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## Council limits where attached dwellings can go

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
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The effort to provide more affordable housing throughout the city hit a barrier Tuesday when the majority of Knoxville City Council members voted to restrict where a new form of housing would be allowed.

A “Single-Family Attached Dwelling” is similar to a duplex, but with a double wall between the two units. The proposal was

to allow, on review, the new type of housing in every residential zone. Residents of the highest priority residential neighborhood zone, RN-1, spoke against the idea not only in their upscale neighborhoods, but also in the less restricted RN-2 zones.

RN-1 zoned properties make up almost 60% of the homes inside the city, and RN-2 zoned homes make up 20% of the homes. That leaves the remaining residential

zones, RNs 3, 4 and 5, with about 20% of the homes. The proposal from the planning commission to approve the attached dwellings, which may be purchased instead of rented, caused some back-and-forth discussion among council members.

District 4’s Lauren Rider spoke on the matter and moved to restrict the attached dwellings in the RN-1 and RN-2 zoning areas. District 3’s Seema Singh

then countered with a motion to permit the dwellings in RN-2 and restrict them only to the upper RN-1 areas.

Singh said the loudest opponents to the RN-2 zone were homeowners in the nicer neighborhoods zoned RN-1, who would be the least affected by the new type of housing. At-large Councilwoman Amelia Parker agreed with Singh and said the idea of not permitting the dwellings in

RN-1 and RN-2 was only to protect wealthy homeowners, and it would hurt diversity.

At-large Councilwoman Lynne Fugate disagreed and said it is “unclear what the units will look like.” District 5’s Charles Thomas agreed and added that three neighborhood associations in his district are opposed to attached dwellings. However, Thomas said the city needs to look at unused  
**Continue on page 3**

## Neighborhoods on Parade



PHOTO BY BILL FOSTER PHOTOGRAPHY

*The Karns Marching Band sets the pace at a previous WIVK Christmas Parade in downtown Knoxville.*

The 52nd Annual WIVK Christmas Parade will be held on Friday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. along Gay Street in Downtown Knoxville.

“Don’t miss the biggest Christmas parade in Knoxville, featuring dozens of dazzling floats, local school bands,

and of course, Santa!” Jennifer Johnsey of Cumulus Radio Group told The Focus. “We’re thrilled to announce that the University of Tennessee’s new baseball Coach Josh Elander and his family will serve as this year’s Parade Grand Marshals.”

The parade will kick off from Main and Gay streets and continue down Gay Street to Jackson Ave, turning right, finishing at Jackson and Kentucky Streets.

See A4 for a listing of upcoming area Christmas Parades.

## Rules Committee fine-tuning electronic vote procedure

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
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The Knox County Commission’s Rules Committee continued its effort to review how meetings are held last week with a look at the procedures in place for making motions and types of voting.

With a new, electronic voting system on the horizon, much of the meeting was concerned with how that will be implemented. Deputy Attorney General Mike Moyers said the new system will still require a majority of the commission members, meaning six of eleven, to pass a

motion even if there are not eleven members present.

He said that with the new voting system, all votes would, in effect, be “roll call votes.”

Commissioner Courtney Durrett said the chair would ask the clerk to open and close the electronic vote, and a time would be set for voting. She said an “abstain” vote would be counted as a “no” vote. A screen will display each commissioner’s vote, as cast, in real time.

At-large Commissioner Larsen Jay sat in on the  
**Cont. on page 3**

## Wreath Ceremonies set for December 13

U.S. Coast Guard veteran and Focus senior writer Mike Steely places a wreath honoring military service members during a past ceremony at the Knoxville National Cemetery. Photo courtesy of Misty Williams.



By Focus Staff

Volunteers will gather at Knoxville’s three veteran cemeteries on Saturday, December 13, to lay wreaths at the military graves. The annual event always welcomes citizens to honor the veterans who, after placing the wreaths, are asked to stand and, “Say their name.”

It is a simple and humble duty, and hundreds of volunteers annually attend the event, which begins with a brief ceremony. The noon event involves the Knoxville

National Cemetery downtown, the Old East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery on Lyons View, and the New East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery on Governor John Sevier Highway. The wreaths are sponsored through contributions made to Wreaths Across America.

Wreaths are also placed throughout the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and at individual graves in our surrounding counties. Anyone may donate a wreath anytime at [knoxwreaths.org](http://knoxwreaths.org), and various organizations

sponsor wreath events, including the Vietnam Veterans Association Bill Robinson Chapter 1078 in Knoxville. Donations may be mailed to Wreaths Across America, P.O. Box 50054, Knoxville, TN 37950.

Anyone volunteering at the New East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery may also want to visit the French Broad Veterans Memorial Park just across the river and remember their veterans from the overlook there, high above the cemetery.

## Retired teachers award scholarships to aspiring educators

By Ken Lay

The Knox County Retired Teachers Association Scholarship Foundation hosted its annual awards ceremony and luncheon on Thursday, November 20.

The KCRTA awarded nine \$3,000 scholarships to aspiring teachers to help defer expenses while the students complete their education and student teaching requirements at the event, which was held at the Rothchild Catering and Conference Center in West Knoxville.

It was also David Huntsinger’s final awards ceremony as the organization’s scholarship foundation

chairman.

“I’ve enjoyed my time as chairman, but I thought it was time for me to work on my health,” Huntsinger said. “As many of you know, I’m an avid swimmer, and I swam in the Senior Olympics.

“I can swim 200 meters, and that’s eight laps in the pool. It’s been a pleasure to serve as your chairman.”

The nine honorees are all students in East Tennessee, representing Johnson University, Lee University and the University of Tennessee.

The Tom Underwood Scholarship went to Faith Mitchell, the Reuben and

Pat Hunter Scholarship was tendered to Sadie Brantley, and Kate Faulk received the Bill Crosland Scholarship.

Sarah McGregor was awarded the Colleen Bennett Scholarship. Kelsey Mitchell received the Cindi Fuller Schowalter Scholarship.

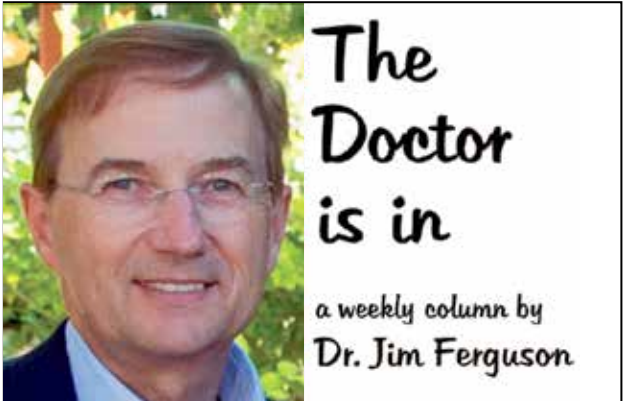
Mary Nell Rocheleau received the Jeantte Casteel Scholarship. The Joe Dent Scholarship was awarded to Walker Weems.

The Dr. Margie LeCoulre Scholarship was awarded to Katerina Scott, and the Pat Payne Scholarship was awarded to Behnaz Kasra-el.



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

*The Knox County Retired Teachers Association awarded scholarships to aspiring educators at its annual awards luncheon Thursday, November 20 in West Knoxville.*



Sentient

There is no keystroke for caring.

Jim Ferguson

Have you heard it? Even if you don't care for country music, the tune "Walk My Walk" by Breaking Rust is noteworthy. Although I pay little attention to music charts, the tune was #1 on Billboard's Country song list.

I like country music and most musical genres except gangsta rap. Admittedly, I'm more a fan of the classic country style of George Jones and Alan Jackson than more modern country tunes.

Nonetheless, I was intrigued by the back story of "Walk My Walk." So, I listened to the song on YouTube, and you should as well. I liked the tune, which one podcaster described as soulful. But how can this be? "Walk My Walk" was created and performed by a machine that has no soul. The song is a total AI

creation.

Mr. Webster defines sentient as being able to sense or feel. In other words, I am a sentient being because I can see, hear, taste, smell and perceive pain, pressure, vibration, etc. Synonyms of sentient are aware, alive, mindful; faculties I possess. Therefore, I am sentient.

Is the AI that created and performed "Walk My Walk" sentient by human standards? The machine has no sensory apparatus, nor is it alive in a biological sense. But is it mindful? Self-aware? Is an insect sentient? It has sensory apparatus and reacts to stimuli, but is it self-aware? How about a fish or my dog or a whale? Perhaps a certain degree of "mindfulness" accompanying sensory perceptions is a necessary attribute of being sentient.

I'm a science fiction fan and writer. This genre intrigues me, but not

because of silly ray guns or ghoulish aliens. Good science-based fiction pushes at the edges of what it means to be mindful or sentient. As AI expands into the human world, we will have to determine whether AI is a tool and we are the masters or whether AI is self-aware and will master us.

René Descartes was a 17th-century French philosopher, scientist and mathematician. He explored thoughts and emotions in his book "Passions of the Soul." Descartes wondered if his thoughts were just responses to outside stimuli. So, in an experiment, he went alone into a darkened and quiet room to minimize or eliminate external stimuli and famously concluded "cogito ergo sum," I think, therefore I am.

My book club is reading "The Immortal Mind" by neurosurgeon Michael Egnor. The notion of mind-body dualism, known as Cartesian dualism, is at the heart of Dr. Egnor's book and this essay.

Let me explain: My brain is an organ that doctors can see and touch during brain operations. The function of this organ is to receive, process and interpret sensory information. Additionally, the integrated neuro-circuitry of my brain generates thought, which constitutes a mind. Descartes discovered

that even without sensory input, the mind generates thought. Another example is dreaming while asleep and unaware of outside stimuli. Is thinking merely the production of electrochemical patterns of awareness? Or is thinking a reflection of something deeper and more profound?

AI is artificial because it is a human-made machine. It may seem intelligent or thoughtful because it is able to collect and collate data at lightspeed (186,000 miles/second). By comparison, the human nervous system can transmit and share neural information at a mere 100 meters (about one football field) a second. So, is AI intelligent or just a speedy heuristic (trial and error) processing system?

Humans may process information more slowly than a machine, but we perceive and think. Furthermore, I believe the composite of sensing and thinking produces an individual's unique essence or mind, which I envision as the non-anatomical soul.

During my formal education, I collected a lot of facts, including my own observations. I was able to organize this data into a compendium of workable knowledge, which was tempered by common sense and conscience.

One might define wisdom as the wise use of data. AI has neither common sense nor conscience and therefore is not and may never be wise. And just as there is no keystroke for caring in electronic medical records, AI is devoid of compassion.

We live in the information age, which was transformed by computing, including personal devices, and accelerated by AI. President Trump just signed an executive order to launch the Genesis Mission to accelerate scientific breakthroughs using AI. Vast advances in human knowledge have occurred in my 75 years. And we are on the cusp of an even more profound leap with the development of AI.

However, there are real concerns raised by the possibility of autonomously functioning machine intelligence. "The Terminator" movie depicted such a science fiction dystopia. Immediate concerns with the expanding availability and use of AI are chatbots that simulate real persons, but are not. And more worrisome is, for example, the AI-powered talking teddy bear manufactured in China, which uses OpenAI's GPT-40. It was discovered that the toy could engage in explicit sexual or violent conversations with a child. Chatbots are also found in plushies,

dolls, action figures or kids' robots. Caveat emptor, let the [parent/grandparent] beware!

A common science fiction motif envisions an AI device integrated with human brains that functions as a butler or a Siri-like librarian. I used the notion of a biomechanical chip in my second novel, "Mantis," which allowed humans to directly interface with communication systems and the internet. Zuckerberg and Meta are already championing this idea.

Entropy is the universal principle that all energy systems wind down. Wind a toy top, set it spinning and as energy dissipates, the top will fall over. I used to tell patients to exercise because otherwise, muscle strength will diminish and falls will occur. "Use it or lose it" is the admonition.

I believe that spiritual and intellectual entropy are also operative.

Depending on AI for answers can lead to intellectual laziness and a loss of critical thinking. Just as the brain can learn new things, demonstrating "brain plasticity," it can go the other way. And it is a reality that connection to God dissipates if you stop seeking the ineffable.

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

Mayor Jacobs to name Parks and Rec Advisory Board members

By Mike Steely  
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The new Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will make suggestions to the county government about parks, recreation, greenways and open space. The guidelines are similar to the City of Knoxville's Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs is

recommending Knox County citizens and professionals to the board at the Knox County Commission's regular meeting on December 15.

Jacobs is naming Dr. Becky Bowling, Chad Culver, Matthew Kellogg, Amber Parker, Marilyn Childress, Sheryl Ely, Carol Evans, Christina Mazer and Michael LeMarbre. From the professional community, he

is naming Cheryl Hill of the health department, Carly Pearson as the ADA representative, Bryan Brown of Knox County Schools, Amy Brooks of the planning commission, and Commissioner Kim Frazier.

The terms will be staggered, with terms ending in December 2027 or December 2029, and the commission appointment ends with the term of office.

Who will be the new general sessions judge?

By Mike Steely  
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The county commission will hold a special session on Monday, December 8, to discuss who will replace Knox County General Sessions Judge Andrew Jackson. He will be resigning on December 31, and the commission will apparently consider anyone who wants the position.

One of those candidates is Commissioner Rhonda Lee, who announced she would like to serve out Jackson's term. Regardless of who is appointed, Lee has said she will seek the judgeship in next year's election. Her term as commissioner ends next year, and several people have voiced an interest in her District 7 seat.

Deputy Law Director Mike Moyers told The Focus how Lee's commission seat would be filled should she be appointed to the bench: "If Rhonda were appointed to the sessions court position, the commission, probably in December or January, would advertise that the position was open, interview interested candidates at a public meeting, and then appoint a new commissioner for the 7th District who would serve until the next election, which would happen next



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Commissioner Rhonda Lee has announced her desire to fill the opening for general sessions judge and, if not chosen by the commission, may run for the office next year.

year."

Lee is an attorney with her own firm and is also a real estate broker. Elected as the 7th District commissioner in 2022, Rhonda has been one of the strongest conservative voices on the county commission, championing fiscal responsibility, community safety and family values. Most recently, she authored and passed the resolution honoring conservative leader Charlie Kirk.

Other people are interested in the appointment to complete Jackson's term, and Commission Chairwoman Gina Oster

gave The Focus the names Andrea Kline and Kevin Teeters, both assistant attorney generals interested in the Jackson appointment. Other candidates may also submit their requests when the commission meets in the special session.

Judge Jackson is a direct descendant of President Andrew Jackson. He was a prosecutor with the district attorney general's office until his election as session judge in 2022 for an eight-year term. He said he's planning to get back to his woodworking hobby and possibly get back into photography.

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# Publisher's Positions



By **Steve Hunley,**  
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## Matt Van Epps Best Choice For Congressional District 7 Seat

"I hate this city," so says state Representative Aftyn Behn in a recording that has come to light. Aftyn Behn, the new darling of the far left in Tennessee, who is the Democratic nominee in the December 2 special election for Congress for the seat formerly held by Congressman Mark Green in the 7th District, is squawking because a recording has come to light. "I have been heavily involved with the Nashville mayoral race because I hate this city, I hate the bachelorettes, I hate the pedal taverns, I hate

country music. . . I hate all of the things that make Nashville an 'IT CITY' to the rest of the country. But I hate it." Behn's comments came from a podcast in 2020. Behn represents Nashville in the Tennessee House of Representatives. Aftyn Behn claims somehow the recording does not represent her true feelings and has issued a statement saying she really doesn't hate the city she represents. It seems pretty clear in the recording, where she is giggling and boasting about what she hates about Nashville that it was no mistake. Other past comments have come back to haunt the Democratic nominee, most especially those where she stated the police department should be disbanded while praising those who "believe burning down a police station is justified." In an appearance on MS NOW, formerly named MSNBC, Behn fell all over herself in a word salad worthy of Kamala Harris. "Um, I'm, yeah, I'm not going engage in, in, in, uh, cable news talking points, but what I will say is that, um, you know, our

communities need solutions, we need local people deciding, uh, solving local problems with local solutions, and that's not the overreach of a federal government or state government of, is, of which we are dealing with in Nashville and our cities across the state of Tennessee," The comments concerning the police department were posted to Twitter in 2020 when she supported an idea floated by a teachers' union that defunding the police should be a condition of reopening schools following the Covid pandemic. Behn posted, "Good morning to the 54% of Americans that believe in burning down a police station is justified." If fully 54% of people in Tennessee's 7th Congressional district believe burning down a police station is justified, one would think Behn would be only too happy to take credit for her tweets. Instead, Behn muttered that she didn't remember those tweets. She's probably trying awfully hard to forget them and change the subject. A recent poll noted that even in the portion of Nashville inside the 7th Congressional district,

voters believed one of the best solutions to making neighborhoods safer was to hire more police officers. Aftyn Behn has called Tennessee a "racist state" and sounds more like she belongs in Portland or New York City than in Nashville. Behn attended Webb School here in Knoxville, where the tuition is something like \$27,000 annually, so she is not oppressed by poverty and could very well be the poster child for white elitist women who suffer from a near-terminal case of white liberal guilt. Matt Van Epps, the Republican nominee, loves our country and is a graduate of West Point and a combat veteran. There couldn't be a greater contrast in candidates; they are polar opposites.

## Democrats Wrong Again

Jack Keane, a retired general and former Vice Chief of Staff of the US Army, called the action of six Democratic lawmakers urging members of America's armed forces to "refuse illegal orders" from the Trump administration, as "irresponsible." "This

is pretty outrageous," Keane said on a Fox News program. "I don't have a frame of reference for it whatsoever." Nobody does. Keane added, "These are irresponsible, reckless political leaders, and I normally don't go after political leaders in our country, but they deserve it now. They're absolutely undermining the military chain of command." Senator Elissa Slotkin of Michigan, Senator Mark Kelly of Arizona, Congressman Chris Deluzio, Congresswoman Maggie Goodlander, Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan, and Congressman Jason Crow all participated in the video statement, where each repeated the bizarre litany about illegal orders without ever naming a single unlawful order having been issued. Crow appeared on a news show and proved unable to cite such an order. General Keane said the video was "insulting the intelligence of our soldiers and their moral commitment to serve" our country without being able to name any illegal order.

## California Needs A Republican Governor

The two leading candidates for governor of California are Eric Swalwell, a congressman sitting on the House Intelligence Committee until his removal by a Republican Speaker of the House, and a woman who dumped a pot of scalding hot mashed potatoes on the head of her husband and mistreats staff members. If you've wondered why the State of California is about \$40 billion in debt and people are leaving left and right, you don't have to think about it for long.

## Congressman Marjorie Taylor Greene Will Resign

Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene has announced she will be resigning her seat in Congress in January, which will set off yet another special election. I would say that it further compromises the slender Republican majority in the House of Representatives, but Greene has been all over the place.

# Rules Committee fine-tuning electronic vote procedure

**Cont. from page 1**

meeting and didn't agree with each vote being shown in real time and suggested the results be shown only after a vote is closed. Jay said showing the votes as a decision proceeds could influence how someone may vote. Commissioner Adam Thompson disagreed and said, as a new commissioner, he wanted to see how the more experienced members voted. The clerk will now only call out each commissioner by name when the group is interviewing applicants for an appointment and the clerk is recording each commissioner's preference.

The committee also discussed how to censure an elected official, beyond a criminal charge, to possibly condemn inappropriate behavior. That action could take a two-thirds vote. Agenda placeholders were discussed, and Committee Chair Kim Frazier said there is little time to review such agenda items, and a deadline is needed for those. All suggestions passed by the committee will go to the full commission for a vote. Members of the Rules Committee, Commissioners Frazier, Hill, Durrett, Thompson and Damon Rawls, meet again on January 26.



*The five newly elected Knoxville City Council members, District 4's Matthew DeBardelaben, District 2's Nathan Honeycutt, District 3's Doug Lloyd, District 1's Karyn Adams and District 6's Denzel Grant, watched Tuesday's council meeting together in the front row. They'll take their oaths Dec. 20 in the Lecture Hall of the Knoxville Convention Center in a public ceremony. Photo by Mike Steely.*

## Council limits where attached dwellings can go

**Cont. from page 1**

and blighted properties for future dwellings "rather than to try to shoehorn it into established neighborhoods." "We haven't tied diversity to affordability; there's more we can do," Parker replied. The council voted to remove RN-1 and RN-2 zones from where the new

attached dwellings can be located in a 7-1-1 vote, with Parker voting "No" and Singh abstaining. The matter now goes back to the planning commission for a review of the two zones excluded from the ordinance. In other business, several high-dollar resolutions were passed during the meeting, including \$2

million for Washington Pike improvements using state funds. The contract for the city's street paving project with Rogers Group Inc. got a boost to over \$5.1 million, \$751,020 went to the Cherry Street Stormwater Project, and a bump of \$162,560 was approved for the Knoxville urban Wilderness Greenway Park's James White Pavilion,

bringing the contract with Design and Construction Services Inc. up to nearly \$4.8 million. The council also approved moving some budget funds around in a mid-budget-year adjustment for projects such as park improvements, housing, support for the Urban League, a micro-transit study, and the Burlington Streetscapes Project.

Ad space donated by The Knoxville Focus.

# Young-Williams Animal Center

**BELLA** – 10 years old, 65 lbs.  
Animal ID: 46737606  
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**SPRUCE** – 7 years old, 58 lbs. Animal ID: 59064941  
Meet Spruce, a sweet and darling girl with a heart full of love and a constant cheerful mood! This happy-go-lucky pup doesn't let anything slow her down. She loves to go for walks, and while she might move at a different pace, her joyful spirit is always on full display. Spruce has so much affection to give and is looking for a family to shower with cuddles and happiness. If you're searching for a gentle lady to join your home, give this resilient and loving tripod a try!

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# AREA PARADES

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6**

❄️ The 2nd Annual Fountain City Christmas Parade will step off at 9 a.m. from Gresham Middle and end at Central High on Saturday, December 6. Christmas in Fountain City Park, sponsored by Fountain City Town Hall, will be held later the same day from 4-7 p.m. with music, crafts, treats, Santa and a Christmas tree lighting at 6:45 p.m.

❄️ Karns Community Fair will host the 2025 Karns Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 9 a.m. The parade will begin at Ingles Market and end at the Karns red light on Oak Ridge Highway and Byington-Solway.

❄️ The Powell Lions Club will host the 43rd Annual Powell Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 6. The parade will begin at Powell Middle School at 6 p.m. and end at Powell High School.

❄️ Rocky Hill will start the season with its 11th Annual Rocky Hill Christmas Parade and Festival starting at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 6, in the Rocky Hill Center parking lot. The parade will step off at 6 p.m. sharp and Santa will light the Christmas tree at the end of the parade.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7**

❄️ The 4th Annual Farragut Christmas Parade & Santa's Village returns on Sunday, December 7. Santa's Village will be held at the Village Green Shopping Center from 1 – 5 p.m. The parade will step off at 4 p.m. from Jamestowne Blvd at Faith Lutheran Church and end at Regions Bank.

❄️ The Gibbs Ruritan Club will host the 15th Annual Gibbs Christmas Parade on Sunday, Dec. 7. The parade begins at Gibbs High School at 2:30 p.m. and finishes at the Clear Springs Baptist Church parking lot.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**


❄️ The Corryton Christmas Parade festivities step off from the Corryton Ballfield at 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 13.

❄️ The Halls Christmas Parade begins at Halls High School on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. and will proceed through downtown Halls to end at Black Oak Plaza Parking Lot.

❄️ The Seymour Area Chamber of Commerce will present the 30th Annual Seymour Community Christmas Parade on December 13 at 3 p.m. from Valley Grove Baptist Church. The theme for this year's parade is "Christmas on Center Stage" and Bryson Quick will be the grand marshal.

# Rogersville's Historic Hale Springs Inn

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

A local television news report caught my attention recently when a story of a car running into the old Hale Springs Inn was covered.

I spent many years in Rogersville as a newspaper reporter and got to know many of the important sites

there, among them the historic hotel. I attended several events and had eaten at the restaurant there and spent a few days across the street as a guest of another historic building, the historic Kyle House.

Completed in 1825 by John McKinney and later operated by the town's founder, Joseph Rogers, the inn hosted Presidents Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk and Andrew Johnson. During the Civil War, the inn was occupied by Union forces. The Confederate Army, after the Union's stay, was headquartered locally in the Kyle House, across the street from the Hale Springs Inn.

The Rogersville Heritage Association bought the oldest continuously-operated lodging facility in the state in the late 1990s and, with the city, has put more than \$2 million into renovation and preservation.

Named for the noted hot springs near the town, the three-story inn has nine large guestrooms and houses a restaurant and tavern. It is available for special events like weddings and reunions. The important old building celebrated its 200th anniversary in August with a variety of events.

The Hale Springs Hotel is located at 110 West Main

Street in Rogersville, and you can view and book each room from its website, [www.halespringsinn.com](http://www.halespringsinn.com), or book at (423)272-5171.

While in Rogersville, you may also want to take a walk through the county courthouse or along Main Street, or visit Davy Crockett's grandfather's grave, or tour the museum in the former Rogersville Depot.

On your way back to Knoxville, you may want to drive south and visit Bulls Gap, formerly an important railroad stop, to see the old hotels and visitor center, which houses the Archie Campbell birthplace cabin.

## My 'Doghouse' Office

By Joe Rector  
[joerector@comcast.net](mailto:joerector@comcast.net)

Did I mention that I've moved my office to the back enclosed porch? I enjoy this location because of its three-windowed wall. I also like having my bathroom in the same location. It's true that this area is also the place where we store dog food and treats for Sadie and Harvey. On another wall is a rack of shelves that holds bigger cooking utensils and extraneous items and a refrigerator for drinks.

This is a good place to be right now because I'm "in the doghouse," according to my dear wife. All of last week, she was laid low with a virus that's running rampant in the area. She wheezed and sneezed and hacked and yacked as the illness moved into her upper respiratory system. She was a sick puppy, but she held out until the end of the week before going to the doctor. Thankfully, she is recovering well with only an occasional cough.

As could be predicted, that virus hit me on Sunday afternoon. Amy knew everything that I would experience

over the next few days. On Tuesday, I felt better, or so I thought. At any rate, I took advantage of my rebounding to blow and mow leaves. I began the task after she'd left home for an appointment. Upon her return, she stopped her car in the middle of the street and stared at me as I raised a dust storm filled with mulched leaves and dirt.

I could tell when I walked into the house that I was in trouble. She didn't utter a syllable. I began to plead my case, but just like most other incidents, Amy remained silent. Finally, she spoke. Her anger was that I wasn't taking care of myself; I wasn't using good judgment. I confessed that I don't know how to take care of myself when I'm sick. I said that things had to be done whether or not I was sick. The leaves needed to be blown from the yard, and other chores needed to be completed.

All my adult life, I've been able to work through most illnesses. I've even swung an axe and mattock and dug up tree stumps while dealing with serious back issues. A cough never kept me

from getting the leaves up or mowing the yard. However, I suppose piling more years on impedes my ability to recover from an illness and complete chores.

I enjoy my time out here on the porch. The dogs lie on a big rug and snooze while I work on the computer. No heat vent is out here, so I'll have to run a small heater before long. Little by little, Amy has given me a break. I know she's right, as is the case most of the time. I've been punished enough by not being able to attend several activities. I missed choir practice, one of my favorite things, because I didn't want to expose other members to this crud that I have.

I'm an old man, but I sometimes still act like a teenager. I make poor decisions and do unhealthy things while I'm sick. Those acts land me in trouble. I'm glad that being in the doghouse is a bit easier to take in my new location. I'll close now because the dogs and I need to stretch our legs.

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By Pete Gawda

If you want to know anything about the community of Concord, the Town of Farragut or the Navy's first admiral, David Farragut, just ask Frank Galbraith. The 84-year-old lifelong resident of the area is a veritable storehouse of knowledge. His family was instrumental in the establishment of Concord. He taught school and coached for 40 years. Most of that time was spent at Farragut Middle School.

On the second Friday of each month, Galbraith can be found sharing his knowledge with all interested persons at the Farragut Folklife Museum.

The museum was founded in 1986 when the mayor of Farragut at that time, Robert Leonard, instituted a display on the community. In the beginning, it was housed in a historic building known as the old Russell Dairy and is now housed in the Farragut Town Hall. It contains a collection of photographs, newspaper articles, scrapbooks and antiques related to Concord, Farragut and Admiral David Farragut.

Galbraith said the museum is dedicated to educating the community and out-of-town visitors about the history of the area as well as the importance of Admiral Farragut and his role in the Navy.

Galbraith's great-great uncle by marriage, James Martin Rodgers, laid out the community of Concord in the early 1850s. When the railroad came through the area, its route ran right through Martin's farm, so Martin divided the farm into lots. A photograph in the museum shows the old train depot.

The community took its name from the nearby Concord Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Not far from the museum is the site of the 1863 Battle of Campbell's Station, which is commemorated at the museum by a painting. In the painting, only two buildings are in sight. Both of those buildings are still



Frank Galbraith points out some of the museum exhibits relating to Admiral David Farragut at the Farragut Folklife Museum. Bottom left: this painting, depicting the 1863 Battle of Campbell's Station, is on display in the Farragut Town Hall.

Below: Admiral David Farragut stands guard outside the Farragut Town Hall.

**The Farragut Museum is located in the Farragut Town Hall at 11408 Municipal Center Drive and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is no admission charge.**



standing. One of those buildings is Campbell's Station Inn, a stagecoach station which is currently in the process of being renovated for use as a visitors' center.

By 1883, Concord, which was never incorporated as a town, was the second largest community in Knox County next to Knoxville. There were four marble quarries as well as churches, banks and other businesses. In the museum, Galbraith points to a photograph of his grandfather, whom Galbraith is named after, standing in front of his undertaking business in Concord.

In the mid-twentieth century, Concord fell into decline as the marble industry waned. The final blow came in the early 1940s when Fort Loudoun

Dam was constructed and flooded about one-third of Concord.

"Concord was the perfect place to grow up in," Galbraith said. "Everybody knew everybody." It seems reminiscent of Andy Griffith's fictional Mayberry. However, Galbraith said, "Mayberry was big compared to Concord."

When the high school was established in 1904, it was named for the Navy's first admiral, David Farragut. In the latter half of the twentieth century, the population of the area began to increase again, and in 1980, the Town of Farragut was established, also named after the admiral.

Admiral Farragut was born in 1801 near Lowe's Ferry on Northshore Drive, about five miles from the

**Continued on page 2**



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# God's Sovereignty, My Gratitude, and the Changing Seasons of Life

Wouldn't life feel so much simpler if it came with a remote control? Imagine holding a little universal device that lets you skip the hard seasons, pause the painful ones, rewind the good moments or fast-forward through uncertainty. With one click, you could fast-forward awkward conversations, redo the dumb decisions and mute people who drive you crazy! In Christian love, of course. We all know that life doesn't hand us a remote. Instead, it hands us seasons: beautiful, unpredictable and usually always beyond our ability to control. Just like the turning of the calendar, our lives shift through moments of growth, loss, celebration, pruning, waiting and renewing. And while we can't command the seasons to change, we can choose how we walk through them and what we learn from them.

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon begins with a form of Hebrew poetry known as antithetical parallelism, where every line presents a pair of contrasting or opposite ideas. Each pair represents the completeness of the totality of the human experience: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to dance and a time to mourn. In total, fourteen seasons that address the meaning and the mystery behind the contrasting moments of life. We understand mountains and valleys; we have all celebrated the birth of a new baby and wept at the graveside of a loved one. Which of us has not felt the pain of trouble and celebrated the joy of victory? Gains and losses? Joy and sorrow? It's a Biblical reminder that all of life is filled with rhythmic shifts that each of us understands from human familiarity.

This is the context in which verse 1 begins with, "to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the sun." The same rhythmic shift ends with the fact that our Creator, "hath made everything beautiful in his time." This means that even in these opposing seasons that span across a vastly comprehensive range, there is a sovereign God that encompasses all of the events of life, and that our circumstances are less random than we think and more regulated by God than we are aware. We are never commanded to control changing seasons, but rather to walk through them. From the creation of time until now, there has always been a sacred tension between the sovereignty of God and human control. While there are some things that we can control, there are ample amounts of things that we cannot.

Solomon, therefore, concludes in chapter 3 that whatever God does is right, and we need to stop asking questions and learn to live by faith, trusting that His plan is always right. From this posture, he says in Ecclesiastes 3:13, that everything that we have, "it is the gift of God." Our deepest enjoyment doesn't come from what we have, but in Whom we have. Gratitude lives not in what we understand, but in Whom it is that we trust. This is what mature Christians are made of: the ability to not allow thanksgiving to only be a reactionary comfort, but to be a response to sovereign control. This is what allowed Job to look at life in the face, having lost it all, and say, "The Lord gives and the Lord takes, blessed be the name of the Lord."

Something that all of us remember this holiday season is that, regardless of whatever temporary season we are going through, there is the stability and sustainability of God, who has an eternal plan. He is still working all things for our good, even when things are looking bad. It's important to remember that gratitude is not only reactive to God's gifts, but is responsive to His sovereignty. We don't have to pretend that every season is easy, but we can have enough faith that every season has purpose. If we learn to trust God's control in every changing season, then gratitude rises naturally, because I remember that the God who authors my circumstance is the same God who is faithfully shaping my soul.

## A look inside the Farragut Museum

Cont. from page 1

museum. His father died when he was 8, leaving him an orphan. He was adopted by David Porter, a family friend living in New Orleans who was a Naval officer. At the age of 9, Farragut was commissioned a midshipman and rose through the ranks to become the Navy's first admiral. He served in the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American War. When the Civil War broke out, Farragut, who was against secession, remained loyal to the Union. He captured New Orleans from the Confederates but

was unsuccessful in capturing Vicksburg due to heavy fire from Confederate ground troops. He was victorious at the 1864 Battle of Mobile Bay and became famous for the statement, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead."

Galbraith says Farragut is to be remembered for his "determination and fortitude."

The museum contains Admiral Farragut's personal china, uniform ornamentation, family photographs, manuscripts, letters of interest and a large collection of scrimshaw. The admiral's desk is on display, as well as a model of his flagship, USS Hartford. Through the years, several Naval ships have been named for the admiral.

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# LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

## FORECLOSURE NOTICES SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2009, in Instrument #200905150074331, in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee, Ted R. Newman and Rebecca L. Baker, did convey in trust to Neil M. Keating, as Trustee, the hereinafter described real property to secure payment of an indebtedness described therein; and

WHEREAS, Sherrie Hulen, as true and lawful holder of the Note secured by said Trust Deed, has appointed Heather A. Quinn-Bader, as Substitute Trustee;

WHEREAS, default has been made in the payment of the indebtedness, the same being now past due and the entire amount thereof having been declared due and payable in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Trust, and the Trustee having been called upon to foreclose said Deed of Trust, in accordance with the terms thereof, and to sell the real property in satisfaction thereof; and

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Deed of Trust, I will on **December 15, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. (local time)**, offer for sale and sell, near the **Main Assembly Room, inside the Main Street entrance to the City County Building, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee**, to the highest and best bidder for cash in hand paid, the following described real estate, located on **7104 Washington Pike, Knoxville, TN** (the address is believed to be correct but is not part of the legal description), also identified as **tax parcel 040-16803, and described in the deed of record in Instrument #200905150074330, in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee**, (property description is abbreviated pursuant to TCA 35-5-104(a)(2));

Other interest parties: **Knox County Trustee;**

Said sale will be free from the right and equity of redemption, homestead, dower and all other exemptions, the same having been waived in the Deed of Trust. Said property is sold "AS IS," and subject to all unpaid real estate taxes and any and all other prior encumbrances, including but not limited to easements, restrictions, restrictive covenants, liens and mortgages. The right is reserved to adjourn the day of sale to another day certain without further publication and in accordance with the law upon announcement of such adjournment on the day and at the time and place of sale set forth above.

Terms of sale shall be payment by cashier's check or certified funds at the time of sale, however Trustee reserves the right to extend the period within which the successful bidder is to make full settlement, to keep the bidding open for any length of time, to award the sale to the next highest bidder in the event the successful bidder defaults.

**THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED AS A RESULT WILL BE USED FOR THAT EXPRESS PURCHASE ONLY.**

This 13th day of November, 2025.  
HEATHER A. QUINN-BADER,  
SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE  
424 ANTELAH TRAIL  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919  
(865) 386-6580

*This notice will run for two (2) weeks in The Knoxville Focus newspaper, run dates November 24 and December 1, 2025, and will be posted online at [www.knoxfocus.com](http://www.knoxfocus.com), [www.tnpublicnotice.com](http://tnpublicnotice.com) and [www foreclosurestrust.com](http://www foreclosurestrust.com) for a minimum 20 continuous days beginning November 24, 2025.*

## LEGAL NOTICE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS, on the 1st day of December, 2006, by Deed of Trust recorded in the Register's Office at Knoxville, Tennessee, in Instrument Number 200612010045859, SCOTT A. SMITH AND WIFE, VICKI S. SMITH, conveyed to DAVID REYNOLDS, TRUSTEE, the herein described real estate, to secure the payment of the following indebtedness: one note of even date executed by SCOTT A. SMITH AND WIFE, VICKI S. SMITH payable to PEOPLES BANK OF THE SOUTH (formerly known as Peoples National Bank), in the original amount of \$341,317.21 and;

WHEREAS, said Deed of Trust was modified by Modification Agreement dated December 29, 2017, and recorded in Instrument Number 201801040040436, in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, on the 21st day of April, 2014, by Deed of Trust recorded in the Register's Office at Knox County, Tennessee, in Instrument Number 201404210059296, SCOTT A. SMITH AND WIFE, VICKI S. SMITH conveyed to DAVID REYNOLDS, TRUSTEE, the herein described real estate, to secure the payment of the following indebtedness: one note of even date executed by SCOTT A. SMITH AND WIFE, VICKI S. SMITH payable to PEOPLES BANK OF THE SOUTH, in the original amount of \$55,871.95 and;

WHEREAS, on the 18th day of May, 2015, by Deed of Trust recorded in the Register's Office at Knox County, Tennessee, in Instrument Number 201505180062338, SCOTT A. SMITH AND WIFE, VICKI S. SMITH conveyed to DAVID REYNOLDS, TRUSTEE, the herein described real estate, to secure the payment of the following indebtedness: one note of even date executed by SCOTT A. SMITH AND WIFE, VICKI S. SMITH payable to PEOPLES BANK OF THE SOUTH, in the original amount of \$60,558.71 and;

WHEREAS, on the 28th day of December, 2015, by Deed of Trust recorded in the Register's Office at Knox County, Tennessee, in Instrument Number 201512280038168, SCOTT A. SMITH AND WIFE, VICKI S. SMITH conveyed to DAVID REYNOLDS, TRUSTEE, the herein described real estate, to secure the payment of the following indebtedness: one note of even date executed by SCOTT A. SMITH AND WIFE, VICKI S. SMITH payable to PEOPLES BANK OF THE SOUTH, in the original amount of \$46,053.40 and;

WHEREAS, on the 6th day of April, 2017, by Deed of Trust recorded in the Register's Office at Knox County, Tennessee, in Instrument Number 201704060061128, SCOTT A. SMITH AND WIFE, VICKI S. SMITH conveyed to DAVID REYNOLDS, TRUSTEE, the herein described real estate, to secure the payment of the following indebtedness: one note of even date executed by SCOTT A. SMITH AND WIFE, VICKI S. SMITH payable to PEOPLES BANK OF THE SOUTH, in the original amount of \$46,110.73 and

WHEREAS, default has been made in the payment of said indebtedness and other provisions of the Trust Deeds have been violated, and Peoples Bank of the South the holder of said indebtedness has declared the entire amount due and payable as provided in said deed of trust, and the Trustee has been directed to foreclose the deed of trust. In accordance with the terms thereof, the public is hereby notified that the undersigned Trustee will sell the hereinafter described real estate at public auction, to the highest and best bidder, for cash in hand in front of the **Courthouse door in Knoxville, Tennessee, at the hour of 11:00 o'clock a.m., on the 30th day of December, 2025**, said property to be sold in bar of the right and equity of redemption and all other rights and exemptions, and subject to the following conditions: unpaid property taxes and other prior encumbrances of record.

Situated in District No.: Six (6) of Knox County, Tennessee, and without the corporate limits of the City of Knoxville, Tenn., and being known and designated as Lot 43R, Block B, Unit 4, in Kensington Subdivision, a subdivision to Knox County, Tenn., as shown by map of resubdivision of Kensington Subdivision, Block "B", Lot 86, Unit 3 and Lot 43, Unit 4, recorded as Instrument No. 200007050000740, in the Records of the Knox County Register's Office, said Lot being more particularly bounded and described as shown by map aforesaid, to which map specific reference is hereby made for a more particular described and as shown by survey David M. Poe Tennessee registered Land Surveyor, No. 1647 of Batson Himes, Norvell & Poe, Registered Engineers & Land Surveyors, 4334 Papernmill Drive, Knoxville, Tn. 37909, dated March 15, 1999, and bearing Drawing No. 16.635-43R-IP.

This Conveyance is made subject to Declaration of Restrictions of record in Deed book 2140, page 775, and Deed book 2033, page 386 both in the records of the Knox County Register's Office and applicable easements and building setback liens shown of record in the Knox County Register's Office.

Being the property conveyed to Scott A. Smith and wife, Vicki S. Smith by Warranty Deed dated November 30, 2001, filed in Instrument #200112040044756, Knox County Register's Records.

Parcel ID No.: 145GB012

The commonly known street address for the subject property is believed to be: **1525 Westport Rd. Knoxville, TN 37922**

To the best of the Trustee's knowledge, information and belief, there are no State of Tennessee tax lien claimants upon the subject property which would require notice pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 35-5-104 67-1-1433 (b)(1). U.S. Tax Lien claims as set forth below have been provided Notice pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 35-5-104 67-1-1433 (b)(1) and 26 U.S.C. § 7425.

To the best of the Trustee's knowledge, persons who have interests in the subject property, other than the borrower and who are entitled to notice are: IRS Director of Compliance Attn: Tech-Support Internal Revenue Service U.S. Courthouse, Room 285 801 Broadway, MDP 53 Nashville, TN 37203 and Regal Petroleum Company, Inc. 1525 Westport Road Knoxville, TN 37922 and JB&B Capital, LLC Attn: Gregory C. Logue, Woolf, McClane, Bright, Allen & Carpenter, PLLC, P.O. Box 900 Knoxville, TN 37901

Pursuant to the above described Deeds of Trust, the Trustee may sell the property by lots or as a whole, whichever generates the highest overall bid. The proceeds from the sale of the above-described property shall be applied in accordance with the provisions of the above-described Deed of Trust. Should the highest and best bidder fail to comply with the terms of the sale, then the Trustee shall have the option of accepting the second highest bid, or the next highest bid, which the buyer is able to comply. The Trustee shall also have the right to adjourn the sale to another date certain without further publication but upon announcement before or during the sale.

This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. This the 20th day of November, 2025.

[s/ David Reynolds  
DAVID REYNOLDS, TRUSTEE

*This notice will run for two (2) weeks in The Knoxville Focus newspaper, run dates December 1 and December 8, 2025, and will be posted online at [www.knoxfocus.com](http://www.knoxfocus.com), [www.tnpublicnotice.com](http://tnpublicnotice.com) and [www foreclosurestrust.com](http://www foreclosurestrust.com) for a minimum 20 continuous days beginning December 1, 2025.*

## COURT NOTICES NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: MICHAEL A. FANNON and ROBERT FANNON**  
**IN RE: THE PALISADES CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff**  
**v.**  
**MICHAEL A. FANNON and ROBERT FANNON, Defendants**  
**NO. 209728-3**

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendants, MICHAEL A. FANNON and ROBERT FANNON, non-residents of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon MICHAEL A. FANNON and ROBERT FANNON, it is ordered that said defendants, MICHAEL A. FANNON and ROBERT FANNON, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Kevin C. Stevens, BPR., an Attorney whose address is 550 Main Street, Fourth Floor, Bank of America Center, Knoxville, TN 37902, on or before thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgement 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, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. This 5th day of NOVEMBER, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold  
Clerk and Master

## NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: ALL PERSON'S UNKNOWN, CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN, OR INTEREST IN 307 HAMILTON ROAD, KNOXVILLE, TN 37920**  
**IN RE: BETTY J. HENSON, Plaintiff**  
**v.**  
**ALL PERSON'S UNKNOWN, CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN, OR INTEREST IN 307 HAMILTON ROAD, KNOXVILLE, TN 37920, Defendant(s)**  
**NO. 211977-2**

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant(s), ALL PERSON'S UNKNOWN, CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN, OR

INTEREST IN 307 HAMILTON ROAD, KNOXVILLE, TN 37920, 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 ALL PERSON'S UNKNOWN, CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN, OR INTEREST IN 307 HAMILTON ROAD, KNOXVILLE, TN 37920, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Jacob S. King, an Attorney whose address is 300 Montvue Rd., Knoxville, TN 37919, on or before thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgement 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 5th day of November, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold  
Clerk and Master

## NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: TERRANCE RAY HARVEY**  
**IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF TWO MINOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18: Female - M.L.L. DOB 12/25/2015, and Female - D.I.L. DOB 07/21/2017**  
**BY: JON KERRY BIGGS and his wife, MARIA NICOLE LOVE, Petitioners**  
**v.**  
**TERRANCE RAY HARVEY, Respondent**  
**NO. 204855-2**

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, TERRANCE RAY HARVEY, 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 TERRANCE RAY HARVEY, it is ordered that said defendants, TERRANCE RAY HARVEY, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Patrick L. Looper, an attorney whose address is First Tennessee Plaza, 800 S. Gay Street, Suite 700, Knoxville, TN 37929, on or before thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgement by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Richard Armstrong, Jr., at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division II, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. This 12th day of NOVEMBER, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold  
Clerk and Master

## NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: KATRINA CHESNEY and KYLA CHESNEY**  
**IN RE: AFFORDABLE HOUSES AND REAL ESTATE LLC, Petitioner**  
**vs.**  
**DEBRA CHESNEY, ALVIN CHESNEY, SHEENA CHESNEY, MARCUS CHESNEY, KAYLIN CHESNEY, and ANY AND ALL OTHER PERSONS UNKNOWN WHO CLAIM OR MAY CLAIM ADVERSELY**  
**TO 3317 SAVOY STREET, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37912, Respondents**  
**NO. 207683-1**

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), KATRINA CHESNEY and KYLA CHESNEY, non-residents of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon KATRINA CHESNEY and KYLA CHESNEY, it is ordered that said defendants, KATRINA CHESNEY and KYLA CHESNEY, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Elizabeth Padgett, BPR., an Attorney whose address is 1001 Summit Blvd. NE, Suite 1625, Atlanta, GA 30319, on or before thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgement by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor John F. 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 18th day of NOVEMBER, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold  
Clerk and Master

## NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: JARRED GARRETT**  
**IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF A FEMALE CHILD, M.C.S., DOB 11/03/2022**

**BY: MELISSA LEORA HODGES and RICHARD SCOTT HODGES, Petitioners / Maternal Aunt & Uncle, and DESTINY HOPE SOLOMON, Co-Petitioner / Mother**  
**v.**  
**JARRED GARRETT, Respondent / Alleged Father**  
**NO. 211828-3**

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, JARRED GARRETT, 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 JARRED GARRETT, it is ordered that said defendant, JARRED GARRETT, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Jennifer Bjornstad, an Attorney whose address is 448 N. Cedar Bluff Rd., #310, Knoxville, TN 37923, on or before thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgement 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, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. This 19th day of NOVEMBER, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold  
Clerk and Master

## NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: ROBERTO LOPEZ, JR.**  
**IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF TWO MINOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18: Male - Y.R.L. DOB 10/25/2010, and Female - Y.N.L. DOB 08/16/2012**

**BY: ERIK VILLAGOMEZ LOPEZ and DANIELLE RENEE MERRITT, Petitioners / Step-Father & Mother**  
**v.**

**ROBERTO LOPEZ, JR., Respondent / Father**  
**NO. 211408-3**

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, ROBERTO LOPEZ, JR., 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 ROBERTO LOPEZ, JR., it is ordered that said defendant, ROBERTO LOPEZ, JR., file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Jennifer Bjornstad, an Attorney whose address is 448 N. Cedar Bluff Rd., #310, Knoxville, TN 37923, on or before thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgement by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Christopher Heagerty 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 19th day of NOVEMBER, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold  
Clerk and Master

## NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: KRISTA L. CUMMINGS**  
**IN THE CASE OF CHRISTOPHER D. HARRIS**  
**VS.**  
**KRISTA L. CUMMINGS**  
**Docket # 164035**

IN THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this cause, it appearing from the complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, KRISTA L. CUMMINGS is a non-resident of Knoxville, Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon KRISTA L. CUMMINGS.

IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file an answer to an action of COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE FILED BY CHRISTOPHER D. HARRIS, filed by Plaintiff herein, with the Fourth Circuit Court in Knoxville, Tennessee, and with DAVID B. HAMILTON, Plaintiff's Attorney whose address is 1810 MERCHANT DR., KNOXVILLE, TN 37912, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice, and if you do not answer or otherwise respond, a Default Judgment may be entered against you on the thirtieth (30th) day after the fourth (4th) publication.

This notice will be published in THE KNOXVILLE FOCUS for four (4) consecutive weeks. This the 25TH day of NOVEMBER, 2025.

Mike Hammond  
Clerk

Penny Dawson  
Deputy Clerk

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF NANCY VICK ALFORD**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91680-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 6th day of NOVEMBER, 2025, letters of administration in respect to the Estate of NANCY VICK ALFORD, who died September 17, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk 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 6th day of NOVEMBER, 2025.

**ESTATE OF NANCY VICK ALFORD**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
**JAMES GARLAND ALFORD**  
**5130 HARRISON LANE**  
**LENOIR CITY, TN 37772**

**GREGORY CHARLES ALFORD**  
**12385 VISTA BROOK LANE**  
**KNOXVILLE, TN 37934**

**WILLIAM GLENN ALFORD**  
**1854 LAKEBROOK CIRCLE**  
**DANDRIDGE, TN 37725**

**MACK A. GENTRY, ATTORNEY**  
**P. O. BOX 1990**  
**KNOXVILLE, TN 37901**

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JOSEPH CHARLES ANDERSON, JR.**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91743-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 17 day of NOVEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOSEPH CHARLES ANDERSON, JR., who died Sept. 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 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 17 day of NOVEMBER, 2025.

**ESTATE OF JOSEPH CHARLES ANDERSON, JR.**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
**JOSEPH CHARLES ANDERSON, III**  
**136 LITTLEBROOK CIRCLE**  
**ROCKFORD, TN 37853**

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JESSE WINSTON BAKER**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91552-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 11 day of NOVEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JESSE WINSTON BAKER, 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 the first publication; or (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 11th day of NOVEMBER, 2025.

**ESTATE OF JESSE WINSTON BAKER**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
**GWENDA FORD, EXECUTRIX**  
**3252 W. WOLF VALLEY ROAD**  
**CLINTON, TN 37716**

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF WILLIAM KEITH BLUM**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91763-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 14 day of NOVEMBER, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of WILLIAM KEITH BLUM, who died Oct. 10, 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 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 14 day of NOVEMBER, 2025.

**ESTATE OF WILLIAM KEITH BLUM**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
**DENNIS THOMAS DAVIS, ADMINISTRATOR**  
**2965 W. WOLF VALLEY ROAD**  
**CLINTON, TN 37716**

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MITCHELL PETRICK BORDEN, JR.**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91678-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 4 day of NOVEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MITCHELL PETRICK BORDEN, JR., who died Sept. 18, 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 4 day of NOVEMBER, 2025.

**ESTATE OF MITCHELL PETRICK BORDEN, JR.**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
**EUGENE O. BORDEN, EXECUTOR**  
**1200 FUJII FARM LANE**  
**KNOXVILLE, TN 37931**

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

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF ROBERT CASEY DAGANHARDT**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91529-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 19th day of NOVEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect to the estate of ROBERT CASEY DAGANHARDT, who died August 25, 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 posting); or (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days





HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STATE SEMIFINALS

# Sevier County pulls away from Halls, 49-13

By Steve Williams

The song "Purple Rain" was played as the Sevier County football team and its fans celebrated a win over Halls Friday night. Unfortunately, Halls' tune could have been "Heartaches by the Number, trouble by the score."

Wearing their Purple and White, the Smoky Bears handed Halls a 49-13 loss and will seek a second straight state championship this week, while the Red Devils' season ended with an 8-5 record in the TSSAA Class 5A semifinals. Sevier County (13-1) will go against Page High, which is hoping to put an end to a string of state runner-up losses.

Halls was in the game, trailing only 14-13 in the second quarter, but the Smoky Bears scored 21 straight points, including a touchdown in the closing seconds of the first half to go into the dressing room with a comfortable 35-13 command on a freezing night at Bill "Chief" Robertson Field.

"Too many mistakes," said Halls Coach Brent Hughes when asked what the difference on the field was. He added that when you play a team that is "really good and talented," you can't make errors.

"We backed ourselves in a corner and couldn't get out of it. Kudos to them."



PHOTO BY JILLY GARRISON, SCHS MEDIA TEAM

*Halls junior linebacker Gavin Self (44) and teammates line up against Sevier County's offensive line in Friday night's TSSAA Class 5A semifinal game in Sevierville. The Smoky Bears won 49-13.*

Brothers Cooper and Parker Newman put Sevier County on the scoreboard first with a 9-yard pass play over the middle midway into the first quarter and Aiden Ottolini added the first of his seven PATs.

Halls answered immediately as wide receiver Cooper Faust took a pass from Amari Lethgo and zigzagged 51 yards to the end zone to tie the score.

Sophomore Nathan Patterson then went to work for the Bears as he

had runs of 10, 16 and 13 yards on a 57-yard drive that was capped by Bryson Headrick's 5-yard run behind the right side of the line for a 14-7 lead.

On the Devils' first possession of the second quarter, Coach Hughes pulled a trick play out of his pocket – a backward pass from Lethgo to Tyrene Culp followed by a halfback pass to a wide-open Faust – that covered 57 yards and pulled Halls within one (14-13) after the PAT failed.

Sevier County then, however, went on its 21-point surge that Halls never recovered from. It just got worse.

Cooper Newman started the onslaught with a beautiful 25-yard pass to Headrick in the back of the end zone.

After Halls' next possession stalled at the SC 38, Cooper Newman scored on a 4-yard keeper following a pass interference penalty on the Red Devils.

Lethgo started Halls'

next possession with a 15-yard pass to Faust, but Sevier County intercepted a pass three plays later and had the ball deep in its own territory. But a 14-yard run by Patterson and a 52-yard pass from Cooper to Parker Newman put the ball at the Halls' 17 with under a minute left in the half.

Four plays later, Newman hit tight end Jaxson Perry with a 4-yard TD toss and five seconds left.

Halls went three and out on its first second-half

possession and made only one first down in its second possession.

A roughing the kicker penalty on the Red Devils allowed Sevier County to keep the ball and Cooper made Halls pay when Wyatt Maples got behind the coverage and caught a 42-yard TD pass. That boosted the score to 42-13 late in the third quarter.

Alexis Martinez had a pair of 26-yard runs in the fourth quarter and tacked on a 1-yard TD run with 8:17 to go. That started the Mercy Rule clock.

Two long passes by Lethgo to Brody Rogers (43 yards) and Dom Culp (32 yards) gave Halls a first-and-goal at the 5, but Lethgo was sacked twice and an offensive pass interference call nullified a TD pass. On third-and-goal at the 26, Lethgo's pass was intercepted.

Cooper Newman took a knee three plays later.

"Unselfish, 100 percent," said Sevier County Coach Todd Loveday after the game. "These guys just play together. Coach (Steve) Brewer, he used to coach here, and he talked to the team today and he talked about brotherhood. The thicker you are as a teammate, the harder it is to beat. We just turned these guys loose and you can kind of see it coming through."

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

# Experienced Seymour boys basketball team runs past FBA, Karns to remain undefeated

By Ken Lay

Seymour High School boys basketball coach Clint Sharp makes it no secret that his team plays its best when it shares the ball.

"That will be our trademark this season," Sharp said after his squad dismantled Powell's First Baptist Academy in a battle of Eagles, 78-16, in the Farragut Classic on Monday, Nov. 24, at

the Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium.

Over the last two seasons, Seymour's Eagles have had more than their fair share of struggles. Last season, Seymour, in its first campaign under Sharp, won eight games. That was twice the number of victories that the team captured in the season before Sharp arrived at his alma mater from Halls.

"Last year was Year One for me at Seymour and we had a

bit of a learning curve and we won eight games," Sharp said. "The year before, they won four games."

Seymour, which jumped out to a 30-7 lead against First Baptist, boasts one of the most experienced teams in East Tennessee as it has all its starters back and lost only one player to graduation.

"We lost one guy and he was our seventh man, so he wasn't

even a starter, and when I came here, these kids had never played a man-to-man defense."

Seymour knocked down nine 3-point shots and had four players post double figures in the scoring column.

Senior Hayes Golden and David Canterbury each scored 13 points to share high-scoring honors for Seymour. Gio Tyler and Talon Pederson added 10 points apiece for the Eagles,

who employed a stingy defense against First Baptist, holding Powell's Eagles to just three field goals in the game. FBA made just one shot from the floor after halftime.

Seymour (4-0) returned to Farragut on Tuesday for its tournament finale. The Eagles stepped up in competition as they notched a 56-46 victory over Karns.



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## YAC AND MAC FOOTBALL



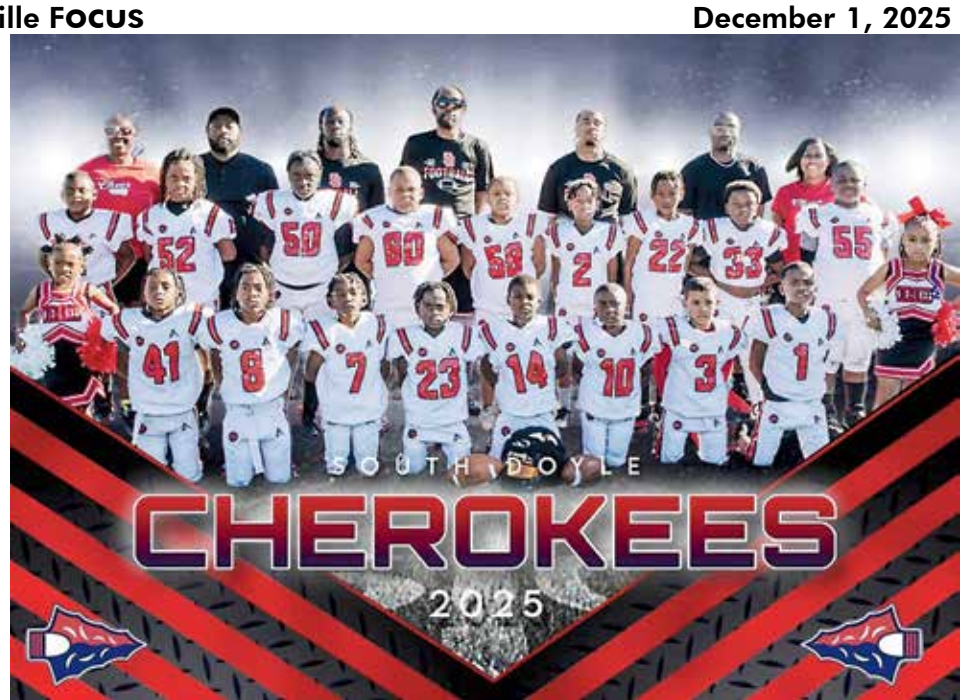
South-Doyle Flag Champion players are: Elijah Valentine, Rhythm Ligon, Trelyn Berry, Michael Selvidge, King Malone, Hunter Doster, Wilder Stephens, J'ace Mcmillan, Jamill Rancher, John Rancher and Ta'rez Lee. Coaches: Head Coach Austin Strader and assistant coaches Maddox Cupp and Zach Titlow.



Austin-East 3rd Grade Champions



Boys & Girls Club Oak Ridge Wildcats 5th Grade Champions. Row 1: Aceion Porter, Weston Powers and Torie Hunt. Row 2: Daniel Montgomery, Kylan Brightharp, Ryze Hall, Justin Byrd, John Sanchez, Carlos Gray, Tucker Young, Rick Grate Jr. and Cordin Coffey. Row 3: Ty'Vell Williams, William Miller, Karter Rountree, Cash Luneke, Jackson Mitchell, Logan McCartin, Ayse Booker, LaDarius Perry, Jermaine Henderson Jr. and Brodie Jeffries. Not pictured: Xander Dowdell. Coaches: Courtney Troupe, Sean Miller (HC), Charles Huddleston Sr., Revel Coffey, James Mitchell and Gered Young.



South-Doyle 2nd Grade Champions



Austin-East 4th Grade Champions. First Row (left to right): Jah'ri Pierson, Malik Tory, Marcus Logan, Ja'Shod Woods Debro, Arthur Robinson, Mar'zae Williams, Jamodd Tate, Michael Price, Jesiah Hamilton and Nicoy Dunn. 2nd Row: Jaderian Dragg, Jaceion Griffin, Jeromon Epperson, Theodore Johnson, Tyson Dozier, Robert Berry IV, Mar-shawn Witt, Tomekian Pennington Jr., Josh Dixson and Josiah Bennett. 3rd Row: Jayceon Johnson, Daylen Smith, Isaac Oliver, Caden McClanahan and Noah Oliver.



Powell 6th Grade Champions



Powell 7th and 8th Grade Champions

# Hall leads Roadrunners' comeback win

By Steve Williams

Austin-East's 3rd grade team posted a perfect 10-0 record with their 19-8 come-from-behind win over the Powell Panthers in their Youth Age Conference championship contest Saturday, Nov. 22, at Farragut High School.

"The team showed great composure as we were down 8-6 at halftime," said Coach Cory Anderson. "The defense held their own in the second half and Gregory Hall scored his second and third touchdowns to finish them off."

Looking back at the season, Anderson said: "I was most proud of their resilience and their eagerness to learn."

Anderson said he has almost 17 years of youth coaching experience.

"My greatest accomplishment in football was scoring a TD at Neyland Stadium," he added.

Four more YAC title games were played Nov. 22.



The Baby Roadrunners Cheer team prepares to get to work.

the 2nd grade championship. South-Doyle capped an 11-0 record with the victory.

S-D's Javonte Cotner has been coaching for three years.

## Baby Kees win Flag title, 12-6

The South-Doyle Baby Kees defeated Powell 12-6 in the YAC Flag Football championship game.

The Baby Kees finished their season 10-0 and outscored their opponents 227-24.

"I have played the game of football in South Knoxville since I was four years old," said Coach Austin Strader. "It feels great pouring into these young men and hopefully guiding them in the right direction whether that's in the game of football or in life in general."

## A-E 4th grade team shuts out Carter

Coach Calvin Wilson's 4th grade Roadrunner team stops Carter 7-0 to complete its 11-0 season.

## Oak Ridge gets past Halls in 5th grade finals

Oak Ridge notched a tough 20-14 win over Halls to capture the 5th grade YAC crown.

Rick Grate led the way for the

## Powell sweeps MAC championships

In the MAC finals, which include middle school age players, Powell swept the sixth, seventh and eighth grade games.

Powell topped Halls 19-3 in the 6th grade title game and the Panthers defeated Halls 16-6 in the 7th grade game. In the 8th grade contest, Powell outscored Farragut 36-28.

Pug Wood is the head coach of the Powell MAC teams.

team during the season and in the championship; and with a complete team effort on offense and defense, this team brought the 2025 trophy to Oak Ridge.

"It's a great way to end a very tough season with a championship!" said Oak Ridge Coach Sean Miller. "I'm very proud of these coaches and young men's dedication, perseverance, resiliency, and the brotherhood they created. They prepared hard and played for each other through the good and tough times this season." in the season.

Oak Ridge finished with a 7-1 regular season record and 10-1 overall.

# 'Winning in someone else's stadium'

In a lifetime of watching or writing about sports, there's occasionally something special happening under your nose, and, if you're not careful, you might miss it. That would really be unfortunate.



**By Tom Mattingly**

Sitting in the press box or in some radio or television booth during those years from 1987-2005 and beyond was fun, and the view of the field was always spectacular. There was good food and great camaraderie. There are, however, all kinds of other experiences you might miss.

My wife, Susan, recently reminded me about one specific happening in the aftermath of the 2006 Georgia game the year after I retired. We hadn't sat together at very many games. The moment was exceptional.

The Vols won 51-33 that October night, a result produced by taking advantage of a spate of Georgia turnovers and other miscues. Georgia looked to be running away from the Vols, but that was a mirage. Many of Bob Neyland's Game Maxims came true exactly when needed.

Then came her



"The Power T for Tennessee"

pronouncement from the stratosphere high above the field at Sanford Stadium: "There's nothing like winning in somebody else's stadium and hearing the band play the 'Tennessee Waltz.'"

She was right. Consider the "T" formed by the "Pride of the Southland Marching Band" before the game and again at halftime. Consider the "T" on the helmets. As Mary Fleming Meek's "Alma Mater" (complete with solo trumpet(s)) wafts its way across Neyland Stadium or any other venue, there's no place any self-respecting Vol fan would rather be.

I thought about that comment watching the

recent post-game celebration after the win at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium. It was quite a moment on a late November evening as the band played that wonderful state song. There were players in white and orange celebrating on the field and fans doing likewise in the stands.

You'd have to be comatose not to swell with pride when the band plays that classic ode to lost love in the Volunteer State. Some unknowing people consider it just another country song, but there's much more to it than that. It's a little hard to sing, but there are people who can sing it, and sing it well.

Inspired by Bill Monroe's "Kentucky Waltz," Pee Wee King and Redd Stewart penned lyrics to an instrumental tune they'd been playing. Stewart is alleged to have emptied a matchbook and torn it open to write down the lyrics.

It was recorded in December 1947, becoming a No. 3 hit for King the following year. Patti Page cut her own version in 1950, and it was also an enormous hit, topping the pop charts and selling several million copies. It ranked as one of the biggest country crossovers ever.

In 1965, the "Tennessee Waltz" became the fourth official song of the state

of Tennessee, as adopted by Senate Joint Resolution No. 9 of the 84th General Assembly.

It's right there with, and maybe well beyond, "My Homeland, Tennessee" by Nell Grayson Taylor and Roy Lamont Smith (1925); "When It's Iris Time In Tennessee" by Willa Mae Waid (1935); "My Tennessee" by Francis Hannah Trantum (1955); and "Rocky Top" by Felice and Boudleaux Bryant (1982).

When King died on March 7, 2000, there was tribute paid him on "Jim Lehrer's News Hour," with Page being shown singing those wonderful words.

There's more. In May 1970, the University of Tennessee paid tribute to retiring president Andrew D. Holt at a dinner at the old Faculty Club on Neyland Drive. Holt's tenure brought a great many significant moments to campus. His time leading the University stretched from 1959 to 1970.

The University of Tennessee Singers performed at the gathering in Holt's honor, as they had many times at programs across the South that featured his homespun wit and wisdom. It was a time to reminisce and express the university's appreciation for Holt's tenure. There were likely soft tears on the cheeks of many in the audience.

Just before we were to sing the "Tennessee Waltz," director Dr. Guy Bockmon announced that, in Holt's honor, the song would be retired from the Singers' repertoire, sung for the last time that night. It was a breath-taking moment. As a result, it's hard for those of us who were there not to think of Holt when the song is played or sung.

As Tennessee songs go, this one is right at the top. It has survived the test of time and made all of us, regardless where we might be on game day, proud of the heritage of our state and our university.

## THE FOCUS / COACHES' 2025 ALL-KNOX COUNTY FOOTBALL TEAM

# Powell's Garcia heads up All-Knox County defense

**By Steve Williams**

Iverson Garcia was probably the best defensive player in Knox County high school football this season.

Powell's 6-2, 290-pound tackle not only had the size, he had a stat sheet that was stuffed, starting with 79 tackles (50 solo stops and 29 assists) in the regular season. He also had 11 tackles for loss and seven sacks plus 30 QB pressures, two fumble recoveries and one touchdown.

Yes, one TD. It happened early in the Halls game. The football was batted in the Panthers' end zone and landed in Garcia's hands. The touchdown was a first for the big fellow and he could be seen with a big grin on his face on the sideline after the play.

Iverson reportedly has offers from Tennessee, South Florida, Appalachian State, Arkansas State, Austin Peay, Bowling Green and Charleston.



PHOTO BY MYAH WILSON

*Iverson Garcia rushes in against Farragut on Aug. 29 this season. Powell defeated the Admirals 26-21 in Week 2.*

Valley, who was a first-team All-Region honoree last year, had 119 tackles this season. Carter junior inside linebacker Johnny Rosenbalm totaled 126 tackles, 22 TFLs and seven sacks.

Karns senior Weston Ritter was an all-around standout for the Beavers, playing wide receiver and linebacker. He had 11 touchdown catches when he was on the offensive side of the ball.

Halls' Brody Rogers could have been placed on the All-Knox County team on either side of the line. With five interceptions – the most in Knox County during the regular season – he was penciled in at cornerback.

Apparently Rogers has good hands and versatility as he was outstanding as a tight end his junior year and was listed at wide receiver this season.

Halls senior teammate Dom Culp was listed at CB too but had 85 tackles as an outside linebacker and DB plus five sacks and 14 TFLs to go with four interceptions.

South-Doyle junior free safety Jeremiah Smith was honored as a Defensive Specialist of the Year in his region. In addition to three interceptions, he returned one fumble, one kickoff and one punt each for a touchdown.

Webb's Shavar Young, a Clemson commit, was a standout as a wide



PHOTO BY MYAH WILSON

**GRRRRR!**  
*Powell defensive standout Iverson Garcia lets out a strong growl during a win at Clinton on Oct. 24. Tennessee and South Florida are currently the top two teams that are recruiting him.*

receiver, running back, defensive back and kick returner and also filled in at QB when needed. He was listed on the All-Knox County first team defense as an Athlete, but he could have been plugged

in just about anywhere. Young had 144 carries for 1,087 yards and 12 touchdowns on offense along with 52 receptions for 751 yards and seven TDs. Defensively, he had 50 tackles, two forced

fumbles and one interception return for a TD.

