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## Burkhardt announces candidacy for commission seat

After decades of dedicated service to Knox County, Buddy Burkhardt is thrilled to announce his candidacy for the District 7 county commission seat.

A lifelong servant and community advocate, Buddy's roots in North Knox County run deep. A proud member of Zion Hill Baptist Church, he brings warmth and joy to the congregation every Sunday as a guitarist in the church band. In

2023, he married his wife, Amy, and together they enjoy spending their free time on the waters of beautiful Norris Lake.

Buddy is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and has honored his country and community through a distinguished career. He is retired from both the United States Navy Reserves and the Knox County Sheriff's Office, bringing unmatched

experience, discipline and leadership to the table.

His journey in public service began more than 30 years ago, working behind the scenes, placing signs for county, state and federal candidates. Buddy rose to become a key voice in local politics, serving three terms as chair of the Knox County Republican Party. He has also led the Powell Republican Club as president and served

in leadership roles within the Halls Republican Club, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to the community he loves.

Now, Buddy is ready to take that dedication to the next level.

He is committed to being available, present and prepared for the citizens of Halls, Powell and Heiskell—listening to their concerns and standing up for their  
**Cont. on page 2**



Buddy and Amy Burkhardt pictured at the Knox County GOP's first ever Sporting Clays Fundraiser in 2023. Focus file photo by Jamie Schnell.

## HOLIDAY MAGIC!



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Ellie Devlin visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus Wednesday at Lawson-McGhee Library in Downtown Knoxville.

## Raborn finds joy as the Clauses

By Ken Lay

The Christmas spirit came to life on Wednesday as Santa and Mrs. Claus visited the Lawson-McGhee Library in Downtown Knoxville.

The jolly elf and his wife were perched on a couch in the children's room at the library, taking some late-season requests to grant Christmas wishes.

For this Santa and his wife, donning the red suits is a labor of love. Santa is David Raborn and Mrs. Claus is David's wife, Beth.

Together, the couple runs Scruffy City Santa, a venture that the Raborns started five years ago when David bought a Santa Claus suit off Amazon.

"This is my fifth year doing this and to me, it's all about the kids,"

David said. "I bought a full suit, beard, boots and all, and I put it on right out of the Amazon box, and I figured that if I used it twice and gave it away, it would pay for itself."

David didn't relinquish his Santa suit.

Five years later, Scruffy City Santa is still making the rounds in Knoxville and surrounding areas.

It's a labor of love for both David and Beth, who begin booking appearances in March and keep the holiday spirit rolling until the beginning of the New Year.

"We start the weekend before Thanksgiving, and we make at least one appearance every day," David said. "I finally get a day off on the fourth or fifth of January."

**Continue on page 4**

## Juvenile judge open to overseeing detention center

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

It's been a trying year for the juvenile service center. Meeting Tuesday in Judge Tim Irwin's courtroom at 3323 Division Street, the Knox County Juvenile Service Center Board of Directors heard a review of the County Technical Assistance Service recommendations, discussed possible future modeling of the facility, and heard a report from the Knox County Law Director on pending litigation.

An employee is suing the center in a discrimination charge, and law director David Buuck warned the board members not to discuss the case. Asked by one of the board members if the board could use an executive session to discuss the matter, Buuck replied, "I don't know," and may look into the question.

The board, appointed by the Knox County Commission and Irwin, heard a personnel report including two employee buyouts, two retirements, and two new positions being added. One of those positions is another nurse so the facility may have two full-time medical personnel on duty during the day and at night.

Dwight Van de Vate gave the report from Mayor Glenn Jacob's office, noting that 56 of the problems detected were corrected, and 38 other problems are being worked on. There are 12 juveniles currently at the facility.

"It takes years, not months," Van de Vate told the board, referring to  
**Continue on page 2**

## Anders chosen for Ethics Committee

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Commission chose Gary Anders as the new member of the ethics commission last week. Seven people had applied for the position to replace D. J. Corcoran, who resigned from that group. All seven were nominated in the first roll call vote, with Anders eventually getting 8 of the 11 votes.

Commissioners Shane Jackson and Courtney Durrett voted for Adam Cooke, and Kim Frazier abstained from the 8-2-1 voice vote. Anders will serve out the

Corcoran term until October 2029.

Anders is on the staff of the UT Medical Center's Endovascular Imaging Division.

In other business, the commission passed, on first reading, an ordinance from Commissioner Andy Fox to forbid the discrimination against U.S. citizens purchasing real property in Knox County. Fox pointed to a controversy in Loudon County where a Chinese company bought land and then attempted to forbid American citizens from buying there.

Two citizens, Alex Moody

and Chris Treadwell, spoke on the issue, supporting Fox and calling the purchase of land by foreign companies "legal conquest" and "treason." Commissioner Angela Russell seconded the Fox motion. The initial reading passed unanimously, but it may face opposition when it returns next month for a final vote.

A last-minute change to the Fox ordinance was a sentence that included making it unlawful to not sell land purchased by a foreign "person, corporation or entity." There is currently no state law

restricting the purchase or sale of land by foreign buyers.

Monday's commission meeting was brief, with most of the 31 agenda votes being passed as "consent" items.

Items passed with one vote on the "consent list" included a \$6,000 donation for Operation Hero's Hill, downspouts for the Halls Community Park, a new Parks and Recreation fee schedule, rule changes recommended by the commission's rules committee including electronic voting procedures, appointments to the Knox-911 Board

and Knox Parks Advisory Board, mental health transportation funds for the sheriff's department, a greenway course change at Powell High School, and approval of school board requests.

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**The Doctor is in**  
a weekly column by  
**Dr. Jim Ferguson**

**Schedules**

Perfection is the enemy of good.  
Shakespeare

I decided to start this essay early because it's best to write when you have an idea rather than just before an editorial deadline. But then the murders of Jews at Bondi Beach, students at Brown University, our servicemen in Syria, Rob Reiner and his wife in Los Angeles, the physics professor in Boston, and the terrorist attack that was barely averted in Los Angeles occurred. These are stressful times in our country and around the world in places like Ukraine, Gaza and in Sudan and Nigeria, where Christians are being slaughtered.

However, I suspect we need a break from the latest mayhem. So, if you pick up the Focus during Christmas week, I offer

some less stressful perspectives for your consideration.

Nonetheless, the holiday season is stressful for once-a-week columnists. To allow The Focus staff to be with family, the schedule demands we produce multiple columns in short order around Christmas and New Year's Eve. Of course, the plight of columnists has no cosmic significance.

Schedules - or their lack - are also tough for retirees. If it were not for my iPhone and our Gary Larson cartoon day calendar, I might not know what day of the week it is. I do have some anchors for my week, including the Thursday afternoon Focus deadline, Saturday morning Bible study and church on Sunday. However, I'm challenged on the other days of the week.

When I practiced medicine, my life was organized

around my on-call schedule. You might be surprised, but for a doctor, the worst holiday to be on-call was Thanksgiving, which always falls on Thursday. The office was closed on the Friday after Thanksgiving, so it meant being available 24/7 for four straight days, making rounds on the group's hospitalized patients and seemingly endless trips to the ER to admit sick folks to the hospital.

Enough whining, so back to the story. This essay began last week when it was 10° at our place, and that's just too cold. Not to sound like an old codger, but I remember the "freeze of '85." On that January day, it was 24° below zero in Knoxville, which was the coldest place in the United States, including Alaska! I remember looking out my back door and watching what little moisture was left in the air freeze and twinkle down as tiny frozen particles of ice.

Becky and I are blessed and well-provisioned for winter. We have a real fire most evenings, and I'm thankful for electric power and natural gas heating. Winter is hard for the birds at my feeder. I even feel sorry for the dozens of nuisance squirrels in the

woods outside my study. I especially feel sorry for the mentally ill and drug addicted homeless. Winter is hard in nature and on the aged, weak and infirm. Liberals closed the institutions where the impaired were once cared for, releasing those with demons in their heads to the streets.

The quote for this week's column has been variously attributed to Shakespeare and Voltaire, but probably derives from axioms pre-dating both. Tragically, we often see good being sacrificed in the pursuit of liberalism's notion of perfection.

The mental institutions were not perfect, but closing them in the 60s and 70s released the impaired to roam free and prey upon each other and citizens like Rob Reiner. Overriding common sense is NOT good. The results of misguided liberalism released a woman with demons in her head to stab a woman in a Macy's bathroom in New York, murder on the light rail line of Charlotte, North Carolina, and assault people in numerous places across the country. Wise up people! There must be a balance of emotion and logic. Liberals destroy everything by violating the notion of good in their emotionally driven pursuit of

perfection, which does not exist.

The principal function of government is to protect its citizens. I've been to Sydney, Australia, where Islamic terrorists murdered Jews at a Hanukkah celebration. Early reports say the murderers had visas, swore allegiance to ISIS and had legally purchased numerous guns in a country that removed guns from most of the population in the 1990s. The same Jihadist problems exist in England and across Europe.

Next year is the 250th anniversary of our country, and we will also host the Olympics and the World Cup. Among the millions Biden allowed into our country, thousands with terrorist or suspected terrorist ties were also released. Buck Sexton observed that "Western Civilization is under attack." I agree. Diversity may be perfection's noble goal, but without assimilation, it is a disaster. The globalized Intifada is real, and it is now here. Wake up people!

A normal person does not attack or kill others. The assassin at Brown University is not normal, nor is Charlie Kirk's murderer, who has gender dysphoria and a Little Pony obsession. Surely, with numerous

cameras on the Brown campus, the murderer will be found, but I doubt the parents of the slaughtered students feel better that Brown was a gun-free zone.

I never leave my home unarmed. I may be killed, but I will not be slaughtered. And I recommend that the next dangerous mentally ill person released by an activist judge go home with the judge.

Amidst Jihadists, cowardly appeasers of antisemitism, murderous furries with gender dysphoria, progressive Democrat Socialists, and the irrational who believe the irrational Trump can instantly fix the mess that Biden created over four years, I decided to take the Charlie Kirk challenge. Just before his assassination, Charlie finished his book "Stop, in the Name of God: Why Honoring the Sabbath Will Transform Your Life." In the Bible, God says we are to work six days and on the seventh, we are to rest and worship God. Charlie found that turning off his phone and disconnecting from the internet to praise God and focus on his family transformed his life. I'm going to give it a try and put it on my Sunday Sabbath schedule. Join me.

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

**Burkhardt announces candidacy for commission seat**

**Cont. from page 1**

needs on county commission.

Buddy believes in

responsible development that strengthens—not strains—our community. As Knox County continues to grow, he understands that

infrastructure must grow with it. As a long-term resident of North Knox County, Buddy is passionate about ensuring:

- Roads are repaired and maintained.
- Schools receive the funding they need.
- Communities remain safe through strong support for law enforcement.
- Small businesses have the opportunity to thrive.

Buddy Burkhardt is ready to work hard, lead with integrity, and fight for the future of District 7.

**Detention center**

**Cont. from page 1**

physical improvements at the facility. He said progress depends on policies and procedures, training and the ongoing reorganization. He applauded the new nursing staff as "a new direction for us."

"The mayor has met with the governor," he said, referring to a request for additional state funding.

The Knox County Commission has extended the board's authority until July 2026, and the question now is who will operate the youth detention center beyond that date.

Board Chairman and At-large Commissioner Larsen Jay led a discussion on the various options for a future administration, including the Knox County Sheriff's Office, a local board similar to the current one, private contractors, the Department of Children Services, or the juvenile judge. One of those contractors suggested was the Helen-Ross McNabb Center.

Board members Rhonda Lee, Terry Hill, Damon Rawls, and Shane Jackson all spoke on the issue of who should run the

120-bed facility. Judge Irwin said he is getting calls from other jurisdictions about placing out-of-county youths there.

Also discussed was the possibility that the newly elected sheriff next year may opt out of running the center. Jay said he'd "like to take the sheriff off the table" as the future administrator of the center.

Judge Irwin said he would agree to oversee the center if needed and would hire the best professionals to run it.

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*and happy new year*

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Published by Fountain Printing and Publishing, Inc.  
Deadline for ad design is Monday at 5 p.m.  
Deadline for Classified ads is Thursday at noon.  
Deadline for submissions is Thursday at noon.  
Articles, announcements, photo attachments and outlines may be submitted by e-mail to [staff@knoxfocus.com](mailto:staff@knoxfocus.com).  
Publisher ..... Steve Hunley  
Editor, Art Director ..... Marianne Dedmon  
[editor@knoxfocus.com](mailto:editor@knoxfocus.com), [design@knoxfocus.com](mailto:design@knoxfocus.com)

Mike Steely, Senior Writer ..... [steelym@knoxfocus.com](mailto:steelym@knoxfocus.com)  
Jamie Schnell ..... [schnellj@knoxfocus.com](mailto:schnellj@knoxfocus.com)  
Sales ..... [sales@knoxfocus.com](mailto:sales@knoxfocus.com)  
Pam Poe ..... [phpoe2000@yahoo.com](mailto:phpoe2000@yahoo.com)  
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# Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher  
publisher@knoxfocus.com

on the Knox County Jail inmate roster and discovered "that Recarte has an ICE detainer filed against him." The writer of the letter to the editor stated, "Reporting that an individual who is accused of getting liquored up and then allegedly rubbing out two innocent people is an illegal alien ought and should be a major element of the follow-up story." Quite true.

Unfortunately, the Sentinel, like its cohorts in the corporate news media, prefers to report narrative rather than news or facts. That is amply demonstrated by omitting such facts as pointed out in the letter to the editor. I pointed out a similar situation in last week's edition of The Focus, when Jake Tapper initially reported Brian Cole Jr. was a "White man." Tapper hurriedly made an assumption while reporting on air - then muttered and stumbled to correct the mistake when the photograph of Cole, who is accused of planting pipe bombs and who is Black, came up on the screen. Tapper is an embarrassment!

The Sentinel routinely reports the narrative. Another such example is the pardons of Tennesseans given by President Donald Trump. Allie

Feinberg glossed over the pardon record of Joe Biden, which will remain the most notorious in the history of our country. There was nary a mention of the fact that Biden told a whopper of a lie over and over again by way of the worst White House press secretary in history, Karine Jean Pierre, saying that he would NOT pardon his son, Hunter. Nope, not a word about that. And Allie even tried to sweep under the rug the thousands of hardened criminals pardoned by a few White House staffers with the use of auto pen. That was controversial even in the Biden White House, and one staff member demanded to know if Biden had specifically authorized the use of the auto pen for those pardons. Allie and the narrative would have us believe kindly old Joe and his trusty auto pen merely pardoned some people who were serving unduly long prison sentences for minor drug infractions. In truth, Joe Biden granted more pardons than any other US president in history during his four years in office; Biden and the auto pen signed 4,245 "acts of clemency" and a total of 8,064 pardons. Biden pardoned virtually every member of his family, Dr. Anthony Fauci, and the list

goes on. Did you ever see the Sentinel profile any of those folks? Nor will you. Biden also pardoned more people who had not been investigated or charged with a crime than any other president in history. It was Joe Biden who permanently altered the pardoning power of the presidency in this country. Was there ever any story appearing in the Sentinel about the necessity of Biden pardoning his family to protect them from being prosecuted for influence peddling? Lordy, no. Did the daily newspaper ever report that Hunter spent the money he acquired through peddling his father's influence on hookers and drugs rather than paying his income taxes? Of course not. Do you suppose you would have stayed out of jail, much less have been pardoned by Joe Biden, had you spent your money on ills or frills instead of paying your income taxes? I really doubt it.

Nor will you ever see any admission by the daily newspaper that the single person in the United States to have been the most noteworthy victim of "lawfare" in the history of this country was Donald J. Trump. It is a fact. But of course, the corporate media, the Sentinel included, do not print

facts but rather the narrative pushed by the Left.

It's the same reason tales of Charlie Kirk's assassin being from the right rather than the political left were mouthed by Jimmy Kimmel nationally. It is a sad commentary when a group of wealthy women cackle and crow daily about politics when none of them has any kind of knowledge about politics like that singularly untalented gaggle of vultures on "The View." All they have is an opinion, and to paraphrase the old saying, opinions are like butts, everybody has one. Why a late-night host of a show as funny as a toothache is giving his opinions about national affairs is a clear indication of just how desperate the Left in this country has become.

The Left clearly believes that any means justify the end of stopping Donald Trump, in particular, and the Republicans, in general, from disrupting their narrative and collective agenda. Those advocates of the warped science of identity politics say men can give birth and can no longer even define what a woman is. Those who claim to be so com- passionate, who say they embrace kindness and love, are increasingly those who approve of violence in

pursuit of their own beliefs. Violence against Jews has risen some 300% over a short while, and there are still those in our country who try and wring out tears for people in Gaza who are hungry, and yet have no tears for those infants, children, and women who were raped and murdered by the Palestinians. There is no empathy for those with whom the Left disagrees, much less actual sympathy. Don't expect them to have any tears for you. People who go to work every day, who still pray, pay their taxes, salute the flag, and even say "Merry Christmas" will never get a kind word from these people who believe any means justifies their own ends.

## Merry Christmas And Happy New Year!

This week we will celebrate Christmas. All of us at The Knoxville Focus appreciate you, our readers. Without you, there would not be a Focus. We wish you and your family a very MERRY CHRISTMAS, and may God bless you all with good health and the love of family and friends in the New Year!

## The Main Stream Media ... Narrative, Not News

If anyone doubts the daily newspaper has become part and parcel of the main-stream news media, one only has to read a smidgen of what appears there. In a recent letter to the editor, the writer stated, "I think I smell the odor of serious pro immigration/pro-illegal alien bias in reporting on a recent two-car double fatality traffic collision on Maynardville Highway."

The writer detailed that the Knoxville News-Sentinel updated its original December 10 report two days later to recount a lengthy list of charges filed against Jose Recarte. The writer then went to the trouble of looking up the inmate

## RAM seeking volunteers for free, healthcare clinic in Knoxville in February

### Call for volunteers for healthcare clinic coming to the Jacob Building on Friday, February 6

Remote Area Medical, a leading non-profit provider of pop-up clinics delivering free, quality dental, vision, and medical care to those in need - is seeking volunteer medical, dental and vision professionals and general support staff on Friday, February 6th. The three-day clinic is to be held at the Jacob Building at Chilhowee Park and Exhibition Center, located at 3301 Magnolia Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37914 on February 6-8.

RAM is also in need of general support volunteers to help set up on Thursday February 5 and take down on Sunday, February 8. Overnight parking volunteers to greet patients are also needed, and interpreters can volunteer to aid patients through the process, either in the parking lot or during clinic operations. Individuals do not need to work in the medical field to volunteer as general support.

If you or your organization would like to volunteer your time to help provide free healthcare services to the Knoxville, TN and surrounding communities, please visit [www.ramusa.org/volunteer](http://www.ramusa.org/volunteer) or call us at 865-579-1530.

RAM's free clinics are a lifeline for underserved communities, offering free dental cleanings, dental fillings, dental extractions, dental X-rays, eye exams, eye health exams, eyeglass prescriptions, eyeglasses made onsite, women's health exams, and general medical exams. By bringing healthcare directly to those in need, RAM removes the barriers of cost and distance that often prevent people from seeking care.

All RAM services are free, and no ID is required. Free dental, vision and medical services will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, until capacity is reached.

For more information on the upcoming RAM Clinic, including how to volunteer or donate, please visit [www.ramusa.org](http://www.ramusa.org) or call 865-579-1530.

## Sen. Briggs reflects on the Holidays, looks ahead to the 2026 General Assembly

As we approach Christmas, I'm reminded once again of the values that make Tennessee such a remarkable place to call home. This time of year offers all of us an opportunity to pause, reflect, and appreciate the people who enrich our lives: our families, friends, neighbors, and communities. This holiday, I hope you enjoy the bright spirit of the season, and I pray the weeks ahead bring you peace, joy and well-deserved rest.



By Richard Briggs  
State Senator

The holidays also serve as a natural transition into the start of a new legislative session. In January, the Tennessee General Assembly will return to Nashville to begin our work for the year. As always, my focus will remain on practical, thoughtful solutions

to the issues that matter most to the people of our district: strengthening public safety, supporting education, protecting taxpayer dollars, improving health outcomes, and ensuring good stewardship of our state's growth.

Each session brings its own challenges and opportunities. Tennessee continues to experience record economic development, growing infrastructure needs, and evolving demands on our health care and workforce systems. My goal, like always, is to approach each bill with common sense, civility, and a commitment to doing what is best for the people of Knox County. I also look forward to hearing from you. Your perspectives help guide my

decisions and ensure that the state government stays grounded in the real needs of our communities. Please reach out to me at [sen.richard.briggs@capitol.tn.gov](mailto:sen.richard.briggs@capitol.tn.gov) or 615-741-1766 with any comments, questions or concerns.

Additionally, I encourage you to visit the Capitol during session to see firsthand how your state government works.

As we close out the year, I want to express my gratitude for the trust you place in me. Representing Knoxville in the State Senate is an honor I do not take lightly. I hope this season brings warmth to your home and renewed optimism for the year ahead.

From my family to yours, I wish you a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season. I look forward to continuing our work together in 2026.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE.

Mayor Kincannon hosted a ribbon-cutting last week at the north end of the Gay Street Bridge to celebrate its reopening.

## Gay Street Bridge opens for bikes and walkers

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon was jubilant Tuesday in announcing the partial reopening of the 127-year-old Gay Street Bridge. The city promised that the \$2.7 million in repairs would be completed before the end of the year and that promise was fulfilled.

The bridge opening ceremony, held on a very chilly morning on the north side of the structure, concluded the 18 months of closure.

People on both sides may now access South Knoxville or downtown by strolling or pedaling across the Tennessee River.

"I was as shocked and saddened as anybody when TDOT told us to close the bridge," Mayor Kincannon said of the July 2024 closure. "Like many others, I had hoped that the bridge could continue to carry the weight of vehicles - but that just wasn't possible, or responsible, from a safety standpoint.

"Public safety was always the top priority, overriding

everything else. I'm proud of our team for doing the bridge stabilization repairs the right way."

What's allowed on the bridge: pedestrians, bicycles, recumbent bikes and trikes, Class 1 and 2 e-bikes, kick scooters and e-scooters, wheelchairs and micro-mobility devices with two wheels or less that have a maximum powered speed of 20 mph or less. The maximum capacity is 1,000 people.

What's not allowed: motorized vehicles, Class 3 e-bikes, golf carts, vehicles

that require a license to operate regardless of fuel source (mopeds, motorcycles, etc.), powered devices that can exceed 20 mph when powered solely by a motor, and off-road e-motorcycles (e-motos). No events are permitted on the bridge.

The city plans a celebration for the bridge in January.

More information is available online at [www.knoxville.gov/GayStBridge](http://www.knoxville.gov/GayStBridge).

# New Walking Path Debuted at Whittle Springs Middle School

This month, a new walking path was debuted at Whittle Springs Middle School (WSMS). The goal of the project was to create a safe route for students to walk to and from school.

Nearly 30 percent of students who attend WSMS arrive and depart on foot via White Oak Lane. This stretch of road contains blind curves and hills and is without sidewalks. In the last nine years, five students have been hit by vehicles while walking to school.

"This project offers a creative solution that will allow students to bypass a dangerous section of road on their way to and from school, said Madelyn Howe, program manager at the Knox County

Health Department. "This effort represents multiple groups coming together to create an actionable solution to improve the lives of our children in Knox County."

In 2024, the Knox County Health Department was awarded a grant from the Tennessee Department of Health to construct this pathway with additional funding provided by the Siddiqui Foundation and United Way Greater Knoxville. Through collaboration with the Safe Routes to School Partnership, Community Schools, Knox County Schools, Knoxville Parks and Recreation, Bike Walk Knoxville, Legacy Parks Foundation and KCHD, the project was completed this fall.

## Raborns find joy as the Clauses

Cont. from page 1

Beth serves as the business manager, keeping the couple's holiday appearances straight.

"We start booking in March," she said.

Their holiday season begins just after Halloween when the couple decorates their house.

"If we don't get our Christmas decorations up

by November 1, it's not going to get done," David said.

When David decided to become Santa, he said he did so out of necessity.

"For me, this was kind of a God thing," David said. "I work in the media, and I see some of the worst things.

"I wanted to do something positive."

David knew he was destined to be Santa early on.

"One time, I saw a 4-year-old girl, and I saw the look and the wonder in her eye, and for that brief time and in that brief encounter, I was Santa," he said. "This truly brings joy to my life.

"I know that I get far more from (kids) than they do from me."

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PHOTOS BY MIKE STEELY

Hundreds of veterans, friends and families with children helped lay wreaths at Knoxville's three veterans cemeteries.

# Volunteers remember veterans with wreaths

By Mike Steely  
 Senior Writer  
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

The three Knoxville veteran cemeteries drew large crowds on Saturday, December 13, to place wreaths at the graves of veterans. Other cemeteries, including those within the Smoky Mountains, also had veteran wreath events.

The Tennessee Veterans Cemetery at Lyons View Pike drew hundreds of volunteers and kicked off with a ceremony that included wreath laying for each of the military services. Captain Bill Robinson, the longest held enlisted prisoner of war, placed the wreath for Missing and Prisoners of War captives.

Congressman Tim Burchett spoke briefly, and then the volunteers fanned out across the cemetery and placed the wreaths. At all cemetery ceremonies, the wreath placers were asked to place the wreath, stand and speak the name of the veteran buried there in remembrance, and salute.



Above: Congressman Tim Burchett visits with the nurses of the Daughters of the American Revolution during wreath ceremonies at Lyon's View earlier this month.



Left: Captain Bill Robinson, the longest held enlisted prisoner of war, prepares to lay a wreath to honor at the MIA/POW veterans. Each military service saw wreaths placed by veterans of that branch.

Veterans, families with children, and generations of people attended the local services at the Knoxville National Cemetery, the Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery and the East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery. Attendees included Junior ROTC units, Boy and Girl Scouts, and other groups.

## More 'sorta true' stories from an old journalist

I've covered a lot of stories in my many years as a reporter. Some stories were published, and some were never shared because the facts were too unbelievable. I'd like to share (and, in some cases, reshare) a few with you.

### More Than A Day Away



By Mike Steely

### The One-Hundred Dollar Cube

When I was bureau chief for a large East Tennessee newspaper, I was interviewing a local attorney about a trial I was following. During our chat, he told me a story I did not write about at the time. A true tale, but one that led me to decide, although I had been a pre-law student, that I didn't want to be an attorney. "Bureau chief" means simply that I was the only daily reporter in the town covering three counties.

The lawyer said he was defending a client accused of theft. While the person was talking to the lawyer in the attorney's office, the lawyer was called out briefly by his secretary. When he returned, he concluded his talk with his client. Sometime after the client left, the attorney discovered that something on his desk was missing.

Missing from the desk was a transparent sealed cube that was labeled "One Hundred Dollars." A stack of one-dollar bills was visible in the clear Lucite container.

The lawyer knew no one except the client had been in the office. He called the police, and the client was arrested and the cube returned. The odd thing about the \$100 cube, the attorney told me, is that it only had two one-dollar bills, one on top and one on the bottom. Everything between that looked like the edge of the other bills was simply paper.

That tale, by itself, would be enough for a memory, but what topped it off for me is that the attorney defended his client on the original theft charge and then charged his client with the theft of \$100, because that's what the thief thought he stole.

### The Long-Haired Suspect

In the same time period, the son of a local business owner was arrested for selling drugs. The long-haired and bearded young man was jailed, and a trial date was set. His father hired an out-of-area attorney, and when the young man came to trial, he was clean-shaven, in a suit, and had short hair.

During the trial, the defense attorney was questioning the female undercover agent who had arrested the suspect. He asked for a description of the young man when he was arrested. As she described the long-haired suspect, the doors of the courtroom opened, and all eyes turned as a young man with long hair and a beard entered and sat in the last row.

The defense attorney asked the undercover agent if anyone in the courtroom answered the description she gave. The fellow in the back row stood up, although the officer pointed to the **Continue on page 4**



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# In the Middle

Christmas and the New Year fall on awkward days this year, at least for the paper's publishing. So, to begin, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas.

Amy and I will travel at some time to Hendersonville. Lacey, Nick and Madden are awaiting our arrival. Bless their hearts;



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

they travel to Alabama the weekend before Christmas, and then they have to put up with us. We try not to overstay our welcome, and Lacey is good at giving us a window of opportunity for visiting. Amy and I won't be gone long, whenever we make the trip, because Sadie and Harvey can't travel, so someone must

stay with them while we are gone.

The holidays are hectic times. I think about how that wasn't the case when I was a child. Oh, Mother worked hard to prepare food for the crowd that came on Christmas, and Daddy sat up all night to make sure the turkey in the oven was basted at the correct times. However, we were all together to put up the cedar tree we cut on Mr. Long's farm, and when the icicles were put on the tree at the end, we all sat in a dark living room and observed our work when the tree lights lit the room.

We were home on Christmas Eve. Our supper was a regular meal and consisted of something easy to prepare since time was needed to work on the items for the next day. Before we three boys went to bed, the family sat

in the living room so that we could open "one" present under the tree. Usually, we opened the ones from Richard and Lucy, friends from out of state that I don't ever remember seeing.

Christmas morning was a time of excitement, and I remember how tired but happy Daddy seemed as we opened our gifts. Mother got him a few things, and he was always a bit extravagant when he bought Mother things. We boys had made something at school or church that we gave them. Mother made a big breakfast before diving into making dressing and other side dishes for Christmas dinner.

The day was filled with aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents eating with us. The crowd left some time in the evening, and a hush fell over the house. We played with our new

toys or napped for a while before diving into leftovers on the stove. The day had been fun, but having just the five of us at home was even better.

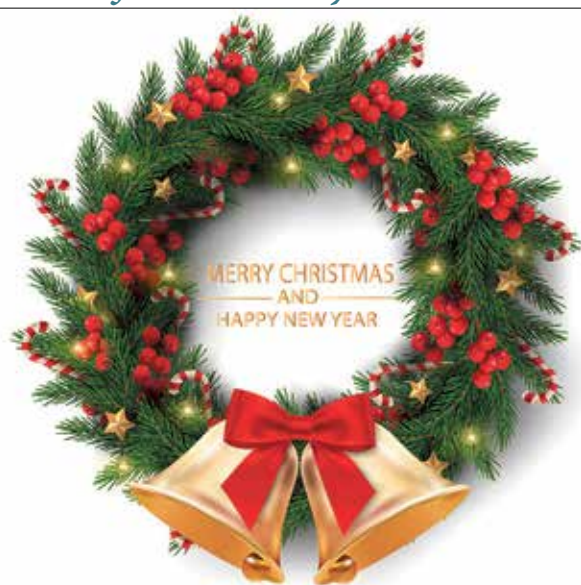
New Year's has never been a big event. No fireworks or parties ever took place. Most of the time, we spent time at home and tried to stay awake until the clock struck midnight. Even to this day, a new year has aggravated me. I forever put the wrong year in the date. It's like breaking in a new pair of shoes. The year isn't comfortable until I've worn it enough to wear down sore spots. Eventually, about March, I've broken in the year so that it's comfortable and easy on me. Of course, warm weather helps with the process.

This New Year, I'm not sure what we'll do. My guess is that we'll cuddle

with the dogs on the couch until about 8:00 p.m. That's when Sadie begins to whine and paw to go to bed. Amy will go with them and read. As the new year comes, I'll walk into the bedroom and announce its arrival to Amy, if she's awake. If not, I will plant a kiss on her forehead and one on each of the dog's noses. Then I'll return to the family room and watch more television until I fall asleep. At some point, I might rise and make my way to bed. As usual, I'll have to move the dogs enough so that I can cover up. We'll all be toasty warm and sleep as late as we please. That's the best way to begin a new trip around the sun—cuddling with the ones I love.

I hope you have a Merry Christmas, and I also hope your New Year is a good one.

## Wishes for a Merry Christmas for you and your family from all of us at Realty Executives



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## One Question Changes Everything?

For many Americans today, political scandals or governmental rumors have become an expected backdrop of public life. Headlines cycle, accusations surface and cynicism shrugs as the news

moves on. But in the mid-1970s, scandal was not as assumed; it was shocking. When rumors of wrongdoing reached the highest



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

office in the land, the nation did not respond with fatigue, but with disbelief, because Americans still expected their leaders to be trustworthy and the system itself to be worthy of confidence.

In a humid courtroom in the 1970s, when the evidence was mounting, the pressure was building and the most powerful office

in the world was holding its breath, a question was asked aloud:

"What did the president know, and when did he know it?"

Tennessee Senator Howard Baker Jr.'s famous question did not accuse or conclude; it simply demanded clarity. And once it was asked for the world to see, it shifted the entire narrative of President Richard Nixon's Watergate scandal. It became a question of truth and accountability. Every testimony and

every tape was now measured against a single direct question. That one question redefined the story, ultimately leading to a presidential resignation that reshaped Americans' trust in political leadership for years to come.

One question can change everything. The wise men did not arrive in Jerusalem with answers; they came with a question, and this one question disrupted everything. "Where is He that is born King of the Jews?" This one question stirred the heart of a paranoid king, unsettled a comfortable religious establishment and, in a quiet, subliminal way, announced that heavenly authority had entered the world as no one had expected. These magi from the east were not asking about a future ruler, nor were they inquiring about a generic ceremonial title. How much of it they understood, I have no way of knowing, but they were searching for a King who already was and always will be.

"Where is He that is born King of the Jews?" That question still presses on us even to this day. If Jesus is a King, then His kingship is not confined to the words of an Old Testament prophet or postponed to the end of time. The question confronts our assumptions, challenges our loyalties and demands a response

*Continue on page 4*





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# Congressman Robert A. 'Fats' Everett

## Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

Long forgotten by most, the late Congressman Robert Ashton "Fats" Everett was one of the more colorful politicians from the political pages of Tennessee's history. Everett was, by any measure, a political professional well before he ever was elected to Congress. "Jovial, glad-handling" and "deadly serious" about his work was the description of one newspaper reporter covering Congressman Everett.

Tall and weighing in at over three hundred and fifty pounds, the genial Bob Everett was called "Fats" by most everyone. Former Congressman John Tanner recalls Everett's father, "Mr. Charlie," as saying about his son, "Why, Fats don't mind hard work. He'll lie down right beside it and go to sleep!" One young man who got his political start driving Everett around his district was a young Ned McWherter.

The Jackson Sun remembered Everett as a "remarkably energetic person," who was only slowed by health problems in his later years. Fats Everett was one of those congressmen who really did know what the folks back home thought and believed, and when he spoke, he spoke in an authentic voice. A distinctly cheerful man whose "jolly, friendly spirit" was such that the Sun believed Everett "would have made friends and acquaintances all over the country" even had he chosen to follow a different profession.

Born on a farm near Union City, Tennessee, on February 24, 1915, Bob Everett attended public schools before heading to Murray State College. Everett graduated from college in 1936 and that same year made his official political debut, winning election to the Obion County Court, the forerunner of the county commission. Everett was only 21 years old at the time. Four years later, Everett was elected clerk of the circuit court. Initially, some thought "Fats" Everett was some sort of political clown because of his weight and amiability. His geniality hid a very strong drive to succeed and an equally strong personality.

Like many other young men of the time, "Fats" Everett's career was interrupted by World War II. Everett served in the U.S. Army for three years, from 1942 until 1945, when he was discharged. Bob Everett did not immediately return to Obion County after the war but found a job in the nation's capital instead. Everett became the secretary, or chief of staff, to U.S. Senator Tom Stewart of Tennessee. During his time working for Senator Stewart, Everett became very good friends with Congressmen Tom Murray of Jackson and Cliff Davis

of Memphis.

Stewart, Tennessee's junior senator, was an amiable and unassuming man who worked hard to do things for Tennessee and Tennesseans. Senator Stewart was largely overshadowed by Tennessee's more colorful and powerful senior senator, Kenneth D. McKellar. Fortunately, the two got along rather well, and Stewart seemed not to mind deferring to the influential McKellar.

"Fats" Everett enjoyed Washington, D.C., which had to be quite a change from Obion County. Everett enjoyed taking a drink and liked the social life of the Capitol, although he remained a lifelong bachelor.

Senator Stewart carried Obion County by a better than two-to-one majority, a sign of "Fats" Everett's political potency in his home area, but lost the 1948 Democratic primary. With the defeat of Senator Stewart, "Fats" was out of a job but had a bigger job in mind for himself. "Fats" Everett spent two years in preparing to pursue his dream to serve in Congress. The 35-year-old Everett announced he would challenge Congressman Jere Cooper in the Democratic primary. It was a bold move as Cooper had been in the House of Representatives since 1929 and was a high-ranking member of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. Cooper had also been a stalwart of the Roosevelt and Truman administrations.

The two men were a portrait of contrasts in some ways; Cooper tended to be lean and was balding and more reserved. One newspaper reporter wrote Congressman Cooper could be described as "quiet, solemn almost stern, confident, deliberate, possibly aloof." "Fats" Everett was "jolly and demonstrative; as energetic as a teenager, as enthusiastic as an auctioneer; he's a back-slapper, ever ready with verbal quips and House-shaking laughter." Cooper stressed his seniority while Everett made a calculated effort to involve the younger people of the district, many of whom did not know Cooper personally and saw the congressman as a distant and absent figure. Over the years, Cooper was spending more and more time in Washington and less in his district.

"Fats" Everett gave Jere Cooper the scare of his political life. When the campaign was over, Cooper had 26,675 votes to 25,055 for Everett. "Fats" Everett's campaign for Congress in 1950 demonstrated both his shrewdness as a politician and his popular appeal. Congressman Cooper only barely beat back the challenge from Everett. Just after losing the congressional race, a friend encountered Everett and said he



UPI PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

After 26 days in the hospital, Congressman Robert "Fats" Everett dropped from 363 pounds to 270 pounds, 1967.

believed "Fats" had lost a lot of weight. "Fats" said he was down to 260 pounds. His friend marveled at the weight loss and asked how he had done it. "I took the Cooper treatment," Everett bawled.

The Democratic primary was barely over when Gordon Browning announced he was hiring "Fats" Everett as administrative assistant to the governor. "I think he will make a fine man for the post," Browning said. "He has unbounded energy and is always considerate of the public. He will be useful both to this office and to the people of the state."

Everett's first comment after his appointment was, "I am a workhorse and ready to go."

For Browning, hiring "Fats" Everett was a shrewd move and was regarded by many Tennessee political observers as reaching out and plucking an important operative from the enemy camp.

Browning lost the 1952 Democratic primary, and Everett demonstrated an ability to land on his feet. "Fats" was hired as the first executive secretary of the Tennessee County Services Association. The TCSA was the lobbying arm of the county governments in Tennessee and hiring "Fats" Everett was a masterful move. The amiable Everett, despite his outsized appearance, carried a virtual political encyclopedia inside his head. Everett knew just about everybody worth knowing in the state and, in his capacity as an assistant to Senator Stewart and Governor Browning, had done a passel of favors for folks all across the state.

Shrewd, able and industrious, "Fats" Everett had an unusual ability to see issues clearly. "We in county government have not kept pace with the times," Everett told a reporter in 1957. "If we don't clean our own house, the state and federal governments are going to move in and do it for us."

As it turned out, Bob Everett's return to Washington, D.C. was

merely delayed. Jere Cooper died of a heart attack on December 18, 1957. A special election was called, and "Fats" Everett, after having run such a strong race against a popular and powerful incumbent, was well positioned to win the Democratic primary. Everett drew two opponents yet won the primary contest with a majority of the vote. Everett took his seat in Congress on February 1, 1958. The first decision Everett made was to announce he was keeping Miss Hope Hart, who had been Congressman Cooper's prime assistant for his entire 29 years in Congress. "Fats" Everett would remain in Congress for the rest of his life.

Representing a largely rural district, Congressman Everett was a more traditional, conservative Southern Democrat. Everett excelled at constituent service and took care of his people quite well. Touring the district in a baggy suit to fit his large frame comfortably and oftentimes wearing a string tie, Bob Everett was highly popular.

Despite not having the seniority of many other Southern Democrats, "Fats" Everett understood both politics and the institution. Everett quickly gained more influence than others might have under the circumstances. When Congressman Everett became irritated with a game warden in his district, a Johnson administration official hurriedly wrote the Interior Department to remind them of the "indispensability of Everett to this Administration in Congress."

Part of Everett's charm was his self-deprecating humor. The congressman frequently said he weighed

"one pound less than a ton." Muckraking columnist Drew Pearson related that Everett tried to have "Robert A. 'Fats' Everett" put on the name plate of his suite of offices, but there wasn't enough room and he had to be content with "Robert A. Everett." One constituent complained and wrote the congressman to say, "Dear Fats: I've never changed the name of a mule, and I'm not going to start calling you by another name either since you've moved to Washington."

Politically, "Fats" Everett missed few tricks. He moved around his district frequently and remained highly popular. Congressman Everett faced no opposition inside the Democratic primary in his 1960 reelection campaign. Everett did draw an opponent in 1962, but crushed his challenger, winning 41,158 votes to a paltry 3,293 votes. Everett faced slightly more serious opposition in the 1966 Democratic primary from a candidate named for his late predecessor but won once again handsomely.

When President Lyndon B. Johnson came to Tennessee to campaign in Nashville in 1964, Congressman Everett was on the platform, along with most every other important Democrat in the state. Republican strength in Tennessee was beginning to surge, and Democrats were united that year. LBJ, a meticulous organizer, even had all the former living governors of Tennessee at the War Memorial Building that year. Prentice Cooper, Gordon Browning and Jim McCord were all in attendance, vestiges of a time that had long gone by.

Young Ned McWherter learned much from "Fats"

Everett, and even as a youngster, he was admitted into the congressman's circle of political and personal friends. Some close to the late governor believed McWherter actually patterned his own political career after that of "Fats" Everett. The congressman kept his campaign headquarters at the David Crockett Hotel in Union City. There, young Ned McWherter would join Everett and his friends to socialize and plan out their politicking. The hotel was owned by the parents of Bette Jean Beck, who was McWherter's wife. McWherter himself later said he licked stamps and drove Everett around the district during campaigns. Everett, at 6'4" and well over 300 pounds, was a colorful role model.

Everett favored a white Stetson that had cost \$100, a mighty expensive hat for the times. Someone pilloined the congressman's Stetson while he was at a speaker's table. "I'd heard of losing your shirt at a convention, but this is the first time I ever heard of losing your hat," "Fats" grumbled. "The hat's insured, but the trouble is that my insurance agent is the chairman of the Republican party in Obion County."

Congressman Everett had once again had no opposition in the Democratic primary in 1968. It was a year of bitter political strife, but Everett was largely missing from the campaign trail. "Fats" Everett was ailing and confined to Bethesda Naval Hospital. The congressman's doctor described Everett as "a mighty sick boy" during the campaign. Everett had come out of a coma and recognized his doctor. The congressman was suffering from kidney trouble.

Eventually, Everett was transferred to a hospital in Nashville. Only 53 years old, Robert Everett died from pneumonia, which had been complicated by "a flu-like virus and diabetes, on January 26, 1969.

Being a bachelor, "Fats" Everett left no widow or children. Many others served in Congress much longer than the twelve years Everett served, but few attained the kind of influence he did so quickly. Less interested in foreign affairs than in doing favors for his constituents and taking care of his people, what the congressman did leave behind were thousands of friends.

Those same folks erected a statue that stands outside the Obion County Courthouse. "Fats" is shown in full regalia, hat, bow tie and all. The statue bears an inscription of a quote from Congressman Everett that Ned McWherter often repeated: "If a man don't want to work, he hadn't ought to hire out."

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# More 'sorta true' stories from an old journalist

**Cont. from page 1**

clean-shaven defendant.

The clean-shaven young man was found not guilty by the local jury.

## The Bootlegger Winked At Me

I got a call one afternoon that a raid on a local bootlegger was going to be held, and I was invited to tag along. I was running a weekly newspaper in the small town at the time and knew the police chief well. He sometimes tipped me off on incidents, including one unfortunate hanging by an inmate in the city jail. I went down and took photos of the very dead young man still hanging from an upper bunk and then gave the chief the roll of film.

The state and local policemen were assembled at the city hall, and I followed the police cars to the bootlegger's house. I didn't realize until I got there that the bootlegging raid was taking place at the home of one of my distant relatives.

The older man, whom I'll refer to as "Uncle" because he was an uncle of my mom, met the lawmen at his house and invited them in. For several minutes, the police looked through his small home and found nothing.

As they left, my "Uncle" winked at me.

About a week later, I had a cousin visiting from Florida who wanted some moonshine. I called my "Uncle," and he said come on over.

We arrived, and he brought us a mason jar of moonshine for a few dollars. I recall asking him how he knew the police were coming, and he said he always knows. Obviously, he had friends in the police department.

## Grocery Store Owner Gets Married

There was a large supermarket just outside the Kentucky county seat where I was working as advertising manager for the local weekly

newspaper. Each week I'd drive out to the supermarket to pick up the information for his advertisement.

Often he would ask me to take my car and drive him down past his main competitor, where he would look at the window ads, copy the products and prices, and then designate what he wanted in his ad. That way, he constantly undercut the prices that the other store had posted.

The supermarket manager called me one day and asked me to please not run his name in the public records section of the paper. Seems that he and his long-time girlfriend, whom everyone had assumed was his wife, had only recently wed.

The wedding announcements were public records, as were criminal, court and property records. He begged me not to include his wedding in the paper. I spoke with the editor and was told we could not withhold the information and would publish it.

I told him most people

didn't read that portion of the paper, but he said that if we ran it, he would cancel his ad. We did, and he did. In a few weeks, he came back to advertise and never mentioned the event again.

## The Upside-Down Ad

I once had a new business that wanted to advertise, and I met with the owner, designed the ad, and showed him what I had put together. He wanted a full page and for it to appear on the back page of the paper. He had one other stipulation; it had to run UPSIDE DOWN.

He thought it might get more attention. We had a verbal agreement, and I agreed to bill him for the ad and the special attention he requested.

A week later, he called complaining that the ad wasn't working and he had few customers. I tried to tell him that advertising only once probably won't draw much attention. He didn't

listen and wasn't going to pay for the advertisement.

A couple of months later, we took him to court, and he told the judge the ad didn't work and he wasn't going to pay for it. The judge asked him if everything in the ad had been approved by him, including running it upside down, and the man said, "Yes."

The judge told the store owner to pay the bill. He never did.

*On a personal note:*

## Lessons learned over 79 years

I'll turn 79 years old the day after Christmas. I don't always follow what I've learned during all these years, but I know better.

Here are a few things I've learned over the years:

- If it works, don't fix it.
- Good enough is ok.
- Old friends are best,

they already know your faults.

- Your children are always your kids, no matter their age.

- Our home is always welcome to our family.

- Honor your job, do the best you can.

- Be as truthful as you can, but fudge a bit.

- Driving gets harder as your judgment fades.

- The shortcut is not always the way to go.

- Treasure what works best, nurse what doesn't.

- Delaying something usually makes it worse.

- Hugs are good, comforting things.

- Channel your anger into something else.

- Try to report the facts, not your opinion.

- Listen to critical remarks.

- Be faithful and hold your tongue.

# One Question Changes Everything?

**Cont. from page 2**

now. The question these wise men were asking was not merely about location, but also about allegiance.

In our own lives, we must ask: Where is He that is born King of the Jews? The question that the wise men once asked does not remain safely in history; it demands consideration even today. What have we done with Jesus as our

King? Is He only honored in tradition or have we given Him the right to reign over every aspect of our lives today? Have we accepted that the Bible clearly and emphatically tells us that one day He will sit on the throne of His father David, and reign over all the earth from Jerusalem? You see, the kingship that the Bible tells us is coming in the future is the very kingship

that confronts us in the present.

The truth of Christmas is inescapable: every subject who has ever walked this earth will one day bow before this Child as a King. Men and women from every nation, every status, kindred, tribe, position and rank will bow before Him. Some will bow now by willing devotion; others will bow later in unavoidable

confession. The wise men show us a better way. Their question becomes our examination: not IF He is a king, but WHERE He is as king. Where does Jesus reign in our lives, our time, our ambitions, our fears and our hopes? You see, the answer to this question not only shapes our theology, but it also reveals our allegiance and determines our destiny.

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## HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Gwen Jackson, Austin-East girls' coach, talks to players on the bench. The former Lady Vol standout has a young team that could develop into a state contender.

## A-E moving back up under Coach Jackson

By Steve Williams

It's been a long time since the Austin-East girls basketball program has knocked on the TSSAA door.

It may not happen this season, but Coach Gwen Jackson says she "definitely has two D1 athletes" in her current starting lineup that are juniors.

Tymirrianna Brown scored 19 points - 10 in the first period - and Ja'Onna Witt tallied 18 as the Lady Roadrunners' 1-2 punch led a 55-12 runaway against host Carter at the Jim Williams Gymnasium Dec. 16.

A-E won the Class AA state title in 2007 under Coach John Anderson, who by the way was at last week's game as a spectator. The Lady Roadrunners also were state runners-up in 2005.

Perhaps considering past seasons and this year's turnaround, Jackson said: "We've been losing and it took a couple of butt-kickings. I'm still thinking about what we can do to get better."

Jackson played at the University of Tennessee and scored 1,508 points in 137 games during

her career. She recalled 2002-03 when Coach Pat Summitt's team lost to Connecticut by five points in the NCAA finals. She started coaching at Austin-East in 2012.

Gwen now has a son, Jaiden Turner, who is a sophomore on the A-E team and a daughter, Janiya Turner, who is an eighth grader at West Valley. She also was on the West Valley team that won the TMSAA state championship last year.

Austin-East jumped out to a big lead against the Lady Hornets and Erreshae Williams' layup in the closing seconds of the first period upped the score to 19-2. Williams would finish with eight points.

Karmen Tribble hit a 3-pointer from the right wing to extend A-E's big margin in the second period and Williams added a steal and lay-up. A reverse left-handed layup by Brown ended the first half with the score 39-4. It was 52-7 after three stops.

Zoey Tollivar and Madi Ogle scored five points each for the Lady Hornets.

"Defense," said Jackson, was the key to the win

**Cont. on page 2**

## HOLIDAY HELPERS!



Gibbs High Cheer Team has been busy this holiday season! Pictured at the Weigel's Family Christmas event are: (Front row, left to right) Kayleigh Slaton, Emma Cameron and Lilly Sowers. Middle row (L to R): Lauren Axton, Colee Bailey and Laykin Bridgman. Back row (L to R): Chloe Floyd, Rylee Brumitte, Caroline Hill, Cambry Akins, Destiny Sands and Emeri Seaton.

## Gibbs' cheer team really gives a lot this season

By Steve Williams

How about a hand for the Gibbs High School cheer team!

Usually, it's the other way around, with the cheerleaders rooting for Gibbs' teams throughout the school year.



Kayleigh Slaton gives an encouraging smile as Laykin Bridgman paints a youngster's face at the recent Fantasy of Trees.



Emeri Seaton, Rylee Brumitte, Brie Bussell and Kelsey Hill seal holiday boxes at the Operation Christmas Child packing event.

"We participated in East Tennessee Children's Hospital's Fantasy of Trees event in a variety of activities," said GHS Cheer Coach Cheyenne Pack. "This was our third year participating at this event. A few of the booths they served this year included face painting, ornament making, and Home Depot's snowman block craft.

"Our squad also participated in the Weigel's Family Christmas for the second year in a row!

"Lastly, we aided Smithwood Baptist Church over the summer in preparing for their Operation Christmas Child boxes. We actually set a record for loading up the most amount of boxes during a "packing party!"

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## HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

# Karns comes back to defeat Hardin Valley in non-district showdown

By Ken Lay

After falling behind early, Karns High School's boys basketball team finished with a flourish and captured a 76-60 victory on the road against Hardin Valley Academy Tuesday night.

The Beavers (5-5) found themselves behind the Hawks, 19-13, following the first quarter, but they would bounce back and hold a 30-28 lead at halftime.

Following the break, Karns wouldn't trail again against the Hawks (6-6), who were coming off a big win on Saturday, Dec. 13, routing Kingston, 85-43

in the Turnkey Hardwood Classic at Webb School of Knoxville.

Early, it looked like Hardin Valley, which has one of the area's youngest teams, would be poised to continue its hot streak against the Beavers, its longtime geographical rival.

But it wasn't to be.

Three of the Hawks' top offensive players got into foul trouble, and HVA three-point marksman Kristian Oliver was held scoreless on the night. Jax Sparks and Kymani Smith were also hindered by foul difficulties in the game. Smith, however,

scored to lead Hardin Valley with 18 points, and Sparks had 12.

"We were keying on (Oliver)," Beavers' coach Lee Henson said. "We wanted them to play defense."

At halftime, the Beavers made some adjustments, and those alterations appeared to work out as the Karns led, 50-43, after the third frame.

"We made some adjustments to the way they were guarding us," Henson said.

The Beavers never relinquished the upper hand following Hardin Valley's initial

surge. Karns led by as many as 12 points in the fourth quarter before the Hawks pulled to within 68-60 when Smith made a shot with 2 minutes, 5 seconds remaining.

But Hardin Valley didn't score again as Karns closed the game on an 8-0 run.

The Beavers had four players score 10-plus points. William Summey had 20 points. Owen Miller added 15. Jaxson Schwartz had 14, including 12 after halftime, and six over the final eight minutes. Simon Tutu finished with 13 points.

**Lady Hawks rout Karns:** Hardin Valley's girls notched a 63-25 victory over the Lady Beavers Tuesday night.

The Lady Hawks darted out to a 27-8 lead by halftime and never looked back.

Hardin Valley was hot from beyond the 3-point arc as they made nine long-range jumpers.

Marley Edwards made five. Sarah Galloway converted two. Gracie Edwards and Audree Riehn had one 3-pointer apiece.

Marley Edwards scored a game-high 17 points.

Riehn added 15, and Alaina Lineberry finished with 10.

HVA coach Jennifer Galloway said she was pleased with her team's effort against the Lady Beavers.

"I'm really proud of our girls. We shot the ball pretty well," coach Galloway said. "We rebounded well, and we played good defense."

"We saw some different defenses, and we did a good job adjusting to that."

Kiki Clay scored 16 points for Karns.



## Class AAA Roadrunners shoot past Carter, 60-43

By Steve Williams

Austin-East boys coach Denard Bertram is back in District 3-3A this season and he likes it.

The past two years the Roadrunners were in Class AA.

"We're closer to home and we're glad to be where we're at," said Bertram, who is in his fourth season at A-E.

A-E evened its overall record at 7-7 and is 2-0 in the district after winning at Carter 60-43 last week.

The Roadrunners have played some tough opponents, including Webb, which was ranked No. 13 in the nation. Other strong opponents on A-E's schedule so far have been Dobyns-Bennett, Morristown West and Bearden. Down the road

Bertram expects a battle with Tellico Plains, too.

"We've learned from it," said Bertram. "You can't come out and play cupcakes."

The game with Carter was physical in the first period. The Hornets hung with the Roadrunners the first eight minutes, trailing only by two points (15-13).

"We hit six 3s in the first half and that kind of set us apart (36-21)," Bertram said.

A-E was on top 51-28 after the third period.

Spencer Moore scored 14 of his team-high 17 points, including four 3-pointers, in the first half. Larrison Winton also was in double digits with 12 points, including 10 in the second period.

"Moore can really shoot the ball," said Coach

Bertram. "Winton is coming off an injury and is catching fire."

The Roadrunners also got nine points from Leekon Curry, eight from D'Andre Hundley and seven from D'Shaun Fenderson.

Grayson Watson (14 points) and Lincoln Tummel (10) led the Hornets (6-4 overall and 1-1 in the district).

"I felt our pressure was a big key," said Bertram.

The A-E coach added that there were a lot of good coaches in the district. "Anytime you can get a league win it's a big win."

"At the end of the day, we're trying to gear this team for a run to Murfreesboro."

*Austin-East's D'Shaun Fenderson eyes the basket for a free throw in the Roadrunners' 60-43 win at Carter on Dec. 16. Photo by Steve Williams.*

## MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

## Power outage spoils eighth-grade night for Halls

By Ken Lay

On a night when Halls Middle School was scheduled to honor its eighth-grade cheerleaders and boys and girls basketball players, the celebration was cut short as a portion of the Halls Crossroads community went dark.

The lights in the Halls Middle School gym went out approximately midway through the eighth-grade ceremonies, which began between games of the Knox County Middle School Basketball Conference Class AAA double header between Black Oak Ridge rivals Halls and Gresham Thursday night.

In the midst of the celebration honoring the eighth graders, things went dark and the Knoxville Utilities Board wasn't expecting the power to be restored until approximately 8 p.m. The ceremonies were abruptly halted, and the

boys game between the Red Devils and the Gladiators was postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date.

One game, however, was played as the Lady Devils topped the Lady Gladiators, 34-17.

Things started a bit slow for both teams, but Halls would manufacture enough offense to take an 11-2 lead by the end of the opening quarter. Gresham scored its only points of the first quarter on a basket by Claire Inglehart.

The Lady Devils never trailed in the first quarter. They had a 13-6 advantage by halftime and held a 23-15 lead by the end of the third stanza.

Addie Chipman and Sophia Marlow each scored nine points for the Lady Devils, while Fiona Brewer added eight.

Nola Roach led Gresham's offensive attack with nine points.



*Halls Middle School cheerleader Kynleigh White was one of several eighth-grade cheerleaders, boys and girls basketball players honored Thursday night after the girls game between the Lady Devils and Gresham. The boys game was postponed due to a power outage. Pictured with Kynleigh is her father, Joe, and her mother, Krystin.*

## A-E moving back up under Coach Jackson

Cont. from page 1

for her "young" team. Offensively, "we've been averaging 40 to 50 points per game."

Austin-East (6-6 overall and 1-0 in District 3-3A) has been a streaky team. They lost their first three games of the season, including a 50-47 loss to Catholic. Then they won five in a row, starting with a 41-34 victory over Hardin Valley. That was followed with a 47-38 loss at Powell and two other defeats before beating Carter.

The Lady Roadrunners were scheduled to play Farragut in the Loudon Christmas Classic this past Friday.

Carter, under first-year head coach Brian McGhee, is 0-9 overall and 0-1 in district play after a loss to South-Doyle last Thursday.

PHOTO BY RUTH WHITE.

# Remembering Earl Hudson

Knoxville pharmacist Earl C. Hudson (June 17, 1926 – June 24, 2017) had an eventful life over the course of his 91 years and seven days.

He was totally dedicated to his family, his church, his community, his chosen profession of pharmacy, and his life with a number of Bluetick Coonhounds named "Smokey." He also found time to co-author our 2012 book on the history of the Smokey mascots ("Smokey: The True Stories behind the University of Tennessee's Famous Mascot").

He was an integral part of one of the great stories in University of Tennessee history that began in 1953. His life story recounts the more than 60 years that dogs named Smokey have graced the sidelines at Vol football games and been part of the ambience of the campus and community.

It started 72 years ago, as the U.T. Pep Club went searching for a mascot, a move designed to improve school spirit on campus and at Volunteer football games. In 1953, the University of Tennessee Pep Club held a contest to select a coonhound, a breed common to Tennessee, to serve as the school's live mascot.

Announcements of the contest in local newspapers, including one penned by John Ward, then a reporter for the Knoxville Journal, read, "This can't be an ordinary hound. He must be a 'Houn' Dog' in the best sense of the word."

By vote of the fans seated in the student section on the east side of Shields-Watkins Field at

the Mississippi State game Sept. 26, the spotlight ended up shining squarely on "Brooks' Blue Smokey" and his owner, the Rev. W. C. (Bill) Brooks, who was Earl's brother-in-law.

Smokey I debuted on Shields-Watkins Field the next week before the Duke game. The new mascot would not taste the thrill of victory until a week after when the Vols defeated Chattanooga.

When Pep Club president Stuart Worden and Rev. Brooks cut the deal for "Brooks' Blue Smokey" to become Smokey I, they did so with a handshake. "That's the way things were done in those days," said Worden.

Rev. Brooks promised Worden the dog would be at every game. With just a couple of exceptions, due to local quarantines or stadium policies on the road, that's been the case over the intervening years.

Rev. Brooks died in the summer of 1986, and his wife, Mildred, took over, with Earl being in the wings to take care of his sister and Smokey VI whenever the need might arise.

"In 1993, Mildred was apprehensive about Smokey VII's care and decided to bring him home," Earl said. "That's where I came in. It was a matter of a brother helping his sister."

As Mildred's health worsened, Earl finally took over caring for Smokey VII and those who would follow full-time in 1994. Mildred died in 1997. Earl handled the Smokeys from that point forward and later found new dogs in Sonora, Ky., Goose Creek, S.C., and Shelbyville.

In Goose Creek, Earl remembered kennel owner Jim

Hackworth wanting \$300 for the new dog. Too much money, Earl thought. Then came an epiphany that cinched the deal. He told Hackworth that the dog would become Smokey IX, the mascot of the University of Tennessee Volunteers. That settled that. Hackworth knocked a hundred bucks off the price, from \$300 to \$200.

Smokey VIII and IX stayed at the Hudson residence on Mountaincrest Drive in North Knoxville and became a much-loved part of the family and the neighborhood.

In late 2011, Earl talked about a changing of the guard. Smokey IX's future was in doubt due to a knee injury, and Earl was thinking about passing the torch of caring for the dog to his son, Charles.

Robert Moser, one of Smokey IX's handlers in 2011-12, had the first inkling there was a change in the works. "I think Mr. Earl is getting ready to hand it over to Charles. That's way above my head, but I wouldn't be surprised."

That event occurred on Nov. 10, 2012, as Charles took over caring for the dog when Charles, Earl, and Smokey IX gathered at his home near Beaver Brook Country Club north of Knoxville.

In what had to be an emotion-laden moment, the "changing of the guard" from Earl to Charles took place, albeit very quietly. Charles remembered that his dad called it a "momentous occasion," the passing of the dog from father to son.

Smokey X was introduced along with the Hudson family at the 2012 Tennessee-Missouri football game at Neyland Stadium and had served since the 2013



Earl Hudson is shown with an earlier version of Smokey at his home on Mountaincrest Drive in North Knoxville.

season, still leading the Vols onto the field, home and away. His son, Smokey XI, recently retired.

Earl died on June 17, 2017. At his service, next to the casket was a copy of the Hudson/ Mattingly book. That was something Earl took great pride in co-authoring.

Earl's life was definitely an

inspiring story, one reflecting love of school, commitment to a person's word, and all those other values we hold dear in our society. Over the years, the Smokey mascot has been in good hands.

Earl Hudson wouldn't have had it any other way.

## Exit Banks, Enter Knowles for Vols Defense

By Mark Nagi

In 2024, Tennessee defensive coordinator Tim Banks was a finalist for the Broyles Award, annually given to the nation's top assistant coach. He was only the third Vols assistant in program history to be a finalist for that award. He was given a contract extension that paid him \$2.15 million annually through the 2027 season.

But earlier this month, Banks found himself out of a job.

"I want to thank Tim for everything he has done for Tennessee the last five seasons," said Tennessee head coach Josh Heupel in a statement released by the University of Tennessee. "He helped restore our program to national prominence. More importantly,

Tim is a great man of character and someone I have the utmost respect for. We wish Tim all the best moving forward. These are tough decisions, but one I ultimately felt was necessary for the future of our program."

Banks received a \$3.75 million buyout, mitigated by his hiring by Auburn as the Tigers' co-defensive coordinator and safeties coach.

This was not a decision Heupel took lightly. He didn't relish the responsibility of firing an assistant coach, especially one who had been with him right from the start of the Tennessee rebuild. However, this was a move he had no choice but to make. In 2024, the Vols were ranked 6th in total defense and 7th in scoring defense, allowing only 16.1

points per game. In 2025, Tennessee plummeted to 88th in the country in total defense, allowing 395.3 yards per game. They were also 92nd in scoring defense, allowing 28.8 points per game.

If you married the 2024 Vols defense with the 2025 Vols offense, you have a team primed to make a serious run at SEC and national titles. But the football gods are rarely that kind.

The Vols lost cornerback Jermod McCoy for the entire season due to a torn ACL he suffered during a workout in January. McCoy was a second-team All-America selection in 2024. His counterpart on the other side of the field, cornerback Rickey Gibson III, didn't even get out of the first half of the season opener against Syracuse.

Gibson suffered an arm injury that cost him the rest of the calendar. The saga of defensive back Boo Carter was a headache for months. Linebacker Arion Carter fought through turf toe on both feet. Defensive tackle Jaxson Moi missed multiple games due to injury.

However, even beyond those issues, this was a defense that had lost its mojo. Poor tackling. Poor positioning. Lack of aggressiveness. The Vandy game was the last straw, when the Commodores scored the most points against Tennessee than they had in over a century. Losses to Vanderbilt and Kentucky are borderline fireable offenses in the first place. In this case, it was painfully obvious that Banks wasn't going to turn things around.

Considering Heupel's position, the DC hiring will go a long way towards either extending his stay in Knoxville or quickening its pace. But it didn't take long for Heupel to find Banks's replacement, as he hired former Penn State and Ohio State defensive coordinator Jim Knowles.

"Hiring Jim Knowles was our top priority from the start of this process," Heupel said in another press release. "Jim has a proven track record of developing elite defenses that play with an edge, and we got to see that first-hand during the 2024 College Football Playoff. His defenses are always physical, well prepared, and can adapt quickly in-game against today's complex offenses. He's a competitor, a winner and someone

who will get the most out of our players in practice and on gameday. We are thrilled to welcome Jim to Rocky Top as he helps us chase championships."

Heupel alluded to the Buckeyes' defense that swarmed the Vols 42-17 in that playoff game victory on its way to the national championship. Knowles led that group to being ranked first in the country in scoring defense, total defense and yards per play. They were also second in the FBS in sacks and red zone defense.

"I am excited for this opportunity to work with Coach Heupel and represent Vol Nation," Knowles said.

If Knowles can get more out of Tennessee's defenders, the 2026 season will be one to watch.

*Merry Christmas!*

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# LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

## FORECLOSURE NOTICES

### NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: UNKNOWN FATHER  
IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF A MALE CHILD, D. G. L., DOB 04/15/2024

BY: WENDY STAFFORD LOWE and Husband,  
JUSTIN DAVID LOWE, Petitioners

v.  
KAELYNN MICHELLE LOWE,  
Mother, and UNKNOWN FATHER,  
Potential Father, Respondents  
NO. 211503-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant is UNKNOWN FATHER, 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 UNKNOWN FATHER, it is ordered that said defendant, UNKNOWN FATHER, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with William L. Gribble, an Attorney whose address is 550 E. Broadway Ave., Maryville, TN 37804, on or before thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Richard B. Armstrong at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division II, 400 Main Street, Suite 125, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. This 2nd day of December, 2025.

J. Scott Griswold  
Clerk and Master

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WILMA L. ANDREWS  
DOCKET NUMBER 91810-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 4 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of WILMA L. ANDREWS, who died Oct. 27, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 4 day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF WILMA L. ANDREWS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MITCHELL ALLEN ANDREWS, EXECUTOR  
140 COLDWELL CIRCLE  
OLIVER SPRINGS, TN 37840

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BENNY ROBERT ARP  
DOCKET NUMBER 91849-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 3rd day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect to the Estate of BENNIE ROBERT ARP, who died on October 19, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Probate Court for Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) below, otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 3rd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF BENNIE ROBERT ARP

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
LINDA SUSAN SELLERS ARP  
1419 COACHMAN LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CHARLES CALVIN BARNHART  
DOCKET NUMBER 91813-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect to the Estate of CHARLES CALVIN BARNHART, who died on July 18, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Probate Court for Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) below, otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF CHARLES CALVIN BARNHART

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
CHARLES STEPHEN BARNHART  
1024 QUAIL RUN DR.  
CENTERVILLE, OH 45458

KEELEY N. MORTON, ATTORNEY  
900 SOUTH GAY STREET, 9TH FLOOR  
P. O. BOX 900  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901-0900

KNOXVILLE, TN 37901-0900

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF AUBRY RUTH BOST  
DOCKET NUMBER 91465-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 9th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters of testamentary in respect of the Estate of AUBRY RUTH BOST, who died on June 4, 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 9th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF AUBRY ROTH BOSH

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
DAVID LEE BOST, ADMINISTRATOR  
7309 ETHELD REDA DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

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

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LISA IRELAND CALHOUN  
DOCKET NUMBER 91840-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of LISA IRELAND CALHOUN, who died August 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 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF LISA IRELAND CALHOUN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
THOMAS H. CALHOUN, III, EXECUTOR  
2730 OLEANDER WAY, APT 1016  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

LYLE ROBERT EDIXON, EXECUTOR  
10346 BANJO LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37932

BRENDEN S. MORIARTY, ATTORNEY  
1111 N. NORTSHORE DRIVE, SUITE S-700  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JENNIE M. CLARK  
DOCKET NUMBER 91795-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 4 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JENNIE M. CLARK, who died Oct. 27, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 4 day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF JENNIE M. CLARK

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
FERN LEA, EXECUTRIX  
5826 CARROLL CREEK LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ESTHER J. COOK  
DOCKET NUMBER 91683-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ESTHER J. COOK, who died September 6th, 2025 were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 4th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF ESTHER J. COOK

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
FREDERICK W. COOK  
11404 VALLEY VIEW LANDING LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37932

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

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CECIL E. FRAZIER  
DOCKET NUMBER 91708-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 3rd day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of CECIL E. FRAZIER, who died August 15, 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 the four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or  
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 3rd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF CECIL E. FRAZIER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
DANIELLE J. RIDLEY  
2210 CAMPBELL ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37914

BEN T. NORRIS, ATTORNEY  
P. O. BOX 397  
STRAWBERRY PLAINS, TN 37871

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CYNTHIA H. HERMAN  
DOCKET NUMBER 91455-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 3rd day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of CYNTHIA H. HERMAN, who died July 9, 2025, were issued to Raymond L. Hord, Jr., at 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 3rd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF CYNTHIA H. HERMAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
RAYMOND L. HORD, JR.  
102 WHITFIELD AVE.  
SARASOTA, FL 34243

ARNOLD G. COHEN, ATTORNEY  
6025 BROOKVALE LANE, SUITE 204  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919-4031

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

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

This the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF CAROL DAVID LOVEDAY, JR.

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

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

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF HAROLD MANAS  
DOCKET NUMBER 91878-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of HAROLD MANAS, who died on November 5, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor

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

This the 4th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF HAROLD MANAS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
PENNY Z. MCPEAK

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

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ANN MANAS  
DOCKET NUMBER 91881-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of ELIZABETH ANN MANAS, who died on October 7, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the abovenamed court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 4th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ANN MANAS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
PENNY Z. MCPEAK

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

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DENISE LEANN MCGAHA  
DOCKET NUMBER 91848-2

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

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

ESTATE OF DENISE LEANN MCGAHA

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

ANTHONY JARED MCGAHA  
1031 JOSEPI DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

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

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF KATHERINE DENMARK MORAN  
DOCKET NUMBER 91836-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of NOVEMBER, 2025, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of KATHERINE DENMARK MORAN who died on November 8, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 25th day of NOVEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF KATHERINE DENMARK MORAN

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

WILLIAM R. RAY, ATTORNEY  
1356 PAPERMILL POINT WY  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37909

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JO ANN MOYERS  
DOCKET NUMBER 91830-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary

in respect of the Estate of JO ANN MOYERS, who died October 12, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the abovenamed court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF JO ANN MOYERS

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

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

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DORA ANN NEIL  
DOCKET NUMBER 91758-2

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

ESTATE OF DORA ANN NEIL

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

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

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this

# LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

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

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

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

This the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF KEVIN THOMAS REILLY

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

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of 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 3rd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF KIRK SKILLERN ROEGELEIN

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

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters of Testamentary/ Administration in respect to the Estate of CHRISTOPHER LORNE RUDD, deceased, who died on October 19, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division for Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured against his/her Estate are required to file the same in triplicate with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF CHRISTOPHER LORNE RUDD

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

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

Notice is hereby given that on the 4 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ROBERTA L. SMITH, who died Sept. 18, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 4 day of DECEMBER, 2025

ESTATE OF ROBERTA L. SMITH

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)

JOEL D. SMITH, EXECUTOR  
5416 HOLSTON HILLS ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37914

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

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

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

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

This the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF BILLY WAYNE SMITH

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
RANDALL WAYNE SMITH  
3304 MCKAMEY ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF WANDA FAYE MCCALL ABDULLA**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91852-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of WANDA FAYE MCCALL ABDULLA, who died May 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 10th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF WANDA FAYE MCCALL ABDULLA

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
SARA N. ABDULLA  
1216 WHISPER TRACE LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF GAIL ANNE BROWN**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91704-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of GAIL ANNE BROWN, who died April 29, 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 is the 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF GAIL ANNE BROWN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER BROWN  
1607 W. GREENFIELD  
WICHITA, KS 67217

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF LEWIS F. COSBY, III**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91670-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 2 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of LEWIS F. COSBY, III, who died June 19, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 4 day of DECEMBER, 2025

ESTATE OF LEWIS F. COSBY, III

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)

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

This the 2 day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF LEWIS F. COSBY, III

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
LYDIA C. COSBY, CO-EXECUTOR  
6840 OLD KENT ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JOHN WESLEY HOOVER, JR.**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91816-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 8 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOHN WESLEY HOOVER, JR., who died Oct. 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 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 8 day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF JOHN WESLEY HOOVER, JR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
LOIS ALYNE RULE, EXECUTRIX  
6117 PERRY ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37914

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JACKIE G. JONES**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91791-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 9 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JACKIE G. JONES, who died Sept. 19, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 9 day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF JACKIE G. JONES

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JACK G. JONES, CO-EXECUTOR  
622 FARRAGUT COMMONS DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF LINDA SUSAN LEBON**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91717-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 17th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect to the Estate of LINDA SUSAN LEBON, who died October 5, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of 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 of the above named court within 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 decedent's date of death.

This the 17th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF LINDA SUSAN LEBON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
AMY LYNN LEBON NEWBY  
JON G. ROACH, ATTORNEY  
1500 RIVERVIEW TOWER  
900 SOUTH GAY STREET  
P. O. BOX 131  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF DAVID MICHAEL LISTER**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91834-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 15th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters administration (or letters of testamentary as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of DAVID MICHAEL LISTER, who died August 25, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident, and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the

first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) 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 15th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF DAVID MICHAEL LISTER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
NATHAN WILLIAM LISTER  
8137 LECLAY DR.  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37938

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF HELEN H. MADDOX**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91860-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of HELEN H. MADDOX, who died November 10, 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 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF HELEN H. MADDOX

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JEFFREY JAY MADDOX  
625 VALLEY HILL LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF KENNETH C. MAIDEN**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91821-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of KENNETH C. MAIDEN, who died August 30, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (6) 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 10th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF KENNETH C. MAIDEN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
BETHANY BROOKE HOWARD  
7827 EDWARDS PLACE BOULEVARD  
CORRYTON, TN 37721

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF KELLY ELISE MCCARTER**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91765-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 8 day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters administration in respect of the Estate of KELLY ELISE MCCARTER, who died Oct. 10, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

ESTATE OF KELLY ELISE MCCARTER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
DEBORAH MCCARTER, ADMINISTRATRIX  
2210 JONES STREET  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF CECELIA JUNE PARNELL**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91854-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of CECELIA JUNE PARNELL, who died June 15, 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 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 10th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF CECELIA JUNE PARNELL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JOYCE CAITLIN PARNELL  
7044 WRENS CREEK LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF FRANK LEE RALSTON**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91807-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of FRANK LEE RALSTON, who died on the 17th day of October, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication; 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 10th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF FRANK LEE RALSTON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ALTA ELAINE RALSTON  
1168 OAK HAVEN RD.  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37932

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MARTHA R. K. STEVENS**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91875-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of MARTHA R. K. STEVENS, who died September 26, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 12th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF MARTHA R. K. STEVENS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
TAMMY BRIDGES  
6728 GREENBROOK DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF DOROTHY THOMAS**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91720-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of DECEMBER, 2025, Letters of Administration in respect of the Estate of DOROTHY THOMAS, who died July 12, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured and unmatured against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 10th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF DOROTHY THOMAS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
PATRICIA F. FORD  
2237 WOODSMITH ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MICHAEL CURTIS WILLIAMS**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91822-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of DECEMBER, 2025, letters testamentary in respect to the Estate of MICHAEL CURTIS WILLIAMS, who died May 26, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, 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 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 10th day of DECEMBER, 2025.

ESTATE OF MICHAEL CURTIS WILLIAMS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MARY LOIS WILLIAMS  
11236 MATTHEWS COVE LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

## MISC. NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICE

The Knox County Commission shall receive letters and resumés/credentials from candidates seeking an appointment to one (1) vacancy on the Knox County Board of Zoning Appeals for Commission District 3, to serve an unfulfilled term expiring September 30, 2026. Candidates must reside in Commission District 3.

Resumés should be submitted by mail, fax, e-mail or hand-delivered no later than Friday, January 9, 2026 at 4:00 pm to:

**Office of the Knox County Commission**  
Suite 603, City County Building  
400 Main Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902  
Phone: 215-2534  
FAX: 215-2038  
E-mail: [commission@knoxcounty.org](mailto:commission@knoxcounty.org)

The Knox County Commission will interview candidates at the Commission Optional Agenda Review meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building, 400 West Main Street.

The Commission's appointment shall be considered during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Knox County Commission on Monday, January 26, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City-County Building, 400 West Main Street.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Knox County Commission shall receive letters and resumés/credentials from candidates seeking an appointment to two (2) vacancies on the Knox County Agricultural Extension Committee for one (1) farmer and one (1) farm woman, each to serve a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2027.

Resumés should be submitted by mail, fax, e-mail or hand-delivered no later than Friday, January 9, 2026 at 4:00 pm to:

**Office of the Knox County Commission**  
Suite 603, City County Building  
400 Main Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902  
Phone: 215-2534  
FAX: 215-2038  
E-mail: [commission@knoxcounty.org](mailto:commission@knoxcounty.org)

The Knox County Commission will interview candidates at the Commission Optional Agenda Review meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building, 400 West Main Street.

The Commission's appointment shall be considered during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Knox County Commission on Monday, January 26, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City-County Building, 400 West Main Street.

## LEGAL SECTION 94

Knox County will receive bids for the following items and services:

BID 3703, GEORGE LIGHT ROAD WIDENING, Due 1/22/26

BID 3704, BREAD FOR GOVERNMENT, Due 1/22/26

BID 3707, JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR HEAD START CENTERS, Due 2/03/26

For additional information call 865-215-5777, stop by the Procurement Division, 1000 North Central St., Suite 100, Knoxville, TN 37917, or visit our website: [www.knoxcounty.org/procurement](http://www.knoxcounty.org/procurement). To bid on Knox County surplus items, go to

# LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

## NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

The owners and/or lien holders of the following vehicles are hereby notified of their rights to pay all charges and reclaim said vehicles being held at the storage lot of A1 Express Tires & Wrecker Service. Failure to reclaim these vehicles will be deemed a waiver of all rights and titles along with consent to dispose of said vehicles at public auction held on JANUARY 11, 2026 at 10:00 AM at 11941 Chapman Hwy., Seymour, TN 37865.  
2005 Ford Mustang  
VIN# 1ZVFT80N55183575

- 7. '03 ACURA 32T 190UA56783A042108 JAMESLYN KINNEY
- 8. '07 SUZUKI CROSSOVER JS2YB413675107330 ALEX LONGMIRE
- 9. '20 HONDA ACCENT 3KPC24A68LE106547 MARY SMITH / BRIDGECREST ACCEPTANCE
- 10. '24 LEXUS GX550 JTJVBDCX2R5010924 ASHLEY BUTTURINI / ORNL
- 11. '14 FORD FOCUS 1FADP3F2XEL393802 TASHINA MCDONALD
- 12. '12 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER 5TDDK3EH9CS136401 NADINE GEMMIL / MARINER FINANCE
- 13. '17 JEEP PATRIOT 1C4NJPBA3HD134149 RYAN TROTTER


- 14. '09 LINCOLN MKS 1LNHM93R29G622637 ALEXANDER ABREU CRUZ
- 15. '08 DODGE RAM 1500 1D7HA16K28J114026 MICHAEL GREUTMAN
- 16. '22 HONDA CRV 2HKRW2H81NH610799 EMILY MASON
- 17. '22 BUICK ENVISION LRBAZLR47ND135394 THERESA PRIEST / TRUIST
- 18. '10 CHEVY CAMARO 2G1FB1EV8A9218864 ARNULFO BANEAGAS
- 19. '09 CHEVY COBALT 1G1AS58H497243426 PATRICIA OGLE / TITLEMAX
- 20. '03 HONDA ACCORD 1HGCM66583A029043 EMMALYN WILSON
- 21. '14 BMW 750 WBAYF8C52ED653188

- IRA GRIMES JR
- 22. '25 MAZDA CX5 JM3KF8BL1S0542289 JINZHAO SHENG
- 23. '09 PONTIAC G6 1G2ZG57N694133230 OSA MARINA PALACIOS LUNA
- 24. '17 NISSAN ROGUE KNMAT2MT2HP591673 RHONDA GRAVES / EXETER FINANCE
- 25. '10 HYUNDAI ELANTRA KMHDU4ADXA069203 DESTINY HAWKINS
- 26. '10 CHRYSLER 300 2C3CA5CV7AH246513 JENNIFER BENTON

## NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

The owner and/or lien holders of the following vehicle is hereby notified of their rights to pay all charges and reclaim said vehicle being held at 701 Cooper St., Knoxville, TN 37917. Failure to reclaim this vehicle will be deemed a waiver of all rights, title, and consent to dispose of said vehicle at public auction on January 5, 2026 at 701 Cooper St., Knoxville, TN 37917.

- 1. '10 KIA FORTE KNAFU4A22A5280401 SHARON SMALLWOOD / MIDTOWN AUTO SALES
- 2. '22 CHEVY MALIBU 1G1ZD5STXNF122085 AMALYAH MARTIN / AMERICAN CREDIT ACCEPTANCE
- 3. '18 FORD TAURUS 1FAHP2D89JG101224 KEYERA JACKSON / AMERICA'S CAR MART
- 4. '07 HONDA CIVIC 2HGFG128X7H517960 CHASE DILLS
- 5. '21 TOYOTA RAV4 2T3H1RFV1MC095811 CYNTHIA PRAMUK
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