



# The Knoxville Focus

www.knoxfocus.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE - \$88.88/YEAR

**ONLINE AUCTION**  
Friday, December 19  
See photos at  
[fountaincityauction.com](http://fountaincityauction.com)  
**Fountain City Auction**  
(865)474-9931

**FREE**  
**Take One!**

December 15, 2025

Phone: 865-686-9970 | PO Box 18377, Knoxville, TN 37928 | Located at 4109 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912

## Andrea Kline selected as Knox County General Sessions Judge

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

Three people appeared before a special hearing of the Knox County Commission last week, each wanting to replace the retiring Judge Andrew Jackson VI. Two assistant district attorneys, Kevin Teeters and Andrea Kline, and Rhonda Lee, an attorney

and District 7 commissioner, spoke and answered questions at last week's Knox County Commission special session, but, in the end, the commission voted overwhelmingly for Andrea Kline.

Kline got eight votes and Lee received two votes from the 11-member commission; Commissioner Lee abstained from voting.

Supporters of Kline included Commissioners Damon Rawls, Courtney Durrett, Gina Oster, Shane Jackson, Adam Thompson, Larsen Jay, Kim Frazier and Terry Hill. Lee's support in the 8-2-1 vote came from Angela Russell and Andy Fox. Teeter was nominated by Jay but received no votes in the final round.

Several commissioners

asked questions, the most notable coming from Fox, who asked each of the candidates if they plan to run for the judgeship in next year's elections.

Kline and Teeters said they would, if selected to complete Jackson's term. Lee said she plans to run and will give up her commission seat to do so.

All three of the attorneys

spoke of their qualifications, with Kline telling of her involvement in the creation of the Vulnerable Adult Prosecution and Investigation Team in Knox County, the first in the state. She said she will be "prepared on day one" and explained her priorities as "faith, family and service."



Andrea Kline



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon, city council members and staffers at the Botanical Garden cut the ribbon to celebrate repairs and renovations to the the Visitors Center and gift shop at the garden, which is free and open to the public 365 days a year.

## Knoxville Botanical Garden celebrates repairs to Howell Family Home

By Ken Lay

The temperature late Thursday morning was a bit on the cool side.

But the cool temperature couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of a celebration as the City of Knoxville hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the completion of Phase 1 of renovations and improvements to the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum in East Knoxville.

Phase 1 of the project began in 2024 and involved the restoration of the Jim Howell Family Home, which houses the visitor's center, a gift shop and offices.

The home, which was built in 1929, was determined to be in extreme peril by the East Tennessee Community Design Center in 2021. It had previously been listed on the Knox Heritage Fading and Fragile List.

The Howell House was awarded a \$240,315 grant from the City of Knoxville to repair the roof, water damage and other critical issues to the facility, which is open to the public 365 days of the year.

But that was only the beginning. KBGA also matched the city grant with \$136,000, including \$60,000 from the East Tennessee Historical Commission. Some of the project was funded

by private donations. Other repairs were made beginning in June 2024 and completed in September.

Knoxville Botanical Garden Chief Executive Officer Sharon Moore explained the repairs, which included masonry, roofing, foundation, siding and lintel work.

"We repaired the roof, and you may be thinking, why does the roof still look old?" she said. "We had an unwelcome sunroof, but they repaired it, and they replaced as many of the original shingles as possible."

"I'm thankful to the City of Knoxville and our partners."

Knoxville City Mayor Indya

Kincannon lauded the repairs and the private donors who made the renovation possible.

"This is an absolute jewel for our city, Knoxville, our community and for East Knoxville and I'm glad that we were able to give a grant of almost a quarter of a million dollars," she said. "It wasn't enough to complete the project or even to complete Phase 1, but when we took the lead, other people knew this was important, so they made donations. They have all kinds of events here, music events, dance events, weddings, celebrations of life and educational events for kids."

## Ethics committee, foreign ownership on county agenda

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

When the commission meets today, it may select a new member for the Knox County Ethics Committee. Several applicants addressed the body last week during the agenda review session and one will be chosen to replace D. J. Corcoran.

District 9 Commissioner Andy Fox has said his resolution on limiting the number of data centers within the county is being postponed until January. His resolution on foreign ownership of property within the county will remain on today's agenda.

Fox is proposing that any foreign-owned property developed in Knox County cannot prohibit U.S. citizens from buying lots in any such subdivision. He references a prior situation in neighboring Loudon County, where a Chinese firm tried to prohibit such ownership with "covenant" restrictions.

Commissioner Kim Frazier wants a discussion on the upcoming electronic voting at meetings and having the chair set a specific time limit for such voting on each resolution. The exception would be for appointments, which would continue to be voice votes.

Also on the commission agenda are the mayor's

**Continue on page 2**

## Tensions erupt at city council meeting

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

Tensions between Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon and At-large Councilwoman Amelia Parker were obvious during Tuesday's city council meeting. The five departing council members watched both women speaking over and interrupting one another during the final meeting of their terms.

Unfortunately for the

council and the five new incoming members, both Kincannon and Parker remain on the body until the next city election.

The dispute began when Parker objected to funding the city's planned micro-transit system vehicles, reasoning that it excludes union members from employment. That funding is part of amending the 2025-2026 operating budget and was passed in an 8-1 vote.

The disagreement continued when the council discussed moving \$1.5 million from the Affordable Rental Development Fund to the Beaman Lake II LP for developing 30 affordable rental housing units. The resolution was requested by the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department, but didn't sit well with Parker.

The vote approved the development of the 30 rental apartments

designated to house extremely low-income residents. The full project, called Golden Age II, will be located at 1213 Beaman Lake Road and consist of 90 apartments for elderly residents. According to the resolution's background, the City has allocated \$4 million in this year's budget to support the creation of new affordable permanent supportive housing and workforce rental housing.

Another resolution called

for amending an agreement that had allocated funds to My Daughter's Journey, a Knoxville non-profit organization that works to provide transitional housing for young women and children. Parker charged that, despite an agreement with the city for some funding, the expenses were not paid to the group.

She quizzed Kevin DuBose, director of Housing and Neighborhood Development, who replied

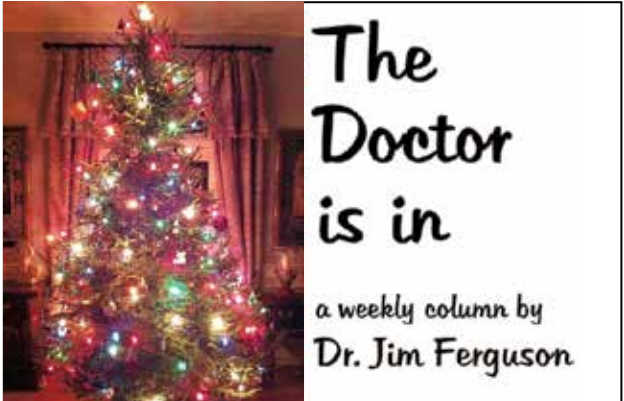
that the non-profit group could not be brought "into compliance" and was not approved under the Housing and Urban Development-funded program. Parker became very vocal, and the mayor called her down, saying the city worked with the group to find alternative funding.

"They never got their paperwork in order," Kincannon said.

Councilwoman Gwen

**Continue on page 3**





Inclination

By the time you see this essay, it will almost be winter. According to the astronomical definition, winter begins with the winter solstice, which will be December 21 this year. This day will bring us the least daylight and the longest night of the year.

Ancient cultures in the northern hemisphere must have noticed that shadows at noon were longest on the solstice because the sun's elevation is at its lowest. But take heart! From this day forward, the sun's inclination will increase, days will get longer and nights will shorten.

The cultural significance of the "sun's return" was not lost on ancient cultures. Saturnalia was a Roman festival at the solstice. And perhaps Jesus' birth came to be celebrated at the time of Saturnalia to avoid persecution. The

I'm having difficulty kindling the Christmas spirit this year. Becky has put away the Thanksgiving decor, and we've put up our small Charlie Brown Christmas tree. It fits our smaller retirement home, even though we can't use many of our Christmas ornaments we've collected in our travels. We no longer need a big tree for wrapped gifts or the largesse Santa used to bring our girls. I remember one late-night trip on Christmas Eve to Pilot Oil to fill up bicycle tires. I felt a kindred spirit with other fathers at the air pump who were also functioning as Santa's helpers.

I have a friend in Townsend who has a Christmas tree farm. We used to travel like Clark Griswold in "Christmas Vacation" to cut the Ferguson family Christmas tree. The home where we raised our girls now belongs to my daughter, son-in-law and grandkids. It has a great room with an 11-foot ceiling. I've been known to bring home bodacious trees necessitating that several feet be cut off to fit it into the room. Nonetheless, it once made an impressive tree (see pic).

Since our girls are grown with younglings of their own, the excitement of Christmas is now

more subdued. I'm playing Christmas music and that helps. And we've begun our annual pilgrimage through our Christmas movies. But I'll admit I'm having more trouble this year finding the Christmas spirit.

Though we are blessed, we live in a troubled world. I expect challenges because Jesus said that "In this world you will have trouble." Jesus went on to say, "But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). And this gives me hope just as I trust that spring will follow winter.

I trust the "reason for the season" with my future, despite the tumult. Nonetheless, I get weary at times. A friend of mine in Miami told me his city just elected a Democrat mayor for the first time in three decades. He said that less than one in ten citizens voted. Is it apathy or have the "sheeple" ceded leadership to the wolves?

In times past, people would sometimes retreat to secure enclaves or cloistered monasteries. But I cannot retreat from the world.

In circa 60 AD, the Apostle Paul was awaiting trial in Rome, and he did not think it would go well. As a result, he worked to prepare his aide Timothy to take over

the ministry. Paul said, "I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith, I have finished the race" (2 Timothy 4:7). I have changed the Apostle's words to the future tense and claimed these as my marching orders. Consequently, I write, I never miss a chance to vote, and I boycott when necessary.

As a Christian soldier, I ask, how can America's problems be addressed if citizens don't vote, irrationally ignore facts or fail to acknowledge culpability for mistakes? The Somali fraud of a billion-plus dollars in Minnesota is an obvious example and has soured my soul. And I just read of allegations of extensive Medicaid fraud by Somalis in Maine. And there is also the Ukrainian fraud of the \$200 billion we sent to help them in their war against Putin.

Americans are a giving people, but we have had it. We don't require thank yous. We just don't want to be defrauded.

And what about Biden and his handlers who facilitated the invasion of our country by 10 million illegals who are stressing the housing system, education, medical care and our culture?

From 1920 to 1970, we

had "negative immigration where the foreign-born population decreased by 40% for half a century." People learned English, assimilated and became Americans. "Lyndon Johnson and Teddy Kennedy lifted the lid on immigration and replaced the melting pot with the salad bowl in which people kept their national identity and collected welfare" (Don Surber). We have had it.

What about the fraud of Obamacare, the so-called Affordable Care Act, which isn't? It was never affordable and collapses without taxpayer subsidies. It was a leap toward national health care and, in the interim, made insurance companies and hospital systems rich. And we must never forget the rampant fraud of the media, which told us Biden was competent, the Covid vaccine was safe and effective and masks protected us. How interesting that the NY Times is now criticizing the impaired Biden. I suspect they want to get the Democrats' dirty laundry done before the 2026 Midterms.

What is the common theme in all these frauds? Democrats!

I have had it.

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

County primary petition pickup kicks off a very political year

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Only two days after the five new Knoxville City Council members are sworn into office, the new political season begins in Knox County. 2026 looks like a very active political year, starting with the county primaries.

Chris Davis, election coordinator, released the upcoming dates for the huge, multi-office county primary ballot, and it officially begins Monday, December 22, when candidate petitions may be picked up for the May 5 Republican and Democratic primaries

Party voters will choose the following offices on the county ballot: Knox County

Mayor, Criminal Court Judge Division I, County Commission - Districts 3 and 7 and the two at-large seats in Districts 10 and 11; County Trustee; General Sessions Judge Division IV; Knox County Sheriff; Circuit, Civil Sessions and Juvenile Court Clerk, Criminal Court Clerk, and County Clerk; Register of Deeds; and Board of Education seats in Districts 1, 4, 6, 7 and 9.

Candidates may register for the Republican or Democratic Primary or as an independent candidate. Qualifying petitions must be returned by Thursday, February 19, at noon. April 15 is the first day of early voting, which stretches through April 30. Primary election day is Tuesday, May 5.

Gallagher View Road rezoning passes

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

A resolution to allow developer Mainland MCA Knoxville to build 32 townhouses on four acres off North Gallagher View Road was narrowly passed by the Knoxville City Council on Tuesday after spokespersons talked against and for the proposal.

The resolution, recommended by Knoxville-Knox Planning, removes the previous zoning that put the property in a district "C" designation.

The C designation is part of a planned residential zoning and requires a special use permit. The previous zoning, RN-4, carries no such requirement.

District 2 Councilman

Andrew Roberto suggested withdrawing the request, but District 4's Lauren Rider opposed that, suggesting the developer work with the neighborhood to resolve disputes. The withdrawal motion failed 5-4.

Lynne Fugate, at-large councilwoman, reminded the council that the property had been before council at least three times and "everybody needs certainty." The approval passed with the same 5-4 vote.

In other action, the council approved two lobbying groups for state legislature representation in 2026: Capitol Strategy Group LLC for \$72,000 and Cornerstone Government Affairs Inc. for \$180,000. Calypsus Consulting Group Inc.

was hired for a Title VI program review for the Knoxville Area Transit for \$60,140.

The Public Building Authority was approved to provide development, management, security and maintenance at city-owned or -leased properties. The planning commission was allotted \$700,000 to update the city's comprehensive plan.

Among the several consent items passed were two state grants for \$2.1 million and \$3.8 million for Knoxville Area Transit's operating expenses. The \$2.1 million will be matched by the city.



**Celebrating 70 years of Service, Dependability, Smooth Rides and Our Price Match Guarantee!**

**WWW.MATLOCKTIRESERVICE.COM**

**FARRAGUT**  
10730 Kingston Pike  
**865-966-0425**

**MARYVILLE**  
723 S Foothills Plaza  
**865-983-0741**

**HARDIN VALLEY**  
10838 Hardin Valley Rd  
**865-248-2340**

**LENOIR CITY**  
1301 Hwy 321 N  
**865-986-6533**

**ATHENS**  
201 S Congress Pkwy  
**423-744-9828**

**SEYMOUR'S**  
AFFORDABLE CHOICE FOR  
CREMATIONS & GRAVESIDE SERVICES  
YOUR AFFORDABLE ALTERNATIVE


**DAVID G. MCCARTY**  
LFD, MGR, OWNER  
607 WALL STREET  
SEVIERVILLE, TN 37862  
865-774-2950  
mccartyfuneraldirectors.com

**CONCRETE WORLD**  
PROFESSIONAL CONCRETE FINISHERS  
OFFERING RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SERVICES  
•SIDEWALKS •SLABS •DRIVEWAYS  
•DECORATIVE •STAMP •FOOTERS  
Serving the Knoxville area for 20+ years!  
Affordable Prices! FREE Estimates! Call today!  
**865-203-5675**  
Dwayne Springfield - Owner

**Ethics committee**  
**Cont. from page 1**

appointments to the Knox County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and his appointments to the Knox County Emergency Communications District Board.

Honors and presentations include recognizing Spencer Long, principal of Halls High School, for being selected as the 2025 Tennessee High School Principal of the Year. David Landes and the Keeping David Landes Miracle Alive Blood Drive and the One Knoxville Sporting Club will also be honored.



**Serving Knox and Surrounding Counties. Proudly independently owned and operated.**

Published by Fountain Printing and Publishing, Inc.  
Deadline for ad design is Monday at 5 p.m.  
Deadline for Classified ads is Thursday at noon.  
Deadline for submissions is Thursday by noon.  
Articles, announcements, photo attachments and cutlines may be submitted by e-mail to staff@knoxfocus.com.  
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

Articles designated as written by Focus Staff are the collaborative efforts of several staff members and are reviewed and approved by the editor and the publisher.

The Focus would like to thank all contributing writers. Submissions from our writers are gratis and are greatly appreciated. While articles are not guaranteed placement, we do strive to place as much as possible. Submissions for the paper are on a space available basis and are subject to publisher and editor approval. We want your news: that is what makes this paper truly a community newspaper.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE - \$88.88/YEAR**  
**OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS EDITION ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND NEITHER THESE NOR ANY MATERIAL PUBLISHED HEREIN REPRESENT ENDORSEMENT BY THE FOCUS.**

Advertising: The Focus is not responsible for errors in an advertisement if not corrected by the first week after the ad appears. This newspaper is not responsible or liable whatsoever for any claim made by an ad or for any of the services, products or opportunities offered by our advertisers. We do not endorse or promote the purchase or sale of any product, service, company or individual that chooses to advertise in this newspaper and we reserve the right to refuse any or all advertising we deem inappropriate or unacceptable by our company standards. Political advertising must be pre-paid. The Focus does not accept ads that defame any candidate. All political ad content must be pre-approved prior to its run in the paper.

**865-686-9970 www.knoxfocus.com**



# Publisher's Positions



**By Steve Hunley, Publisher**  
publisher@knoxfocus.com

## Scandal In Minnesota

Warned that the Somali welfare scandal in Minnesota was only the “tip of the iceberg” by one observer, it has been revealed that one illegal immigrant has ties to leading Democrat politicians. Abdul Dahir Ibrahim, a Somali national, had a deportation order against him and had lost every court case in his attempts to overturn it. All of his appeals have been rejected since 2004. Ibrahim is no angel, having a criminal history in Canada, where he had allegedly sought asylum and committed welfare fraud before illegally entering the United States. That information comes from a Department of Justice document that has appeared in several media outlets. Ibrahim has been convicted of driving without a valid license in Minnesota as well as giving

information that proved to be false to the police. His punishment was a fine and probation, although he had at least twelve traffic and parking citations in our country.

Ibrahim tried to pass off his sister as his wife and claim her children were theirs, which was proved to be untrue. Shades of Ilhan Omar, who evidently claimed she was married to her brother. Ibrahim's claim that he was married was not true either. ICE details that Ibrahim crossed the border illegally in 1995 in New York from Canada. Why is Ibrahim still in our country despite every appeal of his having been denied, and having a criminal record? Not surprisingly, Ibrahim claimed and received Temporary Protected Status for almost 10 years. That status is still pending and has not been before a court since 2023.

Ibrahim has been photographed with Governor Tim Walz, Congresswoman Omar, and state Senator Omar Fateh, who almost beat Jacob Frey for mayor of Minneapolis recently. Both Fateh and Minneapolis City Council member Jamal Osman wrote letters of recommendation on Ibrahim's behalf during his immigration hearings before the courts.

These are the kinds of people Minnesota Democrats are trying to protect

from justice, yet another example of the crime, criminals and cartel policies the socialists support at the expense of hardworking and taxpaying American citizens.

## Jake Tapper Is A Hypocrite

Jake Tapper, who calls himself a journalist, remains the only so-called journalist who has played both sides of the Joe Biden mental wreck by refusing to report it himself and then writing a book about how shocked he was to find out about it. Now Tapper had another complete fail when he announced the Washington, D.C., pipe bomber suspect was a “White man,” when in fact, Brian Cole is a Black man. Tapper told the few viewers watching CNN, “Brian Cole, Jr., a 30-year-old White man from the D.C. suburbs, is charged with transporting an explosive device in interstate commerce and with malicious destruction by means of explosion.” During the broadcast, CNN flashed a photograph of Cole, revealing him to be Black. Last Friday, Tapper gave an on-air correction and said he was sorry for the error. How they must hate it when facts ruin a good narrative!

## News-Sentinel's Bias Is Showing

The Knoxville News-Sentinel regularly posts President Trump's approval rating daily. Evidently, that has replaced the weather as the more interesting prediction by the daily newspaper. Oddly, I don't recall any similar treatment during Joe Biden's administration. For that matter, I don't recall any Gannett newspaper or the News-Sentinel publishing Barack Obama's approval ratings. Perhaps as a community service, the supposed approval rating remains up constantly and daily each week. Pollsters are like car lots; there are a number to choose from, and one can select the result one wants for the most part. Polls have been notoriously wrong in recent times. In fact, the poll cited all across the country showing Aftyn Behn within two points of Matt Van Epps was wrong; Van Epps won by nine points when the votes were counted.

Unfortunately, we live in an age where news is not reported by the corporate media as much as a narrative is printed or reported. The Gannett newspapers report the news like the rest of the mainstream, corporate media. Approval ratings are quantified by topic and certainly, Trump's own ratings on

the economy have fallen with regard to the inflation wrought by the Biden administration. Remember, Obama was still blaming George W. Bush for prices and recession into the sixth year of his presidency. Biden and most of the corporate news media denied there was any inflation to begin with. Then there was the declaration that it was “transitory.” Then it was because of Vladimir Putin. Due to the wild spending of the Biden presidency, the open borders and many other policy failures, Donald Trump inherited a house on fire. It takes a little time to put out the fire and rebuild the dwelling.

Any media entity in the country can find a poll to publish that bolsters the point of view of that news outlet. But as the song says, “That don't mean a thing.”

As climate activists have to retool, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the congresswoman from New York, is for once keeping her mouth shut. Ocasio-Cortez had introduced her “Green New Deal” by identifying climate change as the most vital threat to continued human existence on the planet Earth and babbled, “The world is gonna end in 12 years if we don't address climate change.” The former bartender was outraged when skeptics

demand to know about the plan's cost to the taxpayers. “And your biggest issue is, ‘How are we going to pay for it?’ Like, this is our World War II.” It is very doubtful if asked, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez could even tell someone where World War II took place.

There was also a time when people would watch a street preacher wearing walking boards announcing that the end of the world was coming nigh. Almost everyone considered them nuttier than a bag of peanuts. Only with the advent of climate change experts like Greta Thunberg and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez did those advertising and proclaiming the end of the world begin to be taken seriously, despite no science to prop up their claims. Even Bill Gates has downgraded his own predictions of world cataclysm, admitting that climate change is not going to end the world. In what world does the news media elevate someone like Greta Thunberg into a celebrity? Greta spends less time on climate change and occupies herself these days by hating Israel.

But Ocasio-Cortez is now silent about her once confident prediction of the end of the world and her own timeline. She has probably put her own walking board in storage.



*Five Knoxville City Council members attended their final meeting Tuesday and were honored by their fellow members. City council attorney Rob Frost spoke about each member, Mayor Indya Kincannon recognized their efforts in moving the city forward, and each departing member spoke briefly, sometimes in tears. The new council members will take the oath Saturday and select their new vice-mayor. Photo courtesy of City of Knoxville.*

## South Knox development approved over objections

**By Mike Steely**  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

It's not often the zoning wishes of a Knox County Commissioner are overruled by his fellow members, but it happened last week during the commission's December zoning session.

Jeffrey Young was requesting a change from agricultural to planned residential zoning to construct up to 5 units per acre at 7705 Sevierville Pike. The zoning commission recommended it 11-2, but District 9 Commissioner Andy Fox spoke in opposition to the change.

“It's 5 to 10 years too late,” Fox said. Describing the growth of similar housing developments in the area, Fox added, “There's too much right now.” He said the proposed 33 homes are not needed.

District 2 Commissioner Courtney Durrett disagreed and opposed the Fox motion to

deny the change, adding that the entry to the new subdivision should be off Sevierville Pike. She offered a substitute motion to approve the zoning change.

Fox replied that he represents the area and said the South-Doyle neighborhood opposes the development. He added, “Overdevelopment decreases the quality of life. It's fair to ask the developer to wait.”

Commissioners Angela Russell, Rhonda Lee, Adam Thompson, Kim Frazier and Fox voted against the zoning change, but Durrett, Damon Rawls, Gina Oster, Shane Jackson, Terry Hill and Larsen Jay voted “Yes.” The approval passed 6-5.

In other action, zoning changes were approved for 12434 Buttermilk Road, 6521 Keck Road, 7751 Norris Freeway, and Zero Asheville Highway. The Norris Freeway change permits Tindell's Building Supply to expand.

## Tensions erupt at city council meeting

**Cont. from page 1**

McKenzie was asking for a possible meeting with My Daughter's Journey when Parker interrupted again, saying that the outside funding “now has to be

paid back.” Kincannon halted Parker and said that McKenzie had the floor. That went on three times. DuBose stated, for a second time, that the HUD requirements for a grant were not met.

The vote was called for, but Parker continued to want to speak. Kincannon proceeded to the vote. The reallocation of funds, which had previously included funding for the

non-profit, passed in a 7-1-2 vote.

Parker continued to speak after the vote, charging that the city continues to “get rid of the Black Lives groups.”

ONLINE ONLY REAL ESTATE AUCTION

510 LOOP ROAD - KNOXVILLE, TN 37934



BIDDING BEGINS TO CLOSE:  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH AT 12PM - NOON (ET)

OPEN HOUSE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 6TH FROM 2-4PM (ET)

Stunning West Knoxville Home on Private 1.8+/- Acres

Over 2000 SF with 4 Bedrooms & 3 Bathrooms

Incredible approx. 480 SF upstairs primary suite with en-suite bathroom & huge walk-in closet

Additional main level primary suite with luxurious en-suite bathroom

Large 2-car attached garage

Awesome detached 25'x30' shop building with 14' walls & 200-amp electric

FOR MORE DETAILS & TERMS VISIT: [www.powellauction.com](http://www.powellauction.com)

 **POWELL**  
AUCTION & REALTY

6729 PLEASANT RIDGE ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921  
865-938-3403  
KENNY PHILLIPS, AUCTIONEER - LIC # 2385



Knoxville Expo Center

5441 CLINTON HIGHWAY · KNOXVILLE TN · 37912

DECEMBER 19 - 20 - 21

FRI 2-6 · SAT 10-6 · SUN 10-4

FREE ADMISSION · FREE PARKING · OVER 250 BOOTHS!

[KNOXVILLEFLEAMARKET.COM](http://KNOXVILLEFLEAMARKET.COM)



# What was your favorite Christmas gift as a child?

## More Than A Day Away



By Mike Steely

I think my most memorable gift was a small bike that had belonged to a relative. I was probably seven or eight years old, and I remember bothering my parents for a bike, although

I doubt back then I could ride well. That Christmas morning, there was a large draped object behind the other presents, and I remember waiting impatiently to see what was beneath the package. Yep, it was the bike I had admired while visiting my stepfather's family. I know the bike wasn't new but, for me, it was exactly what I wanted. I rode that little bike all over our neighborhood, downtown and to school.

I asked many people what their favorite Christmas gift was as a child this month and here are their replies.

Alan Williams: As a child

my parents couldn't afford much, but I (received) a Colonel McCauley space helmet and a black leather motorcycle jacket and wore both all Christmas Day.

Lynne Ralph Siglin: A brand new box of Kleenex tissues wrapped up under the tree. Very meaningful since my parents went through the Depression. It taught me an important lesson.

Jim Stott: I remember running out of my bedroom as a child to see what Santa had left under the tree and stepping in some puppy poop- so that was a pretty good clue!

Terry Livingston: In the '50s or '60s, a metallic

space helmet.

Deanne Charlton: Mid '50s, a toy Coca-Cola dispenser with tiny plastic "glasses." I bugged everybody in the house to drink some until the last 6-ounce bottle was drained.

Misty Williams: Probably my Strawberry Shortcake.

Vivian Shipe: Thumbelina navy doll, soft cloth body with plastic arms and legs. I took her everywhere with me.

Larry W. Cooper: Daisy BB gun!

Mike Brown: Second-hand single-shot 12-gauge shotgun when I was 10.

Susan Tidwell Brown: A Dale Evans-style cowgirl outfit with fancy fringe, a

hat and a cap gun in a holster.

Bo Pierce: A Davy Crockett outfit, complete with a long rifle that shot round cork mini balls. Still have it!

Monte Seymour: When I was about the age of 10 to 12, it was a Crosman BB/pellet gun that had a wooden stock and was very accurate. I Googled it, and if my memory is correct, it was the Crosman V-350 slide action BB gun. I loved that gun.

Georgiana Vines: When I was in elementary school and we lived in Denison, Texas, in the 1940s, friends of my parents sent us each a plastic reindeer tree ornament with a red

satchel filled with dimes. I've kept mine all these years. I'm pretty sure a brother has, too.

Hugh Nystrom: When I was a kid, nothing topped the G.I. Joe military jeep with the cannon on the back, every living-room battle was won with that thing. But as a grown kid, my mom gave me tickets to the 1986 Sugar Bowl, Tennessee vs. Miami, and that became one of my all-time favorites, too. One gift fueled hours of backyard heroics, and the other gave me memories I'll never forget.

## Carson-Newman announces new scholarship to benefit state employees

Carson-Newman University officials announced the creation of a new scholarship for dependents of state employees.

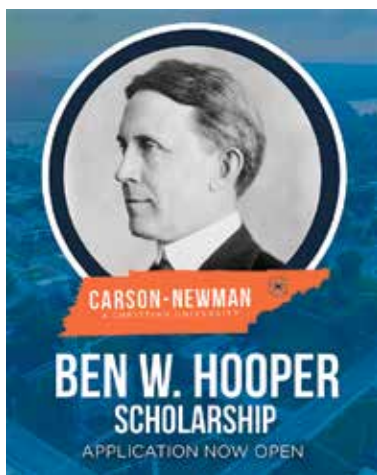
The Ben W. Hooper Scholarship will be offered for the 2026-2027 academic year and match the 25% tuition discount that state employees can currently receive at a Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) or UT system college or university. The selective scholarship is geared for state employees interested in a nationally recognized, Christ-centered education that Carson-Newman University offers.

The scholarship is competitive with both current and incoming undergraduate traditional students being eligible to apply. Those applying must be a dependent of a state of Tennessee employee or educator and be eligible for the

Tennessee Hope Scholarship. Those interested need to apply to Carson-Newman and file the 2026-27 FASFA by Thursday, Jan. 15.

The scholarship is named in honor of Carson-Newman alumnus Ben Hooper, who served as Tennessee's 31st governor from 1911 to 1915. During his two terms, Hooper enacted a measure requiring mandatory school attendance, signed a law requiring direct pay for women workers, and became the chief land purchasing agent for what is now The Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

"Governor Hooper spent his life in service to the state of Tennessee, so it is natural for this scholarship to honor both his service and the hard work and dedication of our state employees," said Kevin Triplett,



C-N's senior vice president for University Relations. "We want our state employees to know a Christ-centered education is an available option for their students."

Those interested in applying can email the Carson-Newman Undergraduate Admissions Office at: [admitme@cn.edu](mailto:admitme@cn.edu)

## Letter to the Publisher

The Corryton Christmas Light Contest sponsored by The Corryton Community Club to benefit The Corryton Hospitality Pantry kicked off Sunday, December 9. The contest ended December 12, with winners announced on December 13 at the Corryton Christmas Parade.

You still have the opportunity to view the light displays as the Corryton Christmas Light Tour runs through December 31st, nightly from 6-9 p.m., featuring 27 beautifully decorated homes to usher in the Christmas season.

The Corryton Community Club was able to donate \$270.00 to The Corryton Hospitality Pantry to help purchase food and supplies for families needing some extra help this season.

Thank you to each participant, and we appreciate the

support of our sponsors in making this event a success.

- McGaha Electric
- The Knoxville Focus
- Linda Redmond
- Honey Bake Ham Co
- Applebee's Grill and Bar (Central Ave Pike)

Please visit our website [www.corrytoncc.com/events/christmas](http://www.corrytoncc.com/events/christmas) for a Tour Map and listing of each home. Hopefully sometime during the Christmas season you and your family can take the tour and enjoy the lights and displays.

If you are a resident of the 37721 ZIP code, we look forward to growing this event next year and hope that you will consider entering your home.

- The Corryton Community Club



*Come celebrate Christmas with us at New Beverly*

On Sunday, December 21, 2025:

10 a.m. Christmas-centered Sunday School

11 a.m. Christmas Worship Service

At 6:00 p.m. that same evening, join us for a Christmas play, "Are You Ready," followed by a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus!

As you leave, receive an old-fashioned treat bag with lots of great goodies!

Reverend Eddie Sawyer and Assistant Reverend Branden Shultz invite everyone!



3320 New Beverly Church Road, Knoxville, Tennessee 37918

Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Pastor

Rev. Branden Shultz, Assistant Pastor

865-546-0001

[www.NewBeverly.org](http://www.NewBeverly.org)



**PINNACLE**  
ASSISTED LIVING

*Wishing you and yours a warm, festive and safe holiday season!*

Pinnacle Assisted Living  
10520 Waterville Lane  
Knoxville, TN 37932  
(865) 444-1451



Ad space donated by The Knoxville Focus.

## Young-Williams Animal Center



**KEIRA** – 3 years old, 39 lbs. Keira is a true sweetheart who adores people and loves to be close by. She has a strong desire to be involved in your life, often following her favorite people wherever they go – kinda like a love shadow! Doggie Day Trip volunteers describe Keira as easy going and goofy. She has a wonderfully pleasant disposition and is an expert in giving and receiving affection; a good belly rub will make her day! This gentle dog has a fun, energetic side and would thrive in a home with an active lifestyle where she can join in on walks, runs, or park visits. Her social nature means she handles public outings like a pro, showing no anxiety or issues with other dogs or people passing by—she just wants to say hello! Keira is a wonderful dog who is just waiting for the chance to make someone's life complete!

**TERRY** – 3 years old, 68 lbs. Terry is a truly special dog, full of energy and a wonderfully goofy personality! This boy is an absolute social butterfly who thrives on interaction and attention, happily charming both men and women with his friendly demeanor. Terry is looking for a loving family ready to welcome him into their home, keeping in mind a few requirements: he would do best with children aged 10 and up, he needs a home where he will not be around livestock, and he should not be housed with unaltered male dogs. If you're ready for a lively, friendly, and affectionate companion, Terry is waiting to meet you!



**Young-Williams Animal Center**  
3201 Division Street, Knoxville, TN 37919  
[www.young-williams.org](http://www.young-williams.org)

**865.433.9922**  
**10 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily**  
Closed 1-2 p.m. for animal quiet time



# Girls Scouts, YWAC provide BarkBoxes for shelter dogs

Girl Scouts are known for offering tasty treats for a good cause, even for canines, and Girl Scouts of Southern Appalachians once again partnered with animal shelters across the region to treat pups and support local troops. As part of the Fall Product Program, troops raised funds to provide a BarkBox for dogs in need of rescue.

Donations not only went toward BarkBoxes with treats and a toy for dogs at Young-Williams Animal Center, but also benefited Girl Scout troops across East Tennessee, funding programming and the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

“We challenge Girl Scouts to make tangible and positive change in their communities,” said Lynne Fugate, CEO of Girl Scout Council of the Southern Appalachians, at the start of the drive. “Through our partnership with Young-Williams Animal Center, our troops have the opportunity to demonstrate compassion for the less fortunate, and that includes our furry friends.”

Young-Williams Animal Center, a nonprofit organization, serves the needs of lost, abandoned and neglected animals and is the official intake center for the City of Knoxville and Knox County. The center takes in an estimated 11,000 animals each year and focuses on ending pet homelessness, promoting animal welfare and enhancing the human-animal bond.

“We could not do our critical work without community support,” Young-Williams Animal Center CEO Janet Testerman said. “This collaboration

**Continue on page 2**



Each themed BarkBox provided treats and a toy to a shelter dog, while proceeds benefited Girl Scout troops across East Tennessee by helping to fund programming and the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. From left: Carmen Shepherd of Young-Williams Animal Center, Junior Girl Scout Evelyn Price and Cadette Girl Scout Addison Schaefer.

## Knox PAWS and Feed-A-Pet launch Howliday Donation Drive

**Donations accepted through December 31, 2025**

The Knox PAWS (Placing Animals With Seniors) program and Feed-A-Pet are holding their Howliday Donation Drive, inviting the community to help provide food and other essential supplies for pets owned by income-limited older adults throughout Knox County. Donations will be accepted through December 31, 2025.

Knox PAWS pairs adoptable shelter pets with qualifying older adults, while Feed-A-Pet ensures pets receive ongoing food. With community support, the Howliday Donation Drive helps keep pets healthy, comfortable, and safely at home with the older adults who love them.

“Older adults whose pets qualify for the Feed-A-Pet program are eternally grateful for the help they get from our community in keeping their furry friends fed and cared for,” said program manager, Monica Brown.

“Too often, older adults who are living on a fixed-income struggle to meet their own basic needs, and Feed-A-Pet provides peace of mind knowing that their pet will not go hungry. All of this support comes directly from donations from our community.”

For more information about Feed-A-Pet or the Howliday Donation Drive, please contact

**Continue on page 4**

OLD MAN'S  
STAMP  
STORE

By Harry Brooks  
hrbrooks68@gmail.com

# Christmas for a Stamp Collector

concentrating on family remembrances, celebrations and gift-giving and presents. We spend time and effort to “gift” a surprise to a community servant. It may mean paying for a meal at a restaurant when we observe a first responder or military member. I would encourage everyone to “surprise gift” a family member. Also remember the restaurant waiter, your neighbor, a senior adult, a friend or even a complete stranger. Your surprise gift can be given anonymously if you prefer.

But in all the gift giving, we should never forget the purpose of Christmas. Faith and faith renewal is a focal point in my family’s life. We enjoy family time served with snacks or other food as we celebrate the birth of Christ. It is the old-but-true statement – Faith and Family are uppermost at this time of the year.

Over the years, I have learned about a family member’s or friend’s special celebration food. It might be pecan pie (yes, yes, yes), rutabaga (from my Yankee friend, Don), oyster dressing (not for my wife), pickled beets, deep-fried whole turkey, a large turkey leg, homemade spicy chow-chow with leftovers or other tasty treats. We also love cornbread dressing, and once in a lifetime prime rib roast (very expensive). Last year, for the first time, we went with some friends to the Waffle House for Christmas breakfast. It was amazing to see the number of people there.

Some like to watch a Christmas movie. We especially like “It’s a Wonderful Life” and “Miracle on 34th Street.” We also like to save jars of home-canned green beans to cook with bacon grease for the Christmas dinner. Years ago, when people killed hogs at Thanksgiving, my grandparents cooked all parts, such as the tongue, ears and jowl and had that at Christmas time. That doesn’t happen much anymore. You may have your own list of the family’s favorite foods for this special time of the year. Regardless of your preferences, take time to remember and talk about Christmases past and traditions with your family’s favorite memories.

But foremost, remember to celebrate the birth of Christ, His life and His death on the cross that resulted in our salvation opportunity, bringing us into a loving relationship with God, our Heavenly Father. Remember Christ, and love your family. I hope you have a great Christmas.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas from the “Old Man’s Stamp Store” and the Brooks family. You may contact me at hrbrooks68@gmail or (865)604-0164. The website is www.oldmanstampstore.com.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



A decorative border featuring green pine branches, red and gold ornaments, and red and green stockings hanging from the branches.

NOW THIS IS LIVING ...  
SENIOR LIVING.

Enjoy the freedom and privacy of your own living space, with the peace of mind of knowing we’re here when you need us, 24/7.

Our warm and active senior living community offers outstanding accommodations and services for assisted living and memory care while located minutes from downtown Knoxville.

A logo for South High Senior Living, featuring a stylized illustration of a large, classical-style building with columns and a pediment, with the text 'SOUTH HIGH SENIOR LIVING' below it.

Merry Christmas from all of us at South High Senior Living!  
Call (865) 338-3060 or visit [SouthHighKnoxville.com](https://SouthHighKnoxville.com) to learn more about our exclusive savings and schedule your personalized, private tour today.



# A Christmas Portrait of Grace

It was an ordinary night outside of Bethlehem, where a handful of shepherds kept their routine watch under a quiet sky. They were men forgotten by most and noticed by few, who silently carried out one of the lowliest and most forgotten occupations. Yet in that unlikely setting, everything changed in a moment. The stillness of the night was pierced by a sudden blaze of heavenly light as an angel of the Lord appeared, illuminating the hills unlike anything earth had ever seen. To these unnoticed men, in this forgotten field, the glory of God chose to unveil the most significant announcement in history: the birth of the Messiah.

Have you ever considered this: Why shepherds? Of all the people



By Justin Pratt,  
Clear Springs Baptist  
Church Senior Pastor

God could have chosen for this announcement, He chose the very bottom of society's ladder. Shepherds were not celebrated, influential or respected; they lived on the margins doing the work most wanted to avoid, and yet God would visit them with earth-shaking news. God completely skipped over the palaces where kings resided, passed by the temples where the religious elite dwelled, and paid no attention to the governors and leaders who stayed in government halls. This choice was not accidental; it was intentional. It was one of the first ways heaven whispered a truth woven throughout scripture: God delights in meeting the lowly, lifting up the overlooked, and pouring grace on those the

world often forgets.

To every sinner that has ever been a partaker of grace, we understand that it goes where no one else is willing to go and knocks on doors that only heaven will visit. Grace is that unique element that says God is not waiting for us to climb our way up to Him; He is willing to come down to us. It means that God is willing to take anyone, regardless of background, past or struggle, and offer them a place at His table. Grace is that no one is too broken, too distant or too damaged for God to give them a chance. God's acceptance is not fragile or selective; it is strong enough to embrace a prodigal, patient enough to look for the lost, and powerful enough to change the most unlikely. Grace means that our Creator God will receive anyone who comes to Him. Not because any of us can earn His favor, but because He

delights in showing His mercy. The message of grace is that God's heart has always been wide open, and the manger reveals it most clearly.

Think about it. Before Jesus ever healed a blind man, cleansed a leper or visited a demon-possessed man living in the tombs, God sent an angel to summon dirty, lowly shepherds to come to His Son. These shepherds in the Christmas story remind us that God's invitation is not reserved for the polished, the powerful or the put-together. He steps into the lives of the ordinary and the overlooked and says, "You are wanted, you are welcome, and you are within reach." In that moment, the very God of heaven exercised His muscle of grace by reaching out to those who were unqualified, unwanted and unnoticed and drawing them into His story.

Christmas is that moment when

the Creator became the created. A moment in time where God became flesh and dwelled among us, and he wanted the lowest to know that event; they were invited. His very entrance into the world shouts a reverberating message of grace. That same invitation is extended today. To the sinner, the seeker and the skeptic, Jesus came for you. He came for those who have failed repeatedly and those who barely feel worthy to lift their head towards Him. This invitation was not only for shepherds; it also sends a word to the world that God loves to choose the unlikely, so that every one of us can know we are thought of, we are invited, and we are deeply loved. Christmas is the story of God coming near to us, and now it becomes our invitation to take the simple, life-changing step of coming near to Him.

## Missing My Dogs and My Son

I'm sitting on the couch of the room we've rented for our stay at Key West. This is our last night here, and it's been a good vacation, especially with the wet, cold weather in Knoxville.



By Joe Rector  
joerector@comcast.net

sat for us. Prior to our leaving, those two old dogs had sat with me constantly over the three weeks that I suffered and healed from pneumonia. My sleeping was confined to the recliner on

having Sadie lie on my lap with her head on the arm of the couch and Harvey burying his nose behind my back as he sits so close to me. Including Amy, we are a pack. Our loyalties run deeply, and our love for each other has no bounds. We're all in the senior years of our lives, and taking care of one another is the top job of every day.

I have another confession to make as I sit in this warm weather paradise. I miss my son Dallas. He's been gone for more than a year, but the emptiness seems to increase. I crave his constant picking at me over some silliness just to get a rise out of me. He would push until I reached the boiling point and then

grin at me to let me know he'd won the battle again. I want him to come to Christmas dinner early, pick up turkey from the tray and eat it and then grab a corner piece of dressing and stuff it in his mouth while I howl at his uncivilized actions.

I have been re-reading "Sh!t My Dad Says." Without a doubt, it is the funniest book I have ever read. Dallas loved that book as well, and he often stated that he was going to begin writing down the things I came up with and declared they were every bit as funny. He never got the chance to write them down. I wish he had, because those words would have taken me back to the time when he was here and so

much fun. The boy added to our lives every minute of the five years he'd moved back to Knoxville.

Christmas will be here soon. I'm thankful for my sweet wife, my two dogs, and my daughter and her family. We'll celebrate the season and be happy, but just a whisp of sadness will pass by as we feel the emptiness of the chair where Dallas sat. For so many folks, this time of year is one mixed with joy and sadness, and getting through it is tough. I'm glad to know that the reason we celebrate Christmas is because it signals the arrival of a child who grew up to save us all from death and offers us an eternity in a better place.

## BarkBoxes for shelter dogs

**Cont. from page 1**

with the Girl Scouts brings us another step closer to our vision of 'a home for every pet' while also offering a little joy and enrichment for the animals in our care."

The Girl Scouts Fall Product Program gives troops a chance to earn startup money, including funds for uniforms, camp and other activities. Directed toward family and friends, the program also teaches girls to learn five life skills: goal setting, money management, decision making, business ethics and people skills.

I'm the Daughter Again

One Move Changed Everything

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

THE Lantern at Morning Pointe  
Alzheimer's Center of Excellence  
HARDIN VALLEY

NOW OPEN!

(865) 343-0409

2433 Reagan Road

MOLD TOX<sup>TM</sup>

"Breathe Healthy"

BASEMENT OR CRAWLSPACE LEAKING??

Don't overpay the nationwide companies by the thousands when MOLD TOX, LLC can install a dry-up system for a fraction of the cost!

BBB Accredited Business with A+ Rating

TN Charter #4410

(865) 524-1227    (865) 453-1880

www.moldtox.com

TALK RADIO

FM 92.3  
AM 760

This Week on the CAPITOL HILL

SATURDAYS  
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

+++++

THIS WEEK ON THE CAPITOL HILL



# Arch Moore of West Virginia

## Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

Described as a “charismatic populist” by the Washington Post, Arch Alfred Moore Jr. was the most durable Republican during a time when West Virginia remained a solidly Democratic state. Moore was also the founder of a new political dynasty that still flourishes today. A dynamic leader, canny politician and enthusiastic booster of West Virginia, Arch Moore became an iconic figure. Moore was also a genuine war hero, earning a Purple Heart after surviving a grievous wound in World War II when a machine gun round pierced his jaw and tongue.

During a 2003 interview for the West Virginia Public Broadcasting system, Moore recalled, “In my platoon, I had 36 people, and only three of us survived. I’ve run for public office for over 50 years and I’ve never talked about those times because I live with them daily. What happened to me happened to a lot of fine young Americans, some of whom never came back.”

Moore had been left for dead, lying in a pool of his own blood for two days. The injury to his tongue kept Moore from speaking for more than a year. The future governor had to endure facial reconstruction surgery. Arch Moore spent considerable time recovering from his wounds before entering law school and earning a degree.

In 1952, just a year after graduating from law school, Moore ran for West Virginia’s House of Delegates and was elected as a Republican in the northern panhandle of the state. Clearly ambitious, Arch Moore ran for Congress in 1954 against incumbent Robert H. Mollohan, a protégé of powerful U.S. Senator Matthew M. Neely, who was also a resident of West Virginia’s First Congressional District. Moore made a race of it, winning better than 47% of the votes cast.

Senator Neely had long been Mollohan’s political patron saint, naming him to head the state’s Boys’ Home while Neely had been governor. After returning to the U.S. Senate, Neely backed Mollohan against Congressman Robert Ramsay in the 1950 Democratic primary. Neely once again demonstrated his clout by pushing Mollohan’s nomination for governor in 1956.

1956 was to prove the high-water mark for Republicans in West Virginia for decades to come. Engulfed by a scandal, Bob Mollohan lost the governorship to Republican Cecil Underwood, while former U.S. Senator Chapman Revercomb defeated Governor William Marland for a seat in the Senate. Arch Moore was running once again for the U.S. House of Representatives and defeated Democrat

C. Lee Spillers by exactly 762 votes out of more than 129,000 ballots cast. Dr. Will E. Neal won a seat in Congress as well, giving the Republicans two of West Virginia’s seats in the House.

As good as 1956 had been, two years later, West Virginia was especially suffering from a nationwide economic recession. Matthew Neely had died in office, and Governor Underwood had appointed Republican John D. Hoblitzell to fill the vacancy. That fall, both Senators Revercomb and Hoblitzell were soundly defeated. Congressman Will E. Neal was narrowly beaten, and Arch Moore proved his durability by winning reelection against perhaps the strongest candidate the Democrats could nominate, his predecessor in office, Robert Mollohan. Moore won with nearly 55% of the vote in a terrible year for Republicans, both nationally and in West Virginia. That election definitively proved Arch Moore was no mere political mistake, but rather a force to be reckoned with.

As a congressman, Moore paid close attention to his constituents and presided over an office that was remarkably attuned to the people he represented, and he and his staff specialized in constituent service. Congressman Moore was easily reelected in 1960, carrying every county in West Virginia’s First District and winning slightly more than 60% of the vote.

Following the census, the West Virginia legislature combined Moore’s district with that of veteran Congressman Cleveland Bailey, who had first been elected to the House in 1944. The Democrats did all they could to beat Arch Moore and aid the 75-year-old Cleve Bailey. President John F. Kennedy came to West Virginia to campaign for Bailey, although he made a highly embarrassing slip of the tongue, initially endorsing Moore instead of his fellow Democrat. Despite several notable Democrats coming to campaign for Bailey, the charismatic Arch Moore shocked virtually everyone when he won easily, pulling almost 60% of the vote. Moore was reelected in 1964, surviving the landslide by Lyndon Johnson, beating future State Treasurer Larrie Bailey by more than 43,000 votes.

As his political star continued to rise, Arch Moore was frequently mentioned as a candidate for either governor or United States senator. After twelve years in Congress, Moore announced he was running for governor in 1968. Moore faced a contentious primary with Cecil Underwood, who had long been the most prominent Republican in West Virginia. Since 1932, only



AP WIREPHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Governor Arch Moore cheering as West Virginia gave President Gerald Ford the 1976 GOP presidential nomination.

two Republicans had managed to win statewide office in the Mountain State; Chapman Revercomb had been elected twice to the United States Senate, in 1942 and the 1956 special election. Cecil Underwood had won the governorship in 1956, but had a spotty electoral record since that time. Underwood had run against Senator Jennings Randolph in 1960 and lost. Underwood had tried to win back the governor’s office in 1964 and lost. Cecil Underwood had also made enemies by his interference in a primary involving the state’s other notable Republican, Chapman Revercomb. Underwood had endorsed Revercomb’s opponent when the former senator was seeking the GOP nomination for governor in 1960. That would come back to haunt Underwood eight years later.

The former governor stubbornly insisted upon running yet again, challenging Moore. That brought an endorsement from Senator Revercomb.

“He is a winner,” Revercomb said of Arch Moore. “It is time for Republicans to nominate a candidate who can win and not just run. We have had enough of those who make an appeal by appearance, and when they face opposition in the fall, succumb and are defeated.”

Moore won intense attention throughout the state campaign by helicopter. The rivalry between Arch Moore and Cecil Underwood was bitter. Moore won an astounding 93% in his home county of Marshall, while Underwood swept his own home of Cabell County by 75%. Overall, the present subdued the past, and Moore won decisively with better than 57% of the vote.

The congressman was injured when the helicopter crashed just days before the general election. That

may have given Moore the advantage of a sympathy vote. Moore was yet again the only successful Republican in the state of West Virginia. While Richard Nixon was losing the Mountain State by more than 66,000 votes, Arch Moore won the governorship by 12,785 votes.

Arch Moore won a reputation for being decisive, a trait many voters liked in a chief executive. Moore demonstrated that when highway employees went on strike in a bid to have the state government recognize their union. Governor Moore responded by firing those employees who had walked off the job. That was a threat to the safety and welfare of the people of West Virginia, the governor said. The governor proposed pay increases for West Virginia’s educators and staff at schools in the Mountain State. Moore also supported insurance benefits for hospital employees. The governor won recognition when he helped settle a nationwide strike by coal miners. Moore also browbeat the legislature to increase workers’ compensation benefits a whopping 75%. Governor Moore was known as a roadbuilder, burrowing routes through the scenic mountains of West Virginia.

Moore faced a strong challenge from John D. “Jay” Rockefeller IV, scion of America’s first billionaire, when he sought reelection in 1972. Jay Rockefeller had come to West Virginia and made himself at home while running for office as a Democrat. In 1968, Rockefeller had been elected secretary of state in anticipation of a campaign for governor in 1972. Rockefeller had his hands full, even though he spent liberally out of his own bottomless pockets. Once again, Arch Moore overcame the political odds through hard work and his

own personality and ability. Moore won the general election against Rockefeller by 73,000 votes. Moore became the first person ever to be elected to serve two terms as governor of West Virginia.

During his second term as West Virginia’s chief executive, Arch Moore worked to establish medical schools at Marshall University and in Lewisburg. The governor also pushed the development of what became the West Virginia Culture Center at the State Capitol.

Unable to succeed himself as governor in 1976, Moore chose not to run against Senator Robert C. Byrd, who was unbeatable. Moore’s ultimate goal was to win a seat in the United States Senate, and he looked longingly at the seat of aging Jennings Randolph, who had first been elected to Congress in 1932 and had been a wheelhorse of the New Deal. Most observers believed Randolph would retire, but the veteran senator announced he was running for another term. Two things impeded Moore’s march to the U.S. Senate: the first being a trial where the former governor had been charged with extortion, for which he was acquitted by a jury. Secondly, Senator Randolph’s campaign outspent Moore 5-1. Arch Moore lost the general election by only 4,717 votes.

Two years later, Moore ran a quixotic campaign to retake the governor’s office from Jay Rockefeller. Once again, Rockefeller spent vast sums of his own money, and one wag quipped that Rockefeller fed more West Virginians fried chicken than had voted for him. Moore’s own campaign distributed bumper stickers that read, “Make Him Spend It All, Arch!”

Moore ran for governor once again in 1984 and

beat the speaker of the West Virginia House of Delegates, Clyde See, by more than 48,000 votes. Ironically, had he run for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Jennings Randolph, he likely would have won. Jay Rockefeller had only beaten unknown John Raese by 29,000 votes.

Arch Moore’s third term was not as notable nor as successful as his first two. The State of West Virginia was in terrible shape, with the highest unemployment rate in the country. The coal industry was in near collapse, and Governor Moore did his best to pump life into the state’s ailing economy. Moore proposed tax credits in the hope of attracting businesses to locate in West Virginia. Yet Moore’s final years as governor were peppered with both controversy and rumors of scandal.

Moore won a narrow victory over John Raese inside the GOP primary when seeking a fourth term in 1988. Governor Moore lost the general election with less than 42% of the vote to Gaston Caperton. West Virginia would not elect another GOP governor until 1996, and remarkably, it would be Cecil Underwood who became both the youngest and oldest man ever elected governor of the Mountain State.

Arch Moore was the target of a federal investigation, which resulted in the former governor pleading guilty to five felonies. Moore served two years in prison and an additional four months in home confinement in West Virginia. For the remainder of his life, Moore tried to retract that guilty plea. “I followed the advice that I got,” Moore later recalled, “that was not the right advice.”

Yet Moore retained the love and loyalty of a multitude of West Virginians, and he remained busy for the rest of his long life. Married to Shelley Riley, the couple had four children. Their daughter, Shelley Moore Capito, made it to the United States Senate, where she still sits today. Senator Capito has much of her father’s ability to make people feel welcome and comfortable. Senator Capito’s son, Moore Capito, was a candidate for the GOP nomination for governor, but ran second. Another grandson of the late Arch Moore, Riley Moore, is the Republican representative for Congress from West Virginia’s Second District.

In that same interview with the West Virginia PBS, former Governor Arch Moore told his interviewer, “I’m proud of my governorships, all three of them. You’ll run into Arch Moore stories the rest of your life, and nine-and-a-half out of 10, I think, will be a positive reflection. I’m still working on the other half.”

© 2025 Ray Hill

Come worship with us

**New Beverly Baptist Church**

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

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



# Knox PAWS and Feed-A-Pet launch Howliday Donation Drive

**Cont. from page 1**

the CAC Office on Aging at (865) 524-2786 or visit [knoxseniors.org](http://knoxseniors.org).

## Items Needed

### Dog Food

- Purina ONE Small Bites (8 lb. bag)
- Pedigree Small Bites (4 lb. bag)
- Pedigree Small Dog Tender Bites Pouches
- Cesar Small Breed Wet Dog Food Trays
- Beneful IncrediBites Small Breed Cans

### Cat Food

- Purina Cat Chow (3.15 lb. bag)
- Friskies (3.15 lb. bag)
- Friskies Gravy & Pate Cans
- 9 Lives Gravy & Pate Cans

### Other Items

- Cat litter (10 lb. bag, clay or lightweight)
- Small dog treats
- Small/medium pet beds
- Small/medium warm dog clothing
- Small soft squeaky dog toys
- Small/medium harnesses
- Retractable leashes

### Monetary Donation

- \$25 provides one month of food and litter for a cat
- \$50 provides one month of food for a medium-sized dog
- \$75 provides one year of heartworm prevention for a dog
- \$130 supports one year of grooming

### Donation Drop-Off Locations

**CAC Office on Aging**  
2247 Western Avenue,  
Knoxville, TN 37921  
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

**O'Connor Senior Center**  
611 Winona Street,  
Knoxville, TN 37917  
Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Dogwood Animal Hospital**

**GOD'S PLACE TREASURES THRIFT STORE**  
6119 Chapman Highway  
Furniture, glassware, clothing & more  
Mondays: All \$1 items 50¢  
  
Come in for prayer.  
Manager - Vickie Johnson  
  
Proceeds help feed the homeless.  
M-F 10am-5:30pm 865-604-8077

5900 Chapman Highway,  
Knoxville, TN 37920

Call 865-577-0344 for hours.

**Forest Park Animal Clinic**  
4600 Chambliss Avenue,  
Knoxville, TN 37919  
Call 865-584-4600 for hours.

**Norwood Veterinary Hospital**  
2828 Merchant Drive,  
Knoxville, TN 37912  
Call 865-523-2611 for hours.

**Donate Online:** [www.knox-seniors.org/support-paws](http://www.knox-seniors.org/support-paws)

**By Mail:**  
PO Box 51650  
Attn: Knox PAWS  
Knoxville, TN 37950

### Shop Wish Lists:

[tinyurl.com/knoxpaws-amazon](http://tinyurl.com/knoxpaws-amazon)  
[tinyurl.com/knoxpaws-chewy](http://tinyurl.com/knoxpaws-chewy)

# John T. O'Connor Senior Center to hold Inaugural Spaghetti Supper

The John T. O'Connor Senior Center invites the community to come enjoy its first-ever Italian Spaghetti Supper on Friday, January 9, 2026, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at 611 Winona Street in Knoxville.

Guests will enjoy a delicious dining experience featuring a spaghetti entrée, side salad, roll, dessert and beverage – all for \$10. All proceeds directly support O'Connor Center programming.

"We hope everyone will come out for a wonderful evening of good food as we raise funds to continue serving older adults in Knox County", said Mary Sibbett, Program Manager. "We always appreciate the support of our wonderful community."



Tickets can be purchased online at [knox-seniors.org/oconnor](http://knox-seniors.org/oconnor) or in-person at the Center.

The John T. O'Connor Senior Center is a vibrant activity center that provides a place where individuals not only add years to their life, but add life to their years. The Center serves Knox County older adults age 50 and over. Serving Knox County

residents age 50 and older, the Center offers programs that promote healthy aging, including health services, physical fitness, recreation, and lifelong learning.

To view the full list of

O'Connor Center programs, visit [knoxseniors.org/oconnor](http://knoxseniors.org/oconnor).

For more information, please contact the John T. O'Connor Senior Center at (865) 523-1135 or [info@oconnorcenter.org](mailto:info@oconnorcenter.org).

# service directory

## ALTERATIONS

JOANNE'S ALTERATIONS,  
PANTS HEMMING \$5,  
SPECIALIZING IN JEANS.  
CALL 865-805-9170

## CHILD CARE

MARCIA'S  
LEARNING CENTER  
1411 Exeter Ave, Knoxville  
(865) 673-8223  
Day Shift 7:30 am - 5:00 pm

## EXCAVATION

**HALL**  
Enterprises LLC  
• HAULING • GRADING  
• CLEARING • EXCAVATION  
Licensed & Insured  
Call or email Dylan Hall  
865-722-4207  
[hall.entlrc25@gmail.com](mailto:hall.entlrc25@gmail.com)

## ELECTRIC/ PLUMBING

RETIRED  
ELECTRICIAN & PLUMBER  
~ Licensed and Insured ~  
**FREE ESTIMATES!**  
865-705-0742

## FENCING

**BROWN'S**  
CUSTOM FENCING  
& CONSTRUCTION  
TN State Contractor Lic #00049769  
~ ALL TYPES OF FENCING ~  
Residential, Commercial,  
Farm and Ranch,  
Pole Barns & Hoop Structures  
Professional, Dependable Service!  
Call 423-235-7400  
or 1-800-249-6274  
[brownscustomfencing.com](http://brownscustomfencing.com)

## HANDYMAN

**HOMEFIT SERVICES**  
Honest, Professional & Fair Pricing  
**Brian Clark**  
865-415-8419  
Licensed & Insured  
Email: [Homefit04@gmail.com](mailto:Homefit04@gmail.com)  
♦ Home Repairs ♦ Deck Staining  
♦ Painting ♦ Roof, Siding & Foundation Stain Removal  
♦ Wood Rot  
We accept Visa & MasterCard

Call or email Ruthie at 865-686-9970 or [ruthie@knoxfocus.com](mailto:ruthie@knoxfocus.com) to place your Classified or Service Directory advertisement!

## HANDYMAN

**Your Local HANDYMAN**  
Complete Remodeling  
INTERIOR / EXTERIOR  
~ Insured and Bonded ~  
Call or text for your  
**FREE ESTIMATE**  
865-888-1241

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**JIM'S HOME IMPROVEMENT**  
40+ Years Experience  
— in ALL TYPES of —  
Home Repairs & Improvement  
**SPRING SPECIALS!**  
DECKS - New and Repairs  
REPLACEMENT  
Windows & Doors  
Kitchen & Bath Updates  
Free Estimates!  
Schedule yours TODAY!  
865-203-6143

## LAWN & LEAF

**Magic Mowers**  
Lawn & Leaf Services  
• Mowing • Edging • Weed Eating  
• Trimming • Blowing • Mulching  
• Shrub Trimming • Leaf Cleanup  
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED,  
DEPENDABLE SERVICE,  
REASONABLE RATES AND INSURED!  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
CALL OR TEXT JIMBO @  
(865) 368-8279

## PAINTING

Now Offering **SOFT-WASHING!**  
Plus - 30% OFF ALL INTERIOR  
PAINTING, through Feb. 2026!  
**Randy the Painter**  
Interior & Exterior Painting  
Celebrating 45 years of business in 2025  
Licensed and Insured  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
CALL 865-522-3222 or  
TEXT 865-455-5022  
CHECK OUT OUR 5-STAR  
GOOGLE REVIEWS!!!  
[randythepainterandcrew.com](http://randythepainterandcrew.com)

## PHOTOGRAPHER

PROFESSIONAL  
PHOTOGRAPHER -  
JASE CHRISTOPHER  
REFLECTIONS PHOTOGRAPHY:  
FAMILY PORTRAITS AND  
SPECIAL OCCASIONS.  
CONTACT INFO AND  
PORTFOLIO AVAILABLE  
AT [JCREFLECTIONS.COM](http://JCREFLECTIONS.COM)  
(PROFESSIONALLY CERTIFIED)

## REPAIR MAN

**CJ Fixit**  
APPLIANCE SERVICE  
Are you having a problem with an  
appliance not working properly?  
Replacing an appliance is not always  
the best answer, and is NEVER  
the cheapest answer.  
**Give CJ a call FIRST!**  
A part or adjustment may be all you need to  
save HUNDREDS or even THOUSANDS.  
**CALL US TODAY!**  
Serving Knoxville and surrounding areas.  
Major credit cards accepted.  
**865-895-7805**

## REMODELING

**DECKS & FENCING**  
Quality, Honesty, Integrity  
New Builds or Repairs  
**Bonded & Insured**  
Offering **FREE** estimates!  
Call or Text  
865-888-1241

## ROOFING

ROOF REPAIRS, METAL;  
SHINGLE; RUBBER; ROOF  
COATING; FREE ESTIMATES.  
865-705-7069 TREE SERVICES

## TREE SERVICES

**ROLEN & SON**  
TREE SERVICE  
TREE TRIMMING  
OR REMOVAL  
COMMERCIAL  
and RESIDENTIAL  
services available.  
Over 50 years experience!  
Locally owned! Insured!  
**FREE ESTIMATES!**  
423-259-0295

**TREE HERO**  
Professional Tree Service  
♦ UTILITY LINE CLEARING  
♦ STORM WORK  
♦ REMOVAL SERVICE  
♦ EXPERT PRUNING  
♦ LAND CLEARING  
Locally Owned  
Licensed & Insured  
FREE Estimates! Call TODAY!  
865-385-9994  
865-888-3580

# classifieds

## COIN SHOP

**BLAKE and JAXON'S COIN SHOP**  
We Buy and Sell Gold & Silver  
• GOLD  
• SILVER EAGLES  
• SILVER ROUNDS & BARS  
• MORGAN DOLLARS  
• PEACE DOLLARS  
• SCRAP GOLD (Jewelry)  
Call or come by and see us!  
8626 Asheville Hwy - Knoxville  
865-444-5176

## HELP WANTED

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED.  
BI-WEEKLY. JOHN SEVIER  
HIGHWAY AREA. CALL FOR  
INTERVIEW. 865-337-7137

RETIREE NEEDS DEPENDABLE  
HELPER ON SATURDAYS AND  
SUNDAYS TO ASSIST WITH  
DAILY ROUTINE: MORNING  
MEAL, LOADING DISHWASHER,  
LOAD OF LAUNDRY, ETC. JOHN  
SEVIER HIGHWAY. AREA. CALL  
FOR INTERVIEW. 865-337-7137

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

**SOUTH KNOXVILLE /  
UT / DOWNTOWN**  
2 BR, 700 SQ FT APARTMENTS  
\$950/ MONTH  
865-573-1000

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CEDAR BLUFF AREA,  
9005 CAMERO LANE.  
3/2, \$1850 PER MONTH,  
PLUS SECURITY DEPOSIT.  
AVAILABLE JAN. 1, 2026.  
I BELIEVE IN AMERICA®, INC.  
REALTY  
PHONE: 865-566-8987  
E-MAIL: [IBELIEVEINAMERICA@YAHOO.COM](mailto:IBELIEVEINAMERICA@YAHOO.COM)

## WANTED

\*\*\*\*\*WANTED\*\*\*\*\*  
BROKEN PUSH & RIDING MOWERS  
\$10-20 PUSH OR \$40-100 RIDING  
MUST BE COMPLETE  
865-416-7546  
LEAVE PHONE # IF NO ANSWER

★★★ WANTED ★★★  
MILITARY ANTIQUES  
and SOUVENIRS, ALL ERAS  
ESPECIALLY WWII - VIETNAM  
UNIFORMS, MEDALS,  
HELMETS, SWORDS, ETC.  
CALL 865-368-0682

**HELP WANTED**  
Pilot Travel Centers, LLC.  
DBA Pilot Flying J seeks Sr  
Analyst, Quality Assurance  
Applications Development in  
Knoxville, TN to act as lead in  
the planning, monitoring, control  
and execution of testing related  
activities for the QA team. Apply  
at [www.jobpostingtoday.com](http://www.jobpostingtoday.com).  
Ref #53043.



## HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Defense, balanced scoring helps Central run past Lady Devils on the road

**By Ken Lay**

Black Oak Ridge rivals Central and Halls renewed acquaintances on the basketball court, and the Lady Bobcats won their fourth consecutive game on Tuesday night.

Central used a big fourth quarter to pull away and capture a 67-48 victory against its longtime rival.

After a tightly contested first quarter, the Lady Bobcats (5-4 overall, 1-0 in District 3-4A) created a separation between themselves and the Lady Devils (0-6, 0-1). Central led, 17-14, at the end of the opening frame before extending its advantage to

**Cont. on page 2**



Central High's Sasha Foster (23) holds the ball while Mollie Addison Turner defends in the Lady Bobcats' 67-48 victory over the Lady Devils on Tuesday.

## Despite another loss, West girls are making progress

**By Steve Williams**

Cody Graves is in his second season as the girls basketball head coach at West High School.

According to Coach T's results on the internet, the Lady Rebels are having their best season since going 8-9 in 2020-21.

This season the West girls are 5-8 after losing at Powell 67-27 last Tuesday night (Dec. 9) in a district game.

The two keys to the improvement, said Coach Graves, are "the culture and development. We took last year to really build the culture and the expectations of what it takes to be successful."

"The second thing is the development aspect of it. Over the summer we put a lot of work in on just shooting, fundamentals and just becoming a team and getting the little things right."

When asked if he has seen improvement, Graves said: "Oh my gosh,

**Cont. on page 3**



Mason Powell takes a shot in the lane against the West Rebels on Dec. 8. at the Jeff Hunter Gymnasium. Powell led the Panthers with 20 points and also made two clutch free throws with 4.6 seconds left in the game to give PHS a 60-59 win.

## HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

# Sophs lead Powell past Rebels, 60-59

**By Steve Williams**

Powell had four sophomores on the court when it edged West 60-59 for a district win last week.

After the exciting finish, Panthers coach Gary Barnes wondered with delight what the future might bring over the next two years.

Both teams had a chance to win in the final five seconds.

With Powell behind by one point, sophomore Mason Powell was hacked going up for a shot. He swished in both free throws to put the Panthers ahead with 4.6 seconds remaining.

West still had enough time to win the game, but Liam Purnell's shot from the right corner bounced off the rim.

"We toughed out some stops late in the game," said Coach Barnes. And that shot was one of them.

"I thought we played tough tonight," added Barnes. "We didn't do everything perfectly. Obviously, their point guard hurt us a lot. He (Kalou Fofana) scored 32 points."

Fofana finished with 15 points in the final period and made four 3-pointers in the game.

The Panthers improved to 3-4 with the victory.

Powell totaled a game-high 20 points for the Black and Orange. Bray Hansen, another sophomore, added 15 points and soph Darrion McClanahan contributed eight points. The other sophomore, Dalvin Farmer, chipped in a 3-pointer.

Robert Shuler was second in scoring for West with 11 points. Purnell tallied nine points with his three treys.

Powell led by five (16-11) after the first stop. The Rebels trailed 30-27 at halftime. Another surge by the Panthers gave them a 49-40 cushion going into the final eight minutes.

But Fofana evened the score at 55-all with a 3-pointer with a little over three minutes left.

A basket inside by Powell's Hansen knotted the score again at 58 and West called a timeout with 21.3 seconds remaining.

Fofana was fouled and made one of two free throws to give West the lead (59-58) with 13.5 seconds to go.

"Having four sophomores on the floor at the same time is a little unusual," said Coach Barnes. "As for how far we can go with the four sophomores, that depends on how fast they grow and mature. We don't want them to play like sophomores, so I hope they keep learning and keep their nose down and try to get better and not get

**Continue on page 2**



## Your Holiday Shopping Sidekick!

Use KTVAECU® Card Controls and Alerts for added card protection.

Learn More!

☎ (865) 544-5400

🖱 tvacreditunion.com

Federally Insured by NCUA. Be sure the Credit Union has your latest email address before registering your card with Card Controls & Alerts. Data and message rates may apply. Ask for details.





# George Quarles is new Webb football coach

By Steve Williams

George Quarles was announced as Webb School's new football head coach last week.

Quarles had tremendous success as the head coach at Maryville High School from 1999 to 2016, where he accumulated a 250-16 (.939) record and guided teams to 11 state championships.

In December 2016, Quarles stepped down from coaching at Maryville to take an associate head coaching post at his college alma mater, Furman University.

Quarles' achievements have earned him induction into the Tennessee Football Coaches and TSSAA Halls of Fame, as well as the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame and Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame.

"In George Quarles, we have found an exemplary person and remarkable coach to lead Webb's football program into the



future," said Dan Gill, Webb Athletic Director. "Known not only as one of the most successful high school coaches in the state of Tennessee, but also as a leader and mentor who cares deeply about the young men under his leadership,

"George brings with him a firm understanding of our mission – both the important traditions of our Spartan football program and the excellence of Webb as an institution."

In accepting his new position at Webb School, Quarles said he was thrilled to join the Spartan community. "I am extremely excited for this amazing opportunity at Webb School," he said. "And I cannot wait to meet with the players and get to work."



Football coach George Quarles has returned to the high school level at Webb.



Webb's recent college signees (l to r) are Brayden Hazelbaker, Shavar Young, Alex Leeth, Cam Swearengen, Owen Lentz and Tallulah Carney.

**Tennessee Titans' Mr. Football award winners**

Tennessee's best high school football players for 2025 were recognized at the Tennessee Titans Mr. Football Awards luncheon hosted by the Tennessee Titans on Dec. 6.

"They were here not only due to their athletic ability that they displayed on the field throughout the season, but just as much for their outstanding character and academic achievements," said TSSAA Executive Director Mark Reeves.

High school head coaches and members of the media nominated the finalists. A committee of statewide sports writers selected winners based on performance in the 2025 regular season. Academics and character were also taken into consideration.

The Titans became sponsors of the Mr. Football Awards in 2007.

This year's Tennessee Titans' winners:

Division I, Class 1A: DaYon Cooper, South

Pittsburg; Division I, Class 2A:

Zach Groves, East Robertson; Division I, Class 3A: Graham Simpson, Westview; Division I, Class 4A: Caden Baugh, Greeneville; Division I, Class 5A: Cooper Newman, Sevier County; Division I, Class 6A: Kelvin Perkins, Southwind.

Division II, Class A: Jared Curtis, Nashville Christian School; Division II, Class AA: Kaedyn Marable, Battle Ground Academy. Division II, Class AAA: David Gabriel Georges, Baylor.

Kicker of the Year: Tommy Bauchiero, Brentwood Academy.

**LOCAL COLLEGE SIGNED**

**WEBB**

Tallulah Carney, Saint Mary's College of California, volleyball

Brayden Hazelbaker, Virginia College at Wise, basketball

Alex Leeth, Rice University, basketball

Owen Lentz, University of Alabama in Huntsville,



Concord Christian's Kylie Leach (left) and Katelyn Stooksbury signed to play college volleyball at Tusculum and Samford, respectively.

basketball

Cam Swearengen, South Dakota State, basketball

Shavar Young, Clemson, football

**CONCORD CHRISTIAN**

Kylie Leach, Tusculum, volleyball

Katelyn Stooksbury, Samford, volleyball

**POWELL**

Maddie Crawley, Roane State, softball

Jaylan Heatherly, Bryan, softball

Lauren Rimmer, Pellissippi State, volleyball

Genevieve Kwak, Roane State, volleyball

- Compiled by Steve Williams

## Central withstands early 'gut punch' to defeat Halls in district opener

By Ken Lay

New Central High School boys basketball coach J.P. Payne knew that his team was going to face a stiff challenge when it opened the District 3-4A portion of its 2025-26 schedule early last week.

For starters, the Bobcats were playing Halls in a battle for Black Oak Ridge bragging rights. Making things even more difficult for Central was the fact that the game was on the road in extremely hostile territory. And if that wasn't enough, the Red Devils entered the contest looking for their first win of the season.

The Bobcats (8-2 overall, 1-0 in the district) would prevail, but it certainly was not easy. They would

have to come from behind to notch a 79-65 victory before a packed and boisterous house at Halls High School.

"Halls is a better team than their record shows," Payne said. "They really shoot the ball well.

"They came out and got off to a fast start, and we were behind at the end of the first quarter."

The Red Devils (0-6, 0-1) were indeed hot early as they opened a 27-18 lead thanks to 11 first-quarter points from Gaike Harold, who knocked down a pair of shots from beyond the 3-point arc. Miles Comparato and Gavin Barbey also buried long-range jumpers in the frame.

Central began to chip away at its deficit before turning up the defensive

pressure in the second stanza and holding Halls to just eight points in the final eight minutes of the first half.

"We took a gut punch early, but we came out and gave up just eight points," Payne said.

After the 14-8 run in the second quarter, the Bobcats were still trailing, 35-32, at halftime.

Halls still held a 57-55 lead heading into the third quarter, but Central seized control early in the final frame. The Bobcats opened the fourth quarter on an 11-0 run and opened a 66-57 lead when Griffin Odom grabbed an offensive rebound and promptly laid the ball in for a basket with 5 minutes, 41 seconds remaining in the game.

Central would never

trail again. The host Red Devils had one last gasp as they scored six points of the contest and pulled to within 66-63 on a basket by Gabe Holmes with 3:56 remaining.

The Bobcats closed things out with a 13-2 surge to finish on a high note.

"This was a big win for us," Payne said. "It was good to get that first (district win) at Halls out of the way."

Central had four players post double figures in the scoring column. Parker Hampton and Ben Cross had 14 points each, while Ian Clevenger added 12 and D.J. Smith finished with 10.

Harold led the Red Devils with a game-high 15 points, while Comparato had 14.

## Defense, balanced scoring helps Central

**Cont. from page 1**

32-24 by halftime.

The Lady Bobcats held the upper hand throughout the game, but late in the third stanza, Halls enjoyed a bit of a surge as sophomore guard Bella Wires buried the final two shots of the quarter, both from beyond the 3-point arc, trimming the Lady Devils' lead to 49-42.

Halls, playing at home, appeared poised to challenge and possibly pick up their first victory of the season.

But the Lady Bobcats had other ideas.

They cranked up the defensive pressure, which had been constant throughout the game. But it appeared to go up another gear. The defense not only smothered the Lady Devils, but it also led to points in the form of lay-ups and free throws.

When the dust had settled, Central tallied the first 14 points of the final frame on its way to closing the game with a flourish by outscoring the Lady Devils, 18-6, over the last eight minutes of the game.

Wires, who scored the final six points of the third period, wasn't around at the end as she fouled out with 5 minutes, 20 seconds remaining in the

contest.

The Lady Bobcats' defense held Halls High's offense at bay. The Red Devils finally scored their first points of the fourth quarter when senior Mollie Addison Turner made a basket with 2:38 to play.

Lady Bobcats' coach LeBrandon Marie was pleased with his squad's defensive effort. He was, however, pleasantly surprised to discover that the Lady Devils managed to score just six fourth-quarter points.

"That's pretty good," Marie said. "Defense wins championships, and that's what we preach."

"This was a big win for us because this is such a tough place to play."

The stifling defense, coupled with a balanced offensive attack, provided the ingredients for a winning recipe for Central on this night.

Avery Brewer had a game-high 22 points for the Lady Bobcats, while Malia Moore added 19. Teighley Fowler had eight points, all in the fourth quarter.

Brimley Wilson led the Lady Devils with 18 points, including 13 before halftime. Wires finished with 16.

## Sophs lead Powell past Rebels, 60-59

**Cont. from page 1**

discouraged if we have a bad night. Just come back the next day and be ready to go.

"All four of them kids could wind up having great careers here," added Barnes. "They've just

probably been thrown out there a little sooner than they should have been, but I'm proud of them. They're doing good."

**WEST COACH** Tommy Eggleston lost four starters on the talented team he

had last season, including 6-7 Devyn Martin, who now is at Lipscomb University. Eggleston said Martin hurt his knee in the pre-season and has just started working with the team.

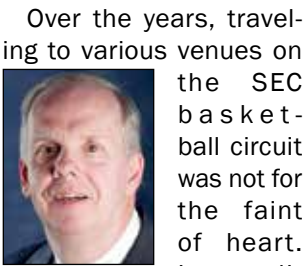
Robert Shuler is the Rebels' lone returning

starter. "He was more of a defender on last season's team," said Eggleston.

Kalou Fofana is playing the point this season and Eggleston said "he's our heartbeat."



# 'A tough task, night-in and night-out'



By Tom Mattingly

Over the years, traveling to various venues on the SEC basketball circuit was not for the faint of heart. In earlier years, it was a tough task, night-in and night-out, 18 games played home-and-home. Things haven't changed very much today. Making the trek through conference venues is still a daunting task.

Take, for example, the 1968-69 University of Tennessee basketball season. The Vols finished 21-7 overall and 13-5 (SEC), with an appearance in the NIT. It featured yeoman-like work from Bill Justus, Billy Hann, Bobby Croft, Jim England, and Don Johnson.

But one night at Vanderbilt in 1969 defined that season and the ever-growing legend of head coach Ray Mears. The Vols swept the two-game series, but it wasn't easy.

Before the 1972-73 season, before freshman eligibility, there were games earlier in the evening between each school's rookies, just to whet the appetites of the early arrivals.

The games between the Vols and Commodores were (and still are) fiercely contested, and the rivalry, especially in Nashville, is not for the faint of heart.

Historically, it's called the "Long Walk." Knoxville Journal sportswriter Ben Byrd wrote that Mears' stroll down the Memorial Gym sideline that season

caused "one of the stormiest chapters" in SEC basketball lore.

For Mears, it was a stroke of genius, one of many in his heralded career. Ray always delighted in these little gimmicks, once going as far as wearing a brown suit at Kentucky, just to get under Adolph Rupp's skin. However, Mears told Byrd, apparently with a straight face, that his walk at Nashville that night was not "premeditated."

It was merely a matter of geography.

"Our dressing room at Vandy then was at the opposite end of the floor from where the team bench was," said Ray. "During the freshman game, I went up in the last half to watch the final 10 minutes or so. I waited for a timeout to walk the length of the floor to our bench."

The reaction was surprising, even to Mears, who said he really didn't seem to expect to create such an uproar. "I knew they'd boo me — they had been doing that for years — but I didn't expect anything as violent as I got."

Byrd wrote that Mears, resplendent in his trademark orange blazer, was greeted by a "cacophony of boos, jeers, catcalls, and other derisive noises," in an attempt to intimidate the Vols on the floor... and those still in the dressing room.

"The crowd got our freshmen so stirred up they went ahead and won the game," said Mears.

The ruckus also helped the Vol varsity, 70-60 winners in a game many Vol fans had mentally chalked

up as a loss.

John Ward once noted that there wasn't an orange to be had in Davidson County the day of a Tennessee-Vanderbilt basketball game. That might have been an exaggeration, but those of us who saw many of the games played in Nashville will tell you it was quite a show.

In 1971, Tennessee point guard Dickie Johnston, all 5-8 of him, was hit with an orange, and the Vols won that night, too. He did earn a technical foul for his efforts, however, when he hurled the basketball into the Commodore student section.

Mears made his 1970 stroll at Vanderbilt with Vol track star Bill Skinner, all 6-7 and 250 pounds of him at his side. Marvin West called that move "part of the psychological warfare, the flag before the bull."

Tennessee warmed up with an orange and white basketball in those days, and there was a time Vandy students grabbed hold of the spheroid and wouldn't let go. Mears tried the normal routine of getting the ball back by sending a manager into the crowd. All that did was embolden the masses. Mears then dispatched Skinner, who made his way into the mass of humanity and requested the ball. Whoever had it, let it go... very quickly.

There was also a piece of intriguing irony in one of the last Tennessee-Vanderbilt games at Stokely Center. In the midst of a close finish, an orange came sailing onto the court. As the perpetrator was apprehended, leaving with police escort,



WINNERS ALL: Chuck Rohe (track and field, L), Doug Dickey (football, C), and Ray Mears (basketball, R) had successful tenures as University of Tennessee head coaches.

the noise level in the old arena swelled, especially as fans got a glimpse of his black and gold jacket hidden under an orange one he was wearing as a disguise.

In his Tennessee career, Mears fashioned his own brand of "Memorial Magic." Mears' teams were 20-10 against the Commodores, 9-6 in Memorial Gym, along with an 11-4 mark in

Knoxville.

As things have usually happened over the years, the SEC powers-that-be stepped in and put a halt to the "Long Walk," citing safety concerns. Tennessee's dressing room was moved closer to its bench area. Life became more peaceful in Memorial Gym... but that's a relative term.

Ray Mears had made a

statement.

"The art of one-upsmanship is a long way from being dead," wrote Ben.

It's December, with college football and basketball vying for attention from the viewing public. Conference play hasn't yet started, but, come January, SEC excitement begins and the race is on.

The stories are legendary.



PHOTO BY MYAH WILSON.

Powell's Izy Wiles looks for a teammate to throw the ball to in the Lady Panthers' 67-27 win over West on Dec. 9. The Lady Rebels' won-loss record over the past four seasons is 3-90 according to Coach T.

## Despite another loss, West girls are making progress

Cont. from page 1

absolutely, win or lose, no matter what, this is a night and day difference from four years ago.

"These girls want it," he added. "They are asking a lot of questions. They want to get better. They love each other, so that's a big part of it, too."

West opened its season with back to back wins over Carter and Gibbs. The Lady Rebels also have defeated Lakeway Christian three times, including once in a holiday tournament.

All together Graves said he's been coaching for about 12 years. He started in rec league, moved up to middle school ball and was in the KISL for about two or three years. He also has done a lot of training in the Knoxville area and owns an AAU program. "So basketball is my pride and

joy," he said.

Graves is from New York and the Long Island area. "Family," he said, brought him to Knoxville.

Powell jumped out to a 14-5 lead against West in the first period and stretched its advantage to 31-12 by halftime. The Lady Panthers poured in 31 points in the third frame to make it 62-16.

The Powell girls hit 10 3-pointers in the game.

Miliana Espiritu took individual scoring honors with 16 points. Anna White swished in three 3-pointers and totaled 11 points. Daisy Gentry and Payton Richmond Watson chipped in eight points apiece. Izy Wiles, Claire Campbell and Hannah Hayes contributed six points each.

Cole Adams scored nine and Charleigh Freeman six for West.

By Mark Nagi

There is no way around it. The College Football Playoff system must be sent to the Great Beyond.

The selection format, as revealed by the weekly ranking, reveals the number of teams involved, and the hypocritical treatment of conference title games...

Bury it.

Bury the College Football Playoff system with a shovel and then bury the shovel.

This year, the CFB Playoff Committee outdid itself, bending over backwards to ensure that an undeserving Alabama team made the field of 12. But that shouldn't be a surprise. In 2022, the committee ranked Alabama ahead of Tennessee, despite the Vols being ahead in every significant metric and the head-to-head matchup. In that four-team era, Alabama finished 5th, as they couldn't justify placing 2-loss Alabama ahead of undefeated Georgia and Michigan, and one-loss TCU and Ohio State.

In 2023, the committee put 1-loss Alabama ahead of undefeated ACC champion Florida State. Never had an undefeated Power conference team missed the playoffs. But the Committee was giving

Nick Saban one more shot at another national title.

In 2024, had SMU been blown out in the ACC title game, they would have been bounced, and Alabama would have elevated to the 12th and final playoff position. But SMU lost on a last-second FG, and the committee couldn't justify knocking them out completely.

But this year is the coup de gras. The CFB playoff committee simply chose to place Alabama in the field... and then figure out how to justify it later.

Over the last half of the season, Alabama struggled to beat 4-8 South Carolina, 7-5 LSU, and 5-7 Auburn. They beat FCS Eastern Illinois, lost to Oklahoma, and then were blown out in the SEC championship game against Georgia. They are not a playoff-caliber team.

In Week 5 of the rankings, the committee moved Alabama up to 9th place, just after they barely beat a lousy Auburn squad. And in Week 6, the final week of the rankings, they stayed in 9th place after that Georgia beatdown.

Alabama needed to be in the top 10 to make the playoffs, so the prevailing thought process was that the committee was shielding them in case the SEC

title game didn't go well. However, now we see that Alabama could have lost by 1,000 points, and the committee wasn't even going to drop them a single position.

In all the other Power 4 title games, the loser fell a bit. Ohio State, BYU and Virginia each dropped spots.

Except Alabama.

This is the good old boy network on full display. The conference title games should either matter, or they shouldn't.

There is certainly an argument to be made for eliminating conference title games all-together. In an era of bloated conferences and uneven schedules, there is no reason to continue playing these games except for the money they make for the conferences. And if we've learned anything over the years, it is that when it comes to collegiate athletics, there's never enough money.

The committee has its favorites, and they were going to get Alabama into the field at all costs. They weren't going to shut out the ACC entirely, so Miami got in. Despite its national brand, the fact that the Fighting Irish was riding a 10-game win streak, and its position in the field according to the rankings

in Week 5, Notre Dame was left without a chair when the music stopped.

In their infinite wisdom, the Committee also gives us two first-round rematches (Alabama/Oklahoma and Tulane/Ole Miss). The format also features James Madison at Oregon, which likely will be an unwatchable blowout.

Quarterfinal games are still being played at bowl sites, which takes actual compelling matchups away from college campuses. But hey, the bowls are happy, and the television networks are happy, so you should be happy, fans in Bloomington, Columbus, Athens, and Lubbock!

The powers that be will use the selection controversy to expand the playoff field to 16 or 24, further devaluing the regular season. Remember, these are the same people who want to expand the NCAA basketball tournaments beyond 68 teams... something very few fans want to see happen.

College football might be the best sport in the world, which is truly incredible considering the numerous attempts to undermine it.

# The College Football Playoff Sham












**2023 Ford Ranger Lariat 4X4, Crew \$39,900**  
**2021 Ford Mustang Mach-E, Premium \$28,900**  
**'20 Lincoln Corsair Rsv AWD, 16K miles! \$32,777**  
**2021 Ford Bronco 1st Edition, Hard to find! \$49,995**  
**2025 Nissan Rogue Rock Creek, 16K miles \$32,777**  
**'23 Lincoln Nav Reserve 4X4, Low miles \$63,999**  
**2023 Ford F-150 Lariat 4X4, Loaded! \$33,975**

*Also take advantage of our Quicklane Tire and Auto Center - No Appointment Needed!*  
 Price includes \$399 dock fee. Plus tax, tag and title. WAC. Dealer retains all rebates.  
 Restrictions may apply. See Dealer for details. Prices good through next week.



**RAY VARNIER**  
 Call Dan or Ray for all your New or Used Car & Truck needs.  
 2026 N Charles G Seivers Blvd · Clinton, TN  
**865.457.0704**  
 www.rayvarnerford.com

Email legals@knoxfocus.com to place your legal or public notice.



Whether you are closing a door on one chapter, or ready to open a door to a bright future, CHASE can help!

If you are needing to sell, or if you're ready to buy - call  
**CHASE CLEMMER**  
 at  
**865-679-1514.**

**STEPHENSON REALTY & AUCTION**

Stephenson Realty & Auction  
 210 Seivers Blvd.  
 Clinton, TN 37716  
 Office 865-457-2327

# LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF CAROL DAVID LOVEDAY, JR.**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91842-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of CAROL DAVID LOVEDAY, JR., who died October 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 first publication as described in (1)(A); or

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

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

This the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
**MADISON LASHAY LOVEDAY**  
 350 DOUGLAS DAM ROAD  
 KODAK, TN 37764

**HEATHER N. MCCOY, ATTORNEY**  
 528 GRACE AVENUE  
 SEVIERVILLE, TN 37862

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF HAROLD MANAS**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91878-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of HAROLD MANAS, who died on November 5, 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 4th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

**ESTATE OF HAROLD MANAS**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
**PENNY Z. MCPEAK**

**LAWRENCE P. LEIBOWITZ, ATTORNEY**  
**BRANDON J. TINDELL, ATTORNEY**  
 608 S. GAY STREET, SUITE 200  
 KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ANN MANAS**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91881-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of ELIZABETH ANN MANAS, who died on October 7, 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 4th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

**ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ANN MANAS**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
**PENNY Z. MCPEAK**

**LAWRENCE P. LEIBOWITZ, ATTORNEY**  
**BRANDON J. TINDELL, ATTORNEY**  
 608 S. GAY STREET, SUITE 200  
 KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF DENISE LEANN MCGAHA**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91848-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 8th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of DENISE LEANN MCGAHA, who died October 19, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of 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 8th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

**ESTATE OF DENISE LEANN MCGAHA**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
**DUSTIN LEE MCGAHA**  
 2704 SOOD ROAD, APT. 17  
 KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

**ANTHONY JARED MCGAHA**  
 1031 JOSEPH DRIVE  
 KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

**SARAH EMILY STILL, ATTORNEY**  
 1518 N. BROADWAY  
 KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF KATHERINE DENMARK MORAN**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91836-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of NOVEMBER, 2025, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of KATHERINE DENMARK MORAN who died on November 8, 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 25th day of NOVEMBER, 2025.

**ESTATE OF KATHERINE DENMARK MORAN**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
**BOWEN DENMARK MORAN**  
 509 OVERLAND TRAIL  
 KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

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

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JO ANN MOYERS**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91830-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of JO ANN MOYERS, who died October 12, 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 DECEMBER, 2025.

**ESTATE OF JO ANN MOYERS**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
**RONALD COBB**  
 1858 CHEROKEE BLUFF DRIVE  
 KNOXVILLE, TN 37920-2249

**AMY E. BURROUGHS, ATTORNEY**  
 315 HIGH STREET  
 MARYVILLE, TN 37804

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF DORA ANN NEIL**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91758-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 9th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of DORA ANN NEIL, who died October 6, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 9th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

**ESTATE OF DORA ANN NEIL**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
**DAVID C. NEIL**  
 804 WHITEHALL DRIVE  
 KNOXVILLE, TN 37909

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

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JAMES H. PRESSLEY, JR.**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91775-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary (or Letters of Administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of JAMES H. PRESSLEY, JR., deceased, who died on the 20th day of August, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

**ESTATE OF JAMES H. PRESSLEY, JR.**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
**CLAIRE MORGAN**  
 321 LEEPER OVERLOOK  
 DANDRIDGE, TN 37725

**ROBERT W. GODWIN, ATTORNEY**  
 4611 OLD BROADWAY  
 KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF VALERIE PRIVETT**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91774-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of VALERIE PRIVETT, who died on the 18th day of October, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court,

Probate Division of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident having claims, matured or unmatured against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

**ESTATE OF VALERIE PRIVETT**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
**HEATHER A. STEWART**  
 3425 NORTH COVE ROAD  
 LOUISVILLE, TN 37777

**RONALD J. ATTANASIO, ATTORNEY**  
 625 MARKET STREET, SUITE 700  
 KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF KEVIN THOMAS REILLY**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91845-2**

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

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

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

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

This the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

**ESTATE OF KEVIN THOMAS REILLY**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
**CHRISTINE HAMILTON**  
 8017 PARADISE DRIVE  
 POWELL, TN 37849

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

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF KIRK SKILLERN ROEGELEIN**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91737-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 3rd day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of KIRK SKILLERN ROEGELEIN, who died September 20, 2025 were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty 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 DECEMBER, 2025.

**ESTATE OF KIRK SKILLERN ROEGELEIN**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
**ROY D. ROEGELEIN**  
 140 LAKEWOOD ROAD  
 MARYVILLE, TN 37807

**GLENNA W. OVERTON-CLARK, ATTORNEY**  
 9111 CROSS PARK DR., SUITE D-200  
 KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF CHRISTOPHER LORNE RUDD**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91833-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters of Testamentary/ Administration in respect to the Estate of CHRISTOPHER LORNE RUDD, deceased, who died on October 19, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division for Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured against his/her Estate are required to file the same in triplicate 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 as described in (1)(A); or

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

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

This the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

**ESTATE OF CHRISTOPHER LORNE RUDD**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
**CHRISTINA DANIELLE MCINTOSH**  
 7325 EMERALD FARM WAY  
 CORYTON, TN 37721

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

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF ROBERTA L. SMITH**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91744-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 4 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ROBERTA L. SMITH, 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 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 4 day of DECEMBER, 2025

**ESTATE OF ROBERTA L. SMITH**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)**  
**JOEL D. SMITH, EXECUTOR**  
 5416 HOLSTON HILLS ROAD  
 KNOXVILLE, TN 37914

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF BILLY WAYNE SMITH**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91837-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of BILLY WAYNE SMITH, who died October 1, 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 publication of this notice, if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication; or

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

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

This the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.