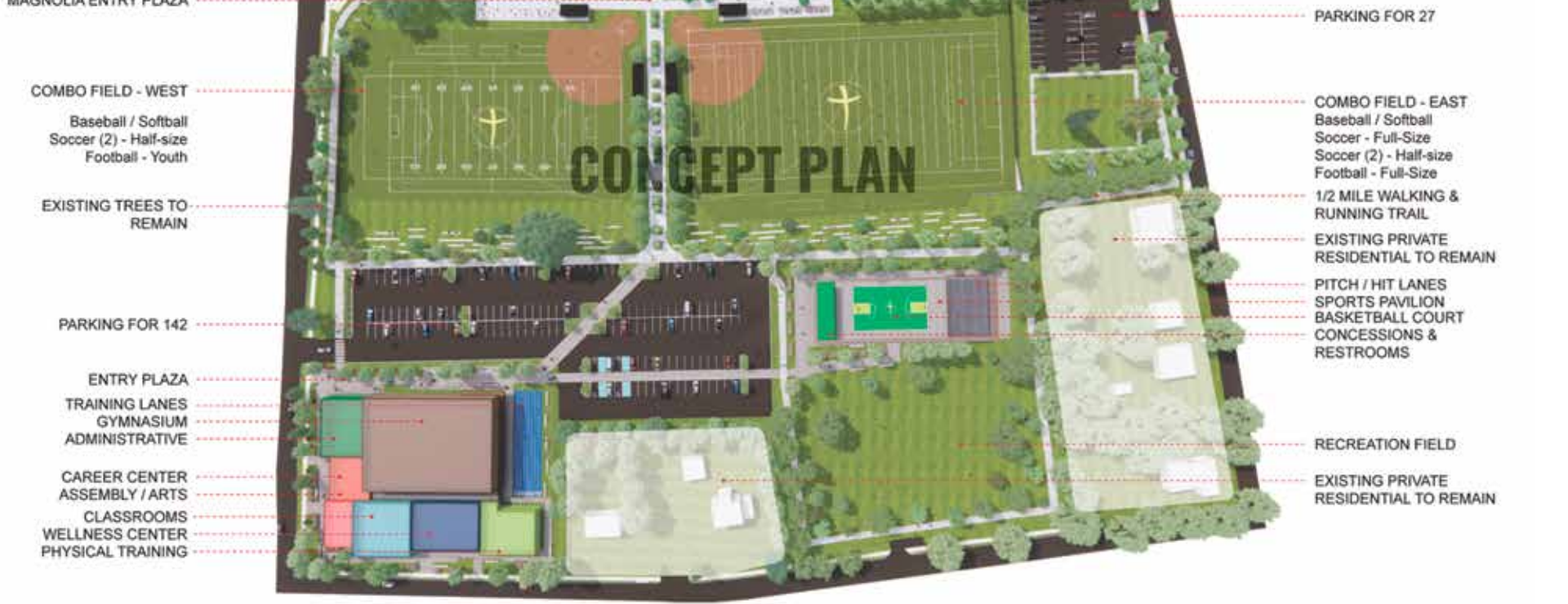
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With caring, passionate staff available around the clock, you have the peace of mind knowing that someone is always close by. Originally a public high school, we are thoughtfully designed to connect you with family and friends with a great place to visit anytime here at South High Senior Living.

We welcome you to visit the old high school for a trip down memory lane.

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SouthHighKnoxville.com
(865) 338-3060



Emerald Youth works with city leaders to revise key contract updates in response to community feedback

Following an open bidding process, Emerald Youth Foundation was selected and put forth a proposal to purchase approximately 13 acres of property from the City of Knoxville to develop a youth development complex in the Burlington community of East Knoxville. The project would represent a private investment of \$20-\$30 million in facilities and programs to serve children, youth and families throughout East Knoxville and city neighborhoods.

Statement from Steve Diggs, EYF President & CEO:

“Over the last several weeks, in consultation with Mayor Kincaid, our leadership has spent time continuing to listen to and discern input from members of City Council and the community – from the East Knoxville neighborhood as well as the community at large. Unequivocally, Emerald Youth remains firmly committed to serving more young people and their families in East Knoxville.

“To that end, we agreed to the following revisions, and the contract has been updated accordingly as follows:

- Doubling the restriction period from 20 to 40 years, meaning that the property must be used for the purposes put forth in our proposal for a minimum of 40 years.
- The Right of First Refusal period has likewise been extended from 20 to 40 years.
- A perpetuity restriction period for the property where the sports fields are located, guaranteeing they would be used for recreational use forever, instead of the original 20 years.
- A commitment to keep as many mature, existing trees as possible, formally stated in the contract.
- A written commitment regarding accessibility by the community at large, including an open green space playing field. While this has always been both our intent and our practice, we believe that formally codifying it in the agreement will ensure its continuation for years to come.

“The property at the Chilhowee Park Midway is key for this project. Not only is it walkable from Austin-East Magnet High School, but it is also accessible and walkable for the majority of young people in the surrounding East Knoxville neighborhoods. Further, it is strategically and accessibly located within a healthcare desert. One often-overlooked element of this project is the wellness center that will be operated by River Valley Health (formerly Cherokee Health Systems). In collaboration with the CEO of every major hospital system in the community, we have worked to consider how we might best serve East Knoxville residents and bring essential services to the heart of a part of our city where they are not in existence.

“Finally and above all, we humbly pray that God’s will be done. Far too much hangs in the balance for our city’s young people for us to offer anything less than our very best – to giving this all we possibly have. And so, that’s what we are doing.”

-Steve Diggs, President & CEO, Emerald Youth Foundation

Proposed Facility Details

The proposed complex would include both indoor and outdoor facilities and be located on the midway property on the south side of Magnolia Avenue, generally bound by Magnolia, Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Alice Street and North Beaman Street.

While design schematics are still in draft form, Emerald Youth anticipates the complex could include the following:

- A 37,000 square foot indoor facility to include: a learning center, community room or meeting rooms, basketball/volleyball courts, performance training/fitness space and a wellness center
- Synthetic turf sports fields that can be utilized for multiple sports offerings
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Outdoor pitching and hitting lanes
- A walking/running trail
- An outdoor pavilion

The facility in East Knoxville would replicate the proven model of the Haslam-Sansom Ministry Complex in Lonsdale, which served nearly 1,000 young people last year through Emerald Youth programming and hundreds more through other events and community organizations. The new complex would allow Emerald Youth to expand its impact and serve hundreds of additional young people in East Knoxville each year.

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KIM KOMANDO SHOW

New sign on the horizon for Richard Yoakley School

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville Focus occasionally gets requests from readers seeking information or help. Some of those requests are special and need the attention that The Focus can provide.

One was very special and here's how it developed.

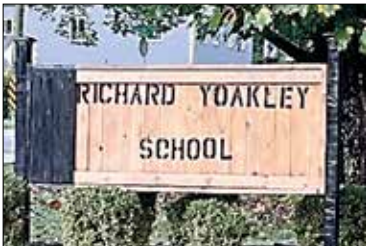
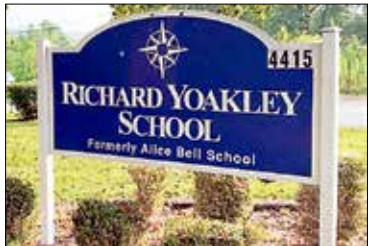
The Richard Yoakley School, located in the historic former Alice Bell School building at 4415

Washington Pike in Knoxville, is a Knox County Schools alternative day school serving students in grades 7 through 12. Students who are obligated to attend school in an alternative environment are enrolled at RYS for varying reasons and durations. To best attend to students' needs, enrollment at RYS is limited to around 120 students.

Donna Wynn, Richard Yoakley secretary and bookkeeper of

31 years, reached out to The Knoxville Focus for help earlier this month. She reported that a storm last spring damaged their once beautiful sign and the school, with no PTO and little to no outside financial support, has not been able to replace the sign. The current sign, yet unfinished, will not withstand years of exposure to the elements and normal degradation over time.

Wynn asked for assistance



The original Richard Yoakley School sign (left) and its temporary replacement (right).

from The Focus in finding the needed funding for a new sign that would be similar to the former one.

"Many schools are able to

Continued on page 5

A look inside Ramsey House

By Pete Gawda

"The most costly and most admired building in Tennessee," according to the 1800 federal census, is located east of Knoxville on Thorngrove Pike.

Ramsey House was built in 1797 by Colonel Francis Alexander Ramsey. Ramsey, who received his title because of service in the militia, had come to the area as a surveyor and surveyed Jefferson, Knox and Blount counties. He learned surveying by working with his cousin James Gettys in laying out the town of Gettysburg.

Ramsey was a founding trustee of Blount College, which became the University of Tennessee. He was also involved in the formation of Knoxville, served in various government positions and was a founder and elder in the nearby Lebanon Presbyterian Church.

Ramsey House, which was the first stone house in Knox County, was built with Tennessee pink marble and blue limestone from a local quarry. The glass in the windows came from France because the colonel thought French glass was smoother and clearer than American glass. The house was designed by British architect Thomas Hope, who is responsible for the original interior and exterior architectural features. At that time, kitchens were separate buildings from the main house because of heat and fire hazards. The kitchen in Ramsey House, built about 1806, was the first attached kitchen in



Ramsey House Info

Phone: (865) 546-0745
Email: info@ramseyhouse.org
Address: 2614 Thorn Grove Pike, Knoxville, TN 37914
Online: www.ramseyhouse.org
Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Hours are subject to change. Call to confirm.

Left: Ramsey House, built in 1797 is the oldest stone house in Knox County. Bottom left: This square piano, located in the parlor of Ramsey House, was made in France in the 1770s. Below: This is the fireplace in the children's bedroom at Ramsey House. Notice the ladder-back chair, handmade broom and bed warmer. Photos by Pete Gawda.



the state. Upstairs over the kitchen are quarters for the household slaves. The house was originally surrounded by a palisade for protection from the Cherokees.

Downstairs, there is a parlor, a central hall and a dining room, which was sometimes used for meetings and church services. The parlor boasts a square

piano built in Germany in the 1770s. The parlor and dining room both have framed needlework pieces by the colonel's daughter, Eliza Jane Ramsey. One lists births in the family, and the other documents deaths in the family. The stairway in the central hall features elaborate carvings designed by Hope. On the second floor, there are

three bedrooms.

Notable figures of the era, including William Blount and John Sevier, were guests at Ramsey House.

Although Ramsey House is owned by the Tennessee Association for the Preservation of Antiquities, it has its own board of directors and conducts its own fundraising activities. It is open for public tours Thursday through Saturday from 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. and hosts school groups to give them an appreciation of their history. School groups have the option of churning butter and making candles. Since one of the offices held by the colonel was court clerk, students also have the opportunity to write a court summons with a quill and ink.

Vintage base ball (original spelling) games are played on the grounds,

Continue on page 6

Kickin' It for the Kids at Union Baptist

Union Baptist Church on Washington Pike is excited to announce that contemporary Christian artist Natalie Layne is coming to Union to present a concert of Christian music on Saturday, October 4. This is a benefit concert to kick off a two-year endeavor to raise money to support the church's day care and pre-school program. Natalie is located in Nashville and has signed an exclusive recording and publishing contract with Centricity Music. She was recently nominated for two Dove awards – New Artist of the Year and Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year. A graduate of Belmont University with a master's degree in commercial piano, she charted a successful path as an independent artist and songwriter. She studied under Grammy award-winning songwriter Bernie Herms and has opened shows for musicians Chris Tomlin, We the Kingdom and others. She is currently a worship leader at a large church in downtown Nashville. Her introductory EP, "Amen," includes six original songs, all written by her.

Opening the concert is Knoxville's own Brett Durfee. Brett is a native of Halls and a recent graduate of Carson-Newman University. While at Carson-Newman, he was active in mission activities and YOKE. He studied music and theology and

Continue on page 6

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Reflecting on the last year

Mommas and daddies aren't supposed to outlive their young'uns. That's what happened to Amy and me. Our son Dallas passed away one year ago today (Sept. 23). For the past



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

year, we've lived a miserable existence. One day we are fine; the next we're swept away in a flood of sadness and loss. Holidays have been void of good cheer, and we've gotten through them while living in a fog. Even with such aching hearts beating in our bodies, we've survived the last 365 days with plenty of help.

Our friends have saved us. That includes so many people with whom we have worked over the years. Kind words, support-filled texts and cards, and hugs have made each day a little easier to handle. Dallas' friends have also been present. Amy and I had heard many stories about those folks from college or work. When he left us, his closest friends made contact. At the celebration of his life, those people stood in front of a crowded church and told stories that were funny or sweet.

In the toughest of times, neighbors provided food, and church friends offered prayers and help in any task. Amy and I are blessed with two church families. One is from First Christian

Church. We spent 30 years there, and those friends knew Dallas as a newborn all the way through high school. Our second church family is Beaver Ridge United Methodist. Those who are there have known Dallas as a man, one who loved children, who took over the dish room during Wednesday night meals, and who offered kind words to all who came his way. All of those groups have been present for the last year to make life easier.

The minister at BRUMC is special. She and I don't necessarily agree in every area, and our personalities are exact opposites. Teresa McClure will always have a special spot in my heart because she was with Amy and me from the time that Dallas entered the emergency room last year. She stayed with us until his passing and guarded us as if she were a mama bear.

My daughter Lacey is a true hero. Her grief took a backseat as she did her best to help us struggle through the loss. On many occasions, she was the only person with a clear enough head to make some of the hard decisions. Lacey has continued to be the loving, caring daughter through the year, and she knows how much her love and phone calls help. Living in Hendersonville

with her husband Nick and son Madden, she finds trips here are difficult. However, if we can travel to her home, she has a wonderful space for us to stay. Amy and I couldn't have made it through the past year without her.

Our faith in God and His promise of eternal life have buoyed us in dark times. We miss Dallas so much that it makes our hearts ache. However, Amy and I know that we will be with him sometime in the future. That promise of life over death for which Christ gave his own life takes away much of the pain of Dallas' too-soon departure.

Last, Amy and I have each other. We have cried and laughed and grieved this last year. The key is that we have each other and a love that's lasted for nearly 51 years. Although nothing can change the fact that Dallas is gone, the sharing of sorrow and questionings makes that fact bearable. Our dog Sadie and grand-dog Harvey have created a family. Our lives are simple. The dogs instinctively know when one of us is feeling low, and they hover around us or curl up beside us or on our laps.

Today is the end of a year without our son. Dallas is still in our hearts and in our thoughts. With the blessings that I've listed, Amy and I are making it daily. We are certainly thankful for the love and kindness that have come our way.

When Faith and Fear Collide

Fear can be an icy grip that often paralyzes people in their tracks. We've all seen or known someone who missed an incredible opportunity because they froze in fear. For example, a student who studied hard might know the answers but never advances due to apprehension. Similarly, a man might miss out on a promotion at work because his fear of failure prevents him from applying. Fear not only whispers worst-case scenarios; it shouts about possibilities, robbing us of what could have been.

This is the story of Israel as God brought them to the edge of the Promised Land, a place that was rightfully theirs. It had been promised to the Old Testament pilgrims who had endured bondage for over four centuries. Now, in the Book of Numbers, they had the opportunity to claim everything that God had promised to their forefathers. With the wilderness dust still clinging to their sandals, they gazed ahead at the hills and valleys of a land flowing with milk and honey. The air was thick with anticipation, and each family wondered what lay ahead.

One by one, a leader from each tribe was chosen to become the eyes of the nation. They would venture into the land to scout it out and provide a report on what they discovered. Twelve men turned and began their ascent up the ridge, their silhouettes fading as they disappeared into the unknown. The future of a nation ventured into this uncharted territory, some filled with great faith while others held seeds of doubt.

They ultimately returned with a divided report. A minority of two concluded that it was an incredible land, promised by God, and that it should be taken. In contrast, the majority of ten acknowledged the same qualities as Joshua and Caleb, but instead of embracing God's promise, they focused on the giants. This moment represented a clash between faith and fear, forcing those who heard the report

to make a choice: faith or fear? Their inability to trust God produced a fear that not only cost them an opportunity but also affected an entire generation.

Fear can be likened to a small trickle of doubt that seeps into the mind, gradually carving a channel through which all our thoughts flow. Over time, a series of minor fears can accumulate, ultimately leaving us feeling paralyzed and unable to function. Fear is a reality that believers often face, and there are moments when fear and faith conflict, with one ultimately prevailing. It's essential to recognize that, just as the children of Israel did, allowing fear to paralyze our faith leads us to forfeit our peace.

I personally struggle with feelings of fear and anxiety. I work diligently every day to overcome these fears to ensure that I don't miss the personal Promised Land that God has for me. One way I combat the enemy of fear is by confronting it honestly. I acknowledge my fears and recognize that they are struggles I need to master.

Additionally, I often confess my fears as sins. The issue does not lie in experiencing fear—it's a natural human emotion—but rather in allowing fear to control us instead of trusting God. The Bible's repeated message of "fear not" is not a condemnation of the emotion but an invitation to trust in God's presence and power.

I like to think of it this way: feeling fear is normal and human. However, when fear leads to doubt and disobedience toward God, it becomes sinful. We must acknowledge our sinfulness and seek God's help to overcome our fears.

Lastly, I take necessary steps to cultivate a closer relationship with God. Simple spiritual practices, such as reading the Bible, praying, and maintaining relationships with fellow believers, have proven to be beneficial during times of fear. True safety is not found in the absence of trouble but in the presence of God.

In my experience, the level of fear we feel often reflects the closeness of our relationship with God. Fear must yield to faith because faith places its trust in a God who never fails.



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'Big Ed' Johnson of Colorado

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

For the better part of two decades, Edwin Carl Johnson dominated the politics of Colorado. A hulking man over six feet tall with a thick, shaggy head of hair, Johnson was fondly known as “Big Ed” to his many friends in the Centennial State. Others referred to Johnson as the “Big Swede,” which was meant affectionately. Three times Coloradans elected Johnson as their governor, and three times they elected him to the United States Senate. There are those who believe Edwin C. Johnson was “the most noteworthy politician to come from Colorado in this century.” It was Ed Johnson who once told his colleagues on the floor of the Senate, “Out in my state, they call me the big, dumb Swede.”

Johnson lost his first campaign, a race for Moffat County superintendent of schools in 1914. It was the only campaign he lost in a political career that did not end until 1957. “Big Ed” continued to serve his state in various capacities and did not retire until 1985. A person of magnetic personality with a zest for politics, Ed Johnson was highly popular with the people of Colorado. Even in 1964, the old veteran was still campaigning, not for himself but rather for Congressman Wayne Aspinall. The Greeley Daily Tribune noted, “Big Ed grinned his way into Greeley with all the skill and finesse that 40 years in the political arena have given him.”

The newspaper related that a group of people had gathered waiting for the former governor’s arrival, and “Big Ed” got out of the car and took off his windbreaker, only to reveal a pair of bright red suspenders. Almost instantly, Johnson reminded folks why he had been so popular for so long. He began shaking hands and calling people by their first names.

TIME magazine, which routinely damned and demeaned any politician it deemed to be isolationist, wrote that Ed Johnson was no statesman, but grudgingly acknowledged him to be “a hardworking, courageous public servant,” as well as “an able politician whose sensitivity to public opinion” had carried him from railroad laborer to high office.

A Democrat, Ed Johnson’s political appeal transcended political parties, and his independent streak attracted support from many Republicans. Johnson had come to Colorado suffering from tuberculosis after having been born in Kansas and growing up on a cattle ranch in Nebraska. Johnson ran for the Colorado House of Representatives in 1922 and won. Johnson came to the State Capitol at a time when the Ku Klux

Klan was attempting to permeate and control Colorado’s politics, and the young representative was an outspoken foe of the KKK. Johnson was elected lieutenant governor of Colorado in 1930. When Governor William “Billy” Adams chose not to run again in 1932, Johnson entered the race and won the Democratic nomination. “Big Ed” Johnson won the general election and was reelected to a second term in 1934.

Johnson opted to run for the U.S. Senate in 1936 as the incumbent, Edward Costigan, was ailing and chose not to run again. It was a great year for Democrats, and Johnson was popular in Colorado and went to the Senate. “Big Ed” Johnson proved not to be a stout New Dealer during his first six years in the United States Senate. Quite the contrary, Johnson was highly skeptical of much of the New Deal and was not at all afraid to voice his concerns. When Colorado’s senior senator, Alva Adams, died in 1941, Eugene Millikin was appointed and elected to the Senate. Millikin was a Republican, and the two men became well known for their mutual cooperation on behalf of their home state. Johnson and Millikin served as a bipartisan team where they functioned smoothly on behalf of the people of Colorado.

Senator Johnson was also not a supporter of President Roosevelt’s foreign policy prior to World War II. Johnson was more anti-interventionist in his outlook on America’s foreign relations. Johnson faced a serious opponent in his 1942 reelection campaign. First challenged inside the Democratic primary by New Dealers upset with the senator’s lack of fealty to Roosevelt, Johnson had to bat away his opposition, but the general election promised to be more difficult. Johnson’s opponent was Ralph Carr, the GOP governor of Colorado, who was an exceptionally able and courageous man. Carr, unlike Johnson, had been supportive of much of President Roosevelt’s foreign policy, while the senator had opposed it prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Yet the governor pounded hell out of FDR’s domestic policies. Carr has come to be remembered for his enlightened attitude regarding the internment of Japanese-American citizens during the Second World War. While most governors in the United States supported the idea of placing Japanese-Americans in internment camps, they profoundly opposed the idea of any such camps being located in their own state. Ralph Carr took the position that he was dead set against the idea



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Autographed photo of U. S. Senator Edwin C. Johnson of Colorado.

of interning ANY American citizen. Carr also took the position that if indeed the Japanese-Americans were to be placed in an internment camp in Colorado, he would not fight having the camp located in his state and insisted that the residents of the camp be treated with respect and like human beings. Governor Carr’s insistence, “They are as loyal to American institutions as you and I,” was not universally popular, much less accepted throughout much of his state. That attitude almost certainly cost Ralph Carr the election. Edwin C. Johnson won with 50.2% of the votes cast, while Governor Carr tallied 49.2%. It was the closest election of Johnson’s statewide career.

Senator Johnson fired off a blast at President Roosevelt worthy of the most hidebound Republican. The Coloradan termed FDR’s decision to run for a third term “the greatest tragedy of American political history.” In 1944, Johnson lamented his party had been reduced to “one-man control.” Johnson said, “One man will name its candidate for President, its candidate for Vice President, and write its platform, just as was done in 1940.” Johnson pointed to the growing “running row” between President Roosevelt and Congress, saying it would likely end in “hopeless deadlock.”

While liberals inside his party didn’t like what he said, it did not impair Senator Johnson’s political standing back home. “Big Ed” won better than 70% of the ballots cast inside the Democratic primary in 1948 and won nearly 67% of the vote in the general election. Johnson’s GOP opponent that year was thought to be quite formidable. William Faust Nicholson was a 48-year-old investment banker who had upset former governor John C. Vivian inside the Republican primary. Nicholson was critical of Johnson’s conservatism and isolationism.

Senator Johnson shook the rafters of Hollywood’s

movie industry when he was disappointed by his own favorite movie star, Ingrid Bergman. Bergman was a married woman and was having a torrid affair with the director of her latest film, Roberto Rossellini. Unfortunately for the couple, they had not been terribly discreet, and their romance was hardly a secret. “Big Ed” Johnson took to the floor of the United States Senate and acknowledged his fondness for Miss Bergman and sadly told his colleagues she had become “a powerful influence for evil.” Johnson described the actress as the “common mistress” of the Italian film director, “the vile and unspeakable” Rossellini, who, at least according to “Big Ed,” was nothing but a “common love thief.” A senator of the United States was no mere ordinary movie fan. Johnson introduced a bill that would have “policed the morals” of the movie-makers. That caught the attention of the movie moguls and their head lobbyist, Eric Johnston, accompanied by the cream of the studio heads, hurried to Washington, D.C. Eventually, Johnson was convinced the industry would tighten its standards and would police itself, but for a moment, Hollywood had suffered a serious case of the shakes.

In 1952, Senator Johnson backed the candidacy of Georgia U.S. Senator Richard Russell for the Democratic nomination for president. Johnson agreed to manage Russell’s campaign, which got nowhere outside the South.

Although many national Democrats did not like “Big Ed” Johnson’s rejection of

liberalism, they confidently expected him to run again in 1954, and few thought he would have any difficulty in being reelected. Rarely did Ed Johnson ever do what was expected of him by those outside of Colorado.

Johnson was past 70 when he announced in 1954 that he would not run for the United States Senate. TIME, the most widely read new magazine in the world, attributed Johnson’s decision to his wife, Fern. The news weekly noted Senator Johnson was very popular in his home state and likely could be reelected to the Senate easily. “Democrats underestimated the power of plump, matronly Fern Armitage Johnson, wife (for 47 years) of Colorado’s Democratic Senator Edwin Johnson.” Evidently, Miss Fern pined to return to the mountains and greenery of the Centennial State.

“Mrs. Johnson has developed a complex about living longer in Washington, so retirement is a must,” “Big Ed” declared. TIME reported that, although 70, the senator was “still healthy and hardworking.” The reporter for TIME thought Johnson seemed a bit “wistful” about leaving the United States Senate, while Fern squeezed his hand and was “just wild with joy” at the prospect of heading home to Colorado. Johnson’s retirement put his Senate seat into play.

Summoning reporters to his office, along with his office staff, Senator Johnson said, “In spite of my years, my health is good and no one could possibly enjoy being a senator more than I.” Yet Johnson added, “There are a lot of younger, capable and available young men back in my

state. One of them will take my place.” Lest anyone try to talk him out of leaving the U.S. Senate, Johnson barked that his decision was “final and irrevocable.”

Weeks after his announcement that he would not seek reelection to the Senate, “Big Ed” dropped another political bombshell. Johnson sent a letter to the chairman of Colorado’s Democratic State Executive Committee saying he was running for governor of Colorado and was making his announcement to “clear the political atmosphere.” Johnson acknowledged there were numerous reasons why he shouldn’t run, but “none are insurmountable.” The senator wrote, “Colorado needs a strong and experienced hand at her helm and I am confident that I can do the job.” Johnson wrote he expected the primary and general elections to be hotly contested and thought “that is as it should be.”

“I do not believe in drafts, or shut outs, or slates or political bargains and will have no part of any of them,” Johnson stated in his letter. “No candidate for any public office owes me anything, nor I them, and I shall not take part in any degree, directly or indirectly in any one’s race for any office.”

Ed Johnson won the election but suffered a heart attack, which caused him to decide to end his time seeking elective office. Johnson remained active and vigorous for years.

On May 7, 1970, the former governor went to the hospital in Denver. Four days later, Johnson underwent a hernia operation and by May 26, his condition had deteriorated considerably. Doctors pronounced Johnson to be in critical condition. The 86-year-old Johnson continued to fade and died on May 30, 1970.

“Big Ed” Johnson’s body was taken to the rotunda of the State Capitol, where he lay for citizens to pay their respects.

An editorial appearing in the Greeley Daily Times summed up Ed Johnson’s public service: “Johnson was a Democrat --- but not a rubber stamp Democrat. He was a man of his own mind and he acted according to his own beliefs and according to what he believed was right, and sometimes rubbed the grain of party members and leaders the wrong way, but his honesty and sincerity won him widespread respect and admiration.” The newspaper acknowledged that Johnson believed in and enjoyed working for the betterment of his state. And he did it in a distinctive and unforgettable manner.”

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NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

**TO: MICHAEL S. WASHAM, RESPONDENT
IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF A FEMALE
CHILD, K.E.H., D.O.B. 01/19/2016**

**BY: SONJA LYNN RITTER AND LARRY
RITTER, Original Petitioners,
and JACKIE DENNIS HOWARD,
Intervening Petitioner**
vs.
**WHITNEY HOWARD AND MICHAEL
S. WASHAM, Respondents**

**IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR
KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE
AT KNOXVILLE
DOCKET NO. 198908-1**

In this cause, it appearing from the Order of Publication, that the residence of MICHAEL S. WASHAM, the biological father of K.E.H., D.O.B.: 01/19/2016, is unknown and cannot be ascertained upon diligent inquiry, it was ordered that publication be made for four successive weeks, in The Knoxville Focus, to notify MICHAEL S. WASHAM, to file an answer with this court and send a copy to Petitioners' attorney, Shipley & Swain, PLLC, whose address is 800 S. Gay Street, Ste. 700, Knoxville, TN 37929, within 30 days on or before the last date of publication, exclusive of the last date of publication, or a judgment by default may be entered against MICHAEL S. WASHAM. Failure to appear may result in a default judgment against MICHAEL S. WASHAM.

This 3rd day of SEPTEMBER, 2025.

John F. Weaver
Chancellor

J. Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF PAULA PK
BOOKER, and U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL
CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER
TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST**

**IN RE: ATLEE FIELDS HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC., Plaintiff**
v.

**UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF
PAULA PK BOOKER, and U.S. BANK
TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT
IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT
SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF
2 ACQUISITION TRUST, Defendants**
NO. 211056-2

**IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX
COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant UNKNOWN HEIRS OF PAULA PK BOOKER, U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST described in the complaint, it is ordered that said defendant, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF PAULA PK BOOKER, U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Kevin C. Stevens, an Attorney whose address is 550 W. Main St., Ste. 400, Bank of America Building within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Richard Armstrong Jr., at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division II, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in a The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 9th day of September, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: JACLYN DIANE BROWN
IN RE: JA'KIREE BROWN, Minor Child
BY: GARY CARTER, JR. II, Petitioner**

v.
JACLYN DIANE BROWN, Respondent
NO. 209344-3

**IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX
COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant JACLYN DIANE BROWN, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon JACLYN DIANE BROWN described in the complaint, it is ordered that said defendant, JACLYN DIANE BROWN file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Rochelle A. Oldfield, an Attorney whose address is 10263 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37922 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Christopher D. Heagerty at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division III, 400 Main Street, Ste. 125, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in a The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 2nd day of September, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF LENA A. BARRETT
DOCKET NUMBER 91337-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 11th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court (Probate Division) of Knox County, Tennessee for the administration of the estate of LENA A. BARRETT, who died July 8, 2025. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against this estate are required to file with them with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) below, otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

date of the first publication; or

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

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

Claim forms may be obtained by calling the Probate Division of Knox County Chancery Court at (865) 215-2555.

This the 11th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF LENA A. BARRETT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
STEVEN R. BARRETT, CO-EXECUTOR
SUSAN M. SILVERS, CO-EXECUTOR

JOSEPH C. SIMPSON, ATTORNEY
736 GEORGIA AVENUE, SUITE 300
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37402

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF RACHAEL M. BELLOWY
DOCKET NUMBER 91452-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 15th day of SEPTEMBER 15, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of RACHAEL M. BELLOWY, who died July 24, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and nonresident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same 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 15th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF RACHAEL M. BELLOWY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
BARBARA A. HOUGHIN
3704 MALONEY ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

PEYTON N. RING, ATTORNEY
900 S. GAY STREET, 14th FLOOR
P. O. BOX 2047
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MOZELL CATLETT
DOCKET NUMBER 91445-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 11th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025, Letters of Administration in respect of the Estate of MOZELL CATLETT, who died July 30, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured and unmatured against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 11th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF MOZELL CATLETT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
DEBBIE K. EVERETT
4512 VENTURA DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37938

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF EARL LEE DILL
DOCKET NUMBER 91442-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 11th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect to the Estate of EARL LEE DILL, who died on May 3, 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 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 11th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF EARL LEE DILL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
LESLIE ALLEN DILL, EXECUTOR
7513 YOUNT ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

SHANNON M. HOLLAND, ATTORNEY
308 COGDILL ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF DOROTHY E. FOX
DOCKET NUMBER 91528-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 11th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of DOROTHY E. FOX, who died Aug. 28, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above

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

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

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

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

This the 11th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF DOROTHY E. FOX

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
LORI LOWE-RHOTON, EXECUTRIX
3210 TOPSIDE ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JACK A. HAMMONTREE
DOCKET NUMBER 91364-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 5 day of SEPTEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JACK A. HAMMONTREE, who died July 6, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 5 day of SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF JACK A. HAMMONTREE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
EVAN R. PARDUUE, EXECUTOR
4235 BADEN ALY
DULUTH, GA 30097

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF CALEB MICHAEL HEATH
DOCKET NUMBER 91349-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 11th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025, Letters of Administration in respect to the Estate of CALEB MICHAEL HEATH, who died on July 24, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the above captioned 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 paragraphs numbered one (1) or two (2) below; otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 11th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF CALEB MICHAEL HEATH

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KIMBERLY BROWN
5812 WHISPER WOOD ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

STEPHEN K. GARRETT, ATTORNEY
7838 BARKER ROAD
CORRYTON, TN 37721

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF TYRONE D. JORDAN
DOCKET NUMBER 91339-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 15th day of SEPTEMBER 15, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of TYRONE D. JORDAN, who died on the 28th day of June, 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 claim will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 15th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF TYRONE D. JORDAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JOANN WEINER
909 UTAH DRIVE,
TOMS RIVER, NJ 08753

ERIN T. SANGSTER, ATTORNEY
294 B VILLAGE SQUARE DRIVE
LOUDON, TN 37774

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF KAREN A. MOGUS
DOCKET NUMBER 91433-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 5 day of SEPTEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of KAREN A. MOGUS, who died June 6, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the

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

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

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

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

This the 5 day of SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF KAREN A. MOGUS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ROBERT RITCHEY, EXECUTOR
219 SEQUOYAH DRIVE
MADISONVILLE, TN 37354

C. DAN SCOTT, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 547
SEYMOUR, TN 37865

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JOHN L. PERRY
DOCKET NUMBER 91363-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 8 day of SEPTEMBER 15, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOHN L. PERRY, who died Feb. 27, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 8 day of SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF JOHN L. PERRY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KATHERINE M. FORTANBARY, EXECUTRIX
15030 FREEMANVILLE ROAD
MILTON, GA 30004

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF CHRISTIAN TURMAN
DOCKET NUMBER 91075-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 15th day of SEPTEMBER 15, 2025, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of CHRISTIAN TURMAN, who died May 19, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and nonresident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same 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 15th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF CHRISTIAN TURMAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
DEONNA EVANS
3424 SOUTH HAVEN RD.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

REECE BRASSIER, ATTORNEY
ADAM B. McDONALD, ATTORNEY
4th FLOOR, BANK OF AMERICA BLDG.
P. O. BOX 442
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901-0442

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JOHN ROY WADDELL
DOCKET NUMBER 91432-3**

Notice is hereby given, as required by T.C.A. § 30-2-306, that on SEPTEMBER 15, 2025, Letters Testamentary, in respect to the Estate of JOHN ROY WADDELL, deceased, who died on June 27, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Probate Clerk of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against said Estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting as the case may be) of this Notice of 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 posting; or

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

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

This the 11th day of August, 2025.

ESTATE OF JOHN ROY WADDELL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ROBIN A. WILKER
5446 CREEKHEAD COVE LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37909

DAMON WOOTEN, ATTORNEY
609 SMITHVIEW DR.
MARYVILLE, TN 37803

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF LINDA M. WALL
DOCKET NUMBER 91357-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect

of the Estate of LINDA M. WALL, who died July 16, 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 5th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF LINDA M. WALL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TRACEY JOYNER
7414 BELL CASTLE CT.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37938

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF STACY ANN ANSELM
DOCKET NUMBER 91448-2**

Notice is hereby given, as required by T.C.A. § 30-2-306, that on SEPTEMBER 22, 2025, Letters Administration in respect to the Estate of STACY ANN ANSELM, deceased, who died on June 30, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Probate Clerk of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against said Estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

Ramsey House

Cont. from page 1

according to the original rules. There were no gloves, and a ball caught on the first bounce was an out. There was only one game ball. If it was hit into high grass, the game would stop, and all players would help hunt for the ball.

The property was

originally named Swan Pond after the large pond on the property. The colonel had the pond drained and farmed the land.

The colonel was married three times and was the father of nine children.

One of the colonel's sons, James Gettys McGready, was a surgeon

for the Confederate army. He was also a tax collector and disbursing officer for the state's confederate government and wrote "The Annals of Tennessee," a definitive history of the state. Another son, William Baine Alexander Ramsey, was the first elected mayor of Knoxville.

Ad space donated by The Knoxville Focus.



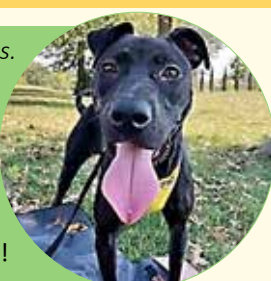
Young-Williams Animal Center



BIBBLE – 2 years & 7 months old, 63 lbs. Bibble is a very sweet boy - he's what we in the business like to call "a widdle baby." He's not a very easy walk, though, for one reason: he is constantly demanding more cuddles. While a stern "stop" gets him to walk normally (at least for a few minutes), he does not want to go on a walk - he wants to get cuddles - and his big fat head is woefully short of the brain cells necessary to ask politely. He comes on very strongly with dogs, too, especially pretty girls, so he'd be best on his own until he learns better manners. If you think your couch would be a good place for this loveable lug to crash, come meet him today!

KOOKIE – 10 months old, 45 lbs.

Meet Kookie! This sweet girl loves to be with her canine friends in our moderate playgroups where she is very sweet, social, playful, and tolerant with other dogs. She has lived with cats in a previous home. Our volunteers describe her as easygoing, energetic, friendly, and goofy. She has also done well with car rides. Apply to meet Kookie today!



Young-Williams Animal Center 865.433.9922
3201 Division Street, Knoxville, TN 37919 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily
www.young-williams.org Closed 1-2 p.m. for animal quiet time

Kickin' It for the Kids at Union Baptist

Continued from page 1

graduated summa cum laude from the university. Currently, he is a worship pastor at Hope Church in Powell.

Tickets to the concert are \$30 per person and may be bought at the door or in advance at www.discoverunion.com. The doors open at 6:30 with the concert beginning at 7:15. Before the concert, a banquet will be held in the church commons area. Tickets to the banquet are priced separately at \$30 each and must be purchased

in advance from the church website. The banquet opens at 5:30.

A silent auction will be held at the banquet site. A wide variety of items will be offered to the highest bidder, including a weekend at a Gatlinburg cabin, gift cards to various local restaurants, home-canned products, cakes and more.

This promises to be an evening of fellowship and worship. All are invited to attend. The church is located at 6701 Washington Pike in the Ritta Community.



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Emerald Youth Foundation hosts Rick Barnes Classic



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Tennessee basketball coach Rick Barnes discusses the Emerald Youth Foundation and the upcoming season at his annual golf tournament at Holston Hills on Monday, Sept. 22. The tournament was held the day before the Vols began preparations for the 2025-26 season.

By Ken Lay

In a tradition that has come to signal the start of the University of Tennessee's basketball season, head coach Rick Barnes made an appearance at the annual Rick Barnes Classic golf tournament, benefitting the Emerald Youth Foundation. Barnes, the Volunteers' 71-year-old head coach who was recently given a lifetime contract by UT, is a member of the organization's board of directors. He said it was an honor to be associated with the foundation, an inner-city youth ministry in Knoxville.

"What makes it special are the kids and the fact that we know that Emerald is giving them a chance to lead a full life," Barnes said.

"Emerald gives them Jesus Christ early and gives them a foundation that they can hold on to forever.

Barnes, who said he was a latch-key kid growing up, has been involved with the foundation since first coming to Knoxville more than a decade ago. And the golf tournament, which was held at Holston Hills on Monday, Sept. 22, is one of Emerald Youth Foundation's major annual fundraisers.

Barnes relishes the opportunity to work with the foundation.

"Since I've had the opportunity to work with Emerald, they're all great people," he said. "We have something special here in Knoxville and Emerald is truly one of those special

organizations."

The tournament took place the day before the Vols officially began practice and preparations for the upcoming 2025-26 season. The coach's thoughts weren't far from basketball and he even showed some self-deprecating humor when asked about the lifetime contract.

"When you're 71, they're not really making a huge investment when they give you a lifetime contract," he said.

The Vols were a bit short-handed when they had their first official practice on Tuesday, as post player J.P. Estrella, who was injured most of last season with a foot injury, is out again, this time with an ankle injury.

Cont. on page 3

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



PHOTO BY DANNY DUNLAP

CAK running back Ryan Gibson (4) makes a cut through the Webb defense in 2nd quarter action at David Meske Stadium / Faust Field Friday night. Gibson, a transfer from Seymour High this season, scored four touchdowns in the Warriors' 49-14 win.

Gibson powers CAK past Webb, 49-14

By Steve Williams

By Steve Williams
Ryan Gibson's choice to leave Seymour High School made for a long night for Webb's football team, just like others this season. The 5-10, 220-pound running back is a load to take down. The Spartans found that out quickly Friday as Gibson led Christian Academy of Knoxville on a game-opening 80-yard touchdown

march and eventually a 49-14 beating.

"We want to thank God for the opportunity to be out here," said CAK Head Coach Chad Speck. "We believe that everything we do – win or lose – we try to do it for the glory of God. "But our key to the win was to control the line of scrimmage, especially on the offensive side of the ball. The ability to run the ball,

run the clock, really wear them down."

Gibson gave an early preview of what was going to happen most of the game as he carried the ball 10 times for 61 yards and a touchdown in the Warriors' opening possession, plus caught a 9-yard pass. He scored from the 2.

That was just the start. His total production for the night was 33 carries for 221

yards (6.7 yards per carry) and four touchdowns.

"He's a great transfer for us and obviously had a huge game tonight, and he's an awesome young man," said Coach Speck. "Loves the Lord. Great fit for our school. And I couldn't be prouder of him.

"We knew going in that we were going to ride him all night long, and we did.

Continue on page 4

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Notes from the scorecard: Webb gets revenge against Baylor, Hardin Valley to face West Tuesday

By Ken Lay

Revenge is a dish best served cold and Webb School of Knoxville's girls soccer team served up a little revenge Thursday and Chattanooga Baylor was the recipient of the dish.

The Lady Raiders defeated the Lady Spartans in the 2024 Division II-AA State Championship match after Webb had swept the regular season matchup and the region title game.

Well, the Lady Spartans (10-0-1) avenged last fall's loss with a 2-0 win on Thursday.

McKalie Ball scored a goal and dished out an assist in the victory. Simone Romain scored Webb's other goal in the match off an assist from Emerson Clarke.

The only blemish on Webb's record in 2025

is a 1-1 draw against Oak Ridge in the Bearden Invitational last month. The Lady Spartans had to come back to salvage the tie after falling behind early.

Thursday night's win culminated a big week for Webb as the Lady Spartans also outlasted Hardin Valley Academy, one of the front runners in the race for the District 4-3A race on Tuesday at home.

The Lady Spartans started fast, scoring a pair of early goals in the first half as Romain and Mary Mac Emery found the back of the net for Webb against the Lady Hawks.

HVA's Delilah Johnson scored to make it 2-1 after halftime but the Lady Hawks couldn't equalize the match.

Continue on page 3

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MID-SEASON FOOTBALL REPORT

Powell has state title potential



With Johonauan Moore at his side, Powell quarterback Deuce Rodgers takes the snap in a Week 3 win over Halls.

By Steve Williams

If Knox County is going to have a representative in the TSSAA state football championships this year, Powell looked like the favorite going into the second half of the regular season.

Head Coach Matt Lowe, in fact, said he was proud of his team before last Tuesday's practice. "Up to this point they've met every challenge in front of them. At the same time they always show up on Mondays hungry and ready for the next week's challenge.

"But certainly they're more excited about what's in front of them and what potentially they have a chance to accomplish."

The Panthers were 4-0 overall and 3-0 in Region 2-5A going into last Friday night's game against once-beaten Central. Their season opener against Anderson County was not completed and declared a "no contest."

Powell senior quarterback Deuce Rodgers was injured in that game and also missed the Farragut game, but he returned in Week 3 to lead the Panthers to a win over rival Halls.

"He's played very well over the last couple of games that's for sure," said Lowe.

Brodie Hollowell, a junior, did a good job of filling in for Deuce.

Powell will host Campbell County this Friday and has an open date on Oct. 10. The Panthers' final three opponents in the regular season will be against Jefferson County, Clinton and West.

Powell is currently No. 6 in the state in Sonny Moore's computer-powered Tennessee High School Football Ratings, which include Division I and Division II teams and all classifications.

Rodgers is a two-way threat on offense. Even though he missed playing time in the first and second games, he carried the ball 33 times for 364 yards (an 11.0 average) and six touchdowns. He also completed 35 of 45 passes (78 percent) for 465 yards, five TDs and zero interceptions.

DeZion Jackson paced Powell in receiving with 20 receptions for 476 yards (23.8 ypc) and seven touchdowns.

Iverson Garcia and Joshua Kay are listed at the top of the defensive chart. The 6-2, 305-pound Garcia, a senior, has 36 tackles (21 solo and 15 assists), four tackles for loss, three sacks for minus-29 yards and 14 quarterback pressures. Kay, a sophomore, has 29 tackles (23 solo and six assists), four TFL, six sacks for minus-47 yards and 19 QBP.

"I'm very pleased with where

Iverson is – his production and energy on the field, but even more than that his leadership off the field," said Coach Lowe.

The South Florida commit had one of Powell's biggest plays early this season against Halls when he intercepted a pass deflection in the end zone for his first career touchdown.

Other key tacklers are Isaiah Amador, Caleb Acres and Cooper Wheeler.

Starters on the offensive line are left tackle Brody Naughton, left guard Tucker Massengill, center Jackson Mayo, right guard Caleb Lewis and right tackle Hayden Wallace.

Lowe, who guided the Panthers to the Class 5A state title in 2021, was asked about his team's chances this year.

"I think we've got a lot of growth between now and November when playoffs start," he said. "I certainly think you can really start to measure a team by how much they improve from the beginning of the year, mid-year and then certainly as the year starts to come to an end. But right now we are very pleased. I think this is a good group. This is a group that is very much eyeing the opportunities that come in November. Right now we are trying to win region football games."

A GLANCE BACK AND A LOOK AHEAD

South-Doyle scores a record 76 points

By Steve Williams

South-Doyle's first football season was in 1991 and the Cherokees scored a total of 136 points in their 10 games that year.

Last Friday night and 35 years later the Cherokees scored a school-record 76 points in one game – a 76-0 win over Union County. It came on the heels of Grace Christian's 70-40 win over Webb in Week 5 too.

My how times have changed in high school football.

"We played our starters in the first half, and they handled business the way we needed them to," said second-year S-D Head Coach Larry Headrick. "In the second half, we were able to get a lot of other kids on the field, which is always a big plus – Friday night reps are valuable.

"As for the scoring record, honestly, we didn't even know it was a record until after the game. We only threw the ball eight times all night. It was just good to see our guys get a shutout and put some points on the board."

The score was 55-0 at halftime.

Leading the way on their record-setting night: Benson Brang was 6 for 8 passing and had 174 yards with 3 TDs; Jayden Norries rushed 3 times for 52 yards and 2 TDs; Isaiah Winfield had 4 carries for 44 yards and 2 TDs; and Reed Reynolds and Jeremiah Smith each caught one TD pass and Mill Crenshaw and Walter Gould each ran for a TD.

HIGH SCHOOL SCORES AND SCHEDULE	
Week 6 Results	
ASD 56, TSD 26	
Gibbs 56, Lenoir City 14	
Kingston 34, A-E 13	
Farragut 25, Bearden 21	
Cherokee 28, Seymour 2	
Maryville 46, HVA 6	
Carter 28, Heritage 25	
Catholic 55, Silverdale 21	
Alcoa 63, Fulton 0	
Ambassador, NC 35, Grace 32	
Halls 20, West 17	
CAK 49, Webb 14	
Powell 42, Central 35	
S-D 76, Union Co. 0	
W-B 55, Karns 30	

Week 7 Games (Kickoff at 7 local time)	
Thursday	
SC School for the Deaf at TSD	
Gibbs at Anderson Co.	
Friday	
South-Doyle at Alcoa	
Sweetwater at Austin-East	
Grace at Boyd Buchanan	
Hardin Valley at Farragut	
Halls at Karns	
Fulton at Carter	
Clinton at West	
Central at McMinn Co.	
Webb at Notre Dame	
Bearden at Oak Ridge	
Campbell Co. at Powell	
Seymour at Sullivan East	
Chattanooga Christian at CAK	
Catholic at Ensworth	
Concord vs. Providence at Carson Newman	

"We finally played four quarters of team football. It wasn't perfect but we found a way. We made plays when we had to on offense and on defense we found a way to make stops.

"Parker Crittenden, our kicker, was huge in the game. I'm very proud of our team."

Crittenden kicked a 48-yard field goal in regulation and the game-winning 17-yard field goal in overtime.

Other key wins in Week 6: Powell held off Central 42-35 ... Gibbs bounced back with a 56-14 win at Lenoir City ... Carter nipped Heritage 28-25.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Farragut's Nathan Jacobs looks for more room to run at Bill Young Field in Bearden as one of Knox County's oldest high school football rivalries plays out last Friday. The Admirals defeated the Bulldogs 25-21.

Farragut edges Bearden, 25-21

By Mark Nagi

Farragut versus Bearden is one of the great rivalries in East Tennessee, even during a season in which both teams have struggled to find success.

On Friday, September 26, the Admirals hit the road and finally got their first win of the season, knocking off the Bulldogs in a wild game by a score of 25-21.

"Yeah, it's a big game for us, a big game for our community," said Farragut head coach Geoff Courtney. "I told everybody in the pregame, Bearden is going to play you in tight games in every sport, all year round. So, this gives us a little leg up. We've kind of owned this rivalry as far as football program goes, so we got our momentum back tonight and kind of put our stamp on it."

Farragut had lost two in a row to Bearden, but this game could not have started any better than it did for the visitors. First, Maysn Apalategui returned the kickoff 40 yards for the Ads to midfield. On the first play from scrimmage, Nathan Jacobs rushed 33 yards to the Bearden 17. On the second play, Corbin

Hobson threw to Anderson Glover, who made a one-handed catch, then maneuvered his way into the end zone. Only 47 seconds into the game, it was Farragut leading 7-0.

Following a three-and-out from the Bearden offense, the Admirals again drove into Bearden territory, before settling for a 47-yard FG from Ryan McCue, making it a 10-0 game.

The Ads added to that lead, and once again, it was the Hobson/Glover combination. Hobson whipped a pass to the middle of the field, where Glover made the grab, shook off a hit, and ran into the end zone for a 27-yard score, making it 16-0.

On the final play of the first quarter, the Admirals fumbled a punt, and Bearden recovered at the Farragut 25. The Bulldogs took advantage of the gift, as Paxton Parrott took the snap and ran it in from 4 yards away. Bearden trailed 16-7.

Suddenly, the Bulldogs had all the energy. Their defense stopped the Ads, and following the punt, Bearden was in terrific field

position at the Farragut 43. They moved as far as the Farragut 12, but the Admirals held on 4th down with 4:18 left in the first half.

Following a Bearden INT, QB Aidan Thacker went deep for the first time, finding Grant Cross in stride for a 51-yard TD. At the half, it was a 16-14 game.

In the third quarter, Bearden took the opening kickoff and drove 65 yards in 7 plays, with a big Thacker to Parrott pass on the wheel route. That 39-yard hookup gave Bearden (0-5, 0-3 in Region 2-6A) its first lead in any game this season, as they went on top 21-16.

Farragut thought that they regained the lead on a Charlie Noble TD run, but a holding call backed the Ads up, and they'd eventually turn the ball over on downs deep in Bearden territory.

On the first play of the fourth quarter, Farragut's McCue made a 39-yard FG, bringing the Admirals within 2 points. Then, Glover picked off Thacker and returned it 20 yards to the Bearden 15.

"You know, he's been

biding his time," said Courtney of Glover. "He's been playing corner, starting at corner, he started receiver, he started back inside tonight, so he had a big night for us."

Three plays later, Noah Haag ran it in from 5 yards away, and Farragut (1-5, 1-2 in Region 2-6A) was back in front 25-21 with 9:32 remaining.

After forcing a Bearden punt, Farragut took over on their own 20 with 6:31 remaining. The Admirals picked up major yardage on the ground most of the night with Jacobs and Noble, but it was sophomore Carter Collier who had the biggest run of the night, picking up 9 yards on 3rd and 8 to seal the victory.

"We've got some talent at running back," said Courtney. "Our offensive line played well. They opened a lot of holes for them. You know, that made it easy to call plays."

Farragut will look to keep up its winning ways on Friday night as it hosts rival Hardin Valley. Bearden will try to win its first game of the season at undefeated Oak Ridge.

The 'people' and 'events' of Tennessee football

There are memories of a number of great moments scattered across the expanse of Shields-Watkins Field. I've seen most all of them from my vantage point in Section 00, 53 years and counting.

When Tennessee played its first football game in 1891 against Sewanee, no one could have possibly imagined how the program would develop, what an influence it would have across the state of Tennessee and beyond, especially since Sewanee won, 24-0.

There were the tentative steps to maturity, marked by coaches coming and going (some for just a year or two), with J.A. Pierce being first in 1899. The Vol program finally found a 3,200-seat home on campus in 1921, with seats on the west side only. The orange jerseys came a year later.

You look at pictures of those early games and see solemn-looking men in suits and stovepipe hats. Precious few women attended. There didn't appear to be a spot of orange to be seen in the stands.

It's been amazing to see how things have worked



By Tom Mattingly

out over the years. The stadium has grown from that modest grandstand into a 100,000-seat structure that fills to the brim each home Saturday. The stadium stands in testimony to all those uncounted Tennessee people who have been a part of building the legend known as Vol football.

The "people" and "events" of Tennessee football are special. In the mind's eye, you can almost see John Deanie Hoskins or Bob Campbell carefully overseeing the turf, Johnny Butler motoring his way to the South end zone, 56 yards for a score against Alabama in 1939, and Gen. Bob Neyland in his double-breasted suit standing stoically on the east side, near the 50 yard line, substitutes at the ready.

If you look closely at the Southeast corner of the field, you can recall a celebration featuring Larry Seivers and Gus Manning after Larry caught the game-winning two-point conversion against Clemson in 1974. Gus is there, complete with cigar and briefcase.

At the northeast corner, there's the spot where three Vols (Sewanee's Bill Majors, Athens' Wayne Grubb, and Knoxville's Charlie Severance) stopped LSU's Billy Cannon short of the goal on a

fourth-quarter two-point try on Homecoming Day Nov. 7, 1959. Cannon said after the game he made it. If you asked Severance about it over the years, he'd politely (and proudly) disagree.

There's also the 43-yard-line, South end, where the Vols got a second chance against Arkansas in the 1998 game. The Vols looked dead in the water, but thanks to the famed "Stoerner Stumble," they rallied and made the most of it, all the way to a national title.

Things looked bleak for the Vols, with a crestfallen Cosey Coleman shown on the sideline. Here's how CBS reported it: "There's 1:47 remaining. One time out left. 12 to go for the first down. Stoerner... lost the football. Oh my goodness! He stumbled and fumbled, and Billy Ratliff recovered."

During the summer, the stadium is usually quiet, save for normal refurbishing and maintenance, not to mention expansions of the seating area or ancillary facilities.

Even with these additions to the house that Neyland (and many others) have built, the stadium is still imposing and no less of a testimony to Tennessee football. It's just a special place, something to be revered.

The off-season between



My view of Shields-Watkins Field since the 1972 expansion at the South end.

the 1993 and 1994 seasons was a memorable few months, when grass finally came back to the floor of Shields-Watkins Field after a hiatus since the final gun of the 1967 Vanderbilt game. Tennessee fans came in droves from Knoxville and beyond to Gate 7 at the South end. They would ask Bob Campbell or one of his aides to let them walk in to see the field, to literally let them watch the grass grow.

There was the aftermath of the 1998 win over Florida and the spirited celebration that followed, as Vol fans went "bee-serk" in Ward's parlance. It resulted in large chunks of turf being excised from the

field, enraging the football purists.

The next week, I ever so gently chided Vol fans in a "Last Word" column for Volunteers Magazine for tearing up their field, the greensward where so many great moments in Tennessee history had played out, where so many memories seemed to linger.

To my mind, fans of other schools might attack the things they hold most dear, as thousands of Georgians did after the 2000 Tennessee game. That's when the supposedly sacred hedges surrounding the field came tumbling down at Sanford Stadium. Bulldog fans were still celebrating on the field, long

after the final gun.

In both cases, it was a surreal sight. Those who love the Tennessee program and faithfully follow the fortunes of the Vols should have known better. Most do.

"This field belongs to everybody," said Campbell. "It's a special place. I've taken stewardship of it for this moment in time." Hoskins once challenged Neyland's assessment of the field, saying, "My field will be ready. Can you say the same about your football team?"

If someone tells you a football field is only a field, devoid of memories, don't believe a word of it.

HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY DON MADGETT

With the Norris Dam behind them, a field of 154 girls run in the Norris Dam Invitational Cross Country Meet on Sept. 20. Many runners in the 5,000-meter race are from Knox County. The boys' field had 217 runners.

Catholic sweeps at picturesque Norris Dam Invitational

By Steve Williams

One of the biggest turnouts of cross country runners this season competed in the Norris Dam Invitational meet Saturday, Sept. 20 at the Norris Dam State Park in Lake City.

"The Cherokee Classic is our biggest meet with nearly 50 schools competing, but our next three meets in size (The Mounds #1 in Oak Ridge, the Norris Dam Invitational and the East Tennessee Classic) all have over 30 schools involved," said Don Madgett of the Metro Knoxville Cross Country Association.

"That is deceptive though. We had to limit entry to Norris this year to association members only because the course and parking were bursting at the seams. It would easily draw over 40 schools if we left entry open.

"The course does not cross the

dam," noted Madgett, who also is the South-Doyle boys' and girls' head coach in cross country. "It runs at the base of the dam along the Clinch River, utilizing parts of the Songbird Trail.

"It is picturesque with Norris Dam as a backdrop and the course is flat and fast," added Madgett. "The Anderson County coaches do a great job directing the meet. It also comes at a good time in the season."

Knoxville Catholic's boys and girls teams swept top honors in the team scoring, while individual awards went to senior runners from Anderson County – Oak Ridge's Mason Greenhalgh and Anderson County High School's Ava Moody.

The Fighting Irish had five boys to place in the top nine spots for a 38-point victory margin over Hardin

Valley, while the Lady Irish squeezed by the HVA girls, 39 to 40.

Greenhalgh covered the 5,000-meter course in 15:44.24, with Catholic junior Cade Duncanson taking second place in 15:49.74. Others in the Top 15 in order were Evan Van De Griff of Catholic, Nicholas Burke of West, Reid Bannister of Catholic, Aiden Rufi of HVA, Radek Molchan of Catholic, Rhett Hovater of Oak Ridge, Owen Bannister of Catholic, Sam Shagan of Farragut, Parson Campen of Central, Stephen Bell of HVA, Isaac Socha of HVA, Zachary Jenkins of Halls and Barrett Lemons of Central.

Moody's winning time was 18:03.58, followed by Hardin Valley junior Alexandra Vesser, who posted an 18:26.08. Others in the Top 15 (in

Continue on page 4

Emerald Youth Foundation hosts Rick Barnes Classic

Cont. from page 1

"We just got to get everybody healthy," Barnes said. "We still haven't had the entire team together for a full practice yet, but we're looking forward to that at some point."

Estrella is just one Tennessee player who has battled injury during the offseason, and despite seeing players bitten by the injury bug, Barnes

has liked what he's seen so far.

"It's a great group, and we've been able to get through it," he said. "And again, I think we're all really excited to see what we can do when we get everybody out there."

Tennessee will begin its 2025-26 campaign when it hosts Duke in an exhibition game on Sunday, Oct. 26, at Food City Center.

Notes from the scorecard: Webb gets revenge against Baylor, Hardin Valley to face West Tuesday

Continued from page 1

HVA BOUNCES BACK: Hardin Valley, however, reversed its fortunes Thursday night as it snapped a three-match winless streak with a 2-1 win over Maryville in Blount County. The Lady Hawks tallied the game-winning goal late.

Zoe Price and Ashlin Healey scored in the match, which was played at John Sevier Elementary School.

WEST HIGH DOWNS JEFFERSON COUNTY: The Lady Rebels defeated the Lady Patriots, 6-0, at Bill Wilson Field.

West (10-1-1 overall, 3-0-1 in the district) will travel to Hardin Valley Tuesday night for a key league showdown. Kickoff is slated for 7 p.m.

LADY BULLDOGS TOPPLE FARRAGUT: Bearden continued its dominance over the Lady Admirals.

The game was deadlocked in a scoreless draw at halftime.

But Bearden, which hasn't lost to Farragut since 2017, took control in the second half as Tyler Roth scored twice, while Jayla Blue and Cali Motley also scored.

Lucy Luckadoo scored the lone goal for Farragut late.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Lady Irish celebrate Senior Night with dramatic victory over Cleveland

By Ken Lay

When Catholic High and Cleveland High meet on the volleyball court, the matches are never for the faint of heart.

The Lady Irish and Lady Raiders have been entangled in some dramatic matches over the years, and Wednesday night was no exception.

Catholic won the match in a sweep, but things were anything but anticlimactic as the two teams battled in an evening of exciting volleyball, and when the dust had settled, Catholic walked off the court with a 32-30, 26-24 victory at Catholic on Senior Night.

"A lot of credit goes to Cleveland coming in here and playing with intensity," Lady Irish coach Brent Carter said. "They were playing with the same intensity whether they were up or down and that was what

made this game so good."

The tone for the season was set early as the teams all but matched each other point for point until the Lady Raiders scored three consecutive points to take a 7-4 lead after Catholic's Haylee Munsey, one of the team's four seniors, served up an ace to tie the inaugural set.

After that run, the Lady Irish stormed back with four straight points to take an 8-7 lead.

Then, with the set locked in a 9-9 tie, the Lady Raiders scored five points in a row and took a 14-9 lead, thanks to an offensive spark by Gigi Williams.

The roller-coaster ride continued throughout the first set until a short time later when Cleveland opened a 20-15 lead and appeared poised to take an early lead in the match. But Catholic would again battle

back.

Cleveland held the upper hand throughout much of the latter stages of the opening set and had multiple chances to take the lead in the match. With the Lady Raiders, 24-22, Catholic scored the next three points to go up, 25-24.

From there, the drama continued until the Lady Irish's Mia Kinney finally closed out with an ace and Catholic took a 1-0 lead in the match with a 32-30 victory.

The second set also packed plenty of excitement as the teams battled through another long set.

But it was the Lady Irish who used an early six-point service run by Channing Hurley.

Catholic would go on to open a 12-5 lead before the Lady Raiders pulled to within 12-8.

The Lady Irish took an 18-14 lead on a service point by Munsey. Cleveland, however, wouldn't go away. The Lady Raiders would come back and briefly seize the upper hand; they took a 23-22 lead before Catholic scored four of the final five points to avoid a third set.

Before the match, Carter honored his four seniors (Nora James, Munsey, Katie Judd and Sophie Meyer). He also honored Cleveland's seniors before Catholic's quartet of veterans all put up solid performances.

"All of the seniors played well," Carter said.

Cleveland's McKinney finished the night with 10 kills, while Addalyn Meal had seven. James had 17 digs.

Catholic's Olivia Mikels came up with 17 assists and two aces, and Munsey also served up a pair of aces.



PHOTOS BY KEN LAY

Catholic High School senior volleyball player Haylee Munsey prepares to serve in the Lady Irish's two-set win over Cleveland Wednesday night.

HIGH SCHOOL GOLF AND BOWLING

CAK's golf tradition keeps sparkling

By Steve Williams

Christian Academy of Knoxville swept Division II District 1-A boys and girls golf championships last week at Three Ridges.

Isabella Coughlin fired a 67 and Blake Russell carded a 69 to lead the way for CAK.

Grady Thomas added an 87 to give the Lady Warriors a 154 total – 19 strokes ahead of runner-up Lakeway Christian (173). Grace Christian took third place at 178, with Leah Rowe shooting an 82.

Rounding out the girls' team scoring were First Baptist Academy (213), Concord Christian (214), Clayton-Bradley (227) and Berean Christian (325).

The CAK boys had a tougher test to notch their title as FBA (304) finished just three strokes behind the Warriors' 301 total. Lakeway came in third with a 314.

Following Russell's 69, Tyler Stafford shot 73, Aiden Cooper 79 and Peyton Smith 80.

GCA's Jeff Crisp came in third place individually with a 74 to qualify for Tuesday's region tournament. Max Green led FBA's balanced scoring with a 75.

Rounding out the team scoring were Grace and

Concord in a tie for fourth place with a 326 and Maryville Apostolic at 373.

Three teams and five individuals advance to Tuesday's region at Three Ridges.

"Both Isabella and Blake played really well in the district," said Coach Donnie Cooper. "Both are seniors who have had a tremendous positive impact on our program not only with their play on the course but also just how they represented CAK golf in general."

Bearden boys, HVA girls win District 4-AA titles

Conner Hall and Dane Helzer shot a 71 each to lead Bearden to the District 4-AA championship at Egwani Farms last week. The Bulldogs totaled 292 to edge Hardin Valley by two strokes.

Maryville's Ray Rebell was the top medalist with a 69. He and his teammates also qualified for today's (Sept. 29) Region 2-AA tournament at Beaver Brook Country Club.

In girls' District 4-AA action, Hardin Valley Academy came in first place with a 159, followed by Farragut (164) and William Blount (183).

The Lady Hawks' Addisyn Newman also was top medalist with her round of 74. The top three teams also advance to today's region play.

Halls boys and Powell girls prevail in District 3-AA

Medalist Roddy Sturgeon posted a round of 70 to power Halls to the District 3-AA title and a berth in today's Region 2-AA tournament at Beaver Brook.

The Red Devils combined for a 300 total, while Campbell County (327) and Central (334) also earned a spot in the region.

In the girls' tourney, Daisy Gentry shot a 92 to lead Powell to the district title with a team total of 214. Campbell County (229) and Oak Ridge (253) also qualified for the region.

Tee times start at 8 this morning.

Prep bowling season starts today

All District 2 bowling games will be played at Fountain Lanes this season and start at 4. Coed/Boys teams in District 2 include Bearden, Career Magnet Academy, Carter, Central, Gibbs, Karns, Powell, L&N



Christian Academy of Knoxville's Isabella Coughlin and Blake Russell shot 67 and 69, respectively, to win the TSSAA Division II-A District 1 tournament championships at Three Ridges on Sept. 23.

STEM Academy and South-Doyle. Girls teams include Carter and Gibbs.

New coaches in District 2 are Bearden's Tracy Webb, CMA's Lisa Kalmon, Karns' Meredith Rogers and L&N STEM Academy's Andrew Fultz.

Returning coaches include Carter's Ray Wynn,

Central's Karen Elliott, Gibbs' Rick Honeycutt, Powell's Matt Foust and South-Doyle's Brandon Cravens.

There are no new coaches this year in District 3, but there are two new teams – McMinn County and Rhea County.

Catholic sweeps at picturesque Norris Dam Invitational

Cont. from page 3

order) were Rachel Benson of HVA, Kacey Holliday of Catholic, Sophie Lee of Grace Christian, Drew Gerken of Catholic, Caitlin Daniels of Catholic, Dylan Job of Oak Ridge, Ava Woodyatt of HVA, Tallulah Worley of the Knoxville Lady Ambassadors, Julia Joyce of Catholic, Zarah Enbom of HVA, Macie Gaines of West, Amajiah Bishop of Oak Ridge and Linley Lawhorn of Catholic.

Rounding out the Top 10 in the boys' team scoring were Oak Ridge 165, Alcoa 172, West 207, the Knoxville Ambassadors 220, William Blount 231, Anderson County 234, L&N STEM Academy 267 and Webb 296. Completing the Top 10 scoring for the girls' teams were Oak Ridge 85, Anderson County 143, West 157, Knoxville Lady Ambassadors 158, Alcoa 176, Webb 222, Bearden 269 and Clayton-Bradley Academy 298.

The boys' field included 217 runners and the girls' field 154.

UP NEXT: The MKXC Cove Lake Invitational on Oct. 2 at Caryville.

Gibson powers CAK past Webb, 49-14

Cont. from page 1

And the offensive line, I mean, I would be remiss if I don't mention those guys. The tight ends, the H-backs, the offensive line. They really made it happen tonight, and you can see what Ryan can do when he can really get going."

Gibson powered in from the 1 for his second TD in the first quarter.

The two teams combined to produce 35 points in the second quarter. Gabriel Linkous caught a 24-yard pass from Sawyer Anderson and raced down his team's sideline to give CAK a 21-0 cushion. Webb's talented Shavar Young, a Clemson commit, cut the Spartans'

deficit to 21-6 when he caught a 22-yard pass and got into the end zone before the ball popped out when he was hit at the goal line.

Gibson extended the lead to 28-6 when he broke a tackle up the middle and scored. Webb went three and out on three incomplete passes in a row and CAK shifted into a faster tempo and Isaac Kannah scored on a 20-yard run to give the visitors a 35-6 command with 45.6 seconds left in the half. But that was enough time for the swift and athletic Young to get loose on a 42-yard run and then score from inside the 1 with 3.7 on

the clock. Young's 2-point run made it 35-14. An 11-play Webb drive to start the second half was halted at the CAK 37 and a fresh Gibson highlighted another TD march to boost the Warriors' lead to 42-14. Webb QB Greg Porter left the game with an injury in the third quarter and was replaced by sophomore Parks Lederer.

Kannah scored on a 33-yard run, and Bennett Jelks finished a 5 for 5 day of PATs. The 49-14 score turned on the mercy rule clock.

Gibson had an impressive junior season carrying the ball at Seymour. "I left Seymour because I just

went into some things and I wanted to be in a private Christian school because I'm a big man of God," he said after the game. "And I thought this was the place where God wanted me to play. So I left Seymour, and I wanted to better myself. I thought I would have better opportunities and chances here, so I left Seymour and came here for that reason."

"We talked to them (Sevier County High School) because it was closer to my house, but you know, I didn't have any thoughts of going there."

Gibson didn't leave without praising his offensive line. "They played amazing tonight. I can't play as

good as I do without them, so they played lights out tonight and we wouldn't have won that game if they didn't. They were a big, big help in the run game tonight."

Ryan added that it's been like that all season long.

Webb Head Coach Don Mahoney said the difference in the game was "we didn't get off blocks and we didn't tackle and that's the bottom line. "We've got a lot of work to do and we've got to get stronger. And we've got to get better. It's that simple."

Mahoney added that the team's goal should be "to get better each day. We've got to get better in practice

and getting better in practice will hopefully lead to getting better in the games."

"Just like I mentioned earlier, we've got to get stronger, we've got to get off blocks and we got to tackle. When you don't do that and you play against a guy that big, that ends up being the result."

With the win, CAK snapped a four-game losing streak to the Spartans. The Warriors are now 4-2 overall and 2-1 in the Division II-AA East Region, while Webb is 0-6 and 0-4. CAK will host Chattanooga Christian on Friday, while Webb plays at Notre Dame.