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Zonings, appointments and contracts on city council agenda

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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When the five new Knoxville City Council members attend their first full-council meeting on Tuesday, January 6, they will encounter an agenda packed full of zoning requests, contract agreements and appointments to

various city committees.

Mayor Indya Kincannon will ask for confirmation to appoint Luis Urrea to the Board of Zoning Appeals, Jackie Robinson to the Police Advisory and Review Committee and Lisa Sorensen to the Design Review Board.

The council will also consider the mayor's agreement with

Progression Electric LLC for city-wide traffic signal maintenance and her agreement with Henley Roofing Company Inc. for the L T. Ross Building Reroof Project.

Also on the agenda is a contract with Event Approvals Inc. to provide software to facilitate the issuance of special event permits in a three-year agreement.

The council will review a rezoning request for the property at 1137 Simpson Street, changing from low-density residential to South Waterfront Mixed Use Type 2 and from RN-2, single-family residential, to RN-4, general residential.

A portion of Reed Street running south from West Baxter

Avenue may be closed with council approval.

On the consent calendar, which contains several agenda items that may be passed with only one vote unless a council member asks for something to be pulled for discussion, there are numerous zoning requests.

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'DON'T CROWD THE PLOW'



PHOTO BY PETE GAWDA

Gibbs High School art teacher, Ethan Pignatario, kneeling at right, poses with some of his students and the snowplow they painted. Left to right are: Mason Buckman, Ethan Hutchison, Brody Sivyer, Abby Mullins, Brennen Rogillio, Liela Worsham, Avery Kuykendall, Addison Ellis, Leigh Vesser, Savannah Pagan and Aaden Marquez.

Gibbs High artists collaborate on TDOT 'Paint the Plow' project

By Pete Gawda

"It will be used like every other snowplow, but it will be prettier," said Drew Rutherford of the Tennessee Department of Transportation. He was referring to the colorful snowplow blade that was painted by the art students of Gibbs High School. The snowplow was unveiled at the school on Monday, December 15.

"We've never done a snowplow," said Gibbs art teacher

Ethan Pignatario, who supervised the project. "Mr. P," as he is known by his students, said his students have done community-based projects before, but he was "super excited" about the snowplow. He said that 15 art students worked on the project for about a month.

"Mr. P let us do our own thing," tenth grader Mason Buckman said. Each student came up with their own design to be incorporated into the overall painting.

Rutherford said that four to six snowplow blades are painted each year statewide by art students, including at least one snowplow from each of TDOT's regions. This year, Gibbs High School got the honors for the Knoxville region. Last year, it was Fulton High School.

Jason Welsh, a four-year veteran of TDOT, will be operating the snowplow. Last year, he operated the snowplow painted by Fulton.

In the event of inclement weather this winter, you might see this snowplow blade being used to clear snow and ice from interstate lanes and state routes across Knox County.

"Don't crowd the plow," is the advice TDOT gives drivers. Don't tailgate or stop too close to snowplows. On multiple lanes, watch for snowplows operating in either lane.

James White Greenway will be closed from Volunteer Landing to Riverside Drive, near Gov. Ned McWherter Park. The temporary detour for bicyclist commuters will utilize East Hill Avenue, George Dempster Drive (if headed eastward), Historic Preservation Drive (if headed westward) and Riverside Drive. One option for pedestrians might be to use the Morningside Greenway.

"The City apologizes for the inconvenience of the closure, but these repairs are necessary now," Parks and Greenways Coordinator Alison Bullock said. "This involves more than just superficially repaving the surface. Gravity and erosion over the years have had their way, so Public Service crews will be removing existing asphalt patches, rebuilding the subgrade and reinforcing the steep riverbank."

The work is being done during the winter months, Bullock said, because that's when greenways are used the least by pedestrians and bicyclists, as opposed to the warmer seasons.

2026 is going to be a very political year in Knox County

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The new year will be a huge political year with Knox County, state and federal elections.

The May 5, 2026 Knox County primary will be for the following offices: county mayor, trustee, sheriff, circuit court clerk, criminal court clerk, county clerk, register of deeds, four commission seats and five board of education seats. Two judge seats will be on the ballot to fill unexpired terms: Criminal Court Judge, Division I, and General Sessions Judge,

Division IV. County candidates began picking up petitions on December 22, 2025, and February 19, 2026, is the petition deadline. Early voting starts on April 15, 2026.

Thursday, August 6, 2026, is the date for the general election for the local primary winners along with a primary for Tennessee Governor, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House candidates. Also on that primary ballot are two Tennessee Senate races, seven Tennessee House races, and state executive candidates for four

districts. The town of Farragut will see the non-partisan election of a mayor and two aldermen on August 6.

Early voting for the 2026 general election in November will begin October 14.

County Commission Contests So Far...

Commissioner Kim Frazier has picked up a petition to run for Knox County Mayor. Commissioner Larsen Jay and board

of education member

Betsy Henderson have expressed interest but have not picked up petitions as of deadline. All three are Republicans.

The at-large Seat 11, being vacated by the

Continued on page 3



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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Resolutions

It is impossible for a man to learn what he thinks he already knows.

Epictetus

I don't remember making New Year's resolutions. Maybe my reminiscences have just been lost in the metaphorical sands of time. After all, I don't remember phone numbers like I used to. I blame this on my iPhone, which has made me lazy in this respect. I still remember important things like family birthdays and anniversaries. So I'm not worried.

Not surprisingly, memorization is becoming a lost art. Ancient cultures were largely aural instead of written because most people could not read or write. Storytelling was therefore a necessity. There were even professional rascals (storytellers) capable of prodigious feats of memorization.

This year on Christmas

Eve, I made it all the way through "A Visit from Saint Nicholas" without a mistake. This was a first. Usually, my recitation of Clement Moore's magical poem necessitates help from my family and friends. This produces a comedic shtick with lots of laughter as they watch the pseudo-racoon struggle.

I also memorize scripture. Billy Graham once lamented not memorizing more scripture when he was younger because, as he grew old and his eyesight failed, it became difficult to read the Bible. Too bad he didn't have modern tech. I have an app on my iPhone that can read scripture to me.

With a new year dawning, it's reasonable to think about new directions, especially as we recover from a Biden administration hangover. America's malaise is not from a nighttime of carousing, but the sickness

of the auto-pen presidency which produced terrible inflation, a struggling economy, open borders that overwhelmed our resources and flooded the country with criminals, drugs and crime. And Biden's foreign policy disasters, like Afghanistan, made America less safe and encouraged China and "mad Vlad."

Ordinarily, I don't care for the year in review stories, but how do you know where you're going if you don't know where you've been? That was the Cheshire Cat's question to Alice in Wonderland. I won't bore you with an extensive 2025 retrospective, but consider the following facts of the last year:

2025 was a good year for America because we now have a competent president. You may disagree with Trump, but I pray that you're not suffering from the delusional hatred of TDS and can be fair-minded. Trump was elected in a landslide, and we now see what a competent leader can do in just one year.

We now have a secure border. The millions of aliens allowed into the country have strained our resources, and in places like Minnesota, have led to wholesale fraud. Criminal illegals are now being arrested, imprisoned or deported.

The decades-long war on drugs finally has a champion who is action-oriented. Instead of vacuous campaign slogans, President Trump is attacking the narco-terrorists, the drug cartels and narco-states which support the illicit drug industry that kill 100,000 Americans every year.

It may anger some, but I think a lot of Americans are fickle and have the attitude, "What have you done for me today?" We are a drive-through culture of fast food and fast information from sound bites, which are easily manipulated by corrupt major media and perverse social media.

Pontius Pilate once asked Jesus, "What is truth?" I don't think the Roman proconsul was honestly seeking the facts, nor had he read the Stoic Greek philosopher Epictetus. But the question is relevant today because it is difficult to find non-manipulated facts, let alone discern the truth.

James Carville, the "Ragin' Cajun," still rants in the media. His claim to fame is that he was the principal strategist in Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign and coined the term, "It's the economy, stupid."

But is that still true? It is a fact that President Trump and his policies have cut inflation from 9%

to 2.6%. It is a fact that the US trade deficit has been cut by 60%, and the GDP (gross domestic product) is up to a "blistering" 4.3% from Biden's anemic 2.4%. It is a fact that the stock market is soaring, helping millions of Americans instead of just the wealthy. It is a fact that wages are up, gas prices are down, and billions of dollars are flowing into the Treasury through tariffs. It is a fact that there is an unprecedented influx of investments into our country, helping to reindustrialize the US. President Trump is a peace advocate; the job the worthless UN should be doing.

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his handlers orchestrated. Democrats can't deal with the facts, so they resort to emotion and push the affordability talking point. Their corrupt stooges in the lefty media are happy to manipulate people. Why anyone would listen to these proven liars is beyond me.

So, I will make a New Year's resolution to "fight, fight, fight" against the anti-American Democrat Socialist party elites who now control the Democrat party. Before you can fix a problem, there must first be recognition that a problem exists. We have all heard this axiomatic truth. I will dedicate this column to educating those who have not closed their minds.

It is time for Americans to wise up and step up to help President Trump save the country. There's so much to be thankful for at the beginning of 2026: life, wife and Jesus Christ are my big three.

But there is more. Our country will celebrate 250 years of freedom in 2026. Patriots who won America's freedom in the Revolutionary War endured terrible privation. It is now our duty to save the country for our kids and grandkids. Becky and I are on the march and already have our T-shirts!

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

Zonings, appointments and contracts on city council agenda

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The property at 4900 Buffet Mill Road may revert to its previous zoning designation, and 100 West Depot may change from general industrial to Downtown Warehouse Subdistrict.

A site at 207 Hidell Road may be changed from

a highway commercial zoning to a single-family residential neighborhood. Zero West Depot could go from no zoning to Downtown Warehouse and be designated 100 West Depot.

Zero Global Way may change from office park to a general commercial

district.

The council may also approve an application for a \$631,577 grant from the federal government's Department of Justice for funding the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

MLK Commemorative Commission Announces King Week

Thursday, January 15 | 12:00 p.m.
Thomas "Tank" Strickland Leadership Awards Luncheon

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Marc Lamont Hill
Sold Out

Friday, January 16 | 7:00 p.m.
Community Forum

Beck Cultural Exchange Center

Saturday, January 17 | 8:30 a.m.
Youth Summit

Austin East High School
Registration open

Sunday, January 18 | 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Night With the Arts

Community Evangelistic Church

Monday, January 19
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
MLK Memorial Tribute Service

Overcoming Believers Church

"King Week is not just a celebration of history," said representatives of the MLK Commemorative Commission. "It is a call to action that challenges each of us to participate in building a more just, inclusive, and compassionate community."

The MLK Commemorative Commission encourages the public to attend the Gallery of Arts Tribute on January 2 and to engage fully in the events throughout King Week 2026. Additional details, locations, and updates are available at www.mlk-knoxville.com.



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Leftist Hypocrisy Running Rampant



By Steve Hunley,
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It seems that every socialist leader in this country is, to the core of their souls, a "for thee but not for me" variety of socialist. While it might be a wonderful way of living for the masses, it doesn't quite suit the leadership who are busy fighting the "oligarchy." There is Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who flies on private jets and stays in pricey luxury hotels on her stops to denounce the oligarchs while living like one. There was AOC wearing her spectacular "Tax the Rich" gown, the retail cost of which was almost \$19,000, according to the House Ethics Committee.

It doesn't quite fit to label ancient Bernie Sanders as a socialist; he's more of a socialist, with three homes and himself a millionaire.

The latest scandal involving the fraud in Minnesota is \$4 million paid to a day-care with a sign reading: "Quality Learing Center." Yep, the "learning" part of the center on its outdoor sign was misspelled. Even worse, reportedly, the day-care had no kids.

When Ilhan Omar was first elected to Congress, she reported to the House of Representatives that her net worth was between negative \$25,000 and negative \$65,000. Ilhan said she had no assets aside from a car payment and student loan debt.

Omar, the antisemite congresswoman from the heart of Somali-in-Minneapolis, while covering her head as a good Muslim, frequently wears Jimmy Choo shoes, which are pretty expensive. I looked them up online and saw a pair "on sale" for \$4,900. Anti-semitic enough to please Adolf Hitler and socialist enough to make Karl Marx squeal with delight, Omar's husband/husband, not her brother/husband, but another one, has a company which may be

worth as much as \$30 million. Supposedly, Omar's husband/husband has a venture capital company which, as might be expected, had been worth literally nothing and, according to the story appearing in the New York Post, skyrocketed to \$30 million in a year. Omar's husband/husband must be a financial whizbang of epic proportions. It must be a pure coincidence that happened as the super fraudulent \$9 billion scheme was occurring in Minnesota's Somali community. So far, 90 people have been charged in the scheme to defraud hardworking taxpayers, some with very close ties to Congresswoman Omar.

Still, Omar and husband/husband Tim Mynett have declared, as members of Congress must comply with ethics regulations, a net worth of between \$6 million and \$30 million.

Surely it is yet another unpleasant circumstance that a video has recently come to light with Omar dishing out food at a restaurant which is at the epicenter of the scandal fleecing the taxpayers. And it is probably another unfortunate circumstance that

Congresswoman Ilhan Omar was the sponsor of legislation, which some have described as "the largest fraud of the pandemic." Apparently, Ilhan's legislation relaxed certain standards and away we went! Ilhan introduced a bill known as the MEALS Act in 2020, which did specifically ease the government oversight of the programs to provide meals for children during the COVID scare. That allowed the fraudsters to say they served millions of dollars' worth of meals without having them verified. At the same time, the lucky vendors were stash-ing away millions of dollars in taxpayer-funded subsidies.

Mynett's company supposedly manages \$60 billion in assets. The counsel to the National Legal and Policy Center, Paul Kamenar, said, "She was basically broke when she came into office, and now she's worth perhaps up to \$30 million ... she needs to come clean on these assets." Mynett's company boasts about its "deep global networks built from on-the-ground work in more than 80 countries." When Mynett started his business, it evidently

had "less than \$1,000 in assets in 2023." That was according to Congresswoman Omar's own financial disclosure to the House of Representatives. The address for Tim Mynett's business, which apparently is growing like Topsy, is just "We Work in DC." In recent days, Mynett's Rose Lake Capital has been removing names from its list of officers and advisers.

Another unfortunate set of circumstances gripped Mynett when he was sued by a wine investor in 2023 who accused the financial wizard of having "fraudulently misrepresented ... that eStCru, LLC was a legitimate company." That suit was settled out of court.

Evidently, eStCru was a winery. Mynett's wine company doesn't appear to be selling wines anymore.

The set of unfortunate circumstances plaguing Ilhan and her husband/husband has kept growing with annoying frequency. Ilhan appeared on video to shower praise on the Safari Restaurant. "Every day, Safari provides 2,300 meals to children and their families," Ilhan chirped as she handed out food trays in a parking lot during the

COVID scare. Fellow Leftists forgave her for having her mask pulled down below her nose, which was unforgivable when committed by a non-Leftist.

One of Ilhan's big supporters, Guhaad Hashi Said, who worked on her 2018 and 2020 campaigns, pleaded guilty in August for fraudulently collecting \$3.2 million with a bogus site named Advance Youth Athletic Development, which he claimed was providing 5,000 meals per day. The unfortunate circumstances just kept piling up.

Remember when DOGE was starting up, the Democrats in Congress denied there was a dollar's worth of fraud, much less millions or billions. They told us these programs could not possibly be cut lest children would starve to death at the empty daycares. Uh oh! These things really are a set of unfortunate circumstances.

Bless her heart. Poor Ilhan Omar! Who has ever seen such a run of bad luck?

2026 is going to be a very political year in Knox County

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that she will run for re-election, and Democrat Brandon Huckabee and Republican Sheri Super have both picked up petitions.

District 7's Rhonda Lee hasn't asked for a petition to retain her seat as of yet, but has expressed interest in the General Sessions Judge IV office. Her commission seat, so far, has Republicans Barry Beeler, Buddy Buckhardt and Justin Mash with petitions in hand. Lee's primary race for the judgeship may put her up against recently appointed Andrea Kline. Friday, January 2, was the first day to pick up a petition for General Sessions Judge, Division IV.

In District 3, Chairwoman Gina Oster has expressed

Correction

In The Focus's December 15 edition, the applicant and address given in Mike Steely's "South Knox development approved over objections" was incorrect. The correct applicant was Leonard Development LLC with a rezoning request for property at 0 Winkle Lane. We apologize for the error.

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2025 – The Year That Was, Part 2

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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Throughout the year, The Knoxville Focus has kept you informed with news, sports and commentary. As the free community-minded newspaper, The Focus continues to serve you in print and online. We hope you had a great year and we wish you and yours all the best in 2026.

Here's a look back at a few of the stories and events The Focus covered in 2025.

JULY

The new Juvenile Service Center Board, made up of appointed Knox County Commissioners, met for the first time to oversee the controversial youth detention center whose founder and administrator, Richard L. Bean, had been forced to retire.

The Knox County Junior Commission Youth Civics Education Program was recognized with a 2025 National Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties.

Applications were sought for the Knox County Sheriff's Office Employees' Merit System Board following the resignation of Chairman Christopher Manning. Board member Kenny Boatman was chosen to chair the group.

The school board voted to restrict student cell phone use during school hours.

Greenways and streets got some attention from the Knoxville City Council, along with several zoning change requests to allow more housing. The Knoxville City Council ballot was set, and July 28 was the last day to register to vote.

Christian Academy coach Chad Speck was featured in a story about his family's Hawaii vacation during the annual TSSAA Dead Period. A feature on Farragut softball manager Molly Barker revealed her talents as a singer.

The Knoxville Smokies defeated the Montgomery Biscuits, and the annual KFOA Media Day kicked off the football season.

Knoxville Smokies Grant Kipp and Casey Opitz were honored as the first two pro athlete Careacter Star Awards. Elston Turner was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, and the new Seymour coach Caleb Olive was excited about the upcoming season.

The Focus began its High School Football Previews with Bearden, Concord Christian and South-Doyle. The King's Academy announced it would not have a football team in 2025.

The statue of two children reading a book was replaced at Strickland Park after the original was apparently stolen. Karns High School hosted the 72nd Annual Karns Community Fair, and Wellpoint Tennessee and Emerald Youth combined to host a Back-To-School Bash.

The Focus began its City Council candidate interview series and Knox County Chief Finance Officer/Co-Chief of Staff Chris Caldwell was featured. The Iron Mountain Sporting Clays of Kodak was the setting for the second Knox County GOP tournament.

AUGUST

Jaybee Brennan was chosen to fill out the term of former Merit Board Chairman Christopher Manning. The Knox County Beer Board reviewed several beer sale violations where sales were made to minors and the School Board looked at the use of cell phones in schools. The former county health department building on Cedar Bluff was sold.

The commission began looking at new qualifications for Merit Board members, and KCSO employees and a Schaad Road commercial zoning drew some controversy. The Juvenile Service Center Board met for the second time and heard interim administrator Brian Bivens report on hiring a captain. They also discussed updating the camera system and hiring more staff.

County Finance Director Chris Caldwell warned the commission that the county will face bleak budgets in the near future as bonds issued years ago come due. Chairwoman Gina Oster was again selected by that body for the position and at-large Commissioner Kim Frazier was chosen as vice chair.

Burlington broke ground for a new city fire station, and the City Council Rules Committee began meeting to review and update how the council operates. The city council approved a contract for repairs to the Cecil Webb Recreation Center and two landowners' requests to be annexed into the city.

The August 21 primary sent the top two winners from each district on to the general election. Districts 2 and 4 only had two

The image shows three separate front pages of The Knoxville Focus newspaper, each with a different masthead date. The mastheads are: "The Knoxville Focus ONLINE AUCTION Friday, August 11, 2025 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Fountain City Auctions 800-547-4881", "The Knoxville Focus ONLINE AUCTION Friday, October 24, 2025 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Fountain City Auctions 800-547-4881", and "The Knoxville Focus ONLINE AUCTION Friday, December 1, 2025 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Fountain City Auctions 800-547-4881". Each page contains several news articles, some with photographs, and various advertisements for local businesses like Armstrong Remodeling, Oster, and the Gay Street Bridge.

The Knoxville Focus front pages from August 11, October 20 and December 1, 2025.

candidates, so they advanced. The council discussed the "Cottage Courts" concept of housing, and the mayor's budget powers were questioned in a council meeting. The city council approved patio beer sales, and The Muse was approved to take over the Jacob Building in Chilhowee Park in 2028.

The Focus continued previewing area football teams as the KOC Classic drew near.

The Central High School Alumni donated \$4,000 to the Bobcat Band. Ground was broken for a new Seymour Volunteer Fire Department fire station, and resident Bruce Hall celebrated his 100th Birthday at the Marbledale Baptist Church.

The Focus caught up with Michael Grider, and Knox Heritage released the names of the historic Fragile and Fading sites.

SEPTEMBER

The Knox County Commission held a marathon meeting dealing with reorganization, ethics and how the body is structured. A subcommittee was named to review the county's ethics, and the commission chose two new merit board members.

The Juvenile Detention Center Board heard a plea for more funding, and the county beer board approved a unique venue, a business that caters to dog owners.

East Knoxville citizens rallied against the sale of Chilhowee Park land to Emerald Youth at a community meeting and in council sessions, where the sale was postponed.

The Powell Panthers rallied to beat Farragut, 26-21, in Week 2 of the season. Powell QB Deuce Rodgers would come back from knee surgery to lead Powell to victory over Halls High School in Week 3.

Grace Christian defeated Carter 41-21, and Tennessee School for the Deaf's Renzen Shaw, an All American last season, was featured by The Focus. The Bearden Soccer Invitational got underway.

Karns football kicker Alexis Maciejewski was featured, and Alexandra Vesser led Hardin Valley's girls cross country team to victory.

Powell's Panthers defeated the Karns Beavers after an explosive first half in Week 5. South-Doyle scored a record 76 points over Union County in Week 6, and Farragut edged out Bearden in a 25-21 victory.

The Tennessee Valley Fair kicked off in Chilhowee Park, and the Emerald Youth Foundation hosted the Rick Barnes Golf Tournament.

OCTOBER

The county unveiled a monument to the late Deputy Tucker Blakely at Emory Road and Brickyard Road.

The Merit Board met briefly and selected Lindsey Willis as vice chair on a motion from Chairman Kenny Boatman. Knox-911 Director Brad Anders told a meeting that the emergency system is in good financial shape.

City council killed the idea of selling 13 acres in Chilhowee Park to Emerald Youth Foundation. Work began on converting the closed Gay Street Bridge for pedestrian and cyclist-only use. Supporters of a city sales tax increase promoted the benefits of affordable housing while early voting for city council's five seats began.

Racer Trevor Bayne appeared at the SouthEast Bank Fountain City Fall Fest, and the Hardin Valley boys golf team qualified for the state tournament for the first time.

The Tennessee School for the Deaf won the opening game on its new home field Thursday, October 2. The Hardin Valley boys and girls teams captured the TSSAA state golf championships. Seymour won against Northview Academy in football and Maryville ended Hardin Valley's volleyball season.

In prep football, Central High School defeated Halls for the Black Oak Ridge Trophy. Bearden, Powell and Seymour claimed their district titles.

Alex Owens was featured as an outstanding bowler, and the Lady Bulldogs captured the region, district and state soccer titles.

The Lebanon in the Fork Cemetery was featured in October, as was the Ghost of the Bijou Theatre. Cedar Bluff Elementary opened its new turf playground, and Legacy Parks celebrated 20 years with more than 1,000 guests attending its annual Legacy Luncheon for the Parks. Spencer Long of Halls High School was recognized as the 2025 Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary Principals.

Singer Con Hunley headlined a free concert at the Lincoln Memorial University Homecoming, while songwriters appeared at the Fountain City Music Festival, and Ijams celebrated the Magic of Autumn in its annual Hallo-Walk event.

The Young-Williams Animal Shelter and the Knoxville Fire Department partnered to help lost pets get home, and Pellissippi State planned a Pearl Harbor Day for December.

NOVEMBER

Commissioner Rhonda Lee honored the late Charlie Kirk in a packed commission meeting. The commission chose a committee to begin looking at possible rule changes. The board of education discussed a proposed state law to refuse admission to children of illegal aliens.

Brian Bivens unexpectedly resigned as interim director of the juvenile detention center, leaving many questions about who would now run the facility.

The commission approved a \$500 bonus for county employees and approved an extension of the Juvenile Center Board's oversight duties until June 30, 2026.

The city council voted to give the United Way \$100,000 to support food assistance, and the November city general election drew 24,830 voters who elected the five new council members. City council debated the objections from some homeowners about allowing "single-family attached dwellings" in their neighborhoods.

In November TSSAA cross country contests, Calysta Garmer of Webb won the Class AA race in Memphis, and Duncan Oshumu of The King's Academy got top honors in Class A for Catholic.

The Halls High School Unified Cheer Team won the state championship and Grace Christian's Rams lost the state playoffs. Halls High School's football team advanced in the state brackets before losing to Sevier County in the semifinals.

The Focus featured local signees who participated in National Signing Day.

The Focus / Coaches' 2025 All-Knox County Football Team was announced,

and the Clinton High coach praised quarterback Kaden Long. Powell won the regional title, and Fulton ended its season with two wins.

Knox County Criminal Court Clerk Mike Hammond launched the "Bridge to Safety" program to help victims of domestic violence. A Corryton Christmas Lights Contest was announced to help fund the local food pantry.

The Focus and the East Tennessee Historical Society hosted a launch party for Focus columnist Ray Hill and his book on Senator Kenneth McKellar. The site of the Women's Suffrage Museum was revealed downtown, destined to become a national landmark.

Veteran Marilyn Childress was featured, as well as her efforts to locate and identify the graves of veterans. The 5th Annual Morning Pointe Seniors Got Talent competition raised funds for student scholarships.

The InterFaith Health Center opened a larger facility, and the annual Veterans Day Parade drew a huge crowd. Karns High School students and Dream Connection made a dream come true with a \$4,000 check for Hayden Jennings, a high school junior who fought bone cancer.

DECEMBER

The commission's rules committee fine-tuned its electronic voting procedures while the ethics policy continued to be reviewed by its subcommittee.

Andrea Kline was chosen over two other candidates by the county commission to replace retiring Judge Andrew Jackson. Juvenile Judge Tim Irwin said he would oversee the juvenile detention center if needed.

The city council allotted \$1.54 million for a development for 30 affordable housing units, and the fate of the Serene Manor will be the topic of a city council future public-input session.

The Gay Street Bridge officially opened for walkers and bikers, and the city council's new members met briefly after oath-taking and joined the full council to select new officers.

Carter freshman Zoe Chompff was praised by coach Ray Wynn as she set her sights on the state bowling championship with a 195 game average. George Quarles was named as the new coach of the Webb football team.

The Austin-East girls basketball team, under Coach Gwen Jackson, was featured and the Gibbs Cheer Team members were Holiday Helpers.

In December, the 52nd annual WIVK Christmas Parade marched downtown's Main and Gay Streets. Wreaths were placed on gravestones in the three Knox County veteran cemeteries, and the Retired Teacher Association awarded scholarships to aspiring educators.

The Focus featured a look inside the Farragut Museum with local historian Frank Galbraith and the Pearl Harbor program held there. The Optimist Club saluted 18

students for community service.

David and Beth Raborn were featured as Santa and Mrs. Claus, and a new walking path was debuted at Whittle Springs Middle School.

The passing of Chief Bernie Lyon was noted with a touching statement from Sheriff Tom Spangler. Fountain City Auction announced its annual Advertising Sale.

The Knoxville Focus Connections

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section

B

January 5, 2026

Randy Tyree to be remembered

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

A Celebration of Life for the late Knoxville Mayor Randy Tyree will be held on Saturday, January 17, at the Sunsphere. The event will honor the two-term mayor, who is credited with promoting the 1982 Knoxville World's Fair.

Tyree passed away peacefully on November 24 at the age of 85. The event will start at 10 a.m. and be live-streamed on the Sunsphere's Facebook page. The celebration is open to the public, and the expected overflow crowd will

be accommodated as needed. Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon will read a proclamation, his family and friends will speak briefly, and the police department's mounted patrol will appear.

Visit Knoxville is asking anyone who wants to attend to contact them via visitknoxville.com/sunsphere to RSVP. Following the ceremony, the Sunsphere's Observation Deck will be open to the public.

Tyree's career also included serving as a city police officer and police commissioner, and his campaigns for governor and sheriff.

Tyree, pictured in the Sunsphere's Observation Deck, was mayor during the 1982 World's Fair's six-month run, which drew 11 million visitors to Knoxville.



Following Historic Highway 25E

A Day Away



By Mike Steely

Let's take a road trip along what was the Great Warrior's Path and is now Highway 25E. Let's head north and stop here and there along that road, originally blazed by Daniel Boone, and start at Bean Station. That little town was a very early settlement and was literally moved to higher ground during the building of Cherokee Lake.

Going north from there toward Corbin, Kentucky, first brings you to the Clinch Mountain Overlook, which faces the Tennessee Valley. You can park at the Veterans Park there and look off all the way to the Smoky Mountains.

Heading north again, you'll come to the old town of Tazewell, which played a part in the Civil War and has an earthen Union fort above the town. It also has a restored gas filling station just off the highway and an ancestral home nearby is being converted to a museum.

From Tazewell to Harrogate, where you'll find the Lincoln Memorial Museum just off the road, you'll come to Cumberland Gap with its trails, over-looks and the Cudjo Caverns. There's also a grist mill, a downtown park with picnic tables and historic homes.

Leaving Cumberland Gap, let's take the highway tunnel into Middlesboro, Ky., where you'll find the Cumberland Gap Visitors Center, the road to the Pinnacle Overlook, a neat downtown and a visitor

Continue on page 2

Historic Campbell Station Inn begins new life this week

By Pete Gawda

"The structure itself is not impressive," said Wendy Smith, communications manager for The Town of Farragut, "but it has seen a lot of history." She was referring to the newly renovated Campbell Station Inn.

Located at the intersection of Kingston Pike and Campbell Station Road in Farragut, the historic building has indeed seen a lot of history as it has been used as an inn, a stagecoach station, a hospital and a private dwelling house.

In 1787, David Campbell, who fought in the American Revolution in the regiment of Colonel John Sevier, acquired 640 acres on the east fork of Turkey Creek.

The property was located about 15 miles east of White's Fort, which grew to become the City of Knoxville.

The first structure on the property was a blockhouse. A blockhouse is a two-story

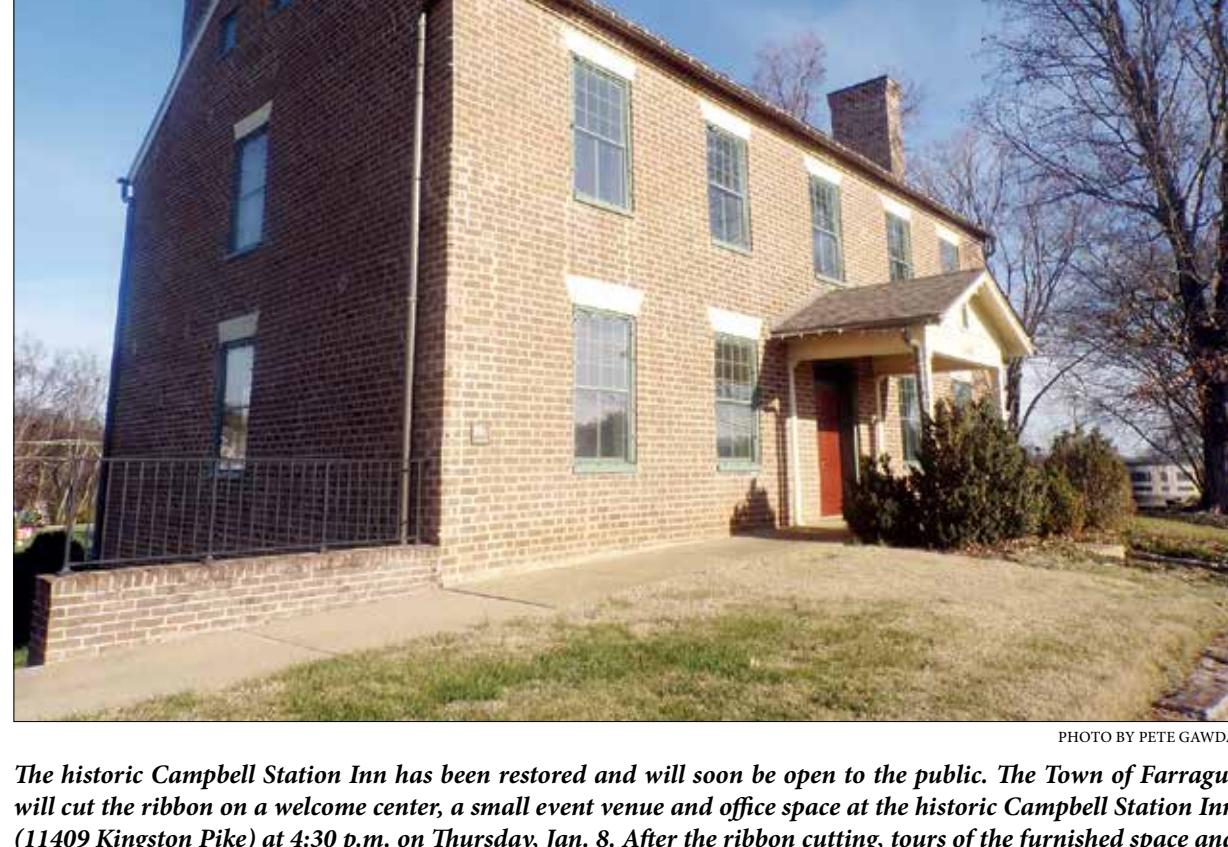


PHOTO BY PETE GAWDA

The historic Campbell Station Inn has been restored and will soon be open to the public. The Town of Farragut will cut the ribbon on a welcome center, a small event venue and office space at the historic Campbell Station Inn (11409 Kingston Pike) at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 8. After the ribbon cutting, tours of the furnished space and light refreshments will be available. The welcome center will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday beginning Friday, Jan. 9. Details about the event venue, which will accommodate up to 30 guests, will be available at VisitFarragut.org by Feb. 1.

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Following Historic Highway 25E



PHOTO COURTESY OF RONNIE COLLINS

The Veterans Overlook atop Clinch Mountain above Bean Station is worth a stop to see the Tennessee Valley below. It's only one of many interesting stops along Highway 25E heading north.

Cont. from page 1

center inside an actual "Coal House." If you look well enough, you can also find the grave of Virginia's Arthur Campbell, a supporter of the lost state of Franklin, in Middlesboro.

Heading up toward Pineville, you'll pass the entrance to Pine Mountain State Park, where you can find camping, lodging, natural arches and Chained Rock sitting high above the town far below.

Pineville, the seat of Hawkins County, has a historic courthouse square and an interesting downtown section.

Continuing north, you'll come to a place you'd normally miss if you don't know about it. On the east side of Highway 25E is Flat Lick, a small community where the Wilderness Road once split, with one branch leading farther north and the west fork, now the main highway, leading toward Barbourville. The place was also a Civil War muster site for Union forces.

In Barbourville, home of Union College, you'll find the Thomas Walker State Park, which features a replica of the first cabin built in the Bluegrass State by early explorers.

From that Knox County (Kentucky) town, the highway brings you to Corbin, where you'll find the original Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant built by Col. Harlan Sanders. He was a Kentucky colonel, not a military officer. The restaurant also has a museum. Just north of Corbin is London, Ky., and the Levi Jackson State Park, which has a water mill and the graves of early pioneers massacred in an Indian attack.

From Corbin or London, you can hop onto Interstate 75 and be back in Knoxville in about 90 minutes.

You might want to take the entire route or pick portions of it to explore, but it makes for a fun and interesting day away, especially when you can link places with the history there.

Getting to know new city council members

Karyn Adams

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The new District 1 Knoxville City Council member is Karyn Adams, who defeated Becky Jones for the position last November. She's replacing Tommy Smith, who had been serving as vice mayor and chose not seek re-election.

The Knoxville Focus has asked each of the five new

council members what they hope to achieve while serving. Here's her reply:

"There are City-wide issues, such as homelessness and housing, that are top priorities to address as I begin my role as a City Councilwoman. These are both pressing items and require both immediate and consistent attention.

"Our most effective efforts will be solutions

that work on multiple fronts, including smaller-scale initiatives as well as more comprehensive, supportive frameworks. I'm proud District 1 is already stepping up to help, as exemplified by Vestal United Methodist Church working so diligently to open as a Warming Support Center.

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Matthew DeBardelaben

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Matthew DeBardelaben is the new 4th District city council member, replacing term-limited Lauren Rider. He defeated Jeff Talman for the seat to represent the Fountain City area in a strong challenge. He volunteered to be the council member on the Knoxville Transit Authority and was chosen in the reorganization meeting recently to hold that position.

The Knoxville Focus asked each of the five new council members about themselves and goals as they take their seats on January 6th for the 2026 meetings.

Here is DeBardelaben's reply:

I am currently a renter in Historic Old North Knoxville. I have a great landlord and my rent is \$850 a month! In the course of things, I have lived in East Knoxville, South Knoxville, and North Knoxville. I would love to own a home again in Happy Holler when the housing market allows entry.

I have three sons in their mid- to late-20s who are off to see the world (read "Moon River" lyrics). They are magical. I have a fourth son who turns 15 in February and lives with his mother in Western Massachusetts. I pay \$1,700 a month in child support to her but have not seen him since he was five. I hope to know him as an adult.

I grew up in a densely urban and diverse neighborhood in Miami, Florida. I studied Chinese History and Philosophy at the University of Alabama. I have a Masters in Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Seminary just north of Chicago. While there I was the Protestant chaplain for the Chicago Bears and the Chicago Fire.

I traveled to China for 19 years, living in Shanghai, China, for six years. There I established an art gallery named TwoCities which featured Chinese artists working with

cast glass, ceramics, carved wood, and lacquer.

Here are the issues I will seek to address on city council:

- Good public policy involves robust public input and public officials who listen and who publicly offer their reasons why.

- Good public policy requires our appointed officials and their staff to do the same.

- Physical Infrastructure.

- Adding to our housing stock in thoughtful, contextual, and creative ways.

- Implementing traffic calming strategies in our neighborhoods while reducing congestion along our arterial streets.

- Improving the reliability and experience of our KAT bus system.

- Installing truly protected bike lanes.

- Adding sidewalks around schools and parks, especially in our parental responsibility zones

- Improving the access, quality, and experience of our city parks, Urban Wilderness, and public swimming holes.

- Supporting a robust and best use of public space that benefits all of our communities

- Social Infrastructure.

- Increasing permanent housing opportunities and social services for our unsheltered residents.

- Reducing the social harm caused by eviction through legal aid, creating future opportunities for individuals and families to get back on their feet.

- Creating a position in our Office of Neighborhood Empowerment specifically for immigrants who move to our City.

- Supporting our Office of Sustainability as we meaningfully reduce the emissions of our city buildings and transportation fleet.

In brief, I am standing up for the Spirit of Knoxville, a place that feels like itself and isn't trying to be no where's else.

Ad space donated by The Knoxville Focus.

Young-Williams Animal Center

THIMBLE – 1½ years old, 42 lbs. Hi, I am Thimble, a world-class cuddle bug! Once I'm out of my kennel, I'm a total gentleman who just wants to be your best friend. In the car, I will lay down and relax in the seat. I'm easy to leash up and I'm a dream to walk. I even ignore kids on tricycles! I don't jump on strangers. I'll sit politely for pets and lean in to show you I love it. I'm very respectful of other dogs and their boundaries. My favorite place is on the couch or bed right next to you. I'm a sensitive soul who gets a little nervous around loud noises like motorized scooters or rolling trash cans, so I'd love a home where I feel safe and sound. Ready for a lifetime of snuggles? Ask to meet me today!

ZEUS – 1½ years old, 64 lbs. This is Zeus! Nothing stops this guy from being his true confident self, and he is just the best boy. Just as you will make him feel safe and comforted, he will make you feel safe and comforted. Give Zeus a chance to be a part of your fur-ever home and he'll love you more than anything else! Give Zeus a visit today!



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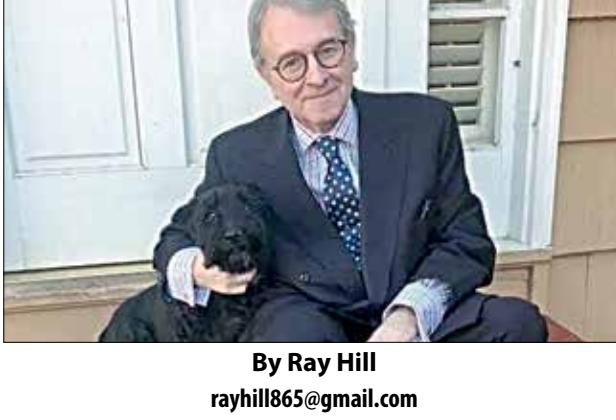
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The Gentleman From Washington Mon Wallgren

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

For the better part of two decades, Monrad C. Wallgren was one of Washington State's most popular politicians. The people of Washington elected Wallgren to hold the highest offices within their gift, electing him to the U.S. House of Representatives, the United States Senate, and the office of governor.

Wallgren was the son of Swedish parents and came to Washington State when he was ten years old. Friendly and approachable, Mon Wallgren was a canny politician whose greatest achievement was quite likely the creation of the Olympic National Park, which had been bitterly opposed by many of the lumber interests in Washington State. Wallgren was an excellent billiards and poker player. Mon Wallgren once won second place in a national amateur billiards contest. Later, he challenged the champion player, Percy Collins, and the two played a 200-point match, which Wallgren won. Wallgren liked his leisure and was an ardent golfer and enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Mon Wallgren, a jeweler by profession, began a successful political career with good timing and a lot of luck. Wallgren won a hotly contested Democratic primary by only 379 votes and went on to soundly thrash GOP incumbent Congressman Lindley Hoag Hadley. The backlash against President Herbert Hoover and the Republican Party was especially strong in Washington State, and Congressman Hadley only polled just over 35% of the vote. A once-popular incumbent, Lindley Hadley had served 18 years in the House of Representatives.

Throughout his career, Mon Wallgren was a liberal and was reelected to the House in 1934, 1936 and 1938 without difficulty. Wallgren was, as might be expected, a New Dealer and voted enthusiastically for TVA, the NRA, the Agricultural Adjustment Act, the Social Security Act and virtually every other Roosevelt priority.

When Senator Lewis Schwellenbach opted not to run for reelection and accepted an appointment as a federal judge, Mon Wallgren ran to succeed him in 1940. Washington State used what it called "the blanket primary," where all the candidates ran irrespective of political party. Congressman Wallgren ran second, more than 40,000 votes behind Republican Stephen Chadwick. With Franklin Roosevelt once again at the top of the ticket, Mon Wallgren was elected to the United States Senate with just under 54% of the ballots cast.

As a member of the Senate, Wallgren dutifully

followed the administration line, which might be expected by one who had always been buoyed by the political popularity of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

In 1944, Senator Mon Wallgren was considered the strongest Democrat to snatch back the governorship from Republican Arthur Langlie. The incumbent was highly popular with business interests and was an able campaigner who always ran well ahead of his own GOP ticket, cutting heavily into the usual Democratic majorities. Wallgren was carried into the governor's mansion by the rising tide of President Franklin Roosevelt's popularity. While FDR was carrying Washington State by 125,000 votes, Mon Wallgren beat Governor Langlie by just over 28,000 votes.

As governor, Mon Wallgren was a free spender, saying the state had much to do after the Second World War came to an end. As his first act as governor, Mon Wallgren rewarded his longtime chief of staff, Hugh B. Mitchell, by appointing him to the seat in the United States Senate he had just resigned to take the oath of office.

During his time as governor, Wallgren pushed the legislature to create the state retirement program for teachers, adopted what was then the most liberal welfare program in the country, and increased unemployment compensation benefits, which were also the highest in the nation. Aside from welfare programs, Governor Wallgren saw to the establishment of a highway safety program and kick-started a building program for schools in the state.

The governor also finalized Washington's acquisition of the Puget Sound Ferry System, although the agreement was signed under the administration of Arthur Langlie following Wallgren's defeat in 1948.

In July of 1945, President Harry Truman boarded the presidential plane, then dubbed "The Independence" after his hometown in Missouri, and headed for Washington State. Looking down, the president could see the lush greenery of the famed forests of fir trees, as well as the majestic peaks of white-topped Mount Rainier. When Truman walked down the steps from his plane, there waiting was his old Senate colleague, Mon Wallgren. Then serving as the state's chief executive, Wallgren escorted the president back to the Governor's Mansion, a Georgian-style brick edifice which sat atop the crest of Capitol Point.

For five glorious days, Harry Truman shed the cares and burdens of his office and did exactly as



CENTRAL PRESS ASSOCIATION PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Former Governor Mon Wallgren leaving the White House, 1949.

he pleased. Harry Truman pilfered clothes to relax in from Mon Wallgren's own closet, choosing "a battered hat" as well as "an exclamatory sweater knitted by Vancouver Island Indians." The two men bet one another \$5 the suit he was wearing was the older of the pair. Truman won as he had been purchased in 1939. The president played the piano in the governor's residence and found an organ under the dome of Washington's State Capitol, where he played Beethoven's Minute in G along with the Blackhawk Waltz. Truman, Wallgren and the governor's press secretary then broke into song, singing "Peggy O'Neil" and "Melancholy Baby."

It was with some regret that Harry Truman took off the garish Indian sweater and put on his suit to once again assume the burdens and pressures he carried with him daily.

In 1948, both Harry Truman and Mon Wallgren were running for reelection to the offices they respectively occupied.

Wallgren faced a formidable foe in the general election, albeit one he had defeated previously. Governor Wallgren had been considered a vice-presidential running mate for Truman and had let the press know he would accept if the spot were offered to him, adding, "but I'm not trying to get it."

The 1948 election was a rematch from four years earlier, and there was no doubt that Arthur Langlie was the most popular Republican in Washington State. Langlie was a shrewd campaigner and highly popular with business interests, and ran well ahead of most Republicans, even in normally strongly Democratic counties. As Harry Truman was carrying Washington State by more than 31,000

votes, Mon Wallgren was losing to Arthur Langlie by almost 29,000 votes in an election year that was excellent for Democrats.

Ever loyal to a fault where his friends were involved, Harry Truman promptly nominated his friend Mon Wallgren to serve as a member of the National Security Resources Board. While the board was somewhat obscure, it paid rather well. As a former member of the Senate, Wallgren likely anticipated a swift and easy confirmation by his former colleagues.

That was before hellraising maverick U.S. Senator Harry P. Cain, a Republican elected in 1946, began a noisy campaign to discredit and defeat Wallgren's nomination. Speaking for more than six hours on the floor of the Senate, the eccentric Senator Cain amused reporters by "scratching under his arms, hitching his trousers, sipping milk and raising one foot after the other so that his male secretary could change his shoes."

The most widely read news magazine of the day, TIME, referred to Wallgren as "an amiable mediocrity" who had "no visible qualifications for the job of planning the military, industrial and civilian mobilization of the U.S." Virginia's U.S. senator, Harry Byrd, joined with six Republicans to turn thumbs down on Wallgren's nomination inside the Senate's Armed Services Committee. That doomed the former governor's nomination to serve on the National Security Resources Board. Wallgren asked the president to withdraw his nomination for the post.

Never one to abandon a friend, especially one in need, Harry Truman stubbornly nominated Wallgren to serve as a member of the

Federal Power Commission in 1950, and the nomination was promptly confirmed by the Senate. Truman's support for Wallgren was oftentimes criticized by Republican newspapers, who jibed that the former governor knew little about either power or military resources but knew quite a lot about playing poker with the president. Harry Truman had once told aides that Mon Wallgren would soon be arriving, "and I'm going to bring him over and have him show you fellows how to play" poker.

Wallgren resigned as chairman of the Federal Power Commission, effective October 1, 1951. President Truman accepted the resignation "with genuine regret." Wallgren's resignation was hardly a surprise as rumors swirled that he was contemplating a return to politics and elective office.

Mon Wallgren considered another try for governor, but disliked the idea of another race against Arthur Langlie, who was seeking a third term in 1952. Wallgren then pondered the possibility of challenging Harry Cain, but Congressman Henry Jackson was already running hard as a Democrat against the firebrand senator. Following a visit to the White House to see his friend Harry Truman, Wallgren told reporters he had purchased a grapefruit orchard in Indio, California, and was returning home to Everett. Wallgren made the announcement that he considered himself to be out of politics, as he did not believe he would ever again seek election to another office.

Following his retirement from politics and public life, Mon Wallgren and his wife lived most of the year in Palm Desert, California, but spent their summers in

Everett, Washington, where the former governor relished in seeing his old friends. The couple was back home in Washington State when Wallgren stopped and pulled over because he had a flat. The former governor got out of his car on the Nisqually Bridge in Olympia to change a flat tire. Gerhard Schock, a 22-year-old National Guardsman, stopped to help the 70-year-old Wallgren. The two were hit by a pickup truck, which killed Schock and gravely injured Wallgren. The pickup hit Schock, pinning the soon-to-be married young man between Wallgren's Cadillac and the truck. The National Guardsman was swiftly taken to Madigan Army Hospital, where he soon died after arriving. The impact of the truck knocked Mon Wallgren 70 feet down the bridge. The driver of the pickup was later charged by the district attorney with driving under the influence.

The former governor was rushed to St. Peter Hospital, where doctors said Wallgren was suffering from a multiple compound fracture of his right leg, which had been broken in eight places. Wallgren had also suffered a compound fracture in his left leg, as well as "deep lacerations of the left arm."

Mon Wallgren had gone into shock because of loss of blood, and doctors announced his condition could be considered "poor" at best. Doctors later upgraded the former governor's condition to "fair," but Wallgren almost immediately began having complications brought on by the severity of his injuries.

The politico's physicians stated the obvious when they released a statement to the press that Mon Wallgren would remain in the hospital for a "considerable time." Days later, doctors acknowledged the former governor had shown only "slight improvement" since being admitted to the hospital. Visitors were barred, except for Mrs. Wallgren.

Doctors were alarmed by the fact that the circulation in Wallgren's terribly injured right leg was quite poor. The former governor was rushed into the operating room in an attempt to improve the circulation in the affected leg. Wallgren remained in "good spirits," although it was becoming clear that at least part of his leg would have to be amputated. The former governor's doctor told the press,

"We hope we don't have to amputate above the knee. But we won't know for sure until about the first of next week." Wallgren's condition was labeled as merely "satisfactory." On July 24, 1961, Mon Wallgren's badly shattered right leg was amputated just above the knee.

At one point, the former governor's physician declared his patient was coming along "splendidly."

Mon Wallgren never left the hospital. The former governor's condition continued to deteriorate. Eventually, Wallgren's heart and kidneys began to give out. Wallgren lapsed into unconsciousness and was placed under an oxygen tent. Monrad C. Wallgren died around 6:15 p.m., September 19, 1961, at age seventy.

New Year, New Mercy, New Grace



By Justin Pratt,
Clear Springs Baptist
Church Senior Pastor

It's a new year! And with every New Year, I am constantly reminded of the story of a young woman and her mother-in-law tucked away in the Bible between the times of the judges and the books of history. After years of studying the Bible, I have always had an affection for the book of Ruth. The book opens not with celebration, but with loss. Naomi and her family left Bethlehem during a famine and settled in the pagan land of Moab. As the years went by, the story reveals that both she and her family experienced years that were marked by

hurt and heartache; first, the death of her husband, then the loss of her two sons. What had initially been a journey of survival became a prolonged season of despair. To Naomi, Moab was more than just a place on a map; it represented a season of emptiness, disappointment, and bitterness.

Eventually, Naomi hears that the Lord has visited His people in Bethlehem and given them bread, and she makes the difficult decision to leave Moab behind and return home. After a challenging conversation with her daughters-in-law

at the crossroads of Moab and Bethlehem, she and Ruth decide to go through that painful season in their lives in pursuit of a new day that was dawning. When Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem, Scripture carefully notes the timing: it was the beginning of the barley harvest. This detail is far from incidental. Barley harvest coincided with Passover, a season that reminded God's people of redemption and the beginning of new life. Naomi and Ruth do not return in the dead of winter or to a barren field, but at the threshold of provision and promise. Their entrance into Bethlehem marks a turning point, signaling that God was not finished with their story and that loss would not have the

final word.

In much the same way, the turning of a new year is not merely a change of date, but an invitation. With every passing year, God extends new grace; grace to leave behind seasons that have wounded us, and grace to step forward into moments marked by redemption and renewed hope. Calendar pages turn, and those who have walked with God across the years and the miles can clearly testify that with every new year, there is new grace and mercy that propels us forward and leaves behind the seasons of loss and heartbreak.

Many of you thought last year would be the chapter that would demolish you; the weight of loss, pressure, and fatigue would

have the final word. The divorce you never saw coming, the disease you never thought you'd endure, or maybe the unexpected death of a person you loved rocked your world, but here you stand, carried by grace stronger than what the enemy used to try to crush you. New years are about new pages, new days ahead, and new grace from God that will continue to sustain you. All of this was authored by a faithful God who specialized in renewal, opening doors to fresh mercy, restoring strength, and shaping opportunities by His strong hand of redemption. What feels like an ending may, in God's economy, be the threshold of a harvest and a brand new life.

Just as Ruth and Naomi crossed from sorrow into harvest, the New Year reminds us that God specializes in new beginnings, often arriving precisely when we least expect them, yet exactly when we need them most. As this new page turns, may each of us step forward with renewed trust and confidence that the same God who carried us through the past has gone ahead of us and prepared a season marked by new grace.

Karyn

Cont. from page 2

"With the Gay Street Bridge open, I'm excited to see and support bike/pedestrian access re-engaging Sevier Avenue and our neighborhoods with downtown (and vice-versa). The Down River Master Plan - representing years of work and community engagement - is a critical, district-specific initiative that I am focused on affirming and moving forward" she added.

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Historic Campbell Station Inn

Continued from page 1

log cabin with loopholes for firing at attacking Indians. The overhanging second floor allowed defenders to shoot down on the attackers. Surrounding settlers would gather at a blockhouse during times of peril. While no one was killed at Campbell Station, Indians did harass the settlers from time to time and steal their horses.

In the early days of the state, Knoxville was the capitol so the blockhouse, located on a major road to the capital, became one of the earliest inns in the state and a stagecoach station. The inn hosted various notables of the time, including Andrew Jackson.

Over time, a thriving community known as Campbell Station grew up around the blockhouse. The present brick inn was built in the early 1800s. There was a post

office, tannery, wagon shop and general store at Campbell Station. It was said that Campbell Station did more business than Knoxville. When the railroad came through a few miles to the south, the community of Concord grew up along the railroad tracks, and Campbell Station began to decline.

In 1824, David Campbell sold the property to Samuel Martin, and the property remained in the Martin family for six generations and became known as the Avery Martin House.

During the November 16, 1863, Battle of Campbell Station, the inn served as a hospital for wounded troops. There are stories of blood-stained floorboards from that time. However, Smith said no such boards were found during the recent restoration by the Town of Farragut.

Old photographs of the building show a two-story porch across the front. That porch no longer exists.

The building is entered through a very wide front door, which opens into a wide central hallway. On each side of the hallway are two rooms, and each room has a fireplace. Upstairs, there are also two rooms on either side of the hall with fireplaces and a smaller room at the end of the hall, which does not have a fireplace. The basement has a dirt floor and a trough and was used as a stable.

In 2012, the Town of Farragut purchased the house and 2.26 acres. A restoration process was recently completed so the building, which is on the Register of Historic Places, can be enjoyed by the public.

"I'm really glad we saved it," Smith said. The restoration

process included the preservation of much of the building's character, including exposing some of the original bricks, plaster, wallpaper, decorative painting and flooring.

During the restoration process, a partition was removed between two of the downstairs rooms to make one larger room that will be rented for private gatherings. A dumbwaiter was installed in this room to allow a caterer to send food up from the basement. One of the other downstairs rooms will be used as a museum, and the other will be a gift shop. The upstairs will be used for office space and storage.

After a grand opening on January 8, the building will be staffed and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.



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PART 1

Dewey 'Swamp Rat' Warren is still on the go

By Steve Williams

Dewey Warren was one of the first University of Tennessee T-formation quarterbacks in the 1960s.

Nicknamed the "Swamp Rat" when he was in high school in Georgia, he's now 80 years old but doesn't look it.

How did he get that nickname?

"People ask me, 'Are you from New Orleans?' 'No, I'm from Savannah, Ga.," Dewey answers.

"I was about five minutes late for practice one day. My high school coach was Lamar Leachman, who played up here (at UT) in the 50s with Majors and

that bunch.

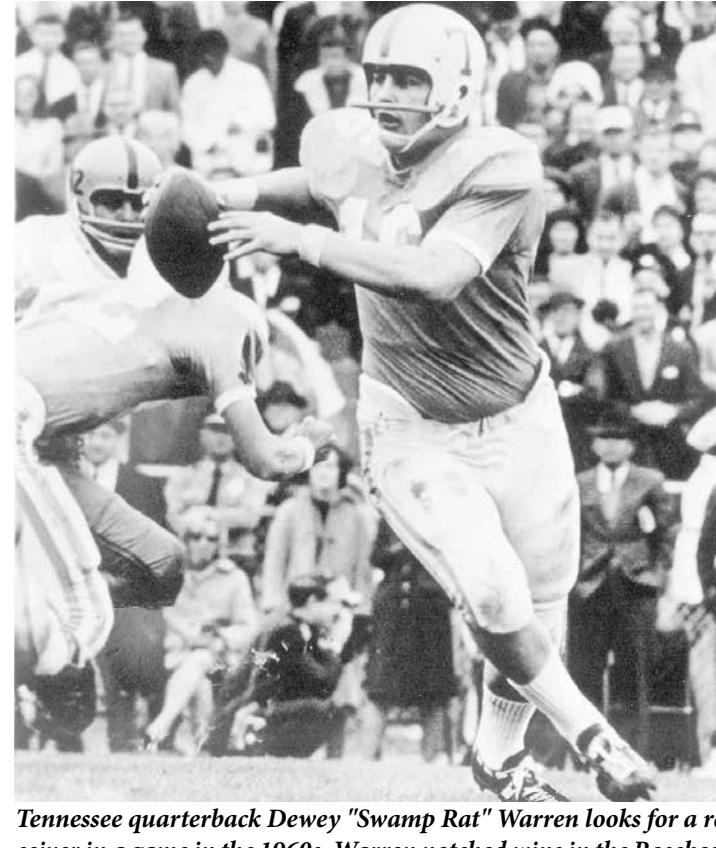
"And he said, 'You're like an old swamp rat down there in the swamps.'

"I was a sophomore in high school then and it's been with me ever since."

Warren pulls off a trick play in Gator Bowl

I had recently seen the 1966 Gator Bowl on YouTube, which Dewey played in against Syracuse, that got me interested in setting up an interview with

[Continue on page 2](#)



Tennessee quarterback Dewey "Swamp Rat" Warren looks for a receiver in a game in the 1960s. Warren notched wins in the Rosebowl against UCLA at Memphis in 1965 and in the Gator Bowl at Jacksonville against Syracuse in 1966.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Seymour answers early wake-up call, cruises past Gibbs

By Ken Lay

Seymour High School guard Makenna Sharp didn't seem to mind having to answer an early wake-up call Tuesday morning.

Sharp, a guard for the Lady Eagles, scored 13 of her game-high 15 points in the first quarter of her team's 50-28 victory over Gibbs in the Faris McDonald's Shootout at Carter High School.

Sharp's early offensive spark helped Seymour open a 16-4 first-quarter. And from there, it never looked back on its way to cruising past Northeast Knox County's Lady Eagles. Seymour darted out to a 10-2 lead, and Sharp scored all of her team's points save a late 3-pointer by Brooklyn Kennedy, in the quarter.

Gibbs (6-10) got three of its points in the inaugural stanza from freshman forward Rebekah Spierdowis. Sydney Yowell, another freshman post player, also had a free throw for Gibbs.

Sharp's teammates would eventually join in the scoring as Sevier County's Lady Eagles (6-6) would close out the 2025 portion of their schedule on a winning note. As the season crossed its mythical halfway point during the Christmas holiday break,

[Continue on page 6](#)



The Seymour High starting five discuss strategy before an early-morning game against Gibbs last week. The Lady Eagles defeated Gibbs, 50-28, in their final game of 2025.

A look ahead to 2026 in sports

By Mark Nagi

If you've read this column over the years, you might remember that this is the week when I make some bold calls as to what 2026 will look like in the world of sports locally, nationally and even internationally. This is important work that I do not take lightly.

Please know that some of these predictions are tongue in cheek, so do not, I repeat DO NOT, go to FanDuel and put the kid's 529s down on these prognostications.

In January, the College Football Playoff will end with Ohio State defeating Oregon 34-31 to claim its second straight national title. After the game, Urban Meyer showed up and burned a Michigan jersey at midfield for no reason.

In February, the Seattle Seahawks face the New England Patriots in a rematch of Super Bowl 49. The Seahawks have the ball at the Patriots one yard line in the final seconds while trailing by 4 points. Marshawn Lynch comes out of retirement, enters the game but once again is not handed the football. Sam Darnold's pass is intercepted, sealing the Pats Super Bowl victory. Also in February, sports fans watch the luge and the skeleton events at the Winter Olympics, and then never think about them again until 2030.

In March, Tennessee's men's basketball team advances to the Sweet 16, where they are beaten by an Oklahoma State team comprised of 27-year-old NBA veterans. When asked how on earth that is allowed, NCAA officials leave and seek asylum in Cuba. The Lady Vols basketball team also advances as far as the Sweet 16.

In April, some former Tennessee Vols hear their names called early in the NFL Draft. CB Colton Hood is picked in the first round by Buffalo. WR Chris Brazell is taken in the second round by the NY Jets, prompting his immediate retirement from football. LB Arion Carter is selected in the fourth round by Philadelphia.

In May, Tennessee's baseball and softball teams are each eliminated in the opening rounds of the SEC tournament, giving them

[Continue on page 3](#)

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HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

Gibbs' Lee Wolosik drives against a Cocke County defender in last week's holiday tournament action at Carter High. The Fighting Cocks won, 54-35.

Gibbs is rebuilding under new coach

By Steve Williams

From Coach Bob Dagley's team in the mid-1960s that included Tommy Everett, Leslie Spitzer and David Widner to Zach Turner's high-scoring games the last two or three years, Gibbs has had good basketball teams over the years.

But the Eagles in Corryton are currently rebuilding under new head coach Matthew Granville.

Gibbs' record dropped to 2-11 with its 54-35 loss to Cocke County last Monday afternoon in the 2025 McDonald's Faris Christmas Shootout at the Jim Williams Gymnasium hosted by Carter High.

By the way, the Eagles didn't attempt a single free throw in the game. This longtime sports reporter can't recall ever seeing that.

The Fighting Cocks from Newport slipped out to a 12-8 lead in the first period and steadily added to it by outscoring Gibbs 19-9 in the second quarter, 15-11 in the third and 8-7 in the final frame. Both teams started subbing with about four minutes left.

Zach Williams led Cocke County (6-10) with 13 points. Eli Roberts chipped in 10 and Maddox Holt eight.

Gibbs' Lee Wolosik scored eight of his

game-high 12 points in the first period. Gage Walker added six and Kaleb Lafleur five.

The Eagles made five 3-point shots and the Fighting Cocks three.

Cocke County had a 7-0 run at the start of the second period to quickly take an 11-point lead.

Lafleur hit a 3-pointer for Gibbs and Walker scored inside on a rebound to start the second half and get within nine (31-22), but the Eagles couldn't get any closer.

Coach Granville felt "turnovers" was the difference in the game. "That's when they really went on a run," he said. "When we

cleaned that up we were much more competitive."

Granville, who coached in Panama City, Fla., the past six years, believed Gibbs "graduated 85 percent of its production from last season" and Turner, who signed with Milligan, was a big part of that.

"I think we've got a lot of guys who are filling new roles," added Granville. "If we keep building, our first district game is Jan. 9. So we have everything in front of us. If we continue to grow and guys keep filling their roles and get better each and every day, I feel we'll be ready to go come district time."

Carter falls to Heritage in Christmas Shootout

title game

By Steve Williams

Carter's young basketball team almost got a big win Tuesday night, but Heritage erased a seven-point deficit late in the third period and went on to hand the host Hornets a 53-43 loss to capture the championship in the 2025 McDonald's Faris Christmas Shootout.

A 2-pointer from the left wing by Grayson Watson had given Carter a 37-30 lead at the Jim Williams Gymnasium.

But the 1-2 punch of Gaven French and Ethan Bryant retook the lead as they combined for 17 points. And Eli Williams' intimidating slam dunk added to the turnaround.

"They were a very physical team," said Carter Coach Tyler Cate. "We made some bad decisions that led to easy shots for them and they were able to take advantage of it. They are a really good disciplined team and so when you are playing teams like that it's hard to make those mistakes over and over again."

Heritage, coached by Knoxville Central grad Brad Flatford, upped its season record to 13-3, while Carter slipped to 9-7. The Mountaineers were 26-9 last season and advanced to the sectionals.

French, who swished in a couple of treys, finished with a game-high 22 points. Bryant contributed 12 points and Williams 11.

Lincoln Tummel (14) and Grayson Watson (13) led the Hornets. Watson had three 3-pointers and Carter, as a team, had eight 3s.

"Both of those guys (French and Bryant) did a good job of getting to the rim and we went to the press a little bit and I thought that sped Carter up a little and got them out of how they wanted to play. I think that helped us and kind of changed the momentum of the game."

Carter is scheduled to host Seymour Tuesday (Jan. 6).

HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING

Region 1 boys and girls tourneys are at Fountain Lanes Wednesday

Girls semifinal action will get underway at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning with Greeneville going against Carter and Gibbs playing Dobyns-Bennett.

Boys' semis will start at noon with Gibbs matched against Dobyns-Bennett and Powell playing Gatlinburg-Pittman.

The championship round is scheduled to start at 3 p.m.

Admission to the tournament at the Strike and Spare Fountain Lanes is \$5 (cash only).

Dewey 'Swamp Rat' Warren is still on the go

Cont. from page 1

him. And I told Dewey I was shocked by the physicality that the two teams played with in that game as it compares to today.

"We were playing Syracuse and they have Floyd Little and Larry Csonka - two Hall of Fame backs that went on into the pros," said Warren. "We were fortunate to win the game, a great ball game."

"I don't remember a whole lot about it, but I do remember right before half-time we're getting ready to kick a field goal and Austin Denny - the big tight end from Nashville - came up to me and said: 'Fake it and throw it to me in the end zone.' And I looked at him and said: You got to be kidding. I said if it doesn't work, me and you will be on a bus back to Knoxville."

So I didn't tell nobody and Gary Wright was the kicker and I was the holder. So he went to kick the ball and I picked it up and sprinted out to the right and threw it in the endzone and there were three guys around Denny when he caught it for a touchdown."

"(Coach Doug) Dickey never said a word to us. He didn't speak to us. I mean he didn't say: Why did you all do that or anything. Me and Austin said: Well, I guess he (Dickey) took credit for it."

Tennessee ended up

winning the game 18-12.

"It was a great ball game," added Warren. "I mean Floyd Little and Larry Csonka were two super backs. Little was tough."

"Another big thing that happened was on fourth down. I think it was Csonka that went across the top with the ball and (Paul) Naumoff hit him and you could have heard the lick all the way back to Knoxville."

Warren is still working

"I'm working over in Maryville for the sheriff, Jim Berrong. He owns the golf course - Lambert Acres - and I'm a ranger. I've been over there for four years. I work five days a week - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. I get out and I see a lot of people. I started playing golf there in 1965 and they were little boys - he and his brother, so I'm back over there and I love it. I get to see a lot of people that I haven't seen in a long time."

As a ranger, Dewey patrols the course's 27 holes.

"I'm out there making sure they are doing the right thing - where they are supposed to, not playing more than four and I have to speed up play sometimes."

"It keeps me busy. I love it," he said.

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'There are no insignificant stories'

Whenever football fans get together, there's always a story there for the taking. That's why many sportswriters always have a notebook

By Tom Mattingly

and pen or pencil to help punctuate and preserve the moment. In the cases that follow, the stories come quickly.

When things weren't going well football-wise in the late 1940s, a Vol fan on the elevator at the Biltmore Hotel in Memphis said some disparaging things about Gen. Neyland. His remarks came after a lopsided loss to Ole Miss (43-13, Nov. 8, 1947) at Crump Stadium. "I'll never pay to see that bunch get beaten again," he said. The fan didn't know Neyland was near the back of the elevator, listening intently.

Two weeks later, after a win at Kentucky (13-6, Nov. 22), the same fan patted Neyland on the back and offered more wisdom. "You're the greatest coach in the country," he said. Neyland, again listening intently, offered in response, "That's not what you were saying two weeks ago."

Just before kickoff of a 2001 game televised by CBS, Verne Lundquist had a colleague thrust a note through the curtain separating the broadcast locations with a specific request. "Get rid of the cigarette." Verne was likely ensuring that nothing extraneous was going to get in the way of his doing the broadcast, particularly a steady dose of smoke.

Speaking of cigarette smoke, there was a time at Kentucky, one announcer's spotter reeked of smoke. After the game, The Tennessean's David Climer found the spotter's wife and told her, presumably in his defense, "Your husband may smell like he's been in



The aftermath of Tennessee football games at Crump Stadium in Memphis (pictured) and Stoll Field at Kentucky in 1947 led to memorable fan interactions with Gen. Neyland.

a bar, but he's really been in the Comcast television booth all afternoon."

Steve Early of the Vol Network often discussed a mid-1960s Colts-Packers game decided in the Packers' favor by a Don Chandler field goal. When replayed, that attempt appeared to be wide of the mark.

Vol Network analyst Bill Anderson was on that Packer team. Often on Vol road trips, Steve would, without fail, ask Anderson if that field goal had really been successful. Without fail, Anderson would hold up his right hand and say, "I'm wearing a dang ring, aren't I?"

A famous coach

co-authored a book with a prominent writer in his community. One day, the writer's obituary appeared in the newspaper, complete with picture. A staffer showed him the obituary notice.

The coach's response was immediate: "Did he die?"

A rookie sportswriter, in search of an angle for a story, pointed in the direction of the setting sun from the press box at the Polo Grounds and posed the following question to legendary sportswriter Grantland Rice.

"Is that west?"

Rice thought for a moment and said, "If it isn't, son, you have a heck of a story."

Just as it was when he

played quarterback at Tennessee in the 1970s, former Vol signal-caller Jimmy Streeter once was featured before a packed house for his funeral service.

The year was 2004 at the Liberty Baptist Church on Hospital Street in his hometown of Sylva, N.C. The church was packed to the rafters not only of his family and friends, but also with the requisite virtues of faith and forgiveness. Everyone there had their own special memories of the small town youth who carried Sylva's torch to the University of Tennessee, yet always retained the love and adulation of those who knew him best.

In one of the most poignant moments that day, Condredge Holloway, who blazed the trail for the Jimmy Streeters of the world and many others, affixed an Orange and

White Lettermen's T-Club pin on the lapel of Jimmy's suit, noting that it was one of the most emotionally difficult things he had ever done.

Bob Woodruff had an amazing sense of perspective, a sense of balance in his life. There were times fans would be agonizing over a game that had gotten away. The eulogist at Bob's funeral said Bob's response would always be, "There's always another game." When fans likewise

exulted over a big win, Woodruff's response would likewise be the same: "There's always another game."

Despite the occasional bump in the road, there has always been "another game" or "another season" for Tennessee fans, bringing with it the excitement of upcoming contests at Neyland Stadium or another historic venue.

If you watch and listen carefully, great moments from college sports arrive when you least expect them. You can see or hear some amazing nuggets of eternal verities that can stick with you forever.

A look ahead to 2026 in sports

Cont. from page 1

extra time to prepare for the NCAA tournament.

In June, Tennessee's baseball and softball teams are each eliminated in the opening rounds of the NCAA tournament. Also in June, the Colorado Avalanche win their fourth Stanley Cup while the Denver Nuggets take home their second NBA title.

In July, Tennessee head coach Josh Heupel tells a packed room of reporters at SEC Media Days that the Vols have 40 players on their roster who have never been on an airplane for a Vols road game. Athletic director Danny White, suspicious of such a statement, jumps to the podium and reveals that former Tennessee head coach Butch Jones was wearing a Josh Heupel mask, Scooby-Doo style. Also, SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey announces that the SEC will expand to 24 teams, and each team will be guaranteed a spot in the College Football Playoff.

In August, Tennessee's fall practice gets underway. True freshman Faizon

Brandon wins the starting QB job. He is also asked to play in the secondary. Tony Vitello is fired as manager of the San Francisco Giants and hired as the new head coach of the Arkansas Razorbacks. (Editor's note: The writer plans on predicting this each year until it happens... because we all know it is going to eventually happen.)

In September, Tennessee picks up wins against Furman, Georgia Tech and Kennesaw State before welcoming Texas to Neyland Stadium on the 26th. During the week, the term "the real UT" is spoken aloud or written down a million times by the 50,000 reporters who cover the Longhorns and Vols. Arch Manning throws for 5 TDs in a 35-28 Texas victory.

In October, the Vols upset Alabama 24-21 at Neyland Stadium, prompting yet another field storming. Goalposts are thrown off the Gay Street Bridge. The Vols then lose the following week at South Carolina 2-0, prompting Gamecocks head coach Shane Beamer

to crowd surf.

In November, Lane Kiffin and the LSU Tigers come to Neyland Stadium. Among the items thrown at Kiffin are frying pans, shovels, monkey wrenches, hockey

pucks, batteries, apples, tennis rackets and a copy of "Decade of Dysfunction," which you can pick up on Amazon. LSU wins 3-0 and Kiffin is helicoptered to safety.

In December, Vandy QB Diego Pavia, given another year of NCAA eligibility, is once again a Heisman Trophy finalist. Pavia says if he isn't given the Heisman, he is going to

leave the country. Pavia is immediately taken to New York Harbor and put onto a steamship heading for Papua, New Guinea.



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NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: BRIANNA AMARI SANCHEZ

IN RE: ALEJANDRO SANCHEZ
OLVERA, Petitioner/Husband
-Vs-BRIANNA AMARI SANCHEZ,
Respondent/Wife

Docket # 160301

IN THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT OF KNOX
COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, BRIANNA AMARI SANCHEZ, is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon BRIANNA AMARI SANCHEZ.

IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file an answer to an action of COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE filed by ALEJANDRO SANCHEZ OLVERA, Plaintiff herein, with the Fourth Circuit Court in Knoxville, Tennessee, and with LUIS A. URREA, Plaintiff's Attorney whose address is 10700 VIRGINIA PINE WAY, STE. 203, Knoxville, TN 37932, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication, and if you do not answer or otherwise respond, a Default Judgment may be entered against you on the thirtieth (30th) day after the fourth (4th) publication.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This is the 23rd day of December, 2025.

Mike Hammond
ClerkRobert A. Clark
Deputy Clerk

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: TODD ARLEN SHAFFER

IN RE: LESLEY MARIE WINTERS, Plaintiff
VS.TODD ARLEN SHAFFER, Defendant
No. 211770-2IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX
COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, TODD ARLEN SHAFFER, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon TODD ARLEN SHAFFER, it is ordered that said defendant, TODD ARLEN SHAFFER, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with J. Matthew Bolton, BPR, an Attorney whose address is 605 E. Unaka Ave., Johnson City, TN 37601, on or before thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgement by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte to you before Chancellor Richard B. Armstrong at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division II, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 22nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold
Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: SHELDON WILLIAMS

IN RE: NIKKI DENAI LITTLEJOHN, Plaintiff
VS.

SHELDON WILLIAMS, Defendant

Docket # 163865

IN THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT OF KNOX
COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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

IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file an answer to an action of COMPLAINT FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE filed by NIKKI DENAI LITTLEJOHN, Plaintiff herein, with the Fourth Circuit Court in Knoxville, Tennessee, and with Jennifer R. Egelton of Legal Aid of East Tennessee, Plaintiff's Attorney whose address is 607 W. Summit Hill Dr., Knoxville, TN 37902, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication, and if you do not answer or otherwise respond, Default Judgment may be entered against you on the thirtieth (30th) day after the fourth (4th) publication.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This is the 19th day of December, 2025.

Mike Hammond
ClerkRobert A. Clark
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BARBARA CHERYL ARMSTRONG
DOCKET NUMBER 91884-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 22nd day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect to the Estate of BARBARA CHERYL ARMSTRONG, who died on August 24, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Probate Court for 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) below, otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

(2) 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 22nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF BARBARA
CHERYL ARMSTRONG

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
SHERI M. ARMSTRONG
P. O. BOX 251
LEXINGTON, SC 29071

RUSSELL H. ARMSTRONG
6305 CROWN HILL DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

O.E. SCHOW, IV, ATTORNEY
900 SOUTH GAY STREET, 9TH FLOOR
P. O. BOX 900
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901-0900

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BETTYE HENSLEY BEAN
DOCKET NUMBER 91915-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 18 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of BETTYE HENSLEY BEAN, who died Oct. 22, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

(2) 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 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF BETTYE HENSLEY BEAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KENNETH E. BEAN, CO-EXECUTOR
6800 WOODVIEW DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

STEPHEN GREGORY BEAN, CO-EXECUTOR
3721 S. CREEK ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

ESTATE OF BARBARA E. CLINE
DOCKET NUMBER 91838-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of BARBARA E. CLINE, who died October 4, 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 abovementioned 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 prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) 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 18 day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF BETTYE HENSLEY BEAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KENNETH E. BEAN, CO-EXECUTOR
6800 WOODVIEW DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

STEPHEN GREGORY BEAN, CO-EXECUTOR
3721 S. CREEK ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

ESTATE OF BARBARA E. CLINE
DOCKET NUMBER 91838-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of BARBARA E. CLINE, who died October 4, 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 abovementioned 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 prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication as described in (1)(A); or

(2) 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 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF BARBARA E. CLINE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KENNETH E. BEAN, CO-EXECUTOR
6800 WOODVIEW DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

STEPHEN GREGORY BEAN, CO-EXECUTOR
3721 S. CREEK ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

ESTATE OF MARY NEAS COLE
DOCKET NUMBER 91817-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 12 day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARY NEAS COLE, who died June 26, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

(2) 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 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARY NEAS COLE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JOHN W. COLE, III, EXECUTOR
8429 MAJORS ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

ESTATE OF MARY NEAS COLE
DOCKET NUMBER 91817-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARY NEAS COLE, who died June 26, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

(2) 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 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARY NEAS COLE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JOHN W. COLE, III, EXECUTOR
8429 MAJORS ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

ESTATE OF MARY NEAS COLE
DOCKET NUMBER 91817-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARY NEAS COLE, who died June 26, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

(2) 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 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARY NEAS COLE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JOHN W. COLE, III, EXECUTOR
8429 MAJORS ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

ESTATE OF MARY NEAS COLE
DOCKET NUMBER 91817-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARY NEAS COLE, who died June 26, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

(2) 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 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARY NEAS COLE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JOHN W. COLE, III, EXECUTOR
8429 MAJORS ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOANN DEFORD
DOCKET NUMBER 91811-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 23 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of JOANN DEFORD, who died Feb. 1, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or
(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 23 day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF JOANN DEFORD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
LAURA COX, ADMINISTRATRIX
2004 SHANGRI-LA DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37914

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF GEORGE RICHARD DENNINGER
DOCKET NUMBER 91882-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 22nd day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of GEORGE RICHARD DENNINGER, who died on October 28, 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 22nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF GEORGE RICHARD DENNINGER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARETT ST. JOHN
3111 KINGSTON PIKE, APT. 2
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

JOHN EDWIN BAUGH, ATTORNEY
4617 CHAMBLISS AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF PHILLIP J. HAGGERTY, II, M.D.
DOCKET NUMBER 91942-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 30th of DECEMBER, 2025, letters of testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of PHILLIP J. HAGGERTY, II, M.D., who died December 15, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, 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 described 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 30th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF PHILLIP J. HAGGERTY, II, M.D.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ELISABETH ANNE HAGGERTY PALMER
7709 EDITH KEELER LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37938

ANDREW J. CRAWFORD, ATTORNEY
5344 NORTH BROADWAY
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF HANNAH MAE HALLER
DOCKET NUMBER 91899-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 22nd day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of HANNAH MAE HALLER, 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 22nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF HANNAH MAE HALLER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CARMITA SUE HALLER-WRIGHT
8104 CRIMSON LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

REBECCA D. ABBOTT, ATTORNEY
118 HUXLEY RD., SUITE 7

KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARGARET ANN HARPER
DOCKET NUMBER 91858-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 22nd day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARGARET ANN HARPER, who died October 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 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 22nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARGARET ANN HARPER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JESSICA LENNIA FINCH

J. WHITSON SMITH, ATTORNEY
10805 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 200
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF FRANCES THURMAN HUTSON
DOCKET NUMBER 91865-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 23 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of FRANCES THURMAN HUTSON, who died Oct. 30, 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 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 23 day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF FRANCES THURMAN HUTSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ELIZABETH ANN MCCULLOUGH,
ADMINISTRATRIX

121 OLD GODFREY HWY.
EATONTON, GA 31024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF POLLYE M. JONES
DOCKET NUMBER 91839-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 22nd day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of POLLYE M. JONES, who died October 24, 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 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 described 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 22nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF POLLYE M. JONES

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)

JOHNNY M. JONES

6519 BEELER ROAD

KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

MARK A. ROSSER, ATTORNEY

P. O. BOX 1990

KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF PAULA A. KING
DOCKET NUMBER 91832-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 30th of DECEMBER, 2025, letters administration (or letters of testamentary as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of PAULA A. KING, who died May 11, 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 after 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 30th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF PAULA A. KING

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)

SHIRLEY KING

1946 OHIO AVE.

KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

REBECCA D. ABBOTT, ATTORNEY

118 HUXLEY RD., SUITE 7

JOHN NOLAN SHARBEL, ATTORNEY
9111 CROSS PARK DR. BLDG. D, STE. 200
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF KIMBERLY NEELEY
DOCKET NUMBER 91880-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters of Administration in respect to the Estate of KIMBERLY NEELEY, who died November 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 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 22nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF KIMBERLY NEELEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)

JESSICA LENNIA FINCH

ESTATE OF ROBERT LYNN ORRICK
DOCKET NUMBER 91911-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 26 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of ROBERT LYNN ORRICK, who died Nov. 12, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of 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 30th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ROBERT LYNN ORRICK
DOCKET NUMBER 91911-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 26 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of ROBERT LYNN ORRICK, who died Nov. 12, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

Mia Kinney leads Focus All-County Volleyball Team

By Ken Lay

The recently completed 2025 high school volleyball season packed plenty of excitement as many area teams and players had stellar seasons.

Catholic made another trip to the Division II-AA State Tournament, while Central got off to a fast start on its way to winning the District 3-3A regular-season championship.

The Knoxville Focus recognizes some of the top players and coaches on its 2025 All-County Team.

Co-Coach of the Year: Brent Carter: Catholic High School:

Under Carter's guidance, the Lady Irish have become one of the area's top programs. Catholic went 25-10 and made a state tournament appearance.

Co-Coach of the Year: Susan Davidson: Central High School:

The Lady Bobcats had their best season in recent memory in 2025 as they went 24-9 and won the regular season as they had some key wins over some of the state's top teams.

Player of the Year: Mia Kinney: Catholic High School:

An outside hitter for the Lady Irish, Kinney led the Irish to a state tournament appearance. She was an all-region standout for a third consecutive season.

commitment finished her junior campaign with 332 kills, 239 digs, 72 aces and 68 assists. She also received all-state honors from the Tennessee Volleyball Coaches Association. She's joined on the All-County Team by:

2025 Volleyball Team Members

Haylee Munsey: Catholic High School: A senior middle blocker for the Lady Irish, Munsey amassed 140 kills, 62 digs, 59 blocks and 25 aces on her way to earning all-region honors for a second straight year. She also received all-state honors from the TVCA.

Nora James: Catholic High School:

A senior libero for the Lady Irish, James helped her squad reach the Division II-AA state semifinals as she totaled 346 digs and served up 28 aces as she was named an all-region standout for a second consecutive season.

Tallulah Carney: Webb School of Knoxville:

An opposite side player for the Lady Spartans, Carney will play college volleyball for Saint Mary's (California). She was one of the top players in Division II-AA and earned all-region honors from the league's coaches.

Bella Ekeler: Farragut High School:

The Lady Admirals' senior was the District 4-3A Hitter of the Year. She'll play collegiately for Georgia

Southern next season.

Pyper Clevenger: Central High School:

During her sophomore season with the Lady Bobcats, Clevenger was named the District 3-3A Player of the Year after helping her team win the league's regular-season championship. She was Rookie of the Year in the district in 2024 and followed that up with a 2025 season that saw her amass 317 kills, 288 digs, 513 assists and 37 blocks.

She also excels in the classroom as she received all-academic team honors from the TSSAA and the American Volleyball Coaches Association. The primary setter for Central, she can play all five positions in the team's rotation.

Ally Bryant: Central High School:

Bryant, a junior for the Lady Bobcats, was the District 3-3A Hitter of the Year for the second consecutive season. She had 445 kills, 126 aces, 275 digs, 112 assists and 46 blocks. She was also recognized as an all-academic standout by the TSSAA and the AVCA.

Zila Hardin: Central High School:

A senior libero for the Lady Bobcats, Hardin was the District 3-3A Defensive Player of the Year as she collected 389 digs. She was also a playmaker on offense as she dished out 143 assists and served up 287 aces.

School: A senior libero/defensive specialist for the Lady Bobcats, Hardin was the District 3-3A Defensive

Player of the Year as she collected 389 digs. She was also a playmaker on offense as she dished out 143 assists and served up 287 aces.

Sophie Reichert: Bearden High School:

A senior setter and opposite player, Reichert was one of the area's top players at her position. She ended her stellar high school career with more than 1,000 assists.

Katelyn Stooksbury: Concord Christian School:

Stooksbury was an all-district standout for the Lady Lions. She led Region II-A East Region District 1 in digs and aces. The Lions went 23-10 overall, and 8-1 in league play while making a state tournament run.

Kylie Leach: Concord Christian School:

The senior was an all-district standout for Concord. She was the league's top blocker, while helping the Lady Lions have their most successful season in several years.

Seymour answers early wake-up call

Cont. from page 1

Seymour's .500 record would indicate that the early part of the campaign has been a bit of a roller-coaster ride.

Seymour opened last week's tournament with consecutive losses, falling to Powell and Science Hill, forcing it to show up for a 9 a.m. tipoff on Tuesday morning.

Despite some up-and-down play out of the gate, Lady Eagles' first-year head coach Lindsey Koeneman said she has no qualms with her squad's effort. In fact, she said that the team always comes and gives its maximum effort when it's time to hit the hardwood.

"This was a good team win for us. Our kids showed up, and they played, and played well," Koeneman said. "They always give good effort, no matter what time we have to play."

"I'm really proud of our girls. They always show up and put in a good effort. I don't ever feel like I have to worry about our effort."

Sevier County's Lady



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Gibbs High's Amie Buckner looks to make a pass Tuesday. Gibbs closed out the calendar year with a loss to Seymour in Strawberry Plains.

Eagles spent the week at Carter, and when they return to court Tuesday night, they'll be back in Strawberry Plains to play the resident Lady Hornets in a District 3-AAA contest. Tipoff is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Sharp was one of two Seymour players to post double figures in the scoring column against Gibbs. Kali Fisher had 10 points. Spierdowis led Gibbs with 10 points.

Corryton's Lady Eagles will also return to action Tuesday when they host West Greene. Opening tip is slated for 6 p.m.

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