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## Chief Noel explains effort to stop internet crimes against children

By Mike Steely  
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According to Knoxville Police Chief Paul Noel, the number of tips about Internet Crimes Against Children doubled in our state last year. Noel told the city council Tuesday that

Knoxville leads the state in the effort, which he called “a first-class program.”

Noel’s comments were in response to questions from at-large council member Amelia Parker, who wanted to discuss the grant request for \$631,577 from the U.S.

Department of Justice to continue funding the program.

The friendly interchange between Parker and Noel drew some attention, with Parker often a critic of funding requests from the police department. Noel said that state-wide,

there were 35,000 reports of online attempts to lure children and 230 arrests. He told the council there were 450 tips and 41 people arrested locally.

Parker asked why the number of reports had increased, and Noel replied, “Social media.” He

pointed out that reports of violations come from federal, state and local sources. He said Knoxville’s Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force has seven staff members who coordinate with 75 other state-wide agencies.

Noel said that the effort

also includes children who are runaways.

Parker praised the effort, and the funding request passed unanimously.

The meeting was reminded by Director Jerrod Croom that the Police

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## Number of potential 2026 candidates growing

By Mike Steely  
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In addition to the races for county commission seats, there’s a growing field of candidates for other Knox County elected offices this year. While the field seems crowded now, there is still plenty of time for other people to get a petition to qualify for office before the February 19 deadline.

The list of candidates has some familiar names, with some people leaving one elected office to seek another. Some people who have announced for office have yet to pick up the paperwork to do so.

According to the latest Petitions Issued spreadsheet from the Knox County Election Commission, only At-large Commissioners Larsen Jay and Kim Frazier are listed as candidates for Knox County Mayor. Betsy Henderson, who has said she is also running, has yet to appear on the petition list as of January 8. All three are Republicans.

Other candidates filing petitions to run for election include those hoping to replace Sheriff Tom Spangler, who is term-limited. Four Republicans with petitions are former Sheriff J.J. Jones, David Amburn, Mike Davis and Brent Gibson.

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## Basketball time resumes



PHOTO BY LANDON HUNLEY, LZHPRODUCTIONS

*Concord Christian’s Brooklyn Brown brings the ball down court in the Lady Lions’ fast start against CAK Jan. 6, while Karlie Gray defends. CCS jumped out to a 9-0 lead, but the visiting Lady Warriors eventually caught up and notched a 54-47 victory. Please see the game story in Sports and Recreation, Section C.*



PHOTO BY PETE GAWDA.

*At the Thursday meeting of the Knox County Board of Education, Janice Cook, executive director of school culture, was recognized by the school system as Knox County Schools Supervisor of the Year. Pictured left to right are: board member Patricia Fontenot-Ridley, student representative Albert Liu, board members Ann Templeton and John Butler, Janice Cook, superintendent Dr. Jon Rysewyk, board chair Kristi Kristy, assistant superintendent Dr. Andrew Brown, and board members Katherine Bike, Travis Wright, Betsy Henderson, Steve Triplett and Lauren Morgan.*

## Knox Co. school board gives superintendent a good grade

By Pete Gawda

At their meeting on Thursday evening, January 8, the Knox County Board of Education gave Superintendent Jon Rysewyk a good grade on his annual evaluation. They gave the superintendent a median score of 4.2 based on the individual evaluations of each school board member. This score is based on a scale of 1 to 5, with 4 being “Above Expectations” and 5 being “Significantly Above Expectations.”

In a memorandum to

board members, Chair Kristi Kristy said this score was “a reinforcement of the tremendous steps forward made by the district.” Kristy went on to say, “Dr. Rysewyk’s steadfast commitment to our students, staff and community is commendable.” She added that the school system has sustained four years of academic growth, making academic gains across every student subgroup last year. The superintendent’s highest area of evaluation was in “Strategic and Innovative Leadership,” with an

average score of 4.6 across individual evaluations. The area of addressing student health obstacles and challenges received the lowest average score of 3.4.

Turning to other business, with little discussion, the board approved a schematic design package for a new K-8 school presented by Lewis Group Architects. This schematic design is for a state-of-the-art school to serve students currently zoned for Beaumont Magnet Academy, Maynard Elementary School, West View Elementary School

and a portion of Lonsdale Elementary School.

The maximum student capacity of this design package is 1,380 students and includes space dedicated to the performing arts as well as flexible spaces capable of accommodating instructional, visual arts, performance, rehearsal and storage needs.

This design was drawn up using the input from several community meetings held last year.

## National politics, road improvements on Knox County Commission agenda

By Mike Steely  
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It’s a question that has come up before: Should national politics and personal political opinion apply to resolutions brought before the Knox County Commission?

The commission meets in its agenda session on Tuesday, January 20, a day beyond their normal Monday meeting, because of Dr. Martin Luther King Day. On the agenda is a presentation from District 9 Commissioner Andy Fox entitled, “A Christian’s Biblical View of Illegal Immigration.”

Fox also has a resolution encouraging the Knox County Sheriff’s Office to sign an additional

memorandum of understanding for the “287(G) Task Force Model” dealing with illegal immigrants. The program deputizes local law enforcement officers to perform federal immigration enforcement functions.


That presentation could take place on the 20th or on the 26th when the commission meets in regular session. Thus far, there are 39 items on the agenda, including the annual Knox County Schools report, Criminal Court Clerk Mike Hammond’s Bridge to Safety report, and a report from Rural Metro’s Jeff Bagwell.

District 7 Commissioner Rhonda Lee, who has a petition to run in the

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# The Doctor is in

a weekly column by  
Dr. Jim Ferguson

## Communists, Fraud & Realpolitik

The strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must.  
Thucydides

With the pace of events, it's becoming hard to pick the most important topic. I had planned to focus on fraud in Minnesota and elsewhere. But then New York City inaugurated a Marxist mayor. Hey, Big Apple, did you know that in socialism, the state takes your money and property? With Democratic Socialism, you vote to have the state take your money and property. Remember, Fidel Castro was also elected. And Vladimir Lenin said, "The goal of socialism is communism."

But everything changed when we awoke Saturday, January 3, with the surprise arrest of Venezuelan strongman Maduro by American forces. Maduro was holed up on a Caracas military base surrounded by armed Cuban intelligence agents and supposedly protected by Chinese

and Russian air defenses and radar. So much for communist expertise and technology.

Maduro has been under indictment from the Biden Justice Department for drug trafficking and other narcotic-related crimes. Biden also put a \$25 million bounty on Maduro for his capture, but did nothing substantive. And because there was widespread fraud in Venezuela's 2024 election, more than 50 countries do not recognize Maduro as Venezuela's president.

So, "our favorite president" acted to protect Americans from drugs and foreign influence in our hemisphere and arrested the illegitimate, narco-terrorist, essentially cutting off the head of Venezuela's narco-snake. President Trump did more than pull a rabbit out of the hat; he pulled Maduro out of Venezuela. Though bad actors still reside in Venezuela's bureaucracy, I doubt there will be many boats running

drugs in the Gulf of America.

Of course, the craven Democrats, anti-American socialists and the so-called experts are decrying the arrest of Maduro, clutching their pearls and screaming about violations of international law. Someone needs to tell these pinheads that U.S. law always overrides international law. Our own Andy Jackson once said, "One man with courage makes a majority."

But more important than arresting the head of a drug syndicate and a thug are the geopolitical aspects of the apprehension. Just before his arrest, Maduro met with China's special envoy. It is no secret that China is trying to make inroads in the Western Hemisphere and is buying embargoed and discounted Venezuelan oil, which is also being sent to Cuba and Iran in "ghost tankers." This oil fuels the Chinese industry, funds Iran's support of terrorists and props up communist Cuba. Operation Absolute Resolve dealt a serious blow to the Venezuela, China, Iran, Cuba connection. This makes America safer.

In 1823, President James Monroe articulated what would later be called the Monroe Doctrine. The policy was meant to keep foreign powers out of our

neighborhood in the Western Hemisphere. In recent years, President Trump has moved to end China's control of the Panama Canal and China's influence in Venezuela. Some are now labeling Trump's efforts as the "Donroe Doctrine."

As I wrote in last week's essay, "Resolutions," I'm optimistic about 2026. There are many reasons for this, which you can read and consider, but the fraud in Minnesota has caused such outrage that the corrupt media and the Democrats can't hide the debacle. Handsy Tim Walz has now suspended his reelection campaign for governor, and over a thousand have already been arrested for fraud. Whether Walz is just incompetent or culpable for the \$9 billion fraud in his state is unknown. When I practiced medicine, I was responsible for the actions of my staff just as surgeons are responsible for nurses in the operating room. The captain of the ship is ultimately responsible.

Fraud has become rampant with investigations proceeding in Minnesota, California, Illinois, NY and Colorado. It has become so bad that WE The People have lost trust in our institutions. An immediate example is the election of a communist as mayor of NYC. In his inaugural address, Mamdani said that "We

will replace the rigidity of rugged individualism with the warmth of collectivism." Mamdani articulated the fraud of Marxism: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs." Communism is a fraud, having been tried over and over, always ending in disaster. This philosophy led to the deaths of 100 million people in the 20th century and took Venezuela from one of the most wealthy countries in the world to poverty and ruin.

We tend to forget other frauds: the Russian collusion hoax, USAID and NGOs corruption, the Biden is competent ruse, the fraud you can change your DNA and gender, ballot harvesting and mail-in voting fraud, refusal to have voter ID and perpetual media fraud. Elon Musk once said, "I learned from PayPal that the ones that cried the loudest are the perpetrators of fraud."

The Big Beautiful Bill encompassed 30 pieces of legislation and was essentially the entire Trump agenda. Included were needed fraud provisions for Medicaid as well as work requirements for the able-bodied.

The real tragedy of the Minnesota Somali fraud is that the people who need help will not get it. Americans are a giving people, but we've had it. We've been like Charlie

Brown, but we no longer trust Lucy to hold the ball. I'm now extremely careful with donations. I preferentially give to those I know rather than organizations. And, like voting, if I'm unsure about a candidate or an organization, I seek out the advice of someone I trust who can advise me. I encourage you to do the same rather than not voting or not donating.

I fear the Somali debacle will give people an excuse not to be generous. It doesn't help to learn that 90% of Somalis are on welfare, and the fraud in Minnesota was greater than Somalia's GDP. My frustration extends to foreign aid, the feckless UN and the foreigners living among us, waving foreign flags and scamming us.

Mr. Webster defines realpolitik as politics based on practical factors rather than theoretical or ethical objectives. President Trump is pragmatic, and his Operation Absolute Resolve in Venezuela and Midnight Hammer in Iran were examples of the practical use of power for the benefit of our country. These operations were not a perversion of "might makes right." Trump's realpolitik is based on common sense and what is best for America. The Greek historian Thucydides would undoubtedly agree.

You may email Dr. Ferguson at [fergusonj@knoxfocus.com](mailto:fergusonj@knoxfocus.com)

## Merit board to chose leadership Tuesday

By Mike Steely  
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Members of the Knox County Sheriff's Office Employees' Merit System Board of Directors will be selected when the group meets at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Members Michael Crichton and Clarence Vaughn are leaving the board, and they will be recognized for their service. The board will also approve the minutes from their July and October meetings.

Current members include Chairman Kenny Boatman, Vice Chair Lindsey Willis, Brock Goetz, Dan Johnson, Daniel Herrera, Herman Lathers and Steve McFall. Non-voting members include Detective Jeremy McCord, Chief Debbie and Mitzi Evans.

The members will choose a board chair and vice chair and vote on new KCSO job descriptions. They will also set up their quarterly meeting dates for 2026.

## Number of potential 2026 candidates growing

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The office of county trustee has two Republican candidates, incumbent Justin Biggs and Register of Deeds Director Nick McBride. Democrat Stephen Hood also has a petition.

Commissioner Rhonda Lee has a petition for General Session Judge, Division IV. She'll face interim Judge Andrea Kline, chosen by the commission last month to replace retiring Judge Andrew Jackson VI. Both women are

Republicans.

So far, the incumbent circuit civil sessions and juvenile court clerk, Republican Charlie Susano, is the sole candidate for that office.

Mike Hammond has a petition to remain criminal court clerk and at the moment is running unopposed.

Hoping to replace McBride as Register of Deeds is current county clerk Sherry Witt.

Former Commissioner Richie Beeler, a Republican, has a petition to

replace Witt as county clerk.

The race for the five board of education seats is growing as well. Among the petition holders are incumbent John Butler and O'Tavais Harris for the District 1 seat. Both are Democrats.

District 4, so far, has only one candidate, incumbent Katherine Bike.

District 6 has two candidates: Kevin Crateau, a Republican, and Democrat Cadence Collins. Both hope to replace former Chairwoman Betsy Henderson.

District 7 has a lone Republican candidate, incumbent Stephen Triplett.

District 9 has three candidates: Incumbent Kristi Kristy and William Sofield, who are Republicans, and Democrat Brandy Jenkins.

Primary early voting starts April 15, with Election Day following on May 5. February 26 is the final day for candidates to withdraw.



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# Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher  
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## Thank You, President Trump

The military operation to capture Nicolás Maduro, the dictator of Venezuela, was both bold and brilliantly executed. Maduro sat atop a criminal government that had been almost certainly voted out of office and was only able to remain in office due to the most blatant kind of fraud. Venezuela was once a prosperous country, which was ruined by Hugo Chavez and Nicolás Maduro through systemic and massive corruption, leading to skyrocketing inflation, which caused massive shortages of food and medicine. Some will remember starving Venezuelans stealing animals from the zoo to eat. Maduro has turned Venezuela into a

hellhole of poverty; crime and violence are rampant as the basic necessities of life are financially out of reach for most citizens due to the economic mismanagement and chaos wrought by the socialist government.

Maduro's government has been charged by the U.S. Department of Justice with drug trafficking and narco-terrorism. The flow of drugs into this country has had serious consequences, with over 100,000 Americans dying of drug overdoses in 2023. Illegal drugs have afflicted the high and the low, the rich and the poor, and kill indiscriminately. The number of lives ruined by drugs is many times the number of deaths, and all of us know someone who has either lost a family member or witnessed the ruin and heartache it leaves in its wake. The United States government and President Trump have waged war on the drug cartels who are responsible for these tragedies induced on American families. These drugs are not only illegal, but they also kill constantly. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have lost their lives due to drugs and the cruel cartels that earn

billions of dollars from the illegal distribution and sale of drugs.

## Democrats On The Wrong Side Of Everything

Once again, the Democrats are howling, hissing and hollering about bringing Maduro to justice.

Yet again, the Democrats run away from doing anything to deter crime. The Democrats are the party of defunding the police, the party that wishes to replace law enforcement professionals with social workers armed with fly swats into potentially deadly situations. The Democrats once again side with the criminals and cartels.

In 2020, when asked if they believed in open borders, every Democratic presidential candidate on the stage, including Kamala Harris, Pete Buttigieg, Cory Booker, all nineteen of them, raised their hands to indicate their support. It was a deliberate policy, and they have never acknowledged that with open borders, the illegal drugs flow into this country. A war of drugs and criminal cartels has, in truth, been waged against our people

for quite some time. It is long past time that we should have stopped the drugs from coming to our country. Not only does crime cost our people and country blood, but also cold, hard cash. The University of Chicago, no citadel of Republicanism, conducted a study on the cost of crime and concluded the annual cost of crime in the US was between \$4.7 and \$5.8 trillion. The study calculates the "direct costs of law enforcement, criminal justice, and victims' losses and the indirect costs of private deterrence, fear and agony and time lost to avoidance and recovery."

It is way past time to bring those responsible to justice. In a world where criminals are not prosecuted for their crimes, there is no justice, social or otherwise. It is also long overdue for the Leftists to demand justice for the families who have suffered the torments of hell on earth due to addiction and the death of a loved one. It is way past time for America to stand up for our people and do something to protect us. God Bless President Trump and the United States of America!

## Congratulations, Jeff

Fortunately, the gridlock in Congress has receded enough to have President Trump's four nominees for the Board of Directors for TVA to be confirmed. One of our own was nominated by President Trump and confirmed by the Senate. Jeff Hagood, a well-known local attorney, was sworn in last week.

Hagood is well-known for not only being an excellent attorney but also deeply involved in our community. Jeff Hagood, an enthusiastic alumnus of the University of Tennessee, remains a vocal and avid Volunteer. Hagood has done countless things to better our community, and his appointment to the TVA Board of Directors is an excellent one. Jeff Hagood can be depended upon to continue to serve his community and hometown with ability, integrity and conservative compassion.

## Please Make Daylight Saving Time Permanent

In 2019, the Tennessee General Assembly mandated that our state would observe daylight saving

time year-round. Unfortunately, Congress has yet to change the law, and federal law supersedes state law. That makes the law passed by the General Assembly unenforceable. At least nineteen of our states have passed laws making daylight saving time permanent with federal permission. Many other states have considered it. Under existing law, states can exempt themselves from daylight saving time by choosing to remain on standard time continuously, which only Arizona and Hawaii have chosen to do. The U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands also stick to standard time all year round.

Then Senator Marco Rubio proposed the Sunshine Protection Act, which would have kept the U.S. on daylight saving time continuously. That bill passed the Senate unanimously in 2022, but bogged down in the House. Let's urge the House of Representatives to try again as soon as possible. I realize we have bigger fish to fry, but let's fry them with more sunlight in the evenings.

# Commission agenda

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upcoming Republican Primary for Session Judge, has a resolution on the agenda supporting local discretion with a proposed state law dealing with school boards. The Knox County School Board recently voted to provide free education to all children, regardless of immigration status, opposing the state bill that would allow denying enrollment to undocumented students.

Fox also has a resolution that would define special requirements and limitations on possible "Data Centers and Data Center Accessory Uses" in Knox County. The idea surfaced in November, and the deferment was requested by Fox.

A second reading of a Fox ordinance is on the agenda, prohibiting discrimination against United States citizens from purchasing real property in Knox County. The idea is to prevent competition

between residents and foreign interests in purchasing Knox County property.

Commission Chairwoman Gina Oster and Mayor Glenn Jacobs propose declaring January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Lee has a resolution recognizing the U.S. Constitution during the county's 250th Anniversary.

## Other commission business

The growth of Knox County will be reflected with the county commission voting to accept 12 new subdivision streets into its maintenance system.

Three portions of roads may be closed along Macmont Circle, Wye Way Lane and Bailey Farm Drive.

Applicants for two open seats on the Agricultural Extension Committee and one on the Board of Zoning Appeals will be heard at

the Tuesday agenda session. Road improvement projects on the agenda include intersections at Marietta Church and Hardin Valley roads, East Beaver Creek and Stone Cutter drives, and on Johnson Road. The Department of Engineering and Public Works has also requested a grant agreement from state and federal agencies for the Safe Routes to School Action Plan.

The Gibbs Pedestrian Bridge may receive a contract for engineering and inspection services, and Angelic Ministries and the Volunteer Ministry Center may be awarded contract extensions. A contract may also be approved for the Concord Park Fishing Pier upgrade.

Three companies may be approved for pavement marking materials and striping work along county roads.

First Bank may be approved for county banking services through 2027.

# Chief Noel explains effort to stop internet crimes against children

Continued from page 1

Advisory and Review Committee (PARC) will meet on Thursday, January 22, in the South Knox Community Center at 522 Maryville Pike.

In other action, the new members of city council, attending their first full meeting, spoke up on several issues.

District 6 Councilman Denzel Grant called on Jackie Robinson to speak to the meeting following her appointment to PARC, calling her a leader in helping local people to "navigate the court system."

Karyn Adams of District 1 led the devotional and reported on the progress of renovating the former Giffin School into 77 housing units in the South Haven Neighborhood.

Councilman Nathan Honeycutt of District 2 applauded the traffic light work on Highway 311 and reminded everyone that the city is taking traffic calming request applications from neighborhoods.

The council passed several zoning changes within its consent agenda and discussed and voted to approve a change at 406 Willow Avenue. Brad Salsbury had requested adding a planned development zoning designation there for a three-story restaurant's second phase of development.

Mayor Indya Kincannon's nominations



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

At-large Councilwoman Amelia Parker had a friendly interchange with Knoxville Police Chief Paul Noel last week about the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

of Luis Urrea to the Board of Zoning Appeals and Lisa Sorensen to the Design Review Board were approved. Councilwoman Lynne Fugate thanked the council for choosing her as vice mayor.



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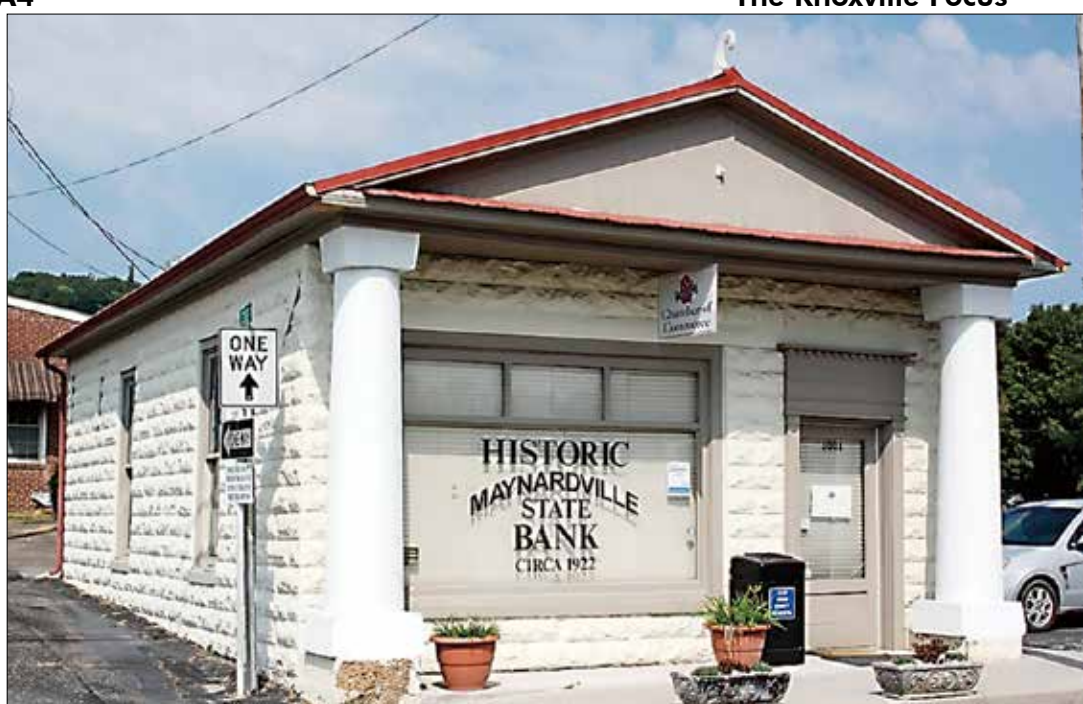
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The historic Maynardville State Bank is located in the small downtown section of the Union County seat and is well worth getting off Highway 33 to see the unique little city.

# Revisiting Maynardville

## A Day Away



By Mike Steely

Just north of Knoxville is a small town unique in its government and special in its creation.

Maynardville is located between Knoxville and Tazewell along Highway 61/33, a road better known from Halls northward as Maynardville Highway. The road is being widened to four lanes and will soon be a quicker route to leave the metro area for rural East Tennessee.

The town is named for

pro-Unionist and Knoxville attorney Horace Maynard, who defended the creation of a new county there, and has about 2,600 residents. Originally called "Liberty," the town was chosen as the county seat of Union County.

No, the county was not named for support of the Union in the Civil War, but because it was created in 1850 from portions of surrounding counties, including Knox. Union County is growing with new residents moving to the area to work in Knoxville and Oak Ridge. More than 60% of the population works outside the county.

The Maynardville area has various campgrounds and marinas along the Clinch River and Norris Lake. The city is unusual in having a council/city manager system where the elected council members

choose the mayor and vice mayor. Much of the development is happening along the highway, and Main Street takes off from the south of the old city and runs past what was the "downtown" area that includes a historic old bank building.

Back on the main highway is the former Union County Jail, the Union County Museum and Genealogy Library, and access to the local schools. The county and the town proudly claim to be the "Cradle of Country Music" and boast musicians like Roy Acuff, Chet Atkins, Kenny Chesney and Carl Smith.

Nearby parks include Big Creek State Park and the Chuck Swan State Forest. Within Maynardville are a Food City, convenience stores, banks, service stations and other common amenities.

Maynardville is located along the historic "Thunder Road" moonshine trail and is mentioned in the famous country song. Other small towns in Union County include Luttrell and Plainview. The town sits in the center of what is known as Raccoon Valley.

You can contact the museum and library by phone at 865-992-2136 or email [unioncountyhistoricalsocietytn@gmail.com](mailto:unioncountyhistoricalsocietytn@gmail.com).

If you'd like to make a day trip, you might also consider continuing north and stopping at Tazewell and doubling back on Highway 25E there to the Clinch Mountain Overlook, Bean Station, Tate Spring and Rutledge. Getting out with a spouse or taking the family for an outing is a great way to get away for a day.

# O'Connor Senior Center adds even more fun new classes in new year

The John T. O'Connor Senior Center is excited to announce the addition of new classes designed to support the health, creativity, and social well-being of older adults in the community. Known for offering free Center membership, and a wide variety of free and low-cost programs to adults age 50+, the Center continues its mission to provide opportunities that enhance physical fitness, artistic expression, lifelong learning, and meaningful connection. The new classes—Music Theory and Introduction to Guitar—expand the Center's lineup of exercise, arts and crafts, recreational, educational, and health-focused offerings such as Everyday Fitness with Tricia, Card Making and Scrapbooking, as reported last week. The center also has new class times for the Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) Exercise Class.

**Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) Exercise Class** focuses on improving strength, improving flexibility, balance, and fitness. Class can be done standing or from a seated position. Class meets Monday-Thursday at 12:30 p.m. New class times have been added: Tuesdays and Thursdays

at 8:45 a.m.

**Music Theory (Beginner)** is a six-week introductory music theory course that covers reading music, understanding note values, time signatures, and dynamic markings. Join the experience on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. **Introduction to Guitar (Beginner)** is a six-week class that teaches how to pick notes and play basic chords and songs. No experience or guitar is necessary; borrow a guitar from the Center. Join the class on Thursdays at 2 p.m. to expand your knowledge.

"These new classes really reflect the heart of our mission," said Mary Sibbett, Program Manager of the O'Connor Senior Center. "We want to offer programs that support the whole person—physically, socially, and creatively. Whether someone wants to build strength, learn a new craft, or enjoy time with friends, these classes provide fun and accessible ways to do just that."

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

To find listings for all of O'Connor Center programs, visit [knoxseniors.org/oconnor](http://knoxseniors.org/oconnor).

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Tennessee Scholars' Bowl, an exciting academic tournament showcasing students from forty-four high schools across East Tennessee and Southeast Kentucky, will begin broadcasting its forty-second season on Monday, January 12, 2026. New episodes will air weekdays at 5:30 p.m. ET on East Tennessee PBS through March 19, 2026.

## Scholars' Bowl begins today

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Tennessee Scholars' Bowl, which pits teams from 44 high schools across our region, begins its 42th season on East Tennessee PBS TV today. The 5:30 p.m. program is hosted and written by Frank Murphy and features outstanding high school students from the surrounding counties and Whitley County, Kentucky.

Teams of four students answer a variety of questions ranging from literature to religion and each game is a single-elimination match. Winning teams advance in the brackets and the final two teams compete for the

Frank Miller Memorial Trophy and a cash stipend

Murphy is returning for his tenth season. Recent winners of the Scholars' Bowl include Webb School, Hardin Valley, J. Frank White Academy, Maryville, Cedar Springs Home School, and Farragut High School.

The Focus asked Murphy about the show and the students.

**In your years hosting and producing the show, were there some surprising moments?**

One year the students from J. Frank White Academy kept asking me to go

to lunch with them after recording their episodes. I said I wouldn't go during the season, but they got me to promise to go to lunch with them if they won the championship. I got the Chicken Parmigianino at Olive Garden.

I'm flattered and tickled when the students use their introductions to make a comment about me. Some have mentioned my neckties. Some have teased me about jobs from my past that they read about on Wikipedia. This year, one student from Science Hill High School told me that Tennessee Scholars' Bowl

**Continue on page 4**



## Junior commission students for 2026 class announced

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Eleven high school students have been chosen to be the Knox County Junior Commissioners for 2026. Each student, a junior or senior, will team with the current commissioners during the next three months to learn how local government operates. The students will attend agenda review, regular commission and zoning meetings, take field trips and visit various county departments. At the end of the session, the students will hold a mock commission meeting.

The fourth year of the junior commission program, founded by Commissioner Larsen Jay, begins this afternoon with an orientation.

The students and the commissioners they will work with are:

District 1 - Vanee' Brown (Senior), Austin East High School, with Damon Rawls

District 2 - Jordan Partain (Junior), West High

School, with Courtney Durrett

District 3 - Taylor Cash (Junior), Bearden High School, with Gina Oster

District 4 - Henry Casey (Senior), West High School, with Shane Jackson

District 5 - Rebecca Pack (Senior), Farragut High School, with Angela Russell

District 6 - Willie Martinez (Junior), L&N STEM Academy, with Terry Hill

District 7 - Brooke Bradley (Junior), Powell High School, with Rhonda Lee

District 8 - Oriana Hall (Junior), Career Magnet Academy, with Adam Thompson

District 9 - Camden Browning (Junior), South-Doyle High School, with Andy Fox

At-large, Seat 10 - Tahj Bowers (Junior), Webb School of Knoxville, with Larsen Jay

At-large, Seat 11 - Bridget Hoppenrath (Junior) West High School with Kim Frazier.

## Getting to know new city council member



By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The new District 6 Knoxville City Councilman is Denzel Grant. He defeated Stan Johnson and four other candidates to replace Gwen McKenzie, who was term-limited.

The Knoxville Focus asked Grant what his main priorities will be during his term, and here

is his reply:

"On City Council, my goal is to help build systems that actually work for the people most impacted by policy decisions. That starts with creating a coordinated ecosystem of violence interruption services—one that brings together multiple community-based organizations, public safety partners, and social service providers to prevent violence

before it happens and support healing after it does.

"I am also committed to increasing obtainable housing, not just "affordable housing." That means creating real pathways for working families to rent, own, and build wealth in the neighborhoods they already call home.

"Finally, I want to reform the city's procurement process, so

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and small, local businesses have a fair chance to participate in city projects. By unbundling large contracts into smaller, achievable scopes, we can keep public dollars circulating locally, grow minority-owned businesses, and create long-term economic opportunity in our community."

## Denzel Grant



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# Afterwards

"Whew!" How many folks uttered that word on the Friday after Christmas 2025 had come and gone? Families united for a few days, but to be honest, many of those who left to



**By Joe Rector**  
joerector@comcast.net

return home, and the ones who hosted them were glad to wave goodbye. No matter how much family members and friends are loved, they, too, "begin to smell after three days." The fact has nothing to do with love; our routines help us to get through our workdays and demands at home. Prolonged interruptions to those routines cause

anxiety and irritation. So, getting back to normal is welcomed by most of us. Here in our area, we've been blessed with springlike weather. Christmas Day was a bit strange as folks donned shorts to go outside and watch children play. The unusual weather did allow relatives to travel here for the holidays. Unlike the poor folks up north, we didn't shovel snow and fight brutal winds that dipped temperatures into the minus areas. Fear not, those of you who long for snow for Christmas. The coming weeks will thrill your

souls with plunging temperatures and the possibility of snow or ice. Some of us say, "Bah, humbug," to the winter weather that is on its way. Our happiest day recently wasn't Christmas; it was the arrival of the winter solstice. Now, every day will increase daylight until DST arrives again.

Too many people are already worried about the credit card bill that will arrive in the mail. It is only an envelope, but it threatens to squash our budgets and bank accounts. Amy and I agreed to back off on spending for presents, but I lied. I knew I was doing it as I said the words. My wife deserves the best things that I can buy. I try to pay attention to things

she tells me to get, but I always find other things to give her. I've learned over the years two things. One, always keep the receipts for purchases. Two, when in doubt, remember that cash is always the right size and color.

So, the total cost for Christmas presents for Amy was close to that of most other years. I'll move money around to pay the bill. Too many overspending individuals will open their bill, shake their heads as they mutter a curse word, and send the minimum payment. In the next few months, the entire bill will be paid off, hopefully before Christmas 2026 arrives.

My sympathies go out to

all those homeowners who spent hours putting up decorations. They are now staring at hours of labor to take those items down. The cold weather will make the tasks even more difficult. We bought a new tree this year because I no longer could carry the old one. The lights twinkled in a variety of ways, so we didn't put ornaments on the tree. It's half the size of the old one, and that makes toting it for storage much easier. Our only concerns were that Harvey had never seen a Christmas tree and that he'd mark it as his territory. We also chose only a few decorations since no one was coming to our house for Christmas.

Easter isn't that far away.

Our church choir will have a cantata, and we'll celebrate the greatest event in the history of the world. No decorations will be displayed at our house. Yes, we used to set out Easter baskets for our children, but that was all. New parents, only doing a basket is okay. Bunnies don't lay eggs. Take a rest from all the hoopla that surrounds other holidays. Take a breath, say a prayer, and be grateful for the sacrifice that was made by the man. By the way, we welcome any person who would like to sing in our church choir. Our need for new and more voices is pressing.

## Concord United Methodist Church Hosts Community Wheelchair Drive

Concord United Methodist Church, in partnership with Joni and Friends, will host a Wheelchair Drive on Saturday, January 17, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. as part of its annual Mission Blitz Weekend, a four-day outreach effort that mobilizes volunteers to serve the community through more than 25 mission projects across the region.

The wheelchair drive will be held at The Thrift Store – A Mission of Concord United Methodist Church, located at 8843 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923. Community members are invited to donate new or gently used mobility equipment to support individuals with disabilities locally and around the world.

This project is made possible through a partnership with Joni and Friends, an international organization dedicated to serving people with disabilities and their families through practical help and the message of Christ's love.

Items being collected include:

- Manual wheelchairs (all sizes and types)
- Wheelchair

footrests and parts

- Rollators
- Knee scooters
- Walkers
- Other mobility aids and equipment

All donated items will be refurbished or redistributed to individuals who urgently need them, offering restored independence, dignity, and mobility to people who might otherwise go without.

"Our Mission Blitz Weekend is all about loving our neighbors in practical ways," said a spokesperson from Concord United Methodist Church. "This wheelchair drive is a powerful way for our community to come together and give the gift of movement and hope."

Mission Blitz Weekend runs January 16-19 and brings together hundreds of volunteers serving across Knox County through projects such as home repairs, food distribution, outreach to seniors, and support for local nonprofits.

For more information about the Wheelchair Drive or Mission Blitz, visit [concordunited.org/missionblitz](http://concordunited.org/missionblitz) or stop by The Thrift Store on January 17 to make a donation.

## When the Watchman Grows Weary

I have personally travelled to Jerusalem and other parts of the world, where I have observed the ruins of old city walls with observation towers. In St. Augustine, Florida, stands the Castillo de San Marcos. On each corner stands a steeple of surveillance where, in its day, a watchman would stand on the wall all through the night. The role was anything but glamorous, but it was essential. While the city slept, they watched for movement, incoming vessels that could be threatening, the enemy's advances, and approaching danger. If they fell asleep, the entire city would pay the price. Staying vigilant without rest, however, would eventually lead to collapse. History records the sad story of many cities that fell, not because their walls were weak, but because their watchmen were exhausted.

Parenting, grandparenting, leading, loving, shepherding, and ministry have



**By Justin Pratt,**  
Clear Springs Baptist Church Senior Pastor

weeks that feel like that watchtower. Times that will tax you mentally and emotionally. Standing as the gatekeeper when hell is assaulting and attacking the people that you love. On more occasions than

I like to remember, in a variety of circumstances, I have had to stand as the watchman in my own tower of protection. At the same time, very real spiritual opposition has threatened the very existence of the people I am tasked to care for. I've walked closely with marriages teetering on the edge of disaster, addicts burdened by shame and longing to come clean, and sheep under attack from forces they don't fully understand. That level of personal investment takes a toll on any of us; physically, emotionally and mentally.

And yet, in the midst of the weariness, I've found myself so many times strengthened in the inner man. It's this unexplainable pressure of mental

and physical exhaustion, coupled with a simultaneous spiritual strength that matches the test that is before you. I know that it comes from God, because left to myself, I would drown. How can we stay spiritually afloat when we are emotionally and mentally drowning? It's really a matter of being in His presence. Proverbs 4:23 says: "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Spiritual leaders are not exempt from this command; we are especially accountable to it. The apostle Paul reinforces this truth in Acts 20:28 when he exhorts pastors to "take heed therefore unto yourselves, and (then) to all the flock." The order is intentional. Before we can effectively shepherd others well, we must tend to our own souls. This is true for pastors, parents or anyone in a leadership capacity.

When ministry or leading others becomes a machine, people become products to be managed rather than souls to be shepherded. Systems have their place, but they can never replace presence; God's presence in us, and our presence

with people. When leaders run on fumes, we may still function, but we stop flourishing. And eventually, the flock feels it. If we want to be good for the people God has entrusted to us, then we have to be prepared ourselves. That preparation doesn't begin with strategy, schedules, or solutions; it starts in the presence of God. Time with Him is not a luxury for leaders; it is a necessity. We cannot fight spiritual battles with empty hearts.

Here's the lesson we need etched more deeply into our souls: our success in helping hurting people is tethered to our own faithfulness to being with God. His presence strengthens the weary watchman, sharpens discernment, and prepares us for every new challenge and obstacle. To every leader standing on the wall, guard your heart, take heed to yourself, and don't neglect the place where your strength is renewed. The city and the people you love depend on it.

## Keep Knoxville Beautiful to Host Seventh Annual Summit

On January 30, 2026, Keep Knoxville Beautiful will host their seventh annual Summit from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the East

Tennessee History Center. The KKB Summit brings speakers from all over the country to Knoxville with the goal of educating and inspiring the audience about what is happening in sustainability and urban design in other municipalities and dreaming big about what might be

possible here. The theme of this year's Summit is "Rooted in Place," focusing on Placemaking.

This event is open to the public. Tickets are only \$20 including lunch and are available on Keep Knoxville Beautiful's website.

This year, KKB is excited to welcome, among other

speakers, Carol Coletta and Jon Jon Wesolowski. Carol Coletta is a Bloomberg Public Innovation Fellow at the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University. Coletta has deep experience driving impactful public-private partnerships, leveraging networks of civic assets, and fostering the prosperity of communities and individuals across the United States. Jon Jon Wesolowski, also known as The Happy Urbanist, makes viral social media videos on cities and urban design. He has nearly 300,000 followers and several videos with millions of views.

KKB would like to thank sponsors WM, BarberMcMurry Architects, YES! Knoxville and SESCO Lighting.

Keep Knoxville Beautiful was founded in 1978 to beautify Knoxville prior to the 1982 World's Fair. To learn more about Keep Knoxville Beautiful, visit [keepknoxvillebeautiful.org](http://keepknoxvillebeautiful.org)



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# Three From Tennessee

## Wynne F. Clouse, Lon Scott and Joe Brown

### Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

For decades, Tennessee was either a largely or solidly Democratic state, especially in statewide elections. Democrats also dominated the congressional seats from Tennessee save for the First and Second Congressional Districts. Tennessee had only once been carried by a Republican presidential candidate. That was in 1868 by Ulysses S. Grant and then only because most of the Democrats had been disenfranchised following the Civil War. Tennessee remained reliably Democratic in every successive presidential election until 1920.

For more than half a century, 1920 was the high-water mark for Republicans in Tennessee. Warren G. Harding was the Republican presidential nominee, facing Governor James M. Cox of Ohio and his vice-presidential running mate, Franklin D. Roosevelt, the assistant secretary of the Navy under President Woodrow Wilson. There had been some difficult times for Democrats in the Volunteer State for several years when the party was blown apart by factionalism and infighting. A bruising battle for the 1908 Democratic nomination for governor was fought by incumbent Malcolm Rice Patterson and former U.S. Senator Edward Ward Carmack. Patterson had, like his father before him, been a congressman from Shelby County and had won the governorship in 1906. Oddly, both candidates were redheaded, and both were compelling speakers. Carmack had only narrowly been denied a second six-year term in the U.S. Senate by Robert L. Taylor, a three-time governor and one of the most personally popular figures in Tennessee. Carmack ran as the champion of those voters who favored prohibition, while Governor Patterson said he was for local option, meaning each city or county decided whether alcohol could be bought and sold. The primary campaign was extremely bitter with Patterson winning the primary and general election.

Edward W. Carmack went back to his occupation as a newspaper editor, hired by Colonel Luke Lea for his Nashville Tennessean. Carmack assailed the governor and several of his associates in print, which ended with the editor engaging in a gun battle on the streets of Nashville with Colonel Duncan Cooper and his son, Robin. The exchange of gunfire left Carmack dead. Robin Cooper was freed on a technicality, and Governor Malcolm Patterson pardoned his friend Colonel Cooper, which set off a firestorm of indignation all across the state. The

fury of the voters ended Malcolm Patterson's political career. In 1910, the Democratic Party broke in two, with a ticket running as Independent Democrats, and Patterson was forced out of the race for a third two-year term as governor. Fusionism was born in Tennessee, with Republicans forming a combine with the Independent Democrats. Ben W. Hooper, a young Republican from East Tennessee, defeated Robert L. Taylor for governor in an upset. Luke Lea was elected by the General Assembly as Tennessee's United States senator, and while he was seated as a Democrat, he had been elected by the fusionist combine. Two years later, Hooper defeated the "Old Warhorse" of Tennessee's Democratic Party, former Governor Benton McMillin, to win a second two-year term. The fusionists elected Tennessee's other United States senator in 1912 as well, John Knight Shields.

Tennessee Democrats reunited in 1914, defeated Governor Hooper, who was seeking a third two-year term, and elected Tom C. Rye. Lea was ousted from the U.S. Senate in 1916 by Kenneth McKellar. Rye was succeeded after two terms by Albert H. Roberts, who experienced a particularly turbulent two-year term. Tennessee was roiled by the fight over the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote. Senator McKellar and his friend E. H. Crump were both strongly in favor of suffrage for women, but many Democrats were not, including Governor Roberts. Congressman Cordell Hull had voted against ratification in the U.S. House, saying it was a matter for the individual states to decide.

Angry women were the tip of the spear in the 1920 campaign, and Democrats were stunned in Tennessee by the results. Governor A. H. Roberts had been defeated by 72-year-old Alf Taylor, the Republican brother of the late Robert Taylor. Five out of Tennessee's ten seats in the U.S. House had been won by Republicans. Among the five, only one was an incumbent, J. Will Taylor of the Second District. "Hillbilly Bill" Taylor had first been elected in 1918, defeating Congressman Richard Austin. Carroll Reece, an economist and hero of the First World War, had toppled the overconfident incumbent, Sam Sells, inside the Republican primary and was easily elected in the fall.

Three other freshmen Republicans had been elected in 1920 from Tennessee. Joe Brown, the son of a former Republican



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Congressman Lon A. Scott of Savannah, TN, circa 1920.

congressman, had defeated veteran congressman John A. Moon, who had been in the House since 1896. Brown was a 40-year-old lawyer from Chattanooga.

The biggest surprise of the 1920 election in Tennessee was the loss of Congressman Cordell Hull in Tennessee's rock-ribbed Democratic Fourth district. The Fourth Congressional District had never elected a Republican to Congress and was a collection of rural counties in Middle Tennessee. Hull narrowly lost to Wynne F. Clouse, who was also an attorney by profession and 37-years-old. Cordell Hull had been in Congress since 1907 and had never been defeated.

Congressman Thetus Sims, a rotund, verbose man, was a veteran of the U.S. House of Representatives who had also come to Congress in 1896. Sims had lost the Democratic primary to young Gordon Browning, an ambitious veteran of the First World War. Browning had lost the general election to Lon Scott, a 32-year-old Republican businessman and former state legislator.

Carroll Reece, of course, would go on to serve longer in the House than any Tennessean except for his successor, Jimmy Quillen. Wynne Clouse, Joe Brown and Lon Scott would serve abbreviated tenures in the House.

Joseph Edgar Brown was the son of Foster V. Brown, who was a lawyer and a Republican who served a term in the U.S. House of Representatives. Joe Brown was the first Republican to serve Tennessee's Third Congressional District since his father's election in 1894. Brown would also be the last member of the Republican Party to hold that seat until Bill Brock won election to the House in 1962.

Joe Brown, like his father before him, did not seek a second term. Brown became the chairman of Tennessee's Republican State Executive Committee

and continued practicing law with the firm started by his father.

Brown would only outlive his father by a couple of years. The former congressman was found dead in his hotel apartment in Chattanooga of a heart attack on June 13, 1939. Brown's wife was away in Charlottesville, Virginia, when her husband died suddenly.

Wynne F. Clouse graduated from the Cumberland School of Law and began practicing in Cookeville, Tennessee. Clouse was an active Republican and was elected as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1916 and 1924. Few gave Wynne Clouse much of a chance to defeat Congressman Cordell Hull, who was deeply entrenched inside the Fourth Congressional District after having served 14 years in the House. Clouse ran an active campaign, and Hull's political nose did not betray him as he sniffed a whiff of apathy amongst Democratic women. On the other hand, Republican women were eager to cast their first vote for president and the lesser offices. Hull won five of the counties while Clouse won the remaining eight. Clouse won surprisingly large majorities in several of the counties to eke out a victory by exactly 332 votes.

Hull never stopped running and sought a rematch in 1922 after having become chairman of the Democratic National Committee. The Republican tide had receded, and Hull reclaimed his seat in the House by more than 8,000 votes and Congressman Clouse polled only slightly more than 37% of the ballots cast.

After his defeat, Wynne Clouse never again sought elective office. Clouse became a special assistant to the U.S. Attorney General, and he was appointed a referee in the bankruptcy court by federal Judge John Gore and practiced law in Nashville until his retirement. Clouse died

at his home in Franklin, Tennessee, on February 19, 1944, at age 60.

Lon Allen Scott was from Savannah, Tennessee, and also attended the Cumberland Law School, but apparently never practiced law as much as he engaged in a number of business enterprises. At one time or another, Scott was involved in timber and real estate and was also the president of the Dixie Oil Company.

Lon Scott was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1912 and was reelected in 1914 and 1916. Scott was the Republican leader during his second term in the Tennessee House. Lon Scott resigned his House seat to join the Marine Corps as a private when the United States entered the First World War and rose to the rank of lieutenant.

Lon Scott, Carroll Reece and Gordon Browning were all veterans of World War I, and each had good reason to be very proud of his service. Scott became the GOP nominee for Congress from Tennessee's Eighth Congressional District. After a hard-fought campaign, Scott won the general election by 659 votes.

Browning was stubborn to a fault and could never be deterred once he had made up his mind. After having beaten the incumbent and losing by such a close margin, Browning kept running for the next two years. Browning won the rematch in 1922 by better than 4,000 votes, while Congressman Scott tallied 42% of the ballots cast.

The 1920 election brought the Republicans into the majority of both houses of Congress, and Warren G. Harding occupied the White House. After eight years of Woodrow Wilson, there were some mighty hungry Republicans, and those in Tennessee were no exception. The five GOP congressmen spent two years bickering over patronage plums and appointments. J. Will Taylor was the senior member of the Tennessee House,

albeit by only two years. Lon Scott and "Hillbilly Bill" Taylor were constantly at odds throughout Scott's time in the House. Even after leaving Congress, Lon Scott remained opposed to Bill Taylor's domination of Tennessee's Republican Party throughout the decade of the 1920s.

J. Will Taylor, an affable man most of the time, could be tough as nails when he needed to be. Taylor prided himself on never forgetting a friend, but he was also able to forgive an enemy. Taylor occupied his seat in the House and was also Tennessee's Republican National Committeeman and had the biggest say in filling federal jobs in Tennessee during the Harding, Coolidge and Hoover administrations outside the First District, where Carroll Reece usually got his way.

For the rest of his life, Lon Scott remained a prominent GOP leader inside his former congressional district. After his defeat for reelection, Scott went back to his former business pursuits. Evidently, he either did not want any federal office or was not considered for any appointment by Presidents Harding or Coolidge. When Delong Rice, the longtime superintendent of the Shiloh National Military Park, died from burns suffered in a ghastly accident that also took the life of Rice's 16-year-old son, Scott very much wanted to become the new superintendent. Taylor was able to forgive Scott's constant opposition when he sponsored his former colleague's appointment to serve as superintendent of the Shiloh National Military Park. Scott was ready to be named to the post when the Civil Service Commission managed to derail the appointment.

Lon Scott's health began to fail at the young age of 43, and he eventually underwent a surgery from which he did not recover. Scott died in the Webb-Williamson Hospital in Jackson, Tennessee, on February 12, 1931. Never married, several of Lon Scott's siblings were with him as he quietly slipped away.

It would be 1972 before Republicans would occupy five of Tennessee's seats in the House of Representatives once again, and then it would also last only two years, with two seats being lost in the 1974 election. In 1973, Republicans occupied the governorship, both of Tennessee's seats in the United States Senate, and five seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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# Scholars' Bowl begins today

**Continued from page 1**

was the first American TV show she saw after her family immigrated. She said it helped her learn English.

Before each game, I try to give the students helpful advice. I tell them that they will look better if they sit up straight. I tell them it's better to take a guess than to say nothing. No answer always means no points. As a result, the team from Unicoi High School would often say "Robert Frost" when they didn't know an answer. It got a laugh but it also caught on and other schools started doing it. Not every time, but often enough to be noticeable. I have to keep myself from busting out laughing if a team gets an actual Robert Frost question wrong because their reaction to hearing me say, "No, it was Robert Frost" is priceless.

## Which school has won the most each year?

Because it's a single-elimination tournament, whichever team wins the championship has to win all their games. In the ten years I've been hosting, some schools have won the championship twice, including Webb, Hardin Valley and Cedar Springs Home School Group.

## How has the show changed over the years?

I think the biggest change is

the ability to watch several of the previous seasons on the PBS app or website. The students can use the older shows to study and prepare. They are also more prepared for the player introductions and interviews. Many of the teams coordinate a funny response as they are being interviewed. For example, the four members of a team might decide in advance to all tell me their favorite cheese. Or they might tease me as I mentioned above.

The online streaming numbers for Tennessee Scholars' Bowl spike every October and November, which is when we record the next season. In the waiting room you might see students huddled around a phone watching an old episode on the PBS app while another group of students is huddled around a different phone watching a different episode of Tennessee Scholars' Bowl.

When my son was a contestant on the show twenty years ago, each episode only aired once or twice. East Tennessee PBS now airs the show weekdays at 5:30 p.m. all year long. The newest episodes are first broadcast in January, February, and March and are then repeated over the summer. During the rest of the year, they rebroadcast past seasons. Rebroadcasts of

Tennessee Scholars' Bowl are also included as part of a two-hour block of programming called "Teaching Tennessee" on six PBS stations statewide: WNPT Nashville, WKNO Memphis, East Tennessee PBS, WTCI Chattanooga, West TN PBS, and WCTE Upper Cumberland. Tennessee Scholars' Bowl airs statewide weekdays at 10:30am ET (9:30am CT).

Another way the show has changed is the way we organize the questions. When I first started, I was reading some questions from the same slips of paper that had been used by previous hosts Hop Edwards, Jim Kuehn, Diana Morgan, and Sandra Allyson. Of course new questions get added each year too. The toss-up and bonus questions were unrelated. For example, a student might buzz-in to answer a literature question and then get hit with a pre-calculus bonus question.

Two years ago, at the start of the 40th season, my wife and I took on the task of putting the questions into a database and organizing the questions for each episode so that a toss-up and its bonus come from the same category. That year we also started attaching the coordinated toss-ups and bonuses to blue cards on the back, which are visible as I'm



Host Frank Murphy is behind the scenes at the set of a previous Tennessee Scholars' Bowl. This year's season begins tonight.

reading.

## What part do the school's advisors play in prepping the teams?

Each team's coach works differently. Some seem to focus on Scholars' Bowl and study past seasons. Some seem to have a broader approach as they also prepare their teams for other competitions like Science Bowl or Ethics Bowl. Ideally the coaches should balance their team by having at least one student who is good at math, at least one who is good at history, and so on. The coaches also decide whether or not to keep the starting lineup or put in some of their alternates at halftime.

Some coaches seem to be more competitive than others.

For example, they might challenge a decision by the judges in a close game. Those challenges are handled off the air so as not to eat up the time on the clock. Each timed half runs for nine-and-half minutes.

I don't have all the details but Ernie Roberts was contacted by a student at a school that had lost their advisor. Ernie told the student what needed to be done and they were able to get an advisor and go on to win several games in the tournament.

## Any comments on this year's matches?

I noticed a couple of students who rang in too early because they had memorized a question from a previous season and didn't know that I had added a new question with a similar structure. For example, "Who was the first president to (do whatever)?"

This year I decided to ask the captains of each team to say something at the end of each match. It gave them an opportunity to congratulate their opponents and to compliment their teammates or vice versa. I think it adds a nice touch.

I worry that my friends will get tired of me asking them for ideas for new questions. However, a few of them submitted batches of questions and I put their names in the credits as writers.

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HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL



CAK's Hunter Bennett looks for an opening as Simon Boy defends for Concord Christian School in the Division II District 1-A matchup Jan. 6 at CCS. Bennett scored 20 points in the Warriors' 54-50 win.

# Bennett and Coleman power CAK win, 54-50

By Steve Williams

The 1-2 punch of Hunter Bennett and Foster Coleman led Christian Academy of Knoxville to a 54-50 victory last week at improved Concord

Christian School in a Division II District 1-A matchup. It took almost four minutes though before the first point of the game was in the books. With 4:10 on the clock, the Lions' Kohbe Ward,

a freshman, had the satisfaction of ending the early drought with an 18-foot jumper. Things then pretty much got back to normal as the first period ended

**Continue on page 3**

HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING

# Marshall among Knox trio going to state tourney

By Steve Williams

The Powell High bowling team had a goal to advance to the TSSAA state tournament this year, said team member Sawyer Marshall, but that didn't happen as the Panthers were eliminated by Gatlinburg-Pittman 16-11 in the Region 1 semifinals Wednesday at the Strike and Spare Fountain Lanes.

Another goal of his was to advance to the state individual tournament and

Sawyer earned that spot earlier this season. Marshall also won the KIL tournament in October as he averaged 204 for two games. "Sawyer is a great bowler, student, and even better young man," said Powell Coach Matthew Foust. "He had a very strong start to the season by winning the inaugural KIL Bowling Championship on Oct. 11, when he averaged 204

**Continue on page 6**



Sawyer Marshall and Coach Matthew Foust will be representing Powell High School at this year's TSSAA state individual bowling tournament Jan. 21 at Smyrna.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

# Admirals pull away from Karns to win KCMSBC title

By Ken Lay

Farragut Middle School's boys basketball team had a traditional celebration after its victory at home Thursday night.

The Admirals cut down the nets at the Bobby J. Henry Gymnasium after they won their 16th consecutive game and clinched the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference Class AAA regular-season championship with a 52-39 victory over Karns before a spirited crowd in West Knox County.

It was a celebration that Farragut truly had to earn. No Knox County title comes easily, and the Admirals knew that they had to win their home and league finale against a dangerous Karns squad that features one of the area's top players in Jax Ewing. Not only did the Admirals have

to face a tough team, but they also had to overcome the emotion of eighth-grade night. They eventually would ... however, it would take a while. The game's outcome was hanging in the balance until Farragut used an early fourth-quarter run to create some distance between itself and the Beavers. "They made it hard on us. They made us earn it, and we knew they would," Admirals' coach Shane Wells said. "But I think a lot of it had to do with it being eighth-grade night and the emotion and all of the stuff that was going on. "They're a good team, and they're well-coached, and they shoot the ball well, and we were a little sluggish early." Farragut (16-1) hasn't lost since dropping its season opener to

**Continue on page 4**



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

The Farragut Middle School boys basketball team celebrates its KCMSBC Class AAA regular-season championship. The Admirals claimed the title with a 52-39 victory over Karns on Thursday. Farragut will be the top seed in the upcoming postseason tournament.

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## PART 2

# Yes, for the thousandth time, Dewey scored!

By Steve Williams

In 1965, Tennessee and Dewey Warren went to the Bluebonnet Bowl, but before that game, the Vols played UCLA at Memphis in the last regular season game. It was dubbed the Rosebonnet game because the Vols were headed to the Bluebonnet Bowl and the Bruins were headed to the Rose Bowl that year.

In the Rosebonnet game, which was as good as any real bowl game and better than most as far as prestige and excitement, Warren ran for the winning touchdown around left end and just barely got into the endzone in the fourth quarter to give UT a 37-34 victory.

"I've had about a thousand people to ask me: 'Did you really score?' I said I looked up and the official raised his arms up, so evidently I must have scored."

"You know what's funny about that game," continued Dewey, "I've talked to more people about where they stopped. They were either on a tractor, they were in a boat, they were in a car on the interstate pulled off to the side or a road. I've heard all different places where they heard that game on radio."

"But that was a good ball game and Memphis is a good area. I enjoyed playing in that stadium and it was a good crowd and good Tennessee fans in that part of the state."

"After winning the Bluebonnet Bowl and the Gator Bowl in



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Dewey "Swamp Rat" Warren now lives in the Blue Grass area of Big Orange Country with his wife.

1966, Tennessee went to the Orange Bowl in 1967 and lost to Oklahoma by two points on a missed field goal by Karl Kremser. "I think the field goal was good," said Dewey, "but anyway."

"We won part of the national championship that year. They voted on it before the bowl games. Now they wait until everything is over, which is probably the right way to do it. We got half of it (national title) anyway."

## Commenting on Knoxville product and Bill Young

"Bill was a great defensive back and as it turned out he also played basketball for (Coach Ray) Mears and was also a decathlon champion in high school (at South)," said Warren. "He was a great athlete and ended up being a great coach in high school (at Bearden, Oak Ridge and CAK)."

"Just a super teammate and

boy he was a big safety. He was tall. He was a great safety. So we had some good players."

## On the state of college football today

"I don't like it," said Warren. "I think the NCAA, and it's just my opinion, messed up when they brought money into it. It's almost like a semi-pro. Kids today don't talk about education; they talk

about how much money I'm going to make. Do I blame the kids? No. Somebody asked me 'what was your NIL package?' I said well we got \$15 a month for laundry fee. And so that's about what I got. And now they are making millions."

And then the transfer portal?

"Let them put a cap on it – transfer one time – because kids now transfer for the money," said Warren. "It's all about the money now. This is not a pro league. This is amateur. This is college. I don't like it. I wish they could do something about it, but they opened up a can of worms. You can't blame the kids because they are going to take the money."

"But here's the whole thing. If you're a coach, you don't really know who you are going to have next year ... because of the transfer portal."

"When Tennessee played in the Music City Bowl they had four guys who went to the portal and didn't play. So I think if you don't play in the bowl game, you don't deserve the NIL check you get that month. But I reckon we got to live with it. I don't like it."

## Officiating in today's game?

"I think the play has gotten faster," said Dewey. "I think the officials have a hard time and I think it's a good thing that they have replay now because the game has gotten so fast. Officials

**Continue on page 3**

## HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL



PHOTO BY LANDON HUNLEY, LZHPRODUCTIONS

Christian Academy of Knoxville's Maddie Braden drives against Concord Christian's Kiran Keeton in last week's Division II 1-A matchup at CCS. Braden scored 13 points to help the Lady Warriors come back from a slow start and win 54-47.

# CAK turns back upset-minded CCS

By Steve Williams

Concord Christian's Lady Lions came out growling last Tuesday night and nearly notched a major upset against perennial state power CAK.

Concord's foul trouble and turnovers in the second half, however, allowed the Lady Warriors to pull out a 54-47 victory.

With a boisterous crowd on hand in the small CCS gym, the Lady Lions set the tone for the game by taking a 9-0 lead at the start.

"We just decided to play a little bit better," said CAK Coach Abby Williams. "We decided to buy-in. We just did not play well in the first half. Concord came ready to play and competed and worked hard."

The Lady Warriors managed to catch up and tie

the score at 13-all, but CCS sophomore forward Brooklyn Brown hit a 3-point shot at the top of the circle to give the Lady Lions a 19-17 lead at the end of the first period.

The game remained nip and tuck until the last 4½ minutes when CAK sophomore Katelyn Coffman's basket inside sparked an 8-point flurry. Eighth grader Karlie Gray added two points on a drive to the hoop and senior Colie Thompson scored on a layup after a CCS turnover. After a timeout, Thompson sank two free throws to stretch the lead to 11 with 1:28 remaining.

CAK had balanced scoring, with Gray scoring 14, junior Maddie Braden 13 and Coffman 11. All of Thompson's nine points

came in the second half. Senior Sophie Carroll chipped in seven.

Concord Christian's Kiran Keeton fired in five 3-point shots and totaled a game-high 19 points. The Lady Lions had nine 3-pointers in all. Brown, who started strong but had to sit on the bench in foul trouble for much of the second half, finished with nine points. Presley Horst and Emory Thomas tallied eight points apiece.

With the win, CAK improved to 5-0 in the district and 16-2 overall, while Coach Brad Cochran's CCS team is now 1-3 and 8-7.

"We kind of just went through the motions for about 3 ½ quarters and then took advantage late in the fourth quarter," said Coach Williams. "They had

some girls in foul trouble and we were able to take advantage of that and kind of separate from them towards the end of the game. It definitely wasn't the best showing, but Concord got us to play their game. We've got to go back to work and make sure it doesn't happen again."

Williams pointed out Concord defeated Catholic and Oak Ridge earlier in the season. "They are capable of competing at a high level. I knew they played hard. Brad's done a good job of getting them where they need to be."

"We've just got to make sure that any game we step on the floor to play, we're ready to compete no matter who it is or where it is."

## MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Late surge nets win for Karns Middle at Farragut

By Ken Lay

A big fourth quarter propelled the Karns Middle School girls basketball team into the win column Thursday night as the Lady Beavers notched a key late-season victory at Farragut.

"It was a big win for us when we really needed it," Karns coach Sara Dedoes said. "It was a great team win," Dedoes said after her Lady Beavers notched a 46-29 win over the Lady Admirals at Farragut's Bobby J. Henry Gymnasium. "We needed it because we have two games next week. We play Hardin Valley Monday, and we play West Valley Thursday, and those are the two top teams in the league."

Following next week's tilts against the Lady Hawks and Lady Wolves, Karns will play in the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference Class AAA Tournament.

The Lady Beavers have a pair of tough tests remaining before the regular season comes to an end, but the fourth-quarter rally last week certainly has them headed in the right direction.

Karns was clinging to a slim 26-25 edge heading into the final six minutes of the contest. The Lady Beavers, however, opened the fourth quarter with a 10-0 run and all but put the game away. They would go on to outscore the Lady Admirals, 20-4, in the period.

"That was a big fourth

quarter," Dedoes said. "It was a big team win, and I'm proud of the girls."

The game was a back-and-forth affair early, and Farragut, playing on its home floor for the final time this season, was able to remain within striking distance until the fourth quarter.

Karns seized the upper hand early as they opened a 9-5 lead in the first quarter.

The Lady Beavers extended their advantage to 19-13 late in the second stanza, but Farragut got a huge momentum swing when Emmy Perry made a three-point shot as time expired in the first half.

In the final frame, the Lady Beavers pulled away with their offensive explosion.

Amina Toure and Ziva Lilly both scored 14 points in the contest, and both came up big in the fourth quarter. Toure scored half of her points in the fourth quarter, while Lilly dropped six. Karns also got five points from Jovi Marlow in the period.

"Amina and Ziva have been a 1-2 punch for us this season," Dedoes said. "I'm really proud of them."

Toure and Lilly were the big stars of the night, but a supporting cast provided plenty of help.

Brylee Hartsfield scored seven points, while Marlow and Claire Kramer finished with five points each.

Perry scored 10 points to pace the Lady Admirals.



Most Tennessee basketball fans today know a great deal about Thompson-Boling Arena, a passable amount about Stokely Athletics Center, and darned little about the Armory-Fieldhouse. That's too bad, because the precursors to TBA were the site of some historic basketball happenings in the late 1950s and the early- to mid-1960s.

It's been more than 50 years since the Vols last played at the Fieldhouse, home court from the 1958-59 season through 1965-66. The Fieldhouse seated 7,000 fans, with permanent seats on the west side and bleachers at the north and south ends. The north end football stands from Shields-Watkins Field were brought in for spectators on the east side, with accompanying radio and television broadcast locations.

At a cost of \$1.5 million, the Armory-Fieldhouse seated 7,000 fans. The architect's plan was drawn so that the structure could eventually seat 12,700. Adjacent to the Fieldhouse were offices, classrooms, and supply rooms for Army and Air Force units.



U.T.'s Charlie Brakebill (L) and William B. Stokely Jr. toured Stokely Center's construction site on Oct. 15, 1966, two days before Stokely died, having never seen a game played there.

Stokely Athletics Center was the expanded version of the Fieldhouse and served through the years following until 1987, with a seating capacity of 12,700.

Emmett Lowery had been hired as a football scout, assistant ends coach and also served as head

basketball coach, chosen by Gen. Neyland from a pool of nearly 100 applicants. "My experience as a football coach had a lot to do with my being chosen," said Lowery.

Head hoops coach since 1947-48, he had led the push for the Fieldhouse

and coached there one year (1958-59) before resigning to go into private business in Clearwater, Fla. John Sines coached the next three years before Ray Mears arrived to start revolutionizing hoops on campus.

Lowery wanted Tennessee to keep up with the basketball Joneses, mentioning "full-time recruiting personnel, a new arena, and a larger budget" to make it happen. .

Emmett was a hoops guy, having been an Indiana "Mr. Basketball" from the 1920s. He threw himself into his position full-bore, even overseeing the construction process from the athletic department's perspective.

"My responsibility was to do the best I could under the conditions, and, at the same time, try and convince school officials we needed to upgrade the basketball program," said Lowery.

In 1965, William B. Stokely, Jr., a Tennessee alum and benefactor, provided an unprecedented half-million-dollar gift that enabled U.T. to double the size of the Fieldhouse. The powers-that-be were reaching for the stars, and the sky was the limit for the visionaries of those days. The trustees named the expanded building "The

William B. Stokely Athletic Center. "

The answer was the Fieldhouse, funded by a combination of federal and state monies. Neyland had wanted a facility twice as big, looking beyond the needs of that specific time. However, Lowery was happy with the new arena, terming it much better than what he had before.

The Fieldhouse years featured some of the big names of Tennessee hoops: Gene Tormohlen, Dalen Showalter and Orbie Lee Bowling in the 1950s, Danny Schultz and A. W. Davis in the early 1960s, and Red Robbins and Ron Widby midway through the decade.

Adolph Rupp, who always seemed to be complaining about the lighting at Alumni Gym, likely found the Fieldhouse more to his liking, winning five of the eight games played there, although losing three of the final four games played in the early Ray Mears years (1962-66).

The facility had a hardwood floor with the old-fashioned interlocking "T" at the center circle. The team benches were on each end of the floor in the early days, later moving to side court.

There was a scoreboard and "count-down" clock at each end of the floor,

nothing remotely close to the bells and whistles found in arenas today. It was "pure vanilla," but legends are made of such venues.

The first game played there in December 1958 was something special, as Maryville's Kenny Coulter hit an 11th-hour jump shot to upset Wyoming, 72-71. In the arena's finale in March 1966, Ron Widby and Red Robbins led the way as Tennessee captured a memorable 69-62 victory over No. 1-ranked Kentucky, known popularly as "Rupp's Runts."

When you consider the transition from the Fieldhouse to Stokely Center to Thompson-Boling Arena from 1958 to the present, fans might wonder if it's the same game they see today at TBA. The essential concept is the same, putting the ball in the basket, but that's where the similarity ends.

A great many Tennessee supporters have made significant commitments over the years to bring a new flavor and home court advantage to Vol basketball. They have always found ways to make the dreams of the fan base become reality. That's always been the Tennessee way.

## Bennett and Coleman power CAK win, 54-50

**Continued from page 1**

with CCS on top 6-2. Coach J.D. Johnson's Warriors came into the game with a 9-5 overall record, while Concord, under second-year head coach Mike Evers, was 9-6.

"I'm very pleased with the direction of our program," Evers said after the game. "We will go out on the floor with anyone. That's the culture and mindset that we are trying to continue to get to and establish."

Bennett, a junior, poured in 20 points and Coleman, a senior, 16 to lead the win. Bennett Jelks added eight and Jake Shaw six for the Warriors. Meanwhile, CCS junior Nolen Miller had top individual scoring honors in the contest with 22 points, including 16 in the second half.

A basket inside by Coleman gave CAK its first lead in the game at 11-10 with 5:30 on the second quarter clock.

A little later in the period, Bennett drove down the end line for a layup that extended the Warriors' margin to four (16-12).

The first half, however, ended in an

18-18 tie as Concord sophomore Hudson Willis banked in a last-second shot that he released just across the halfcourt line.

Sophomore Simon Boy gave CCS the lead with a 3-pointer from the right corner to start the third period.

A free throw by Coleman gave CAK a 36-35 lead heading into the final period.

The Warriors increased their lead to seven points (51-44) on baskets by Bennett and Jelks. Coleman was credited with an assist on Bennett's basket with his rebound inside. Jelks followed a missed shot for his key basket with 1:36 remaining.

The Lions never could get closer than four points down the stretch.

**EVERS' BACKGROUND:** Prior to becoming Concord's head coach in 2024, Evers was an assistant coach at three schools for two years each – The King's Academy (boys), Lenoir City (girls) and William Blount (boys).

## Yes, for the thousandth time, Dewey scored!

**Continued from page 2**

are human and they are going to make mistakes. But with instant replay, a lot of times we'll get it right and that's what you want. You want the opportunity to look at the play and you get so many chances to look at it."

Warren also commented on how the game has gotten so fast.

"The linemen are fast," he said. "I mean it's totally different and I think maybe you have a whole lot better athletes. I can't believe how big these linemen are. If you're not 300 pounds, they don't even look at you. And we had guys at 220, 190. But I wouldn't trade them."

### His fondest memories and would he do it again?

"Well, I remember some of the games," said Warren. "The UCLA game was one that was a highlight. You know, something that you don't like to think about – Ole Miss beat us twice. Boy, they were tough

back in those days. Johnny Vaught was their coach.

"You know, the biggest thing I remember is the players I played with, the closeness that we had and a lot of them are still close. We've lost a lot of guys. A lot of guys have passed away. I mean I'm 80 and I'm one of the oldest, because I was red-shirted in 1964 so I got an extra year. But 12 of the guys that I did and still in contact with a lot of them today. But that's what it's all about. We got our education because then that meant something. Today it's just how much money can I make.

"The (UT) fans back then are like they are today. The stadium wasn't near as big as it is today. And it don't surprise me when they sell out.

"Coming out of high school, because I'm from Savannah, Ga., I wanted to go to Georgia because a lot of my friends went to Georgia and they didn't recruit me. And so I came to Tennessee and ended up here. If I had to do it again, I'd do the same thing. I'd come back to Tennessee."

## How to fix the CFB Playoff

**By Mark Nagi**

The College Football Playoff is broken. I know it. You know it. We all know it.

From the completely unnecessary weekly ranking programs to the inherent bias towards Alabama, to their absurd parameters that they may or may not follow, the entire system is an exercise in futility.

It makes me long for those halcyon days of the Bowl Championship Series, even if the BCS had its own share of problems.

So here is my foolproof plan to correct the many issues of the CFB Playoff. I'm sure that you would agree with all my recommendations.

First, 12 teams are WAY too many. I know that they are going to probably expand to 16 or (gulp) 24 teams soon, but that's a massive mistake. Going from four to 12 teams was a massive mistake in itself. Reduce the field to eight teams.

Once there are eight teams, we do away with byes. That shouldn't be a big deal at all. Seven of the eight teams that had byes lost in their first playoff game in the two years this farce of a system has been in place. This season, No. 4 seed Texas Tech had to face No. 5 seed Oregon in Miami. No. 2 seed Ohio State played No. 10 seed Miami... in Arlington. If you play well all season to earn one of the top four seeds, you should have the advantage of playing on your campus.

Had that Oregon/Texas Tech game been played in Lubbock, it would have been the biggest night in the history of that city. Instead, the game was played at a neutral site near neither school, just like we saw with Ohio State/Miami.

College football games should be played on campus. It's what makes the sport so special. Increasingly, we see what could be a great home and home series in the regular season reduced to a one-time occurrence at an NFL stadium. Count me out.

Along those same lines, we are going to do away with the bowl games until the championship contest. The

college football hierarchy is so beholden to the bowls that we didn't get anything resembling a playoff system until the late 1990s. The bowls are hanging on by a thread and will go kicking and screaming into the future.

But how does it benefit the fans of these teams to be sent back and forth across the country? Think about it like this... if a team like Miami were to get into the title game, their fans would be told to travel to College Station, Arlington, Tempe, and ... well, they'd be home for the championship game. But you get my point. All that travel within four weeks? No thanks.

Now, in terms of who gets in... bring back the BCS computers and let them determine the top eight teams. There is just no way to do this without biases creeping in. As it is, seeing sitting athletics directors voting on their team or teams in their conference is ridiculous.

Human beings are biased. There is no other explanation for why Alabama was gifted spots in the playoffs in 2023 and 2025. Get humans out of the selection process.

But I'm not naïve. I know those committee members want their steak dinners and expense accounts. So, if they aren't going anywhere, let's help them a bit. Do away with all conference championship games. I know they are money makers (and there's never enough money), but if the committee is going to move Alabama from 10th and 9th position after they got their doors blown off by Georgia in the SEC title game, what's the point? Games either matter or they don't. If they don't, eliminate them.

And finally, for the love of all that is good and holy, do away with the farce of the weekly selection shows. Just announce who makes the field after the end of the regular season. Moving teams up or down haphazardly creates so much distrust among fans, and rightfully so. We don't need to see it on ESPN.

You see, a foolproof plan. I look forward to seeing it in action this Fall.



# Bearden duo lead Focus All-County Soccer Team

**By Ken Lay**

The 2025 high school girls soccer team has been in the rear-view mirror for a few months, but it was a campaign that packed plenty of excitement as Bearden High won its fourth Class 3A State Championship in five years.

Webb School of Knoxville made an appearance in the Division II-AA state championship match for the second consecutive season, finishing as state runner-up for a second straight time, while Concord Christian School advanced to the Division II-A state quarterfinals before having its season end in a penalty kicks shootout.

The Knoxville Focus honors some of the area's top players and coaches on its 2025 All-County Team.

**Co-Coach of the Year: Ryan Radcliffe, Bearden High School:** Radcliffe guided the Lady Bulldogs to the Class 4A state championship match for a fifth consecutive year. Bearden claimed its fourth state title in five seasons. Bearden shared the District 4-4A regular-season championship with rival West High before winning both the district and region tournament championships.

**Co-Coach of the Year: Jason Jennings, Concord Christian School:** Jennings guided the Lady Lions to the state quarterfinals for the first time in school history. Concord won 14 games during its historic campaign and claimed the Division II-A East Region Championship on its way to the state quarterfinals.

**Co-Coach of the Year: Elaine Roth, Webb School of Knoxville:** In her second season at the helm for the Lady Spartans, Roth led the team to a second consecutive appearance in the state championship match.

**Co-Player of the Year: Jayla Blue, Bearden High School:** A senior and University of Tennessee signee, Blue leaves Bearden's program as its all-time leading goal scorer. She tallied 135 career goals throughout her stellar high school career. She found the back of the net 32 times in 2025 while leading the Lady Bulldogs to their fifth consecutive appearance in the state championship match and their fourth championship in five years.

**Co-Player of the Year: Tyler Roth, Bearden High School:** Roth, a senior midfielder and Western Kentucky signee, returned from injury to score 17 goals and dish out 33 assists to help the Lady Bulldogs win a fourth state championship in five seasons. She missed the 2024 season due to injury before returning for a stellar senior campaign.

Those players are joined on the team by:

**Delaney Jane Walker, Concord Christian School:** Walker, a senior midfielder for the Lady Lions, helped her side reach the Division II-A East Region Championship and a first-ever state quarterfinal appearance. She scored six goals and came up with eight assists on her way to earning regional MVP honors.

**McKalie Ball, Webb School of Knoxville:** Ball, a five-year starter for the Lady Spartans, was an all-state standout in 2025. She had 19 goals and six assists, helping Webb post a second consecutive state runner-up finish.

**Morgan Holloway, Hardin Valley Academy:** Holloway, a senior forward for the Lady Hawks, was the District 4-3A Offensive Player of the Year as she scored 19 goals and recorded 12 assists.

**Charleigh Freeman, West High School:** Freeman, a sophomore forward for the Lady Rebels, had 14 goals and 11 assists, helping her team win a share of the District 4-3A regular-season championship and make a run to the state sectionals.

**Kennedy Lucas, Bearden High School:** A defensive midfielder for the Lady Bulldogs, Lucas and her teammates recorded 17 shutouts and allowed only nine goals during the 2025 campaign.

**Emerson Clarke, Webb School of Knoxville:** Clarke was an all-state standout during her senior campaign for the Lady Spartans. She finished the 2025 season with eight goals and four assists.

**Kylie Musto, Gibbs High School:** A junior forward for the Lady Eagles, Musto helped her team finish second in the District 4-2A regular-season standings as well as post runner-up finishes in both the district and region tournaments.

**Riley Cada, West High School:** Cada, a senior defensive midfielder, was instrumental in the Lady Rebels' success this season, helping her team win a share of the regular-season district championship.

**Anna Ogle, Hardin Valley Academy:** Ogle anchored an HVA defense that posted clean sheets. She also scored two goals and dished out two assists during the 2025 season for the Lady Hawks.

**Rowan Unger, Farragut High School:** Unger, a senior defender for the Lady Admirals, was the District 4-3A Defender of the Year.

**Kennedy Dade, Farragut High School:** Dade, a senior defender and Tennessee Tech signee, was a top performer on the Lady Admirals' back line. Dade helped her team reach the District 4-3A semifinals.

**Mary Mac Emery, Webb School of Knoxville:** A Texas signee, Mac Emery was an all-state performer on the back line for the Lady Spartans. She was also one of the area's top offensive players on set pieces.

**Emma Rainey, Bearden High School:** Rainey anchored a back line for the Lady Bulldogs that recorded seven consecutive shutouts during the postseason.

**Ava Curtis, West High School:** Curtis was a two-way threat for the Lady Rebels, serving as a defender. She also scored seven goals and dished out four assists.

**Sophie Keener, Bearden High School:** She recorded 17 clean sheets, including seven consecutive playoff shutouts, in goal for the Lady Bulldogs.

**Lauren Newell, Webb School of Knoxville:** A sophomore netminder, Newell allowed just 14 goals in 2025 on her way to being named all-state by Tennessee's high school soccer coaches.

**Lauren Lambert, Hardin Valley Academy:** Lambert helped HVA enjoy a successful season as she surrendered just 14 goals between the posts for the Lady Hawks.

## Admirals pull away from Karns to win KCMSBC title

*Continued from page 1*

Hardin Valley back in November.

The Admirals led 22-16 at halftime and extended their advantage to 32-23 by the end of the third quarter.

But the Beavers mounted a comeback threat early in the final frame as they scored the first five points as Ewing buried a three-pointer and Gavin Gordon knocked down a shot to make the score 32-28, with five minutes remaining in the game.


The Admirals, however, would go on a tear and went on a 14-0 run and opened a 46-28 lead when Harrison Holmes scored with 2 minutes, 59 seconds left to play.

"This is a special team, and when we play well all the time, we're going to be hard to deal with," Wells said. "It didn't show tonight, but I will say that we've practiced really well over the last two or three weeks."

Farragut had three players post double figures in the scoring column Thursday night.

Henry Crecy and Matthew Massey scored 12 points each, while Holmes finished with 11.


Ewing led Karns with 14 points. Lenny Bravo-Moon added 10, and Gordon finished with seven.




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## Young-Williams Animal Center



**LYSANDER** – 1½ years old, 57 lbs. Meet Lysander. He is sweet and loves to be playful. He loves treats! He is very gentle when he is given treats. He loves going to playgroups with other dogs. On a day out, he hopped right in the car and sat down politely for the whole ride, didn't pull on the leash, and didn't bark at people/ dogs he saw from the car. Lysander will love you furrever! Adopt him today!



**KIKIMORA** – 1 year old, 6.4 lbs. Kikimora is a calm and polite lady. She prefers a peaceful environment to snooze and loaf around in. She may do best in a home where she can thrive with her own personal bubble. She is soft and silky with a long fluffy tail. She seems to like jingly bell toys and likes pets on top of her head. Ask to visit with Kikimora today!

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

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

### ONLINE ONLY REAL ESTATE AUCTION

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COURT NOTICES

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  
Clerk

Robert A. Clark  
Deputy Clerk

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: TODD ARLEN SHAFFER  
IN RE: LESLEY MARIE WINTERS, Plaintiff VS. TODD ARLEN SHAFFER, Defendant NO. 211770-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, 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 as to you before Chancellor Richard B. Armstrong at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division II, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

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

This 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 # 163866

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. Egelston 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  
Clerk

Robert A. Clark  
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RHYS GRAVES CLAIBORNE  
DOCKET NUMBER 91747-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 18 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of RHYS GRAVES CLAIBORNE, who died Feb. 5, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This 18 day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF RHYS GRAVES CLAIBORNE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)

REED H. CLAIBORNE, CO-ADMINISTRATOR  
9033 HIGHBRIDE DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

CARL WHIPPLE, CO-ADMINISTRATOR  
105 HERRON DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RONNIE EDWARD CONDRY  
DOCKET NUMBER 91893-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary (or Letters of Administration as the case maybe) in respect of the Estate of RONNIE EDWARD CONDRY, deceased, who died on the 26 day of November, 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) of (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 such notice 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 or posting 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 RONNIE EDWARD CONDRY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
CHRISTOPHER ALLEN CONDRY  
203 CROWLEY CIRCLE  
JACKSBORO, TN 37757

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MAXINE CURTIS  
DOCKET NUMBER 91890-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters of testamentary in respect of the Estate of MAXINE CURTIS, who died on January 22, 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 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 30th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF MAXINE CURTIS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
SAMANTHA ROBINSON  
215 MEADOW STREET  
ROCKY TOP, TN 37769

CARIN C. BRIO, ATTORNEY  
3217 GARDEN DRIVE, SUITE 1  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

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 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 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 GEORGE RICHARD DENNINGER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MARETTE 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 his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor

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

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

This the 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 to 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 above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 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 some 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 37921

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, residents 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 to creditors less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication 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 KIMBERLY NEELEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
DONALD W. NEELEY, II  
106 DELONG LANE  
CLINTON, TN 37716

ROGER D. HYMAN, ATTORNEY  
P. O. BOX 26072  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912-9672

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 this first publication; or

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

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

This the 26 day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF ROBERT LYNN ORRICK

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
BRANDON LYNN ORRICK, ADMINISTRATOR  
5900 NOTTINGHAM ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SLOVER  
DOCKET NUMBER 91902-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 26 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of JOHN MICHAEL SLOVER, who died Oct. 21, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 26 day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SLOVER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JUSTIN SLOVER, ADMINISTRATOR  
139 RACCOON VALLEY ROAD  
MAYNARDVILLE, TN 37807

KELSEY R. REILLY, ATTORNEY  
800 S. GAY STREET, #1400  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37929

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ESTA F. ARNOLD  
DOCKET NUMBER 91920-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 7th day of JANUARY, 2026, Letters Testamentary/ Administration in respect of the Estate of ESTA F. ARNOLD, who died March 30, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and nonresident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk & 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 (or posting, as the case may be) of this Notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

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

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

This the 7th day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF ESTA F. ARNOLD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ALAN F. ARNOLD, EXECUTOR  
7801 TORI COURT LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37938

RYAN E. COX, ATTORNEY  
105 LANDMARK LANE  
BRISTOL, TN 37620

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LOIS ANN BALL  
DOCKET NUMBER 91939-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of JANUARY, 2026, letters of testamentary in respect of the Estate of LOIS ANN BALL, who died November 16, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court for Knox County, Tennessee (Probate Division). 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 2nd day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF LOIS ANN BALL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
DAVID R. BALL  
77 HILLCREST RD., #2117  
NEWLAND, NC 28657

BROOKE GIVENS, ATTORNEY  
110 COGDILL ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WILLIAM BERNARD BATTE  
DOCKET NUMBER 91933-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of WILLIAM BERNARD

BATTE, who died on September 1, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by Chancery Court for Knox County, Tennessee, Probate Division. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 2nd day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM BERNARD BATTE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ZENI SCHLETER  
7553 GLASTONBURY ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37939

L. ERIC EBBERT, ATTORNEY  
BRENT BAXLEY, ATTORNEY  
9145 CROSS PARK DRIVE, STE. 103  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF HENRY NORMAN BENNINGHOFF, JR.  
DOCKET NUMBER 91464-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 7th day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of HENRY NORMAN BENNINGHOFF, JR., who died June 21, 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 7th day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF HENRY NORMAN BENNINGHOFF, JR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JAMES STORY

DANIEL F. WILKINS, ATTORNEY  
7632 GLEASON DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARK D. BOLING  
DOCKET NUMBER 91907-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 26 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARK D. BOLING, who died Nov. 5, 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 26 day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARK D. BOLING

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MATTHEW D. BOLING, EXECUTOR  
2316 MONTEREY ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RAYMOND CALVIN BRADEN  
DOCKET NUMBER 91900-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 31st day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of RAYMOND CALVIN BRADEN, who died November 3, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of 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 31st day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF RAYMOND CALVIN BRADEN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
TERRY BRIDGES  
DENNIS BRIDGES  
5430 RUTLEDGE PIKE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37924

GEORGE R. ARRAITS, ATTORNEY  
P. O. BOX 629  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901-0629



# Marshall among Knox trio going to state tourney

*Cont. from page 1*

for the tournament. If you asked him, I know he would say that he has been disappointed by his consistency throughout the season, but one of his best qualities is that he never gives up!

“His average for this season was only 172, but he has a very high ceiling,” continued Coach Foust. “During the region qualifier at Holiday Lanes in Johnson City, Sawyer bowled his high game for the season (269) in the first game of the tournament and battled against a very good bowler from Greeneville in the sixth game to secure a 5th place finish and advance to state!

“With Sawyer being a junior this year, he knows that he will be the leader of the team next season, and I have seen him embracing that leadership role throughout the district and regional team tournaments.”

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF DINAH LEE BROCK DOCKET NUMBER 91953-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 8th day of JANUARY, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of DINAH LEE BROCK, who died on November 7, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 8th day of JANUARY, 2026.

#### ESTATE OF DINAH LEE BROCK

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JOANNA LEE BROCK LODEN, EXECUTRIX  
332 FOX ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

RICHARD T. SCRUGHAM, JR., ATTORNEY  
550 WEST MAIN STREET, SUITE 500  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF MIRIAM BETH CODE DOCKET NUMBER 91895-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 31st day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of MIRIAM BETH CODE, who died September 27, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 31st day of DECEMBER, 2025.

#### ESTATE OF MIRIAM BETH CODE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
BRIAN E. CODE  
1251 COURTYARD PLACE  
CENTERTVILLE, OH 45458

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

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF CHARLES EDWARD DURANT DOCKET NUMBER 91916-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 26 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of CHARLES EDWARD DURANT, who died Sept. 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),

# LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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 26 day of DECEMBER, 2025.

#### ESTATE OF CHARLES EDWARD DURANT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ROSEMARY DURANT, ADMINISTRATRIX  
535 ARLAND COURT SW  
ATLANTA, GA 30331

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF SHIRLEY M. GIBSON DOCKET NUMBER 91889-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 31st day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of SHIRLEY M. GIBSON, who died July 25, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

(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 31st day of DECEMBER, 2025.

#### ESTATE OF SHIRLEY M. GIBSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
TIMOTHY C. GIBSON  
800 FREELS LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

CAROLYN LEVY GILLIAM, ATTORNEY  
10805 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 200  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF MAX ELTON HAMILTON DOCKET NUMBER 91950-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 7th day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MAX ELTON HAMILTON, who died November 1, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 7th day of JANUARY, 2026.

#### ESTATE OF MAX ELTON HAMILTON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MARSHALL H. HAMILTON  
1421 AMBLEWINDS LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

CAROLYN LEVY GILLIAM, ATTORNEY  
10805 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 200  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF WANDA MAXINE HAMILTON DOCKET NUMBER 91951-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 8th day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of WANDA MAXINE HAMILTON, who died September 17, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk 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 8th day of JANUARY, 2026.

#### ESTATE OF WANDA MAXINE HAMILTON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MARSHALL H. HAMILTON  
1421 AMBLEWINDS LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

CAROLYN LEVY GILLIAM, ATTORNEY  
10805 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 200  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF HENRY THOMAS JOHNSON, JR. DOCKET NUMBER 91894-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of JANUARY, 2026, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of HENRY THOMAS JOHNSON, JR., who died on July 10, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by Chancery Court for Knox County, Tennessee, Probate Division. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 2nd day of JANUARY, 2026.

#### ESTATE OF HENRY THOMAS JOHNSON, JR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MICHAEL JOHNSON  
3808 VIENNA DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN

BRENT BAXLEY, ATTORNEY  
L. ERIC EBBERT, ATTORNEY  
9145 CROSS PARK DRIVE, STE. 103  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF AURELIA KOENIG DOCKET NUMBER 91917-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 7th day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of AURELIA KOENIG, who died July 24, 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 this is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or

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

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

This the 7th day of JANUARY, 2026.

#### ESTATE OF AURELIA KOENIG

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
VICKI SCHRAM  
4378 WINTERGREEN DR.  
TROY, MI 48098

COURTNEY L. COX, ATTORNEY  
4931 HOMBERG DR.  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF NOEL JAMES LANDRUM DOCKET NUMBER 91929-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 7 day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of NOEL JAMES LANDRUM, who died Oct. 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 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 7 day of JANUARY, 2026.

#### ESTATE OF NOEL JAMES LANDRUM

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
NOEL JAMES LANDRUM, II, EXECUTOR  
10237 CANTON PLACE LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF CHERYL ANN MIDYETT, AKA CHERYL S. MIDYETT DOCKET NUMBER 91937-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 31st day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of CHERYL ANN MIDYETT, also known as CHERYL S. MIDYETT, who died November 18, 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 31st day of DECEMBER, 2025.

#### ESTATE OF CHERYL ANN MIDYETT, AKA CHERYL S. MIDYETT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
THOMAS EARLE MIDYETT, JR.  
667 KENESAW AVENUE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

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

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF CHRISTEL BIANCA NEWPORT DOCKET NUMBER 91919-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 31 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of CHRISTEL BIANCA NEWPORT, who died Nov. 14, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims,

matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred.

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

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received the 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 31 day of DECEMBER, 2025.

#### ESTATE OF CHRISTEL BIANCA NEWPORT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
CALVIN P. NEWPORT, II, ADMINISTRATOR  
1103 STIRLINGSHIRE DRIVE  
HENDERSONVILLE, TN 37075

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF JUDY T. RAYBORN DOCKET NUMBER 91938-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 7th day of JANUARY, 2026, letters of testamentary in respect of the Estate of JUDY T. RAYBORN, who died October 8, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Knox Chancery Court, Probate Division. 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 7th day of JANUARY, 2026.

#### ESTATE OF JUDY T. RAYBORN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
SUSAN RAYBORN MILLER  
900 ALTAMONT WAY  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

REGAN CARUTHERS, ATTORNEY  
110 COGDILL ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF DALLAS COONS RIGHTMYER DOCKET NUMBER 91941-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 7th day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of DALLAS COONS RIGHTMYER, who died November 17, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 7th day of JANUARY, 2026.

#### ESTATE OF DALLAS COONS RIGHTMYER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
SARAH REPOLEY

DANIEL F. WILKINS, ATTORNEY  
7632 GLEASON DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF LINDA GALE FORD SHARP DOCKET NUMBER 91910-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 26 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of LINDA GALE FORD SHARP, who died Oct. 15, 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 26 day of DECEMBER, 2025.

#### ESTATE OF LINDA GALE FORD SHARP

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MONICA CLEVENGER, CO-EXECUTRIX  
140 BROOKVIEW DRIVE  
NEWPORT, TN 37821

MONA SUTTON, CO-EXECUTRIX  
343 BARGER HOLLOW ROAD  
PARROTTSVILLE, TN 37843

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF BARBARA JEAN SIMPSON DOCKET NUMBER 91918-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 2 day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of BARBARA JEAN SIMPSON, who died Nov. 17, 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 2 day of JANUARY, 2026.

#### ESTATE OF BARBARA JEAN SIMPSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
STEVEN WALTER PARKER, EXECUTOR  
P. O. BOX 1890  
POWELL, TN 37849

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF PEGGY J. SOOD DOCKET NUMBER 91913-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 26 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of PEGGY J. SOOD, who died May 9, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 26 day of DECEMBER, 2025.

#### ESTATE OF PEGGY J. SOOD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MAHARAJ SOOD, EXECUTOR  
724 VALLEY HILL LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF MARY ANN STALLINGS DOCKET NUMBER 91928-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 31st day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of MARY ANN STALLINGS, 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 31st day of DECEMBER, 2025.

#### ESTATE OF MARY ANN STALLINGS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
DENNIS STALLINGS  
47292 GRANDVIEW PLACE  
STERLING, VA 20165

KEITH H. BURROUGHS, ATTORNEY  
900 S. GAY STREET, 14TH FLOOR  
P. O. BOX 2047  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF BRENDA ELLEN KING WRIGHT DOCKET NUMBER 91935-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 7th day of JANUARY, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of BRENDA ELLEN KING WRIGHT, who died on the 1st day of July, 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 7th day of JANUARY, 2026.

#### ESTATE OF BRENDA ELLEN KING WRIGHT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
PAMELA COOK  
3830 WHITES CREEK PIKE  
NASHVILLE, TN 37207

PATRICK G. NOEL, ATTORNEY  
1001 E. BROADWAY  
LENOIR CITY, TN 37771

## MISC. NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for Bids – KCDC, the Public Housing Authority for Knoxville & Knox County, posts all of its solicitations at [www.kcdc.org/procurement](http://www.kcdc.org/procurement). Click on 'Open Solicitations' and follow the link.

## NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

The owners and/or lienholders of the following vehicles are hereby notified of their rights to

pay all charges and reclaim said vehicles being held at the lot of East Tennessee Truck Repair. Failure to reclaim these vehicles will be deemed a waiver of all rights and titles along with consent to dispose of said vehicles at a public auction held on February 6, 2026, at 6221 Old Rutledge Pike, Knoxville, TN 37924. Vehicles will be sold "AS IS" and make no warranty as to condition or title.

1996 Kenworth T600,  
VIN# 1XKADR9XTGJ688733 (Richard Todd / Anderson Brothers Bank)

1998 Reefer Semi Utility Trailer,  
VIN# 1UYVS253XWU584909 (Richard Todd / Anderson Brothers Bank)

2015 Freightliner Cascadia,  
VIN# 1FUJGHDV6FLGE4170 (Richard Todd / Anderson Brothers Bank)