

Oster kicks off reelection campaign

By Pete Gawda

Family members and well-wishers gathered Tuesday evening, October 14, at a west Knoxville restaurant Scrambled Jake's to officially launch Knox County Commissioner Gina Oster's campaign for reelection to a second term on the commission.

"I love this job," Oster said. "I am honored to serve District 3." She went on to say, "I never put politics over people."

After stating she planned on winning, Oster concluded her remarks by vowing, "I will make you proud you supported me."

"Gina (Oster) is a workhorse," Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs said as he introduced her. Jacobs called Oster "an absolutely amazing commissioner," adding, "We need to send her back."

"I want to continue to get as many roads paved in my district as possible," Oster told The Focus afterwards. She noted that during her first term, 12 miles of roads were paved. She also wants to replace old water pipes and fire hydrants. She stated that since 2022, \$7 million has been spent on infrastructure in District 3.

Oster's district includes Cedar Bluff, Ball Camp, Bearden and Amherst. She currently serves as commission chair and also serves on the Beer Board, Finance Committee, and chairs the Insolvency Board.

She has held various offices for the Cedar Bluff Schools PTSA. She has served on the Knox County Ethics Committee, the Knox County Sheriff's Office Employees' Merit System Council, the Knox County Tax Equalization Board, and is a graduate of the District Attorney General's Citizens Academy.

Oster is a realtor and has served on the Governmental Affairs Committee with the Knoxville Board of Realtors.

She graduated from Karns High School and attended Pellissippi State College before marrying her husband of 34 years, Stan Oster. They have three sons and two grandchildren.



Congressman Tim Burchett visits with Knox County Commission Chair Gina Oster during her campaign kickoff last week.



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Knox County unveiled a monument honoring Tucker Blakely Tuesday. Blakely was killed in the line of duty in 2023. Local leaders and Blakely's family are pictured standing beside the monument located at the corner of Emory Road and Brickyard Road in Powell.

County unveils monument to honor Tucker Blakely

By Ken Lay

The Knox County Sheriff's Office and the Powell Community honored one of their own early last week.

The county unveiled a stone memorial monument to honor fallen sheriff's deputy Tucker Blakely on Tuesday afternoon.

The monument is located at the corner of Emory Road and Brickyard Road, just one block from where Blakely attended high school and played in the Powell High band.

Blakely was killed in the line of duty on Oct. 2, 2023, while answering a domestic violence call, leaving behind his wife, Katarina, and son, Hendrik.

Blakely's widow spoke at the dedication, along with Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, Knox County Commissioner Rhonda Lee and Knox County Sheriff Tom Spangler.

The sheriff was emotional in his remarks.

"When one of my officers, one of my deputies, gets hurt or makes the ultimate sacrifice, that's on me," Spangler said. "He won't be forgotten. All I can say is, 'I'm sorry, Tucker, job well done, young man. You served us well. Thank you.'"

"This memorial means an awful lot to this community, but it also means a lot to the Knox County Sheriff's Office. This memorial here stands as a promise that we will never forget his courage, his kindness or the ultimate sacrifice he made to keep our community safe."

"We can't take away the heartache from the family and everybody who loved Tucker," Commissioner Lee said. "We can't bring back the son. We can't bring back the husband, and we can't bring back Daddy."

"But one thing we could do is do something to remember Tucker."

Jacobs noted that Blakely's loss left a loss for the sheriff's office, the Powell Community and across Knox County.

"His loss is felt by this community and to all of Knox County," he said. "This serves as a message to his family that he won't be forgotten and that our men and women in blue step forward when others step back."

Katarina said that the memorial will forever honor Tucker's memory and serve as a spot where Hendrik can come and see his father.

"It's nice ... that'll be a memory for future generations who won't have known Tucker (and) their families that don't know him, thinking that they can come up here and see (this)," she said.

Gay Street Bridge condition gets council attention

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

City of Knoxville Chief Engineer Tom Clabo briefed the city council about the Gay Street Bridge last week, including the results of the latest inspection and the plans to open it for pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Clabo said that CDM Smith Inc., hired to do a detailed survey, found more problems with the bridge's support arches than expected. The 127-year-old historic span has been closed to all crossings, and Clabo said that anything but walkers and bikers using it could cause "catastrophic failure."

The council approved a new traffic study of the bridge with CDM Smith in a \$96,100 contract. The

Cont. on page 2

Knox 911 continues to expand

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

During the quarterly meeting of the Knox County Emergency Communications District (Knox 911) last week, Director Brad Anders brought the group up on current and future changes, and the members learned the organization is doing very well financially.

Anders noted several employees with 15 to 30 years of service and said the number of employees is growing with the addition of former AMR dispatchers. He also said that the call center continues to be temporarily located at the Knoxville Safety Center while the main building on Bernard Avenue is being renovated. He added that 14 to 16 new employees may be added in January and spoke briefly about a future automated computer answering service that may route emergency and non-emergency calls to the appropriate agency or organization.

Anders said that some payroll problems created by a new program have been resolved by going back to a paper system and that Knox 911 is looking for a new vendor.

The biggest change ahead for the emergency dispatch system, Anders said, may be joining the Tennessee Advanced Communications Network. Currently, the Knox County system's radios are in a Valley System that limits the organization in width and frequency. He said the TACN is spending \$8 to \$10 million on a new tower system on House Mountain, which would add 20 new radio channels.

"I don't see a downside," Anders said of the benefits of joining the state-wide system. He also noted that many emergency groups that belong to the 911 organizations are using "Phase One" telephones and will need to update to Phase Two.

The next Knox 911 board of directors meeting is set for January 21, 2026.



The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Awards

What would you do if you awoke some morning and things you had been led to believe were demonstrably false? Would you accept reality, or would you double down in delusional thinking? Because to do otherwise would shatter your fragile psyche. This is the paradox of Democrat thinking after last week's historic Middle East peace deal.

President Trump and his team just ended the latest Middle East war. It was the eighth international conflict Trump has ended this year. Even Hillary Clinton, who said Trump would cause wars, praised him. Maybe she's less delusional than the current Democrat leadership or their deranged base who seethe with irrational hate-filled TDS.

Jessie Waters recently observed that President Trump changed decades of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East by ending containment of Israel, bombing Iran instead of giving them cash as Obama did, and providing technology to Arab leaders to advance their countries. As a result of Trump's "peace through strength diplomacy," there is a real prospect of peace in the Middle East.

Despite the ridiculous claim of former Secretary of State Anthony Blinken - of the Wynken (Garland), Blynken and Nod (Biden) trio - that the Biden administration paved the way for Trump's peace deal, it was the Peace President that "delivered while the world doubted." Pivotal in the

chance for peace was the destruction of Iran's two-decade quest for a nuclear weapon. Iran, the chief sponsor of terrorism, had its fangs removed, and then the Israelis destroyed the Hamas butchers.

As expected, there were condolences for Hamas by leftists like Mamdani's wife, as well as silence from Hollywood and Greta Thunberg. It doesn't matter. The United States' leadership of the free world has been renewed, and President Trump's worldwide coalition continues to build. I wonder what it feels like to hate President Trump so much that you choose to be on the wrong side of history, your country and destroy yourself literally and figuratively?

There is a historical precedent for current events. The Old Testament book of Esther tells the story of a young Jewish woman who used her position to save her people. The sentinel verse is Esther 4:14, "...you have come to your position for such a time as this." The modern-day equivalent of Esther is the Peace President, Donald Trump. A corollary from Genesis came to mind: "Surely the

presence of the Lord is [with this man]" Genesis 28:16 (paraphrased).

Civil War General Tecumseh Sherman observed that "War is Hell. War is cruelty. There is no use trying to reform it. The crueller it is, the sooner it will be over." President Trump grasps this concept as he now turns to the horrible war in Ukraine and the weekly slaughter of 7,000.

The Peace President would rather talk and make a deal, but he's willing to fight. However, Trump knows we must never fight a nuclear war, as almost happened between India and Pakistan, until Trump brokered a peace deal. This was acknowledged by Pakistan's prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, who plans to renominate President Trump for a "second" Nobel Prize.

I have followed the work of Venezuelan Maria Corina Machado, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for her opposition to Venezuelan socialist/communist Maduro. It is noteworthy that she credits President Trump for his support of her work.

Many thought President Trump should receive the Nobel Peace Prize, including me. However, Ms. Machado needs the million-dollar award more than Trump. And quite honestly, a Nobel prize is otherwise pretty meaningless since Obama, Yasser Arafat and Al Gore have all won the Norwegian award.

I think awards in general, such as the Academy Awards, are pretty

ridiculous and little more than politically correct popularity contests. Remember, the Washington Post and New York Times won Pulitzer Prizes for their promotion of the Russia collusion hoax.

The last award show I watched was in 1999 when "Saving Private Ryan" lost to "Shakespeare in Love," which was a charming biopic movie, but not of the stature of "Saving Private Ryan." Understandably, no Holly-weird could vote for a war movie, especially a heroic one.

There are exceptions to every rule. The White House ceremony to posthumously award Charlie Kirk the Medal of Freedom was an award well deserved. Charlie's wife Erika has become the face of TPUSA and tearfully but passionately says her husband now "wears the crown of a righteous martyr."

The award for petty political grandstanding goes to Shutdown Schumer and his coterie of congressional fools. These delusional rubes just voted for the 10th time to keep the government shut down because Republicans refuse to negate provisions in the Big Beautiful Bill, which reversed Biden's workarounds to provide healthcare for illegals. Democrats get the award for choosing illegals over citizens.

It's not a Gaza level conflict, but it's getting tense in the hallways of Congress. One heated "debate" involved Hakeem Jeffreys. (I choke saying his name, which seems to stick in

the back of my throat like a loogie.)

Democrat desperation seems to be rising since non-elected bureaucrats are getting pink slips, redundant departments closed and Democrat favored projects are being canceled. Fortunately, President Trump and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth have found a workaround to pay the military with tariff money. (Heh Dems, fool around/find out.)

Meanwhile, the killing fields of Chicago continue. The "new" Brandon, Chicago Mayor Johnson, and portly Governor Pritzker side not only with illegals, but with Chicago's 100K gang members over citizens. I laughed seeing Pritzker's security team wedge him into a bulletproof vest for a Chicago walk around to tell everyone how safe the city was. I'm unconvinced and will avoid the windy city.

But what's a Democrat politico to do? Well, they could protect their citizens by supporting ICE and law enforcement, as the mayor of crime-ridden Memphis and the governor of Tennessee are doing. Maybe the feds can help the Memphis Police make the city safe like Washington DC.

I went to medical school and did my post-doctoral training in Memphis. It was a rough town then, especially the underbelly of Memphis in the emergency room.

FBI director Kash Patel recently awarded Memphis the "homicide capital of America." I hope the Bluff City soon loses that award.

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

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Gay Street Bridge condition

Cont. from page 1

city has also asked for a \$1 million grant from the federal government to begin a study on options for a new replacement bridge.

CDM Smith was also approved to do a design study of a greenway connection between the Fort Sanders neighborhood and Tyson Park in a \$980,770 contract agreement.

In an 8-1 vote, the council approved a \$10 million commitment for affordable housing if the November 4th sales tax ballot referendum is approved. Councilwoman Amelia Parker voted "No" and said the plans did not include more for low-income and homeless residents, and the proposal did not "address the total need."

Councilman Andrew Roberto said designating the funds for housing was a "good vehicle."

Cannon & Cannon Inc. was hired for \$55,000 to provide augmentation services for the city's Transportation Engineering Division, and an agreement was approved with the Tennessee Department of Transportation for the use of property beneath the James White Bridge.

A property at 6109 Creekhead Drive was granted a zoning change from agricultural to single-family residential. Zoning change requests for properties at 305 West Vine Avenue and six lots on Ball Camp Pike were postponed.

Also approved were zoning changes for 3415 Harvey Drive from RN-1 to RN-2 residential, 140 West Baxter from RN-4 residential to general commercial, and 4879 Chambliss Avenue from RN-4 residential to neighborhood commercial.

Mayor Indya Kincannon and Councilman Charles Thomas spoke about the official opening of Governor's Square on Merchant Drive. The 184-unit apartment complex was praised by Thomas, who noted the cooperation of the developer with the neighborhood. He also appreciated the gift of 30 hilltop acres there as a "natural space." Kincannon noted the \$1.7 million city contribution to the project.

Kincannon noted that Tuesday's council meeting was the first time that the new rules of procedure were used, allowing three minutes for public

comments.

Review Task Force holds final meeting

The City of Knoxville Rules of Procedure and Charter Review Task Force wrapped up its final meeting Tuesday afternoon with tweaks to a report for the city council.

"Let's put a fork in it," Councilwoman and Task Force Chair Lynne Fugate said on completing their mission.

Council attorney Rob Frost had suggested changing the name of a standing group from the Charter Committee to the "Charter Advisory Panel."

The new panel begins its eight-year review of the city charter in 2027 and will accept input from any city department that wishes to reply to proposed charter changes. The new panel, yet to be named by the council, may convene months before the 2027 fiscal year with a "charge" from the full council on its duties.

"This is fluid," Fugate told the final meeting.

"This will be a very good start for the new council."

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Publisher Steve Hunley
Editor, Art Director Marianne Dedmon
editor@knoxfocus.com, design@knoxfocus.com

Mike Steely, Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com
Jamie Schnell schnellj@knoxfocus.com
Sales sales@knoxfocus.com
Pam Poe phpoe2000@yahoo.com
Ruthie Akers Ruthie@knoxfocus.com
Legal, Public Notice ads legals@knoxfocus.com

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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

Peace Through Strength

It is fair to say one thing that brought Donald Trump back to the White House was the fact that he was a far more recognizable figure in the president's role as Commander-in-Chief. Joe Biden's fundamental incompetence due to his mental decline not only raises the big question of who was really running the White House, but also the unelected "politburo" that was running the country in his name. They were incapable of doing more

than splashing around in the swamp and weakening the country. Both the Biden and Obama administrations operated from a weakness that did not encourage confidence in our allies or other Middle Eastern countries. President Trump's bringing an end to the war in Gaza is a historic accomplishment that neither Biden or Obama could achieve. Both Obama and Biden tried the standard approaches that have not just grown stale in Washington, D.C., but have begun to rot on the vine. Trump thinks outside the box and is not tied to, much less obliged to follow, the traditional approaches to how things are done routinely in Washington. It proved not only what Washington and our country needed but also what the Middle East needed. American presidents need to show not only compassion but also strength. Without strength, America loses a vital component in keeping our country safe and prosperous.

President Trump is disliked by the "neo-cons" precisely because he does not want to go to war anywhere for any reason. Trump has been brokering peace, but as our president, he doesn't hesitate to use our military strength. Appeasement of terrorists and brutal regimes has invariably been a failure of policy. Hitler's war machine grew and was strengthened while other countries tried to appease his appetite for more territory.

"Peace through strength" has proven to be not only wise but also quite true and effective.

Vote NO On The Proposed City Tax Increase

Early voting has started in the City of Knoxville election. On the ballot are five races for city council AND a referendum sponsored by Mayor Indya Kincannon to raise the sales tax. It's past time for folks to recognize that the City

of Knoxville has a spending problem. Kincannon keeps trying to offer up different flavors of slices of pie as bait for sympathetic voters in an attempt to pass the tax increase. It is very important for voters to go to the polls and take advantage of early voting to vote in the city council races, as well as against the proposed tax increase.

City officials keep talking about "affordable housing" by raising taxes. The last property tax increase, which followed similar increases in the administration of Madeline Rogero, was an increase of 40%.

Knoxvillians have to know that housing doesn't become more affordable by continuing to escalate property taxes. Blue cities across the country have literally driven out the middle class into the suburbs because of constantly raising taxes while subsidizing others. It is the classic version of robbing Peter to pay Paul. Raising property taxes also raises mortgages and rents. The

idea that constantly raising taxes makes things more affordable for consumers is neither logical nor true. In fact, it's just plain stupid.

Tucker Blakely Memorial Dedicated

The new stone memorial for Tucker Blakely is as welcome for our community as it is warranted. Tucker Blakely was a Knox County Sheriff's deputy who answered the call to duty to serve our community. On October 1, 2023, Blakely and fellow officers responded to a domestic dispute, and a man inside a home began firing shots, one of which struck Deputy Blakely. Rushed to the hospital, the young deputy, a husband and father of a 5-year-old son, died at age 29. Tucker Blakely's life was a testament to everything that is good about those men and women who dedicate themselves to protecting the cities, towns, and counties of our country. The loss of so fine

a young man was devastating not only for his family and fellow officers but also for those of us who are grateful for their service. And Tucker Blakely's life was one of service to others, as he had been in the Army prior to becoming a law enforcement professional.

The stone memorial for Tucker Blakely is located in Powell and is a reminder of a brave young man who gave his life for the people of Knox County. It is located right next to Powell High School, which is where Tucker met his future wife, Katarina. The memorial is beautiful and fitting. Someone once said, "Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day . . . unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear." Truer words have never been spoken. The Focus remains grateful for the life of Tucker Blakely and his service to his fellow human beings.

District 4 candidates answer Focus questions

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

In Knoxville's 4th District, Matthew DeBardelaben and Jeff Talman are running to replace Lauren Rider on the city council. The Focus asked the 4th District candidates a few questions and their complete replies as submitted are below.

Should city council races be by political party?

Matthew DeBardelaben: I have a deep appreciation that our City Council races are not by political party. One benefit is that when City Council is operating it is not run by a political party.

Jeff Talman: I'm fine with city elections being either partisan or not. Everybody knows who is left or right, D & R. What I am in favor of is aligning City and County elections in the same cycle. This would, I predict, engage the citizenry much more seriously with much higher participation.

Do you favor the proposed half-cent sales tax increase?

DeBardelaben: I personally feel that the tax increase is in Knoxville's best interest. I am grateful that it is on the ballot for the entire city to decide and not a decision imposed by City Council.

Talman: NO!! On the sales tax increase. It is inflationary and will harm the people in our community already on the edge of failing off. The city needs to spend the revenue it generates now in a more disciplined manner.

Pick one city committee on which you might like to serve.

DeBardelaben: I am interested in serving on the Audit Committee.

Talman: I would like to be on Audit, Rules and Community Media committees. Audit to bring more transparency to government. Rules for the same reason. And Community Media for the same reason but to also guarantee that the public has a strong organization to keep an open window for citizens to watch unfiltered their government.

What is your opinion of the current city administration?

DeBardelaben: I believe the current City administration has provided solid leadership while facing many challenges--COVID, the spike in gun violence in 2020, the increase in our homeless population, and overall population growth. That said I believe the city administration needs to lead with greater transparency and conduct more public meetings where the people of Knoxville have true agency in the outcomes.

Talman: The current administration has good people but misguided priorities. I have a different philosophy about how we prioritize spending and I hope if I am elected that the mayor is open to suggestions about how to make Knoxville better. There needs to be much greater transparency and discipline with the budget. We have work to do

Russell wants county commission control of local grant proposals

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

District 5 Commissioner Angela Russell and District 9 Commissioner Andy Fox, two of the newer members of the Knox County Commission, have been complaining since taking their seats about how state and federal grants are submitted to the body with no prior review. They are now looking to see how grants from the county are handled through the commission, what non-profits qualify, and how the local grant funds will be spent.

Russell has proposals on the October agenda that may see some debate during today's agenda review session or at the regular meeting on October 27. She posted a draft of the resolution to amend the county code on the commission's online forum last week.

The idea is to require annual reports from non-profit organizations on all financial, operational and compliance auditing to

be submitted to the internal auditor. All applicants would be approved, on the recommendation of the county mayor, by the commission prior to being included in an annual budget.

All commission meetings involving an application for local non-profit grant funding would require no less than ten days' notice preceding the meeting.

While Russell's post to her fellow commissioners mentioned the Sunshine Laws, she said the inability to communicate directly with Fox resulted "in confusion." She then stated she did contact Fox "about how he preferred to proceed given we are not allowed to confer on the subject."

On Wednesday, Fox split the draft into two revised ordinances on the online forum: "one for the defined service contracts funded through hotel/motel tax, and the other one for defined service

contracts funded with the general fund."

Knox County Law Director David Buuck, when asked by The Focus for an opinion, took exception to the Russell-Fox proposals.

"First of all, application seems to me to be an executive function. Whether or not they are accepted if the grant is issued is a legislative duty and is so set out in the code. I believe she's (Russell) conflicting executive and legislative powers," he said.

"Also, she seems to be of the opinion that she can talk to another commissioner about what she calls procedural issues and not substantive issues. I don't know whether this is an Eric Wiatr interpretation of the open meetings law, but it is clearly wrong," Buuck continued.

Asked if his remarks were "off the record," Buuck replied, "On the record."



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Knoxville Songwriters Honor Musician Danny Hutchins

Danny Hutchins, an East Tennessee native and long-time band leader for Country Music Hall of Fame member Charley Pride, has been presented with Lifetime Membership in the Knoxville Songwriters Association.

Larry Cope, KSA president, and Randy Ott, past president, surprised Hutchins with the honor Oct. 14 when he was the lead performer at the group's annual music festival in the Fountain City Library.

Cope said Hutchins was recognized "for more than a half-century of musical creativity and leadership, excellence in performance on the world stage, and steadfast support of East Tennessee songwriters."

"Danny Hutchins generously shares with new writers his knowledge of songwriting and the music business," Ott said. "KSA members have learned a lot from him and appreciate his advice on how to improve our songs."

Hutchins, an Oak Ridge native, says he "started banging around on the piano when I was two." By the time he began playing music professionally at age 13, he had learned keyboards, guitar, bass and drums.

When Hutchins was 17, Charley Pride hired him to play and sing in his band. That began Hutchins' 44-year partnership with the first modern-era African American musician elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Hutchins toured the world with Charley Pride and performed on many national television shows. He also has written songs recorded by Pride and other country music entertainers.

Hutchins said he looks forward to coming to more KSA meetings. The group's weekly meetings start with a 5 p.m. jam session each Tuesday at the Fountain Library, 5300 Stanton Road.



From left, (kneeling) Captain Tim Woods, Janet Testerman, CEO of Young-Williams, Rachel Ide, Director of Animal Services for Young-Williams, KFD Sr. Firefighter, Nathan Fitzgerald, KFD Master Firefighter, Justin Chambers, KFD Deputy Chief of Administration, Rob Cheesman.

Young-Williams Animal Center, Knoxville Fire Department partner to help lost pets get home

Young-Williams Animal Center has partnered with the Knoxville Fire Department (KFD) to provide pet microchip scanners at Station 3, located at 204 E. Baxter Ave., and Station 17, located at 4804 Western Ave., as part of a new initiative to help reunite lost pets with their families faster.

Scanners are now available at both stations, giving community members a convenient and accessible way to check stray or lost animals for microchips. This initiative aims to quickly reunite lost pets with their families, who often live just a few blocks from where the animal was found.

A demonstration of the technology at KFD Station 17 today showcased how the scanners work with the goal of reducing the number of

animals entering the shelter system.

"These scanners are a simple but powerful tool to help get pets home faster," KFD Deputy Chief of Administration Robert Cheesman said. "Our fire stations are trusted community hubs, and we're proud to support this effort to reunite families with their pets."

The two stations were selected based on heat-mapping data showing high volumes of stray animal calls in the surrounding neighborhoods. Most pets are found within a mile of their home, often just a street or two away, making neighborhood-based scanning a practical solution. Heatmapping is a graphical representation of

Continue on page 6

Bijou Theatre to host free book launch party on history of second balcony

The Bijou Theatre will host a special evening celebrating the release of *The Second Balcony: The African American Experience* at the Bijou Theatre, a new book written by historian Jack Neely, and produced by the Knoxville History Project in partnership with the Bijou Theatre Foundation and the Beck Cultural Exchange Center.

The launch party, which is free to attend, will take place Friday, Oct. 24, at 6 p.m. The book explores the theatre's pivotal role in Knoxville as a venue for consistent Black

entertainment and the broader African American experience in the city. From the era of segregation to the legendary performers who graced its stage, the book honors generations of resilience, artistry and cultural pride.

"The second balcony is more than a physical space," Bijou Theatre Executive Director Courtney Bergmeier said. "It represents a chapter of Knoxville's history that must be remembered and honored. We're committed to preserving its legacy and the stories of those who experienced it

firsthand. This book is a vital part of that work."

The second balcony was once the only section where Black patrons were permitted to sit from the theatre's opening in 1909 until 1963. Though the Bijou was originally intended to be Knoxville's first integrated business, it opened as a segregated space. Black audience members entered through a separate entrance on Cumberland Avenue and were restricted to the uppermost level. Today, the second balcony, which has

Continue on page 2

Pellissippi State to observe Pearl Harbor Day December 7

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Medal of Honor recipient Jim "Doc" McCloughan will be the featured speaker during the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on Sunday, December 7, at the Clayton Performing Arts Center at Pellissippi State Community College, 10915 Hardin Valley Road.

Continued on page 2

Oct. 25 is Fun Day at Union Baptist

Union Baptist Church, 6701 Washington Pike, in the Ritta Community, is excited to announce that they are hosting a Little Learner's Fun Day on Saturday, October 25. It will begin at 10:00 and last until 4:00. Admission is FREE, and all ages are invited. There will be something for everyone. There will be inflatables and games for the children as well as many other activities. Everyone can enjoy a hay ride around the property. There will be food for purchase, including hot dogs, snow cones, roasted nuts and more. A rummage-type sale with filling a bag for \$5.00 will include items of interest for all. A bake sale will give everyone a chance to buy some delicious cakes, pies, cookies, bread, etc. Entertainment will include music from the church's PDO children, day care children, the Sonshine Ambassadors, and the Richland gospel quartet. All money raised from the day's activities will help support the church's Children's Enrichment Center, which offers a faith-based, quality day care to the children of the community. There is a need for expansion of the day care, as it is operating at full capacity with a waiting list. Everyone is invited to come for a fun-filled day with their neighbors and friends as we celebrate what God is doing in the Ritta community.

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Famous Stamps – Columbian Issue 1893

OLD MAN'S
STAMP
STORE



By Harry Brooks
hrbrooks68@gmail.com

My favorite, as well as that of many other collectors, set of stamps is the Columbian Issue of 1893. These were to commemorate the 400th anniversary

of Christopher Columbus's first trip to the Americas. The stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Company. This printing was next to the last printing for the United States Postal Service. The last printing of the postal service was the Overrun Countries series in the mid-1940s. The total number of stamps printed in the Columbian Series would exceed two billion stamps. Whenever stamps were not sold by their sale deadline date, the Postal Service would destroy them. That is hard to imagine! The task of

destroying a group of mint \$5.00 stamps would cause nightmares! A stamp collector might have been tempted to borrow money to buy the higher-valued stamps. This set of stamps has some unique qualities and a historical depiction of events. Almost every stamp within the set (like 1¢, 2¢, 50¢, etc.) had a variety of color shades. All denominations had at least two shades of color. The 5¢ stamp had the most color variations with four. The stamps were replicas of famous paintings that depicted the events

surrounding the career of Christopher Columbus. The 2¢ stamp printing had a few stamps with an error. A person on the ship had a cut in his hat. Thus, this stamp is known as the "Broken Hat" variety. The 4¢ stamp had two varieties of the ornamental leaf. One stamp had two points on the leaf, and another had three points. On the 10¢ stamp, the letters in "Presenting" were slanted rather than perpendicular. Cancellation of many of these stamps was so heavy, it is difficult to find a "light cancel" in this set, especially those in higher

denominations. Thus, the used values for these higher-valued stamps are almost equal to mint or unused stamps. A number of higher value Columbian stamps are forgeries or have been re-gummed. I have seen a number of the re-gummed variety. Purchase of any of these higher denomination stamps should require a certificate of authenticity verifying the quality. Philatelic knowledge is a must in dealing with these higher value items. A good light cancel on the higher value items may be the best approach in collecting

these Columbian Series stamps. A publication by Lester G. Brookman titled "The United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century" helps provide research assistance. If I can be of assistance in your stamp collecting, please contact me at (865) 604-0164 or email me at hrbrooks68@gmail.com. My website is oldmanstampstore.com. Remember, you are welcome to visit the Knoxville Philatelic Society's monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. More information can be found at knoxstamps.com.

Bijou No Filter Needed: The Secret to Living with the Glow of God

Cont. from page 1

been closed to seating for more than half a century, is recognized as a civil rights landmark and a powerful symbol of the city's complex racial history.

The Second Balcony Book Launch Party will feature:

- Live music
- Light hors d'oeuvres
- Panel discussion with

Neely, Rev. Reneé Kesler, president of the Beck Cultural Exchange Center, and Bergmeier.

The event is open to the public, but guests are encouraged to register at knoxbijou.org/bijou-events/the-second-balcony-book-launch-party/. Copies of The Second Balcony are available now through the Bijou Theatre online gift shop and will also be available for purchase at the event.

If you've ever seen a commercial for skincare products, you might believe that the secret to radiant, glowing skin lies in a \$79 bottle of some special serum. Imagine a woman standing in front of her bathroom mirror, hair pulled back, applying creams, scrubs and toners with the precision of a scientist and the patience of a saint. Her routine includes exfoliation on Monday, hydration on Tuesday, a charcoal mask on Wednesday, and if all else fails, a social media reel demonstrating how



By Justin Pratt, Clear Springs Baptist Church Senior Pastor

to mash a banana with a teaspoon of honey for a mask that promises to deliver the glow you're looking for. While I'm not sure that the mask will actually make you shine, I'm pretty confident that if you go outside after-

ward, the bees and monkeys will be drawn to you! Let's be honest, most of us appreciate a good glow. We notice it. Whether it's from a good night's rest or really good lighting, something is appealing about a face that shines. But there's another kind of radiance no cream can create and no camera filter can fake.

According to Exodus 34, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai, his face shone, not due to a beauty routine, but because he had been in the presence of God (Exodus 34:29). This radiance was not a cosmetic effect; it was a sacred phenomenon. He had stood in the light of divine glory, and that light remained on him for the world to see. Although Moses himself didn't notice or acknowledge this change, the people around him could not ignore the fact that his radiance was evidence of a divine encounter.

Today, the call to believers who follow Christ is to let our faith shine brightly. The world does not need to see more filters; it needs to see more followers whose lives reflect the transformative presence of Christ. Jesus stated, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). This verse describes a life that

shows visible evidence of an inward transformation. We should ask ourselves: What caused Moses' face to shine so brightly?

It is important to understand that Moses didn't come down from the mountain glowing because of something he had done; he radiated from being in the presence of the Lord. He had spent forty days and nights alone in a secluded place, uninterrupted. During this time, God revealed Himself to Moses, answering his request: "I beseech thee... show me thy glory" (Exodus 33:18). The response Moses received was not a display of dazzling lights, but rather a revelation of God's character. Moses didn't just hear words; he truly experienced them.

The truth remains constant: being close to the true nature of God transforms us. It leaves a lasting impression. When he descended, the people didn't require a testimony or a sermon to know he had been with God;

they could see it. In that moment, Moses had become a living lamp, reflecting the God he knew and served.

The same God who caused Moses' face to shine still meets with His people today. The more we draw near to Him in our own private place of prayer, worship and surrender, the more His nature begins to surface in our own. Our attitudes, words and actions should quietly announce to the watching world: "I've been with Him." The world may not understand it, but they'll see it. A peace that steadies. A joy that disarms. A love that reflects Heaven.

The presence of God in our lives is not mystical; it is relational. Our time spent with Him serves as visible evidence of a man or woman who has been in communion with Jesus. The question is not whether Christ's light can shine through us; it's whether we will stay close enough to Him for it to do so. Go and let your light shine!

Pellissippi State to observe Pearl Harbor Day December 7

Cont. from page 1

McCloughan, a Maine native, followed his Vietnam service with teaching and coaching before retiring. He speaks at events across the nation.

Program Director Jim Hackworth announced that the Sunday event starts at 2 p.m. on that memorable anniversary. Hackworth also said that retired Col. Gerald York, grandson of

Tennessee's noted WWII hero Sergeant Alvin York, will be attending.

"We even have Gerald, who is bringing his stuff over for the event," Hackworth told The Knoxville Focus.

The event is free and open to the public and presented by "Patriotic American Companies and individuals" who are sponsoring the gathering. The program is expected to last about one hour.

TUESDAY: KCHD offering free flu shots

The Knox County Health Department will offer free flu shots at four locations as a part of the Tennessee Department of Health's Fight Flu TN Day. Fight Flu TN will take place on Oct. 21 with select locations across the state offering free flu shots.

KCHD will offer the vaccines at the following locations:

- Knox County Health Department**
8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
140 Dameron Ave.
 - FISH Hospitality Pantries**
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
122 W. Scott Ave.
 - Public Safety Complex**
1:30 – 4 p.m.
1650 Huron St. (Lower Parking Lot)
 - Lonsdale Elementary**
4:30-7 p.m.
1505 Louisiana Ave.
- The clinics are open to the public. KCHD will vaccinate insured and uninsured adults and children at no cost to the patient. No appointments are needed. For more information, visit www.knoxcounty.org/health.

TRUNK
or
Treat

Sunday, October 26, 2025
6:00 – 8:00 PM

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Ice Truck will be there so
you can purchase your
favorite treats

Everyone Welcome!



Only children will be allowed to Trunk or Treat



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2022 Ram 1500 Big Horn, 4X4, 5.7 Hemi \$34,550

2021 Ford Mustang Mach-E, Premium \$28,900

2024 Lincoln Nav L Blk Label, Like new! \$89,998

2024 Ford Ranger Raptor 4X4, Like new \$55,900

2019 Ford Edge SE AWD, Local trade \$14,995

'21 Ford Bronco 1st Ed, 19K mi, Hard to find! \$51,940

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John G. Townsend of Delaware

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

While serving as Delaware's governor, John Gillis Townsend Jr. was a reformer; while he served in the United States Senate, he was a stalwart conservative. A highly successful business entrepreneur, John G. Townsend was a towering political figure inside the First State as Delaware's governor during the First World and U.S. senator during the Great Depression.

John G. Townsend was a man of quite humble origins who made a fortune for himself and provided

jobs for others. Townsend began his working career by becoming a relief telegraph operator for the Pennsylvania Railroad in this native Maryland. That caused the young man to observe that the railroad needed cross ties and pilings. The future governor gathered up pilings and crossties and sold them to the railroad. Eventually, he took his profits and organized and operated a sawmill to provide them. Townsend moved to Selbyville, Delaware, and began growing strawberries. Eventually, the crop and his business became so large, Townsend was referred to as the "Strawberry King of America." During his years in Washington, D.C., Townsend was well known for sending boxes of large, luscious strawberries to the members of Congress and the White House. To transport his strawberries to big cities, Townsend convinced the railroads to provide his product transportation in refrigerated cars. Even

pondering what to do with surplus strawberries led to another money-making enterprise. Townsend refused to feed the surplus strawberries to the hogs or simply dump them on the open market. Walking into a store in Millsboro, Delaware, Townsend pointed to a bowl of vanilla ice cream and asked, "How would you like to have strawberry syrup on that ice cream?" The store owner said he thought it was a good idea, but where in the world would he get good strawberry syrup? John Townsend replied that he would supply it. John Townsend operated no less than twenty-three strawberry processing plants, ranging from Tennessee to Delaware.

Growing the tasty fruit caused Townsend to start his own bank, which became the second largest in Delaware. John Townsend continued to expand his agricultural holdings, raising chickens, growing soybeans and corn as well, which were feed products. Townsend also ventured into vegetable processing, and his company specialized in freezing peas and lima beans for consumption by American households. John Townsend was also known to have the largest

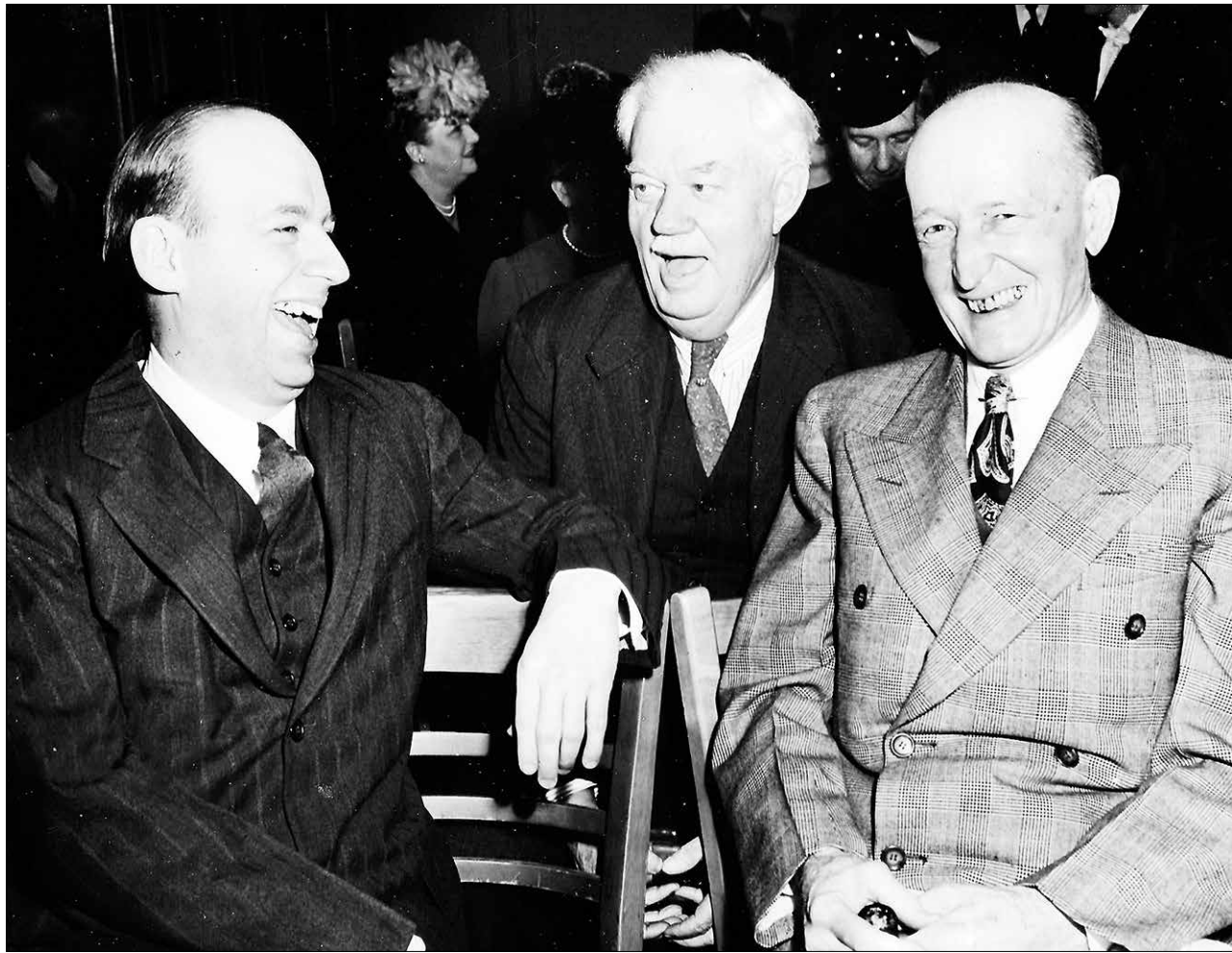
green bean cannery in the world. Townsend was one of the largest orchard owners in the country, the other being his senatorial colleague Harry F. Byrd of Virginia.

John Townsend was also credited by some in agri-business for the discovery of the usefulness of soybeans as fertilizer. Townsend had experimented with planting hundreds of acres of "worn out land" with soybeans and immediately noticed the soil was revived once the beans were plowed under.

Townsend's hard work and shrewdness gave him a reputation for having the "Midas touch"; every business he started became successful and made money. The life of John G. Townsend was a classic poor boy made good tale. The son of a farmer who also worked as a mechanic, Townsend's formal education ended in grade school. Townsend was known for several traits that came in handy both in his life as a businessman and as a politician. John Townsend was a truly friendly man with a warm personality. He was also known for having the courage of his convictions.

Rotund, bespectacled with a bushy head of white hair and a matching moustache, John Townsend looked like exactly what he was - - - a small-town businessman. Townsend's growing agri-business empire became a family enterprise and provided hundreds or thousands of jobs, as well as boosting the prosperity of Selbyville, Delaware.

John G. Townsend's success in business and interest in the Republican Party led to his nomination for the governorship in 1916. Townsend faced Democrat James H. Hughes, with whom he would later serve for four years in the United States Senate. Delaware was a genuine two-party state, and election contests were usually hard fought with either party having a chance of winning. John G. Townsend won the governor's race while every other Republican on the statewide ballot lost. Under Governor Townsend, Delaware adopted its first laws on clean working conditions for women, pensions for mothers, child labor, workers' compensation, and the creation of the State Highway Department during the first legislative session of his governorship. During the second session, Governor Townsend pressed the legislature and won approval of a commission for the Blind, Deaf & Mute, increased spending for highways, and created an entity which eventually became the Department of Public Welfare. Townsend later said his greatest disappointment was Delaware's failure to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment to the



NEA PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

(From left to right) Herbert Brownell, Senator John G. Townsend of Delaware and former U.S. Senator Felix Hebert of Rhode Island at the Republican National Committee meeting in 1945.

Constitution, giving women the right to vote. It was left up to Tennessee to become the state that added the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It was Governor John G. Townsend who created the budget system utilized in Delaware for decades after he left the chief executive's office.

After leaving the governor's mansion in 1921, Townsend gave most of his attention to expanding his various business enterprises. Townsend was in Florida on a business trip in September 1928 when the Republican State Convention nominated him to run for the United States Senate to challenge Senator Thomas F. Bayard Jr. The Bayard name was one of the best-known in the state. Bayard was the son and namesake of a long-serving United States senator, ambassador to Great Britain, and secretary of state during President Grover Cleveland's first term. The younger Bayard had won a seat in the U.S. Senate in 1922. The two senatorial candidates were a contrast in personalities and backgrounds. John Townsend had been born in Maryland and had risen from quite modest circumstances to become a very wealthy man through his business acumen. Bayard was married to a DuPont, perhaps the most famous name in Delaware; every inch an aristocrat and scion of inherited and marital family wealth.

The 1928 election was a true test of the former governor's personal popularity with the people of Delaware. It was a great year for Republican candidates, with Herbert Hoover winning the presidency in a landslide. John G. Townsend Jr. won just over 60% of the votes cast in the Senate race.

One of the newly elected senator's first legislative acts was to draft an amendment to give agriculture the same advantages under law as those granted to industry. It was the first act of its kind anywhere in the world and was crucial in creating the thriving agri-business in the United States. The American Academy for the Advancement of Science labeled the law "as the most important piece of legislation enacted in the

71st Congress." Usually, new members of the Senate find their way to the committees where they have not only their interests, but also whatever expertise and experience they might have earned throughout life. That was true of John G. Townsend who chaired a committee on audit and expenditures, as well as having a seat on the Senate Banking Committee. Townsend's business connections and amiable personality made him a prodigious fundraiser for his party, and he became the chairman of the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, a post he continued to hold long after he had left the U.S. Senate.

During his service as a member of the United States Senate, Townsend was awarded an honorary degree as a Doctor of Letters by the University of Delaware, which amused him no end as he liked to point out he had not gotten past grade school.

Senator Townsend ran for a second term in 1934 and once again faced Democratic attorney James J. Hughes. The senatorial contest was hard fought, with Hughes running as a supporter of President Roosevelt and the New Deal. Townsend was a critic of much of the New Deal, but was popular enough to buck the prevailing political tide and won with quite nearly 53% of the vote.

John G. Townsend was a candidate for a third term in 1940 and faced attorney James M. Tunnell, who had lost a race for the U.S. Senate in 1924. Townsend campaigned, as most incumbents do, on his record in office. The senator wryly noted a fact about politics rarely ever mentioned, saying, "Elections have been decided by those qualified to vote but who stayed at home on election day."

Tunnell criticized Senator Townsend, whom he described as one of the "most hardshelled, die-hard conservatives in the U.S. Senate." Jim Tunnell accused Townsend of having opposed legislation beneficial to farmers, as well as the Social Security Act. In a radio speech, Tunnell narrowed down his criticism of the senator's record, noting "Senator

Townsend had fought the New Deal program at every step of the way."

Townsend retorted, "I make very few speeches. But I serve on more committees drafting bills than any other man in the Senate. And by serving, I mean I work." The senator noted he had been one of those who had written the appropriation bills for defense for the last five years. As to his record in the Senate, Townsend said it had been "built not on politics but on what I believe is best for the State of Delaware and for our country." The senator pointed to his having voted for a 33-1/3 percent increase in Social Security and ticked off a series of national bills and how they would affect the State of Delaware. It was to no avail as it was a Democratic year in the First State.

Narrowly edged out of office during a presidential election year in 1940, Townsend continued tending to his business and political interests. Townsend's sons were all involved in his many businesses, but the former senator still kept his hand in all of them. The senator also remained in Washington, D.C., much of the time in his capacity as chairman of the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee. John Townsend was well-liked by his former colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike. President Harry Truman demonstrated that when he appointed former Senator Townsend as an alternate delegate to the United Nations meeting in London in 1945.

Townsend spent several months in Europe touring former battlefields and viewing the carnage and destruction left by the Second World War. Upon his return to the United States, Townsend said he held out great hope for the world through the United Nations.

John G. Townsend remained highly popular with Republicans in his home state of Delaware and was offered the nomination to once again run for the United States Senate in 1946. "I'm 75 years old," the former senator replied. "You'd better find a younger man."

Throughout his long and productive life, John Townsend never lost

interest in the Republican Party in Delaware or nationally, nor did the GOP ever lose interest in him. Townsend was routinely elected as a delegate to every Republican National Convention from 1904 through 1960, with but one exception. That occurred in 1920 when a political squabble in his own Sussex County cost the governor the party's endorsement for a seat as a delegate. The controversy surrounded Governor Townsend's school code, which was unpopular with some sections of Delaware. Other Republicans were angered over his stand on women's rights and his highway program.

Eventually, the former governor and United States senator settled into a comfortable life where he came to be known as Delaware's "Mr. Republican." John Townsend mentored numerous GOP candidates for local, state and national offices, frequently providing excellent advice along the way.

In 1957, a big celebration was planned to fete the former senator's eighty-sixth birthday by his family. No less than 1,000 guests from all across the country were invited to attend a dinner in Selbyville to honor Townsend. One guest was Vice President Richard Nixon, who carried birthday wishes from President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The 92-year-old former senator was suffering from pneumonia when he was taken to the University of Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia. His condition became complicated by heart failure and a recurrence of pneumonia; John Townsend died a month later.

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COURT NOTICES

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: JACLYN DIANE BROWN
IN RE: JAKIREE 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

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: JOHN CHASTEEN, MISTY CHASTEEN, ET AL.
IN RE: WILSON BENIGITO, REGINOLD JONES, AND EDWARD HAKIZIMANA, Plaintiffs
v.
JOHN CHASTEEN, MISTY CHASTEEN, ET AL., Defendants

NO. 209990-1
IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant(s) JOHN CHASTEEN, MISTY CHASTEEN, ET AL., 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 JOHN CHASTEEN, MISTY CHASTEEN, ET AL. described in the complaint, it is ordered that said defendant(s), JOHN CHASTEEN, MISTY CHASTEEN, ET AL., file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with David J. Otten, an Attorney whose address is P. O. Box 32211, Knoxville, TN 37930 within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice 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 John Weaver, at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division I, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. This 3rd day of October, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: ROBERSHAUN DEMOND LAYNE
IN RE: JILLIAN PATRICIA LAYNE, Plaintiff
v.
ROBERSHAUN DEMOND LAYNE, Defendant

NO. 210768-2
IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, ROBERSHAUN DEMOND LAYNE, 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 ROBERSHAUN DEMOND LAYNE, it is ordered that said defendant, ROBERSHAUN DEMOND LAYNE, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Rebecca Stueve, BPR., an Attorney whose address is 607 W. Summit Hill Drive SW, Knoxville, TN 37902, on or before 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 B. Armstrong at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division II, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. This 2nd day of October, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: The Heirs of EDWARD LEFFEW, JR., The Heirs of MARY SHELTON, The Heirs of ANNE HICKS, The Heirs of WILLIAM LEFFEW, The Heirs of GORDAN LEFFEW, The Heirs of GLENDA SAMMONS, The Heirs of CHRISTY L. RAWLS
IN RE: 3013 COX LANE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37914

BY: BRANDY N. GORDON, JAMES G. JULIAN, AND TERESA MASSEY, Petitioners
v.
The Heirs of EDWARD LEFFEW, JR., The Heirs of MARY SHELTON, The Heirs of ANNE HICKS, The Heirs of WILLIAM LEFFEW, The Heirs of GORDAN LEFFEW, The Heirs of GLENDA SAMMONS, The Heirs of CHRISTY L. RAWLS, Respondents
NO. 211950-2
IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

TO THE FOLLOWING: ALL THOSE HAVING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 3013 COX LANE, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37914, POSSIBLY INCLUDING THE HEIRS OR BENEFICIARIES OF EDWARD LEFFEW, JR., THE HEIRS OR BENEFICIARIES OF MARY SHELTON, possibly including the Heirs or Beneficiaries of Tommy Shelton, deceased, and the Heirs or Beneficiaries of Terry Shelton, deceased, THE HEIRS OR BENEFICIARIES OF ANNE HICKS, possibly including, Debra Kitts, Frank Hicks, and the Heirs or Beneficiaries of Darrel Hicks, deceased, THE HEIRS OR BENEFICIARIES OF WILLIAM LEFFEW, possibly including, Erin Hutchins, Jeffrey Leflew and the Heirs or Beneficiaries of Shannon Leflew, deceased, THE HEIRS OR BENEFICIARIES OF GORDAN LEFFEW, possibly including Mike Leflew and Alan Leflew, THE HEIRS OR BENEFICIARIES OF GLENDA SAMMONS, THE HEIRS OR BENEFICIARIES OF CHRISTY L. RAWLS, possibly including

Christopher Lacy Dixon, a Complaint bearing Docket No. 211950-2 has been filed against you in Knox County Chancery Court and involving a request to partition 3013 Cox Lane, Knoxville, Tennessee 37914 as stated therein and in which you may have an interest. Upon the Petition, a Motion for Publication and the Affidavit of the counsel, in which it is sworn that the interests of the defendants and identity of their classes cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, and ordinary process of law would be ineffective or impossible, it is ORDERED that any respondent or class of respondents or those with an interest in the subject property referenced herein file a response under oath with the Knox County Chancery Court and with H. Stephen Gillman, petitioners' attorney, whose address is P. O. Box 870, Knoxville, Tennessee 37901 (telephone number: 865-522-4191), within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause set for hearing Ex Parte before a Judge of the Knox County Chancery Court, 400 Main Street SW, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This Notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 3rd day of October, 2025.

RICHARD B. ARMSTRONG, JR.
Chancellor
J. SCOTT GRISWOLD
Clerk and Master

ORDER OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF JEFFREY KYLE TURNER

IN RE: ESTATE OF JEFFREY KYLE TURNER, DECEASED
DOCKET NO. 86178-2
MARVIN L. TURNER, Petitioner

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE
PROBATE DIVISION

In this cause, it appearing by the Petition to Declare Heirs and the sworn Affidavit of Petitioner's counsel, Michael R. Crowder, Esq., attached as Exhibit A in support of the Petitioner's Motion for Service by Publication filed in this cause, that the identity, name, residence, and whereabouts of any persons not identified in said Petition as the heirs of JEFFREY KYLE TURNER as of May 8, 2025, cannot be ascertained upon diligent inquiry, and that personal service of process cannot be had upon any said unknown heirs of JEFFREY KYLE TURNER; therefore, service of process by publication is hereby ORDERED, and any said unknown heirs of JEFFREY KYLE TURNER are hereby required to appear and Answer or otherwise defend against the Petition filed herein by Marvin L. Turner, c/o Michael R. Crowder, Esq., 550 Main Street, 4th Floor, Knoxville, TN 37902, within 30 days after the date of the last publication of this notice, exclusive of said last date of publication; otherwise, default judgment may be entered against any said unknown heirs of JEFFREY KYLE TURNER for the relief demanded in the Petition.

It is further ORDERED that this notice shall be published in The Knoxville Focus, a daily newspaper of general circulation in Knox County, Tennessee, once weekly for four consecutive weeks.

Publication dates: 10/13, 10/20, 10/27, and 11/3/2025.

This 6th day of August, 2025.

RICHARD B. ARMSTRONG, JR.
Chancellor
J. SCOTT GRISWOLD
Clerk and Master

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CAROL JANE BURCHFIELD
DOCKET NUMBER 91580-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 30 day of SEPTEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of CAROL JANE BURCHFIELD, who died Aug. 19, 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 30 day of SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF CAROL JANE BURCHFIELD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
SHARON PRITCHARD, EXECUTRIX
101 E. RED BUD ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

DAVID C. HOLLOW, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 22578
KNOXVILLE, TN 37933

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARGARET ANN CHRISTIAN
DOCKET NUMBER 91519-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 1 day of OCTOBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARGARET ANN CHRISTIAN, who died June 16, 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 1 day of OCTOBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARGARET ANN CHRISTIAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KIM A. TOLLISON, EXECUTRIX
7305 CHARTWELL ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF FAYE MONTGOMERY CREEKMORE
DOCKET NUMBER 91517-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 2 day of OCTOBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of FAYE MONTGOMERY CREEKMORE, who died March 11, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 2 day of OCTOBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF FAYE MONTGOMERY CREEKMORE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
SUSAN D. HARRIS, EXECUTRIX
4625 MCLOUD ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37938

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BUDDY J. DUNCAN
DOCKET NUMBER 91522-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 1 day of OCTOBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of BUDDY J. DUNCAN, who died Aug. 9, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against 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 1 day of OCTOBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF BUDDY J. DUNCAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
EMILY ANN IVEY, EXECUTRIX
8508 RIDGELAND DRIVE
CORRYTON, TN 37721

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARGARET DOROTHEA DYER
DOCKET NUMBER 91526-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of OCTOBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARGARET DOROTHEA DYER, who died August 26, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 2nd day of OCTOBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARGARET DOROTHEA DYER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
HEATHER NICOLE METCALF
131 ARKANSAS AVE.
OAK RIDGE, TN 37830

ADAM MICHAEL DYER
1513 W. WOODSHIRE DR.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

M. CATHERINE WARMBROD, ATTORNEY
10805 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 200
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RODNEY STEWART FERGUSON
DOCKET NUMBER 91591-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 3rd day of OCTOBER, 2025, letters testamentary with respect of the Estate of RODNEY STEWART FERGUSON, who died on August 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 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) above; or

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

This the 3rd day of OCTOBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF RODNEY STEWART FERGUSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TERESA FERGUSON TOOLE
1201 WALLACE ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

WILLIAM R. RAY, ATTORNEY
1356 PAPERMILL POINTE WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN 37909

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOAN H. FRICKE
DOCKET NUMBER 91482-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 30 day of SEPTEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOAN H. FRICKE, who died Aug. 19, 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 30 day of SEPTEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF JOAN H. FRICKE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
RICHARD FRICKE, EXECUTOR
1009 BITTICKS CRK.
NOLENSVILLE, TN 37135

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RUTH ARLENE GREEN
DOCKET NUMBER 91599-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 3rd day of OCTOBER, 2025, Letters of Administration in respect of the Estate of RUTH ARLENE GREEN, who died July 31, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required to file the same with the clerk 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 the first publication as described in (1)(A); or

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

All persons indebted to the above Estate must come forward and make proper settlement with the undersigned at once.

This 3rd day of OCTOBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF RUTH ARLENE GREEN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
REBECCA GREEN BOWMAN,
CO-ADMINISTRATOR
LARRY JAMES GREEN, CO-ADMINISTRATOR

W. TODD DANIEL, ATTORNEY
550 WEST MAIN STREET, SUITE 950
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOSEPH MARY ARYEE HAMMOND
DOCKET NUMBER 91570-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 3rd day of OCTOBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOSEPH MARY ARYEE HAMMOND, who died August 9, 2025, were issued to the undersigned of 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 the 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 3rd day of OCTOBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF JOSEPH MARY ARYEE HAMMOND

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
GAYLE PATRICK GARRITY, EXECUTOR

WILLIAM B. BREWER, II, ATTORNEY
707 MARKET ST., SUITE ONE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF SANDRA KAYE HARROP
DOCKET NUMBER 91493-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 7th day of OCTOBER, 2025, Letters of Testamentary in respect of the SANDRA KAYE HARROP, who died July 7, 2025, were issued to all 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 7th day of OCTOBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF SANDRA KAYE HARROP

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ANGELA H. MORRIS

TOM R. RAMSEY, III, ATTORNEY
550 W. MAIN STREET, SUITE 310
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF SANDRA FAYE HUDSON
DOCKET NUMBER 91259-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 6th day of OCTOBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of SANDRA FAYE HUDSON, who died March 14, 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 6th day of OCTOBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF SANDRA FAYE HUDSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ALEXANDER CARNELL
GOODWIN, ADMINISTRATOR
1412 AUTUMN LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

ROBERT W. WILKINSON, ATTORNEY
CHRISTY WHITE, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 4415
OAK RIDGE, TN 37831-4415

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARILYN LEE JOHNSON
DOCKET NUMBER 91518-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 3 day of OCTOBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARILYN LEE JOHNSON, who died July 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 fistful of pills

Tuesday, I had a tooth removed. On Labor Day, the crown that covered the tooth popped out during dinner, and x-rays showed that the tooth was in bad shape to the tip of the roots. So, in about thirty minutes, the oral surgeon removed the tooth, inserted cadaver bone and sewed up my gum. In the coming weeks, I'll have to decide what to do with that open space. One of the worst parts of growing older is dealing with medicines.

Every morning, I start the day by brushing my teeth and taking a fistful of pills. They control my blood pressure, my cholesterol, and the nagging pain that stays with me. Just to be safe, I also take a multi-vitamin. Those medicines change on occasion when my doctor or the cardiologist decide I need a different round of pills.

In the evenings, I'm once again brushing my



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

teeth and taking different medications. Two are for restless leg syndrome, and one is for atrial fibrillation. Without those first pills, I'd not sleep a wink. Over the years, I've talked about how sometimes I walked up and down in the driveway in an effort to stop the muscle tics and cramps and jumps.

Other pills work their way in and out of my daily schedule. The condition of my teeth is the result of taking one medication that causes dry mouth. Without saliva, bacteria can eat away at my teeth. The process has been going on for some time, even though the dentist prescribed a pill to overcome the dryness. All these years I have worked to take good care of my teeth. My parents paid for braces so that my buck teeth would disappear back into my mouth. They couldn't afford the extravagant procedure,

but they struggled to help me out. Now, I take a pill for one condition, and that medicine destroys another part of my body.

I marvel at the commercials for new medications. No, the pills, creams, injections, and capsules aren't of much interest. However, the side effects from taking the stuff are terrifying. Most of the advertised products list a bucketful of possible negative things that can happen, and most include on their lists "death." The height of irony is to have a medication to heal that could possibly cause death.

Doctors say that many people can't afford the medications that are prescribed. Individuals sometimes must choose between prescriptions and food. Other people simply grow tired of taking multiple medications. While those drugs keep them alive, they might offer a poor quality of life. The trade-off isn't particularly inviting to some folks.

I miss the days when I was healthy enough to go

without taking prescribed drugs. A vitamin each day was all I took. These days, I wonder how many more "pills" I must add to my regimen. Modern medicine has blessed us with longer life for which we are grateful. The rub is that that extended time comes with plenty of medicine bottles in the bathroom cabinet. I long for the day when, like Bones on "Star Trek," doctors can treat patients with noninvasive procedures and without pills.

Until that time comes, I'll continue to swallow the contents in those little bottles and hope that they do more good than harm.

Young-Williams

Cont. from page 1

data that uses a system of color-coding to indicate high activity or low interaction.

"We know how heartbreaking it is to lose a pet, and we also know how quickly they can be found if they are microchipped," Young-Williams Animal Center CEO Janet Testerman says. "Once a pet crosses the threshold of the shelter, it has less than a 15 percent chance of finding its way home, so by keeping pets in the neighborhoods where they're found and using these scanners, we can reunite more families and reserve shelter space for animals in crisis. This partnership with KFD is a

meaningful step toward reducing intake and reuniting pets with their families."

Young-Williams Animal Center takes in an average of 600 stray animals per month, yet less than 20 percent have any form of traceable identification. Microchips are one of the most effective ways to identify and return lost pets, but they only work if the information is accurate and accessible.

Young-Williams Animal Center provides discount microchipping by appointment at their Division Street location. To make an appointment, please text or call 865-265-1456. The fee is \$15, which includes registration.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

GCA gets big region win at CAK

By David Klein

In a Division II-AA East rivalry game, the Grace Christian Academy (GCA) Rams moved into second place in the region with a 35-14 win at the Christian Academy of Knoxville (CAK) Warriors. The Rams used an effective running game and a strong defense to get the win over their rival. GCA rushed for 216 yards, led by JV Stinson's 141 yards and two touchdowns. GCA's Jace Ballard got the Rams on the scoreboard first by taking a short pass 61 yards for a touchdown with 4:22 left in the first quarter to give the Rams a 7-0 lead. The Rams were effective the whole night in the running game, utilizing three backs. "I think we got the best O-line in the state," Ballard said. "Every game we know coming in they're gonna have a big game and they did tonight." The Warriors tried to

answer GCA's long touchdown, but GCA's Kaden Webber intercepted Seaton Moffett's pass. On Grace's ensuing possession, the Rams drove into CAK territory but committed two false start penalties to back them up. However, CAK bailed the Rams out with a pass interference penalty. Three plays later, Stinson ran for a 17-yard touchdown to put Grace Christian up 14-0 with 9:21 left in the second quarter. CAK would be penalized 12 times for 131 yards on the night. In the second half, Grace Christian kept its momentum going with a Webber 29-yard touchdown catch with 9:03 left in the third quarter to put the Rams up 21-0. GCA then went on a long drive that took up most of the third quarter and capped it off with Stinson's second touchdown on a

Continue on page 3



PHOTO BY JOHN VALENTINE

Central quarterback Kaden Long lifts the Black Oak Ridge trophy after leading the Bobcats to a 38-35 win over Halls Thursday night.

Central pulls out 38-35 win in Black Oak Ridge rivalry

By Steve Williams

High school football games don't get much better than the one Central and Halls had Thursday night. The lead changed hands eight times before the Bobcats headed back over Black Oak Ridge with a 38-35 victory on Halls' Homecoming night. The Red Devils had a four-point

lead (35-31) with 3:43 remaining, but Central still had time to score. Kaden Long, the Bobcats' junior quarterback, completed a 17-yard pass to Bryce Johnston and a penalty on Halls put the ball on the Red Devils' 24-yard line. However, an illegal grounding penalty left the Bobcats facing fourth down and 18 yards to go at the Halls 32 with only 52.6 second left.

With the game on the line, Long found wide receiver Tnaj Taylor running down the sideline between two defenders and hit him with a 32-yard touchdown pass with 43.4 on the clock. That clutch play gave Central a 3-point lead. The Red Devils didn't give up. McKylus Daniel returned the kickoff

Continue on page 2

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER NOTES FROM THE SCORECARD

Bearden, Powell and Seymour claim district titles



PHOTO BY TAMMY DAVIS KREGEL

The Bearden High School girls soccer team celebrates its district tournament championship. The Lady Bulldogs claimed the title with a 5-0 win at West High Thursday night.

By Ken Lay

District Championship Thursday packed plenty of excitement for area fans last week as four local teams advanced to Tuesday's region semifinals, which will be contested on Tuesday. Two matches went to overtime, and one champion had to be decided by a penalty kick shootout. A pair of teams, Bearden and Seymour, cruised to district titles. In District 4-3A, Bearden High took out a little frustration as it blanked longtime rival West High, 5-0, at Bill Wilson Field. The game was contested in Marble City because the Lady Rebels earned the No. 1 seed by virtue of a tie-breaking coin flip after the two teams played

to a 0-0 draw in their annual regular-season match, also played at West. The Lady Bulldogs managed just one goal in the first half as Jayla Blue tallied on a penalty kick in the 29th minute, making the score 1-0 after the Lady Rebels were whistled for a foul in the goal box. At halftime, the district tournament championship hung in the balance. It didn't, however, hang for long as the Lady Bulldogs quickly extended their advantage to 2-0 on a marker by Tyler Roth less than two minutes into the second half. In the 45th minute, Madi Bowlin banged home Bearden's third goal of the match. The score remained 3-0 until

the 74th minute when Blue scored her second goal of the match on a breakaway after she took a short pass from Roth. Bearden's Reagan Walden closed out the scoring in the final minute of the match, finding the back of the net with 31.7 seconds left. Lady Bulldogs coach Ryan Radcliffe was obviously elated after the match, but he was anything but happy about having to play the title match on the road after multiple tie-breaking criteria were overlooked. "I was a little frustrated," Radcliffe said. "Our girls were frustrated because we didn't get to play on our home field. We like our field and maybe

Continue on page 3



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KIL CROSS COUNTRY MEET

Webb's Calysta Garmer focuses on helping team

By Steve Williams

Webb's Calysta Garmer, who has the top time in the state this year, was more interested in helping her team have a good showing in the KIL Cross Country meet Saturday morning than she was her on time. She still won anyway. With her twin sister Jazzlyn sidelined, Calysta posted a 16:56.6 time in the 5,000-meter race on the Cherokee Boulevard – a little over six seconds than her state-best time. “Today I wasn't really focusing on time,” said Calysta. “I just wanted to help out my teammates so coming to the first mile I made sure I kept it pretty comfortable so all my teammates weren't taken out too hard. So just like racing for the team, I think that really helped (our) race today.” As for Jazzlyn, “She's just a little bit sore,” said Calysta. “We wanted to make sure we kept the inflammation down so that she is strong for post-season and state racing.” Jazzlyn has the second best time in the state, just a tenth of a second behind her sister's time of 16:50.



PHOTOS BY ROBB DUNCANSON

Left, Webb's Calysta Garmer won the KIL girls' cross country individual title while also helping her teammates. Right, Cade Duncanson picked up where former Catholic standout Keegan Smith left off and won the KIL boys individual cross country title.

Webb's Carolina Areheart placed second in the KIL meet with a time of 17:38.3, helping the Lady Spartans capture the girls' team title. Alexandra Vesser of Hardin Valley was third at 18:21.7, followed by Catholic's Kacey Holliday (18:27.3) and Catholic's Drew Gerken (18:30.3). Also placing in the Top 10 were (in order): Zoi Lecours of Farragut, Sophie Lee of Grace Christian, Rachel Benson of HVA, Emma

Cissna of Webb and Ana Berkheimer of HVA. Webb finished with 47 points in the team scoring, followed by Hardin Valley (50), Catholic (52), Farragut (96) and GCA (147).

Duncanson wins boys' race

HVA is top team

By Steve Williams

With the Keegan Smith



PHOTO BY BARRY HOUGHIN

Catholic boys are out in front in the KIL meet Saturday, but finished second to Hardin Valley by one point.

era over, another Knoxville Catholic runner has extended the Irishmen's victory streak. Cade Duncanson, a junior, won this year's KIL meet wearing the Irish colors and posting a time of 15:40.44 at the Cherokee Boulevard course under near perfect conditions. “The key to the win was just staying good mentally,” said Cade. “I knew the only person who was going to defeat me today was me, so ... I just went out and trusted my race

plan. In the second lap I was going to hit it because I knew some guys were on me. I knew I had it with a mile to go.” Not too far behind Duncanson was teammate Evan Van De Griff with a time of 15:45.02. Rounding out the Top 5 were West High's Nicholas Burke (16:01.53) and Farragut harriers Chase Temples (16:06.98) and Sam Shagan (16:11.27). “Getting a win is always fun,” added Duncanson. “But the job is not finished here. We've got some really

big meets coming up. “In two weeks we'll have the state championships and that will be a big race, so I'm hoping to come in the top three then and hopefully qualify for some national events after that.” The Top 10 (in order) were Aiden Rufi (HVA), Isaac Socha (HVA), Stephen Bell (HVA), Zachary Jenkins (Halls) and Andrew Cabaniss (Farragut). Hardin Valley (49 points) nipped Catholic (50) for the team title. Farragut (56) came in third, followed by West (148) and CAK (179).

HIGH SCHOOL SCORES AND SCHEDULE

Week 9 Results

Central 38, Halls 35
Grace 35, CAK 14
Cleveland 28, Bearden 10
Carter 41, Austin-East 27
McCallie 44, Catholic 22
Gibbs 51, Fulton 7
Oak Ridge 21, HVA 10
Jefferson Co. 27, Powell 24
Clinton 24, South-Doyle 0
West 59, William Blount 14
Stewarts Creek 49, Webb 26
Cookeville 30, Farragut 13
Concord 49, S. Greene 35
TSD 64, Arkansas 50

Week 10 Games

(Kickoff at 7 local time)

Thursday

Oak Ridge at Farragut

Friday

Carter at Alcoa
Dobyns Bennett at Bearden
Boyd Buchanan at CAK
Halls at Campbell Co.
Powell at Clinton
Providence at Concord
Seymour at Elizabethton
Heritage at Gibbs
Cleveland at Hardin Valley
CPA at Catholic
William Blount at Central
Lakeway Christian at Grace
Chatt. Christian at Webb
Karns at West
Austin-East at Meigs Co.
Anderson Co. at S-D
Fulton at Union Co.

A GLANCE BACK AND A LOOK AHEAD

By Steve Williams

After a slow start this season, West is coming on strong and has a good chance of making the Class 5A playoffs after its 59-14 win at William Blount Friday night. “We do,” said Coach Barron Chandler after the impressive win. “I think that's how it is. You don't know what's going to happen. There's always some crazy scenarios out there. You can't look into

every scenario. “The big thing is we've got to do what we can control and that's the games in front of us.” The Rebels (3-2 in Region 2-5A) have Karns and Powell remaining on their schedule. William Blount Coach Robert Reeves came away impressed. “When I watched them on film, I told my guys ‘this is a good team.’ “I could tell when they

came in here that they were ready. I could see it in their eyes. And a team like that, when they get started and they get success, the bad demons and evil spirits cleanse themselves. So now they start believing. “Their defense played outstanding. Their offense played good, too.”

Long sparkles in win over Halls

Kaden Long moved the

ball through the air and on the ground in Central's 38-35 win Thursday night. The junior QB completed 19 of 26 passes for 160 yards and the winning TD with only one interception. As a runner, he gained 97 yards on 20 carries and scored three touchdowns. **WEEK 9 SCORES** included Jefferson County's 27-14 win over previously undefeated Powell and Gibbs' 51-7 romp past Fulton.

Concord Christian School, which does not have lights, played its homecoming game Friday afternoon and defeated South Greene 49-35. **WEEK 10 GAMES** could see Webb and Fulton put an end to their winless seasons. The Spartans will host Chattanooga Christian, while the Falcons will visit Union County.

Central pulls out 38-35 win in Black Oak Ridge rivalry

Cont. from page 1

to the 41 and quarterback Amari Lethgo completed a 27-yard pass to Brody Rogers at the Bobcats' 32. With time running out, Lethgo had to spike the ball to stop the clock and two hurried pass attempts fell incomplete. In the closing seconds, Parker Crittenden's 49-yard field goal attempt to tie the game was short and wide.

“He (Taylor) made a great play,” said Long. “I gave him the ball, he makes them miss and goes and scores. It's a huge win. We've been needing this.” Braden Buchanan, Central wide receiver coach, said: “Man, this group was special tonight. They've worked hard for it. The moment was big, but I think he (Tnaj) has done well to train his body and



PHOTO BY RANSOM WAYMAN

Halls quarterback Amari Lethgo gets good protection from his linemen as he looks for a receiver in Thursday night's game against rival Central.

to get his mind right for that moment. To see him grow up and perform on this big of a stage, and do as well as he's done, it's big.” With the win, Central regained the Battle of Black Oak Ridge trophy. The Bobcats lead the overall series 36-17. The Red Devils had won the last two games 52-34 in 2023 and 40-3 in 2024. The win also gives Central a 4-1 record in Region 2-5A. The loss snapped Halls' three-game win streak and leaves the Red Devils 3-2 in the region. Devon Cole kicked a

23-yard field goal on the opening possession of the game to give Central a 3-0 lead. Halls quarterback Amari Lethgo tallied on 4-yard and 3-yard runs to give the Red Devils a 14-3 lead in the first quarter. Long led a 58-yard march in the second quarter and cashed in on a 2-yard run to trim the deficit to 14-10 and Javaston Badgett returned an interception for a TD to put the Bobcats ahead 17-14. Halls tallied on a flea-flicker started by Lethgo and ended by Cooper Faust's touchdown catch

to give the Red Devils a 21-17 advantage. Long ran in from 11 yards out to put the Bobcats back on top 24-21 at halftime. A 2-yard run by Lethgo in the third quarter gave Halls a 28-24 lead. In the final quarter, Long scored on a 21-yard run to give Central the upper hand again, 31-28. But Halls' Daniel matched that with second-effort on a 6-yard run to paydirt to give the Red Devils their last lead at 35-31. Halls will play at Campbell County this Friday, while Central hosts William Blount.

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Figurative and Literal Lines Drawn in the Sand

There's nothing like a good grudge. Over the years, football fans living south of Messrs. Mason and Dixon's line have perfected the art of never forgetting even the most minor slight. It's a way of life in some locales.

In the SEC, events on or off the playing field often carry over into everyday life, all part of the rivalries – some ancient, dating more than 100 years, along with others of more recent occurrence.

There are figurative and literal lines drawn in the sand between seemingly rational and reasonable people, but also people who take the proceedings seriously.

Historically, Tennessee has had its hotly debated moments fans have never forgotten. Consider the missed field goal at the South end against Alabama in the rain in 1966 that sealed an 11-10 Tide victory.

Was it good or not? Charles W. Bowen, the referee that day, waved it off, and that settled that. Bowen did not stride to the center of the field and utter those famous words: "The previous play is under video review."

For his part, Vol

quarterback Dewey Warren, who held for the decisive kick, has steadfastly maintained, then and now, that the kick was good. Often in error, but never in doubt, the saying goes.

Then there was the (supposed) completion to Jabar Gaffney that gave Florida a 27-23 win in 2000. Officials Steve Shaw and Allama Matthews discussed the play briefly before Shaw ruled the touchdown would stand. That decision resulted in a hail of projectiles from the lower regions of the North stands hitting the orange and white squares where the play finished. That was not a good look.

Both moments of controversy were followed by key wins the next year against the same opponents, with these supposedly negative events used as motivation.

Consider the afternoon the heavens opened over Neyland Stadium during the 1973 Auburn game, Tennessee leading 13-0 in a contest the Vols eventually won 21-0.

Whenever Tennessee got the ball in the monsoon, Vol head coach Bill Battle, acting on advice from Gen. Neyland's playbook, kept kicking the ball back, letting Auburn handle the slippery pigskin. That somehow offended the visitors, and they weren't happy again until the next year's game on the Plains was history.

The score that day, at a much drier Cliff Hare Stadium, was also 21-0, Auburn, but that was just a coincidence.

After LSU ran two pass plays in four seconds against Ole Miss in 1972 to win 17-16, there was a sign on the Mississippi-Louisiana border that read: "You are now entering Louisiana. Please set your watch back four seconds."

Ole Miss publicists had a creative response to the game's outcome. The authors of the 1973 Rebel football guide listed the final score as "Mississippi 16, LSU 10 + 7."

Kentucky folks will never forget the ending of the 2002 LSU game. With but a couple of ticks left on the clock, the entire Commonwealth seemed poised to celebrate an upset win over the Tigers, including the team dumping Gatorade on head coach Guy Morriss.

As the game ended, LSU completed one of those "Hail Mary" passes for a score that shocked everyone in blue.

Someone in the Kentucky press corps headlined the frantic finish "Christian Laettner in Cleats," referencing the game-winning shot in the East Regional Finals at the Meadowlands in 1992, one that also sent the Commonwealth into collective apoplexy and Duke into the Final Four.



SO CLOSE, YET SO FAR AWAY. The final seconds of the 1966 Alabama game on a rainy "Third Saturday in October" nearly 60 years ago.

Everything in Commonwealth football history, even the bad moments, has a parallel in basketball.

In the 1972 "Iron Bowl," Auburn had the "Punt, Bama, Punt" win. That was the day Bill Newton blocked two punts, and David Langner returned both for scores, on plays that looked identical.

Alabama won the next year, and the next year, and the next year, not losing again until 1982, a year after Pat Dye became head coach on the Plains.

Here's another lesson. The "make-up" call sometimes takes a while to

arrive.

Arkansas lost the 1971 Liberty Bowl game against Tennessee, 14-13, when someone in the line was detected holding on a successful field goal attempt. Later on, the Vols recovered what appeared to be a phantom fumble to set up the game-winning score. In 1992, Arkansas won in Knoxville, 25-24, when a first down run by Heath Shuler was nullified by a holding call, and the Vols couldn't handle an onside kick moments later.

Finally, there was the line tossed out in North Carolina basketball circles that brandished the name

of the Deity. "If God isn't a Tar Heel, then why is the sky Carolina blue?" The response from everybody else was, "If God is a Tar Heel, it's the only mistake He ever made."

Here's a bit of perspective about all this wondrous stuff surrounding the games. When your side does it, it's part of the ambience and camaraderie of the game, but, alas, when the other side does likewise, it's often perceived as poor sportsmanship, being a "poor winner."

We can all understand that essential concept, can't we?

There's Never Enough Money

By Mark Nagi

I'm not sure if you have been paying attention to college football lately, but it's a mess... and a big reason is finances. The money involved is absurd... and keeps getting worse.

Penn State recently fired head coach James Franklin, only a few weeks after the Nittany Lions were ranked in the top 5. But losses to Oregon, UCLA, and Northwestern spelled his doom.

Franklin went 104-45 in his 11+ years in State College, but his struggles against quality opponents eventually became too much for Penn State fans, boosters, and administrators to take. Penn State went a very underwhelming 16-29 against ranked opponents, and even worse, 4-21 against Top 10 teams under Franklin.

But... his consolation prize is incredible. Franklin will receive nearly \$50 million... to not coach the Nittany Lions. The buyout life, as always, is undefeated.

This is believed to be the second-largest buyout in the history of college football, still well behind the \$76 million given to Jimbo Fisher by Texas A&M a few years ago. That move by the Aggies seems to have paid off, as Fisher's replacement, Mike Elko, has Texas A&M as a serious contender for SEC and National Championships in this, his second year in College Station.

\$76 million is, of course, a gargantuan number, but Texas A&M's thinking was that they couldn't afford NOT to make a move. A mediocre team, which is what the Aggies were under Fisher, can't recruit well, can't

fundraise well, can struggle to sell tickets, etc.

But if you do the dismissal, you've gotta make the right hire. It appears that the Aggies have done so.

If Penn State finds the correct person, its decision to replace Franklin will be considered a wise and prudent move. But there's no guarantee they will find that guy. It took Tennessee five tries before finding Josh Heupel after firing Phillip Fulmer.

The top choice for Penn State was likely Indiana's Curt Cignetti, who has unexpectedly made the Hoosiers a winner. Cignetti led Indiana to the College Football Playoff in his first season in Bloomington, and this season, they should be in the CFB playoff once again.

Indiana football. We are talking

about Indiana football.

But Indiana wasn't going to let Penn State get close to Cignetti. Last week, they reached a new 8-year contract for Cignetti, which will pay him an average of approximately \$11.6 million annually.

If I were to tell you even two years ago that the head football coach at Indiana would be turning down an opportunity to be the head football coach at Penn State, you'd think we were living in an alternate universe.

But you know what? We are living in an alternate universe. A college football universe in which the depth of your pockets means as much as wins and losses.

Stadium renovations, complex upgrades, NIL payments... and the crazy coaching contracts and buyouts that have done nothing but increase, with no end in sight.

At Tennessee, athletics director Danny White is trying to squeeze every dime out of boosters and fans. They plan to convert the G-10 parking garage into the Neyland Stadium entertainment district. That would entail the construction of what's being called a "condotel," featuring 60 luxury condos, a restaurant/bar, a conference center, and more.

Neyland Stadium has gone through massive upgrades in recent years, but issues like long lines at entry and significant backups inside the concourse need to be addressed.

For better or worse... this isn't the Tennessee you've grown up with, but it means more money coming into the university and the athletics department.

Good thing... because there's never enough money.

GCA gets big region win at CAK

Cont. from page 1

1-yard run with 11:25 left in the fourth quarter to put GCA up 28-0.

CAK finally got on the scoreboard on Ryan Gibson's 3-yard touchdown run with 8:27 left in the fourth quarter. Gibson, usually reliable, was limited to 55 yards on 16 carries on the night.

GCA head coach Justin Price said, "They're a unique offense, and that running back Number 4 (Gibson), he can get in there and carry some tough yards."

Webber rushed for a 36-yard touchdown to answer the Warriors' touchdown to put GCA up 35-7 with 7:28 left in the fourth quarter. CAK put a last touchdown on the board on Moffett's 2-yard touchdown run with 2:06 left in the fourth quarter to make the final score 35-14 GCA.



PHOTO BY MARIAH CLAY

Grace Christian's JV Stinson looks for running room against Christian Academy of Knoxville at CAK Friday night. Stinson ran for 141 yards and two TDs in the Rams' 35-14 win.

"I thought tonight was a kind of slower pace game for us than we're used to, but we found a way to be

at our best no matter what the situation was," Price said.

GCA (6-2, 4-1) hosts

Lakeway Christian on Friday, while CAK (5-3, 3-2) hosts undefeated Boyd-Buchanan.

Bearden, Powell and Seymour claim district titles

Cont. from page 1

we'll see them again (in the region championship match on Thursday), and when we see them again, we'll see them on our field."

The coach said he knew the game could be a tough one for his side.

"They're a good team and they're a tough team," Radcliffe said of the Lady Rebels. "They're a physical team and they have a lot of athleticism. We're used to having the athleticism, but they match up right there with us."

Both teams will advance to Tuesday's elimination Region 2-3A Tournament semifinals. The Lady Bulldogs will host Oak Ridge, while the Lady Rebels travel to Powell.

Powell claims district title on penalty kicks: After playing 100 minutes, Oak Ridge

and Powell were locked in a 2-2 tie. The match officially ended in a draw, but the district championship was decided by a marathon penalty kicks shootout, won by the Lady Panthers, 6-5.

The match was tied, 1-1, at the end of regulation.

Lady Eagles fall in OT: Gibbs High played for the District 4-2A Championship and forced the match to overtime before falling to top-seeded Anderson County, 1-0, in Clinton.

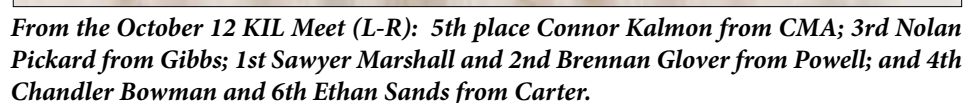
Olivia Madron scored the lone goal approximately 14 minutes into extra time.

Seymour claims District 3-2A crown: The Lady Eagles ran past Carter Thursday night, claiming an 8-3 victory.

Seymour will host Gibbs on Tuesday, while the Lady Hornets will travel to take on the Lady Mavericks.

Marshall and Palmer win KIL Meet titles

"I bowled a little bit when

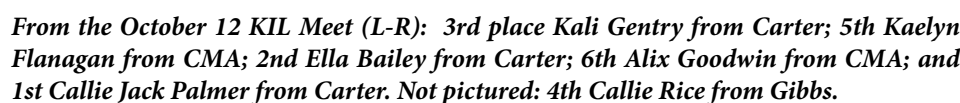


As for bowling, he said the team's goal is to go to the state, "and individually, I would like to make it

She said her goal this year is to roll a 220 game and average 180.

District 2 includes nine teams and play is held on Mondays and Wednesdays

There are only two girls' teams in the district. Carter is 2-0 and Gibbs 0-2.



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