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Free healthcare clinic served 1,220 in Knoxville

1,220+ patients received free dental, vision and medical care at the RAM Clinic, a value of care worth more than \$1,119,500

Remote Area Medical, the nation's largest provider of free pop-up healthcare clinics delivering free dental, vision and medical care, held its annual free clinic in Knoxville on

February 6-8. The clinic at the Jacobs Building served more than 1,220 patients. The value of care for the clinic was more than \$1,119,500. This RAM Clinic is made possible in

part by Sensodyne, Haleon and Walmart.

Patients at the clinic had access to free dental cleanings, tooth extractions, fillings, general medical exams, eye exams and

free glasses made on-site, and more. RAM does not require ID or insurance from its patients; the clinic is free to anyone in need of the services. Because the clinic operates on a first-come, first-served basis, many patients spent the night in their cars on

Thursday night to ensure they would be seen first thing on Friday morning.

RAM's free clinics provide patients with free, quality care thanks to the hard work of volunteers. The participating dentists, hygienists, doctors, nurses and optometrists were all

volunteers. Alongside general support volunteers, hundreds of volunteers spent their weekend providing patients with the care they deserve. The Knoxville event had more than 1,350 volunteers throughout the weekend.



PHOTO BY JAMIE SCHNELL

Seymour Volunteer Fire Department Chief John Linsenbigler is pictured at the groundbreaking for the new fire station held August 8, 2025.

Seymour Chief John Linsenbigler reflects on career, what comes next

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When the Fire and Technical Rescue Committee met last week, it was chaired by Seymour Volunteer Captain John Linsenbigler. The chair position rotates through the fire and rescue captains within the county at each meeting.

Linsenbigler reminded his

colleagues of his retirement in April. Although he has served for 30 years in Seymour, where a search is already underway for his replacement and a new station is being built, Linsenbigler made little mention of his retirement during the session.

Knox 911 Director Brad Anders reported that most of the new furnishings and radios have been installed at the Baxter Street headquarters.

Plans are underway to move the temporary dispatching services back from the Knoxville Safety Center's backup office in April. The upgrade will include extra dispatch cubicles and updating the servers.

Anders said the improvements will allow for better response and provide information sooner on what is being shipped through the region as part of

Continue on page 4

Youth detention center certified by DCS

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Juvenile Service Center's board learned Tuesday that the facility has gained certification from the Department of Children's Services. The notification came during the meeting and the five-member board was delighted with the news.

The facility has gone three years without state certification, and DCS will be visiting the former Richard L. Bean Juvenile Detention Center this month.

Commissioner Larsen Jay, who chairs the board, congratulated the staff and Judge Timothy Irwin, who has agreed to administer the facility as it

Continue on page 3

Street paving and sidewalks on city agenda

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville City Council may approve just over \$5 million for the 2026 Resurfacing Phase I project when it meets Tuesday. The contract being recommended by the engineering department is with Rogers Group Inc.

The council may also approve an additional \$62,685 with Whaley Construction LLC to bring the new contract to about \$1.06 million for the 2024

Sidewalk Replacement Project, expected to be completed by February 28.

The Knoxville Fire Department is asking the city to apply for a state grant of \$300,000 for personal protective equipment, trauma medical kits and rescue equipment. The Knoxville Area Transit Authority wants approval for a federal grant of \$3.1 million, and the council may approve \$50,000 to

Continue on page 3

Undocumented immigration policy before commission again

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Commission may again debate county policies dealing with undocumented immigrants, as Commissioners Angela Russell and Andy Fox have items scheduled to be discussed during the meetings this month.

The two are hosting a public workshop on Wednesday, February 25, "to discuss the grant transparency and accountability ordinance." They have been working on amending the code pertaining to defined service contracts since autumn to specify how county funds go to area non-profit groups. In addition to new application requirements, the draft contains the following line:

"No funds of the organization are used to benefit any person or persons residing in, staying in, or visiting Knox County while in violation of United States immigration laws."

On the agenda for the commission's regular February meetings, Commissioner Fox plans to present his Christian view of illegal immigration and how he feels the Bible and history deal with that subject. His personal view on the issue has been debated in the commission's online forum and in previous meetings. Some commissioners feel a commission meeting should not be used to discuss national politics, and the body has no authority to dictate how the sheriff's department should proceed on the issue of illegal

immigration.

"I will absolutely not be intimidated from speaking due to opposition, nor will I be persuaded to not speak on issues that I believe need to be addressed. Actually the worst thing to do would be to stop speaking on topics that may elicit strong reaction, because these mobs need to be disabused of the idea that they can show up and make

a disturbance that will lead to chilling effect on speech they don't like," Fox stated on the online forum.

"Furthermore, they will be conditioned to think they are the only ones who get to voice an opinion on topics that may be controversial. I will not allow that to happen. The people I represent get to have a voice as well. I will state again that I was elected as

a Christian conservative. I did not hide who I was until elected. I am being faithful to the people who elected me when I profess my opinions."

Fox was responding to comments during last month's meeting from Commissioner Damon Rawls, who said Fox was stirring up meetings with his comments.

Commissioner Shane

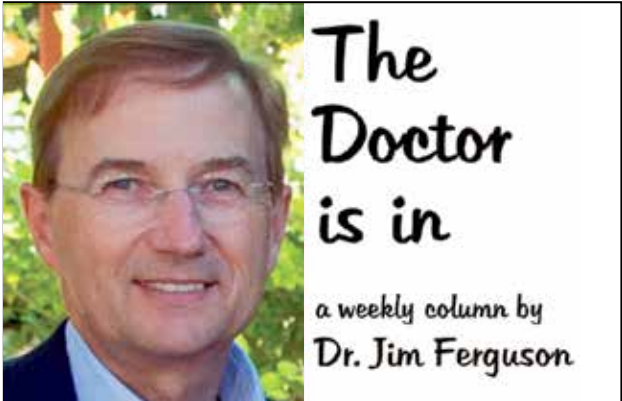
Jackson responded to Fox's forum statement, posting, "I think it is important to distinguish between government suppression of speech and political disagreement. When one commissioner questions the relevance of a topic or whether it falls within the proper jurisdiction of this body, is that repression by government—or is it simply

Continue on page 3

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Nostalgia Reprise

By the time you read this, I will be back from a short Caribbean escape from the cold and snow of winter. And given the complexity of composing an essay on my iPhone and sending it electronically from sketchy locations, I decided to republish my daughter's prose, which appeared in The Focus on January 25, 2016.

Most writers yearn for their words to be read. And yet, many of us are hypercritical of our prose, especially when we reread past efforts.

And most parents are proud of their children, especially when they succeed. So this week I am doubly proud to republish my daughter's essay, which she wrote as a senior in high school. Emily's essay originally appeared in the Knoxville News Sentinel and is republished without any

polishing.

I don't have any high school essays. Actually, I only began "writing" late in life and never realized I had writing in my blood - at least until I reread Emily's essay.

There's a famous poem by William Wordsworth entitled "My Heart Leaps Up." In the poem, Wordsworth pens, "The Child is Father of the Man." Emily's beautiful "Nostalgia" causes me to consider the roots of my writing and conclude that Wordsworth may have been right.

Nostalgia
by Emily Kate Ferguson
(Fall 1996)

I almost didn't go. But now I'm glad I did. It was an "open house" on that day, but open to anyone, everyone, not just to us anymore. My grandmother's house.

My mother's childhood. My innocence. From "Granddaddy's chair" to the rusted tin can that was always full of Hershey's kisses and caramel candies, the place was unforgettable. An everlasting impression on my life, and I found myself on that day saying goodbye.

There are few things in this world today that one can count on. But even as a young child, I knew that every Sunday after church, I would have to fight my six cousins for the "rolling chair" (a plastic-covered secretary's chair) to sit in for lunch at my grandmother's kitchen table. The grown-ups would convene at the bigger table, just a window away, in the dining room. Sometimes we could hear five or six different conversations going on between our parents, aunts, uncles, great-aunts and -uncles, an occasional friend of someone, and our only Grandmother Jo.

After lunch my cousins and I would retreat to the second floor to play school or house in our mothers' old bedrooms. I always insisted on being the teacher or the mother. On a nice day, we would play hide-and-seek in the peaceful trees below Kingston Pike. And often we would swing on the yellow

and white teeter-totter or try to fish in the small pond facing Fort Loudoun Lake.

Anne was an only child and the oldest among the granddaughters. Next in age were Lauren and Kristin and me. Shortly after my arrival came Sarah, the only non-blonde in the bunch. Then my sister, Jenny, and the youngest of the seven, Joanna. I always loved Kristin best; even in her stage of turquoise eyeshadow and matching mascara, she was my hero.

Years went by, and the teeter-totter was taken down. And the rooms that had once magically transformed into classrooms and kitchens became quadrants of space we rarely saw anymore. Despite my growing, I remained dependent on the weekly reunion of family and friends to lift my spirit and warm my heart.

But this day was different. I was not there to have lunch or play school or watch MTV in my late grandfather's brown recliner; I was there to say goodbye. I watched a new couple come into my family's home and gaze eagerly at the building, making plans of their own for each room, each hallway, each corner.

Despite my sadness and

feeling of intrusion, I was glad for my grandmother. This giant step she had taken led her to an environment surrounded with friends and without the burdens of a sixty-year-old three-story home. I should be glad, should I not? There would still be New Year's Eve parties - making buckeyes and green punch with my cousins and Grandmamma Jo. There would still be the round, wooden table with the black rolling chair for my cousins and me at Sunday lunch. And conversations encircling the "grown-ups" table" just a window away from us . . . but alas, it would be somewhere else.

It was the house of my mother's childhood, the rooms of her and her three sisters' teenage years, and the backyard of her wedding. It was also the house of many New Year's Eve parties for my young cousins and me, the rooms of my and my cousins' imaginations and the backyard of our first Easter egg hunts. And as time progressed, as it cruelly did and still does, the monument of my childhood became merchandised.

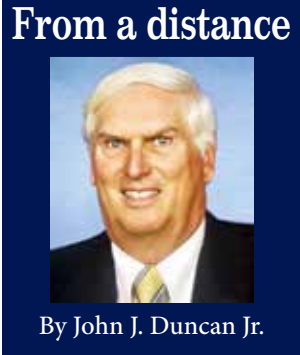
Some say it is solely people who make memories. Only living creatures

can act, love, remember. But I say something was and is alive in that house today . . . something that was present everyday we were there and even when we were not. Perhaps it was the love and conversation we all shared around the dining room and kitchen tables. Or maybe it was the spirit of relatives who had passed on, leaving more than their translucent love - like the fuzzy, brown La-Z-Boy - to symbolize their everlasting presence. Or possibly it was the innocence of two generations of children preserved safely in the essence of that house.

I took one last look at the now-bare and lonely place . . . Nostalgia overwhelmed me. As I stared at the corner by the window I remembered sitting with my grandmother at her piano. She would play songs while I would pretend to play along on the upper keys . . . "How Much is That Doggy in the Window?" . . . The unforgettable smelly, brown carpet where my cousins and I would wrestle and do somersaults still lingered in the air . . . I swear I could almost hear her calling us for Sunday lunch . . .

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

I Was At UT ... My Phone Said I Was In Eagleville, PA



A few months ago, my wife, Vickie, and I were walking across the UT campus headed toward the Clarence Brown Theater to attend a play. I had checked my phone several times, both on the days before the play and the day of the play, to make sure our tickets were

still there.

As we neared the theater, I made sure the tickets were on the screen, and everything was fine until we got about 50 yards from the door, and a box appeared, blocking the tickets, saying, "You are now in Eagleville, PA."

As far as I know, I have never been to Eagleville, PA. In fact, until that moment, I don't believe I had ever even heard of the town. I looked it up and found that it has a population of 4,800 and is a suburb of Philadelphia.

I have been in Philadelphia a few times, the last being when we changed

planes there on our way to the 2024 Republican Convention in Milwaukee. Maybe we flew over Eagleville that day.

I thought I was going to have to throw myself onto the mercy of the staff at the theater and hope they would believe that I really had bought tickets, but just as I opened the door, the box saying I was in Eagleville went away as magically as it had first appeared.

I really miss the days when you were given paper tickets for everything. I admit I was spoiled by my staff when I was in office, because they handled all

the computer stuff. I didn't have to be addicted to my so-called "smart" phone.

I think my phone knows I don't really like it, so I have had other things temporarily or permanently disappear, such as the parking pass for a UT basketball game, tickets for a UT baseball game, a Celtic Women show in Louisville, and a Celtic Thunder show in Pensacola.

Most of the time, it does work, and so far, I have not lost a plane ticket yet. I have enjoyed buying many books over the internet, and the GPS has really helped when we have been in other cities.

I do wish that someone had told me early on to come up with one simple, unforgettable password. Friends and family trying to help me over the years have punched in several different passwords, and this has occasionally been a problem.

I recently saw a cartoon which said, "Shoutout to everyone who can still remember their childhood phone number but can't remember the password they created yesterday. You are my people." My childhood phone number was 5-1267, and then became 525-1267 when Knoxville first had to lengthen its phone numbers.

I admit that I am very low-tech. My homes and offices have always been filled with books, and I spend most of my life reading a wide variety of topics. I don't know what public relations genius came up with the words "computer literate," but

I have noticed that some, maybe many, people who are computer savvy are dumb as dirt about everything else.

I do think it is good that some countries and school systems have started to ban cell phones from the classroom. In a newsletter to my constituents in July 2015, I wrote the following under the title "Screen Addiction."

"Many people, young and old, have become addicted to their laptops, iPads, cell phones, and other technology. I have spoken to a great many groups of young people and have frequently told them to see if they can occasionally pull themselves away from the very addictive screens and help out a live human being. Their lives will mean more to them if they do."

"On June 27, the News Sentinel carried a Chicago Tribune story which said 'technology - computer games, online shopping, social media - has led families to stay more isolated and less community-oriented than ever before.' Also, several studies have found that many young people have trouble interacting with others person-to-person because they have spent so much of their lives online."

"I have noticed that the same grandparents who will brag about how computer-savvy their own grandchildren are will fuss about teenage employees not being able to make change. I believe it would be good for all schools to have one

'technology-free' day per week so students could learn traditional subjects, be creative, and think for themselves instead of having machines do it for them."

"Also, even doing this just one day a week would save a tremendous amount of energy. Almost every study has found that the children who watch the least amount of television do the best in school."

I think these words written in 2015 are just as applicable today, although I would now add video games to this last sentence about television.

Unfortunately, being so low-tech and trying hard to spend less time on my phone has caused me to miss the nicest invitation I have received since I retired. A nice young woman, whose name I either did not see because of all the ads or did not recognize if I did see it, sent a very kind invitation to my wife and me for the White House Christmas Party. The invitation email did not say "White House," but came from a staff member I did not know.

One day in January, when my son, Zane, was helping us with some plane tickets, he said, "Dad, did you know you were invited to the White House Christmas Party?" I felt terrible because Vickie had never been to the White House, even for one of the public tours. She could not have been sweeter in forgiving my big flub up.



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Publisher Steve Hunley
Editor, Art Director Marianne Dedmon
editor@knoxfocus.com, design@knoxfocus.com

Mike Steely, Senior Writersteelym@knoxfocus.com
Jamie Schnellschnellj@knoxfocus.com
Sales sales@knoxfocus.com
Pam Poe phpoe2000@yahoo.com
Ruthie Akers Ruthie@knoxfocus.com
Legal, Public Notice ads legals@knoxfocus.com

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Publisher's Position

Democrat Hypocrisy On IDs Is Crazy



By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

Senator Jon Ossoff of Georgia, a Democrat running for reelection, is typical of the Democrat party now. Ossoff required folks to possess a photo ID to get into a campaign event recently, but the senator voted against requiring an ID to vote in American elections. The hypocrisy is typical of Democrats currently: “Not for me, but for thee.” Chuck Schumer looks senile as he talks about the idea of requiring an ID to vote as “Jim Crow 2.0.” Georgia did pass legislation of its own requiring photo IDs, and the corporate

media lost its collective mind at the time. It was at least the end of the world. Corporations like Coca-Cola denounced the very idea. Joe Biden read the teleprompter to denounce Georgia’s voter ID law and called it “Jim Crow in the 21st Century.” Salena Zito has a great article out about how Governor Brian Kemp of Georgia disproved the entire premise of the Democrats squalling and squealing about racism and “Jim Crow” and denying people access to the ballot. Governor Kemp said, “The bill that we passed made it easy to vote and hard to cheat.”

Last week, 213 Democrats in the US House of Representatives voted against voter ID and proof of citizenship.

The Democrats cry, “The only thing more powerful than hate is love,” while dehumanizing their opponents as Nazis and fascists. They cry, “Nobody is above the law,” when it suits them as they try to argue “sanctuary cities” should be exempt from

federal law, or when someone enters our country illegally. The Democrats favored an open border even during what they said was a worldwide pandemic; yep, they wanted to close churches, small businesses like restaurants and coffee shops, while leaving our country’s borders wide open. While trying to enforce their masking edicts, they didn’t even give a hoot about testing the people pouring across the border for their own health conditions. Not only do the Democrats want our borders open, but they want illegals to be counted along with citizens in the census, as that affects how many congressional districts and votes it has in the Electoral College. There is also every reason to believe the Democrats want to allow non-citizens to be able to vote. It is estimated that California has inflated its electoral votes by counting illegal aliens, accounting for as many as seven congressional districts.

Most of the banners of Democratic-Socialism at

their core are a misuse of language and defy logic and reason. Take “gender affirming care,” for instance. Allowing the mutilation, for a lifetime, for a child, is not affirming at all; it is altering in every respect, but “gender altering care” doesn’t sound as good or as positive.

The truth is, there is almost no Democratic Party remaining in this country as it has been practically swallowed whole by socialists. Truth in advertising would better label it the Democratic-Socialist Party and many of them are open about that fact. While the Left would like us to believe there is a groundswell of idiocy that has caused the riots in Minneapolis, the truth is much more sinister. Neville Roy Singham is a US citizen who sold his IT company for hundreds of millions of dollars and moved to Shanghai, China. Singham has been named by members of the US House of Representatives’ Ways and Means Committee as a source of dark foreign money coming into our

country. That same dark foreign money is spent to foment rioting and undermine our country.

Treasurers in 16 states are complaining that having to comply with federal labor laws is causing them fiscal heartburn. The state treasurers in New York, Illinois, Minnesota, Massachusetts and nine other states want to be made exempt from those federal laws that guard and protect a citizen’s civil rights, labor, housing and anti-fraud laws. Crazy but true.

Like it or not, Senator John Fetterman of Pennsylvania is an actual Democrat rather than a Democratic-Socialist. Fetterman has rightly pointed out is not at all “unreasonable” for states to ask for an ID to vote. “It is not a radical idea for regular Americans to show your ID to vote,” Fetterman said.

The pharmacy asks people, including those getting “free” health care from the government, for ID. In fact, you are required to show ID to sign up for Medicare or Medicaid. You are

required to show ID to buy annual tickets to amusement parks. To write a check to a business, large or small, you are asked for your ID. To buy a gun, you need to show ID. You are asked for your ID to donate blood. You are required to have an ID to drive a car or board an airplane. You must have an ID to vote in a union election. You need an ID to buy a house or to apply to rent an apartment. You need an ID to purchase tobacco products and alcoholic beverages. Yet 213 Democratic Socialists in the US House of Representatives voted against requiring an ID to be able to vote in this country.

Clearly, it is neither unreasonable or racist to ask for ID. Nobody really thinks it is; for the Democratic Socialists, they use it as an excuse to open the borders and use illegal aliens as a voter bloc to increase their vote, pure and simple.

Street paving and sidewalks on city agenda

Cont. from page 1
go to Goodwill Industries for the lease of property for the city’s four recycling drop-off centers.

The city may be approved to contract with CDM Smith Inc. for \$419,400 in engineering consulting services for the East Greenwood Drive Bridge Replacement Project. Eleven community-based groups may split \$140,000 in Community Safety and Empowerment Grants to support their efforts.

Microgrants of \$23,950 may also be approved for eight non-profit community organizations in a request from the Office of Community Safety and Empowerment.

Mayor Indya Kincannon is asking for the reappointment of Ellen Lee and George Anna Yarbrow to the Knox County Equalization Board.

Two zoning change requests are before the council. Taylor D. Forrester is asking that properties at 400 and 410 Georgia Street and 222 Patton Street and 0 and 222 Patton Street be changed from industrial mixed-use to general commercial. Quality Machine and Welding Co. Inc. is requesting a zoning change for properties at 1609, 1615, 1619, 1621 and 1625 Ninth Avenue from general residential neighborhood to general industrial.

Immigrant policy before commission

Cont. from page 1
part of legislative discourse? If disagreement among commissioners is treated as suppression, it becomes difficult to see how meaningful debate can occur at all.”

“I agree with you that we are both strong

supporters of the First Amendment and the importance of free speech in the public square. Where I believe we differ is in how that principle applies within the context of deliberation among elected officials,” Jackson wrote.

Youth detention center certified

Cont. from page 1

undergoes major changes. Irwin’s appointment, now before the Knox County Commission, goes hand in hand with the future appointment of a seven-member advisory board to begin in July, following Irwin’s taking control in April.

The County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) report shows that 81 of the 94 problems at the center have been resolved, with some work still in progress, including repairs to the visitation rooms and the security perimeter.

Jay said that the state has set aside \$20 million for juvenile centers in West and East Tennessee.

The board then discussed a resolution put forward by Jay on the formation of the new advisory board. The resolution allows Judge Irwin to select four members that could include professionals from the physical health, mental health, social service and legal fields. The board would also have one Knox County Commissioner and two members appointed by the Knox County Mayor. Each member would serve

staggered three-year terms.

Jay’s resolution calls for the commission chairperson to name that commissioner. The current temporary board has five commissioners: Jay, Terry Hill, Shane Jackson, Rhonda Lee and Damon Rawls.

Lee questioned Jay’s resolution, suggesting that the commissioner to serve on the advisory board should be named by the full commission, not the chair. Her motion failed due to the lack of a second.

Jay said whoever the chair selected would report to the commission on a regular basis.

Judge Irwin said he has received a couple of inquiries from people wishing to serve on the new advisory board. The last meeting of the

temporary board will be on March 17, and Jay is asking members to come back with recommendations on bylaws for the new board.

“I’m excited,” Irwin told the meeting, noting how his staff “has really pitched in” and he charged the board members to consider how much it costs to house a child for a day.

He said some children are only there for a few hours and some stay as long as four months. He said he is getting inquiries

from DCS and other counties about housing children at the facility. He was wondering about what the county should charge and said DCS pays \$187.50 per day, and other counties pay about \$120.

Irwin also noted the need for additional funding and a transportation officer. The facility is increasing its staff, and training is underway for new recruits. He reported that less overtime is now being paid as the staff increases.



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Cont. from page 1

the \$1 million renovation.

The area fire and rescue chiefs also heard a brief update on a state legislative effort to have fire service declared an "essential service."

Following the meeting, The Knoxville Focus chatted with Chief Linsenbigher and asked a series of questions about what is next for him.

How did you become interested in firefighting?

In 1980, I began working for Johnson Bible College, which had a small fire brigade. Several of us commenced training with Rural Metro. After a few months, I developed a strong desire to learn more and enhance my skills to better serve the South Knox community, particularly at that time, at Johnson Bible College. During the latter part of my 30-year career at the college, the last 12 years were spent as the fire chief of the fire brigade.

What is the most memorable fire you have experienced?

Over my 30+ years of service, I have encountered several memorable incidents, both positive and negative. I strive to compartmentalize my experiences and place the most traumatic ones in a separate space to prevent further recall. Some calls leave a lasting impact on an individual. In my case, it was during the mid-1980s when I was on the scene of a house fire. Tragically, we had to search for the remains of some children. I vividly recall having a child of the same age at home, which deeply affected me.



Seymour Fire Chief John Linsenbigher and his wife, Carol, pose beside one of the community's fire trucks. The Seymour Volunteer Fire Department is raising funds for its Capital Campaign to build a new fire station. Readers are encouraged to honor Linsenbigher's service and donate online at www.seymourvfd.com/donate

Consequently, I took a leave from my duties for several months until I was mentally prepared to resume serving the community.

I dedicated four years to working full-time as an EMT on the ambulance in Knox County. Throughout this period, I experienced both positive and negative moments. The positive experiences include responding to vehicle accidents and other emergencies, where I have formed connections with families who may be facing difficult times. It is gratifying to know that I can provide support and comfort during their challenging journey.

Have you ever been injured in a fire?

I have had several close encounters in fire situations, either requiring an emergency evacuation

from a flashover situation.

However, I believe that most firefighters all suffer from back injuries, as we are willing to sacrifice our

bodies to assist those in need.

I'd love to hear about your family!

I married my college sweetheart back in 1981, where we first met at Johnson Bible College. We're so grateful to have two wonderful children.

My son is currently serving in the ministry at Seymour Heights Christian Church, where he also acts as our department chaplain. He's very active with the East Tennessee Mental Health Coalition and the state Chaplain Association. He's married, and we have two amazing teenage granddaughters.

Our daughter was always quite independent. She graduated with her master's from UT and is now an international school teacher, working in Europe and Asia. She spent a year in the jungles of Papua, New Guinea, where she had many adventures. She's definitely our globe-trotting

traveler, currently teaching high school and coaching basketball in Singapore.

What are your hobbies?

My wife and I enjoy traveling and camping. I am hoping to have more time to do that specifically during the summer when she is off from teaching in Sevier County.

I also enjoy cooking, whether it is on the charcoal grill, gas grill, or over my open fire with my cast-iron Dutch ovens.

What are your plans after retirement?

I'll still be a volunteer with Seymour and helping where I can to raise money for both our operation and our Capital Campaign for building our new fire station. My wife and I love our community, specifically in South Knoxville and the Seymour area. We're involved with our church here.

I will start a new career and try my hand at substitute teaching.

What draws you to Seymour?

It's great to live at the foothills of the most visited national park in the United States. I always tell people the South Knoxville/Seymour corridor is the best place to live because you're 30 minutes from anything you'd like to do, whether it's going to the mountains for picnicking or in to going to West Knoxville shopping at Turkey Creek. I do love the views from Seymour looking at the great Smoky Mountains and seeing Mount Leconte in the distance.

How would you like to be remembered?

First and foremost, as a godly man, I am a Christian and very faithful to the word of God. (And hopefully as someone who had) a servant's heart. Just ask my family, I don't like to be served. I would rather serve them and others.

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Students sample potential foods for future KCS menus

By Ken Lay

Students from Knox County schools took a break from the classroom Thursday as they made a field trip to the 25th Knox County Food Show.

Busloads of students and teachers filed into the Knoxville Expo Center to have their voices heard about the potential future food that will be served in KCS cafeterias around town during the 2026-27 school year.

Over 600 vendors

packed the exhibit hall and treated students to a variety of fare, from barbecue and biscuits to juices and sweet treats.

Students could vote for their favorite foods by placing stickers on sheets of paper in the vendors' booths.

Knox County Schools Director of School Nutrition Brett Foster noted that the food show plays an important role for the district and has for more than two decades, as vendors from throughout the country are

on hand with samples.

"This is our 25th show," she said. "We took a little break after COVID, and we've been back for a few years."

"We will have students here from 9-1 today, and we will give the vendors a small break between groups so they can reset their booths."

Foster also noted that the students who packed the convention center exhibit hall on Thursday represented all five regions

Continue on page 2



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Tate Harris of Bridgford Foods serves up samples at the Knox County Schools Food Show Thursday at the Knoxville Expo Center. Harris was one of 60 vendors looking for feedback from students for future KCS menus.

OLD MAN'S STAMP STORE



By Harry Brooks
hrbrooks68@gmail.com

Winter and Stamp Collecting

The first three months of 2026 will be like most winters: overcast, rainy, cold, icy and even snowy. So, what should you do during this time? It's a good time of year to spend some time working on your collections, whether it is collecting stamps or other collectible items.

Every collector has hours of detailed work waiting for them in identifying and organizing items in boxes or envelopes. Rather than watching old reruns on TV or falling prey to your social media accounts, work on your stamps or other collectible items. Don't worry about the weather, which you can't do anything about. Instead, worry whether your old stamp is a U.S. number 10 or a number 11. How about all those Washington 2-cent stamps, which have endless variations? This winter weather is ideal for beginning a collection. Of course, I recommend stamp collecting. A U.S. collector of used stamps has the possibility to collect thousands of different items without very much investment. Knoxville Philatelic Society (KPS) and I can provide low-cost stamps to any new collector or someone wanting to revitalize their collection. Opportunities to begin collecting are ideal in today's environment, as prices are very low.

The mid-Southeast stamp shows began in late January. During this calendar year, I plan to attend about a dozen shows. The KPS will host only one major two-day show, March 7 and 8, at the Rothchild Event

Continue on page 2

Ethics committee questions definition of nepotism

By Mike Steely

Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When the Knox County Ethics Committee met Wednesday morning, it heard an update from its subcommittee's chairman, Michael Bittel, on the six meetings that have been held. Bittel said the subcommittee's review of the Knox County Code of Ethics is almost 90 percent complete.

Bittel said that after that report is completed, the subcommittee moves on to looking at the procedures followed for ethics complaints.

Ethics Chairwoman Deborah Stafford asked what would be considered nepotism per the new report and gave an example of an elected official involved in a sexual relationship with someone suspected of an ethics violation.

Bittel said the subcommittee had a lengthy discussion on the term "nepotism" and what or who should be

Continue on page 4



The historic Giffin School's ground breaking was celebrated Monday, February 9. Just over \$1 million has been invested from the Affordable Rental Development fund and \$300,000 from the Historic Preservation Program. The school is located at 1834 Beech Street in South Knoxville.

Historic Giffin Square project breaks ground

Elected officials, South Knoxville neighbors and historic preservation advocates gathered Monday, Feb. 9, 2026, to break ground on Historic Giffin Square, a project that will simultaneously preserve South Knoxville's 98-year-old Giffin Elementary School and create 77 affordable residential units.

In 2025, the Knoxville City Council approved the City's investments of \$1,059,400 from the Affordable Rental Development Fund and \$300,000 from the Historic Preservation Program. Along with project-based vouchers

from Knoxville's Community Development Corporation, the City's contributions help make the project feasible and long-term affordable for families earning less than the area median income.

Giffin School, constructed in 1928 with design by Barber & McMurry Architects, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It was open as a school until 1995, and served as the center of operations for Remote Area Medical until 2014.

The project will renovate the existing school building into communal

spaces – a gym, kitchen, laundry, offices, mailroom, computer room, and two large gathering rooms – and add two new buildings inspired by the late-1950s modernist additions designed by Bruce McCarty. The site will also include a community playground and additional trees. Project completion is anticipated to be Summer 2027.

For information about the City's Affordable Rental Development and Historic Preservation funds, visit KnoxvilleTN.gov.



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Park where it's legal

I'm a big fan of YouTube. Changing things that I enjoy watching is easy, and most videos are short, a fact that suits my shortened attention span. One of the best "channels" is "Everything Auto." The company featured is in Gatlinburg; it tows vehicles in the area and accomplishes difficult tasks as if they were child's play. Jeff and his wife are the owners of the business. Their son now works with them as well.



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

My wife bought me a t-shirt for Christmas at their lot, and she said the place wasn't that big. Still, those wreckers are on the road at all hours of the day and night. Most of us in this area have traveled to Gatlinburg, and we know that the traffic from Pigeon Forge to the town moves slowly and sometimes doesn't move at all. When car shows are held, both places look more like parking lots. Folks don't want to pay to park, so they find nooks and crannies to put their vehicles. That's not a good idea. Business owners call Everything Auto to tow illegally parked vehicles from their lots. Condo developments call for the same reason. Especially frustrating are the tow requests that come late in the night. On some occasions, Jeff and Kristin answer calls throughout the night as irate car owners demand their cars immediately. The couple sometimes oblige folks and meet them at the lot. However, when an owner is rude or overly demanding, Jeff will politely tell the individual that he will meet them during business hours between 8 and 5. I shouldn't be, but I often am stunned at the actions of people. Visitors to that area act as if they can't read. Signs are posted at most locations where vehicles are towed. Yet, drivers ignore them and park. How's that possible? I'm a rule follower. If a place doesn't allow parking, I find another spot. My wife has asked me to pull into the fire lane so she can go into the store, but I won't do it. I find a parking place or drive around the lot until she comes out. Friends make fun of me for following rules. If for no other reason, I do it to avoid paying fines and fees. I blame much of this illegal parking on entitlement. It's that same attitude that people display in too many situations. They simply do as they please and deny that any rule applies to them. What's worse is the anger when cars are hauled away. Yes, the cost of retrieving a car is steep, as it should be. The signs that were posted served as warnings. The fee for bailing a car out is more like a knock on the thick skulls of a violator. Sometimes, a kick in the seat of the pants is needed to get the attention of a person who does as he pleases. Most rules are established to protect people or places. Sure, a few of those rules are absurd, but most establish order. Those who fail to park in the right places in Gatlinburg and the national park deserve whatever fines are given. The way to avoid those negative things is to park in the right place or pay to park in a public lot. It's the simple things that stump some people. Others just never learn.

Winter and Stamp Collecting

Continued from page 1

Center on Kingston Pike. If you are interested in knowing more about stamps, I would encourage you to attend that free event. Shows of interest to me that I plan to attend are in Tennessee, South Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia, Georgia and North Carolina. Additional shows in Missouri and Arkansas have a possible level of interest. My wife would love for us to attend a show in Florida during these cold winter months! This is a good way to spend a weekend during this winter weather. Recently, I have had several emails and phone calls from readers of these columns. Thank you, I always enjoy talking about stamps with those who contact me. I hope these articles are of interest and value to you, the reader. The Focus has thousands of readers both in the paper and online. My hope is that I have encouraged and will continue to encourage stamp collecting. Keep the emails and phone calls coming. Regardless of your interest, you can always check out the Knoxville Philatelic Society at www.knoxstamps.com. Our meetings are scheduled on the first Tuesday of each month at the Universalist Church on Kingston Pike, beginning at 6:00 p.m. If you want to contact me, you can reach me at (865)604-0164 or send an email to hrbrooks68@gmail.com. And you can check out my website at Oldmanstampstore.com. Enjoy the weather and keep warm!

Students sample potential foods for future KCS menus



Trident Seafood's Tyra Noe dishes out samples for Knox County Schools students at the 25th KCS Food Show Thursday morning at the Knoxville Expo Center.

Cont. from page 1

in the KCS system. "We'll have students from third to 11th grade, and it's a really good opportunity for the students to meet the vendors," Foster said. "And we will have three different groups and all five regions, so the entire district is represented and will be here today. We'll have between 200 and 250 students in each time slot." The experience was fun for the students, but the day was also enjoyable for the vendors. "We love seeing the kids and this has been going on for 25 years," said Tyra Noe from Trident Seafood.

"I haven't been here all 25 years, but I've been here a lot." Tom Michalewski of Rich's has worked closely with Foster in recent years and looks forward to participating in the food show when he can. "I've been working closely with Brett for three years, and this is a great opportunity for the schools to get feedback from the kids." Tate Harris of Bridgford Foods agreed. "I like seeing all the kids and knowing that what we do will give them a chance to decide what they might want to eat," Harris said.





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The Gentleman From Pennsylvania

Senator David A. Reed

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Above average height, lean and with his neat thatch of graying hair combed back from his forehead, David Aiken Reed looked like he might have been born to the American aristocracy. During his time in the U.S. Senate, Reed was described as “a higher type of statesman” by admirers.

If not aristocrats, Reed’s parents were well-to-do; his father, James, was a successful lawyer and federal judge. David Reed attended excellent prep schools, attended Princeton University, got his law degree from the University of Pittsburgh Law School and began the practice of this profession in 1903.

When America entered the First World War, Reed served in the field artillery and rose to the rank of major. Once he returned to the United States, the future senator resumed his law practice.

David A. Reed had never held any elective office before being selected as the Republican nominee for the United States Senate in 1922. Ironically, his predecessor, William E. Crow, had been appointed to serve in the Senate following Senator Philander Knox’s death in 1921. Crow died on August 8, 1922, and Reed was appointed to fill the vacancy, allowing him to run in the general election as the incumbent. Reed won the 1922 election for a full six-year term. At the time he was first sworn into office, Reed was only 42 years old, making him the second youngest member of the U.S. Senate.

David A. Reed was also the second veteran of the First World War to be seated in the Senate. A large delegation of Pennsylvanians witnessed Reed taking the oath of office, including Governor William Sproul, Secretary of the Treasury Andrew Mellon, and Senator George W. Pepper.

As Governor Sproul prepared to board a train bound for Harrisburg, he told a reporter, “A strong team,” speaking of Reed and Pepper. “I don’t know of any other pair of senators I’d trade them for.”

Throughout the decade of the 1920s, the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States was financier and philanthropist Andrew Mellon. Mellon’s home state was Pennsylvania, and he was widely admired in GOP circles in the Keystone State. One of the most severe critics of Secretary Mellon in the United States Senate was Tennessee’s U.S. Senator Kenneth McKellar. When Democrats assailed the secretary or his policies, it was oftentimes David A. Reed who rose to his feet to defend Mellon. One of Andrew Mellon’s many

financial interests was the Aluminum Company of America. ALCOA was also a significant entity in Tennessee, with a plant in Blount County.

One such onslaught occurred when Democrats proposed to ask for the appointment of a special counsel to investigate ALCOA. Senator Reed offered a defense of Mellon yet again.

“The fact is, and I make this statement after recent investigation and I make it with full confidence of its accuracy, that Mr. Mellon owns less than 16 ½% of the stock of the Aluminum Co. of America. He owns less than 16 ½% of the preferred stock, which is nonvoting, so I am not quibbling about the distinction between voting and non-voting stock. His brother, Mr. Richard Mellon, owns a similar amount, and the two of them together own less than 33% of the stock in the company.”

Ultimately, the request for a special prosecutor failed on a vote of 36 to 33. As Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi poked Republican members of the Senate, he looked at David Reed and said, “Mellon’s man Friday.”

During a filibuster by several old guard GOP senators, Reed read off election returns from his state to pass the time and hold the floor. The issue was a committee headed by Reed’s distant cousin, Senator James A. Reed of Missouri, investigating massive expenditures in the 1926 elections that were allegedly in violation of the law.

The next morning, Reed commented upon a colleague’s admonition by crying, “These shrewish scoldings!” Minority leader Joseph T. Robinson interrupted, “Oh, I hope the senator is not petulant this morning.”

Before Reed could reply, Pat Harrison struck once again, sneering, “Let him [David A. Reed] go back and receive the cheers of the thugs and corruptionists of Pennsylvania and let them say to him that he is the Knight of the Closed and Corrupt Ballot Box...”

Vice President Charles Dawes, presiding over the Senate, began beating his gavel. “Oh, it’s a shame to spoil a good speech like this,” Harrison sighed.

“The chair,” Dawes barked, “regards the results of the present legislative session as primarily due to the defective rules of the Senate.” “This is the only great parliamentary body in the world where such a situation exists,” Dawes observed before adding, “The hour of 12 o’clock having arrived, the Senate stands in adjournment sine die.”

Senator David Reed



ACME NEWS PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR’S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Former U.S. Senator David A. Reed of Pennsylvania at the 1936 GOP National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio.

threw flowers on the grave of the investigating committee headed by his colleague, James A. Reed of Missouri, when the Senate adjourned. “The Reed investigating committee is dead,” Reed of Pennsylvania lamented sarcastically. “There may be strong, healthy men on the committee, but of course, although a burglar may try to jimmy a strong box, there is such a thing in the law as forcible entry.”

Known for his acidulous tongue, Reed of Missouri snapped, “Tell Senator Reed of Pennsylvania that when I want a burglar, I will send to his state for a recommendation.”

If ever there was a state whose politics were machine-ridden, it was Pennsylvania. Political organizations thrived under a series of big-city bosses. In most states, big-city bosses were usually Democrats; in Pennsylvania, they were Republicans in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. With the Great Depression and the coming of Franklin Roosevelt, Pittsburgh fell to the Democrats in 1932. At the same time, the Vare machine in Philadelphia still turned a 150,000-vote majority for President Herbert Hoover in 1932, helping him to carry Pennsylvania.

William S. Vare had served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1913 until his election to the U.S. Senate in 1926. Vare had won a heated three-way primary with Senator George Wharton Pepper and Governor Gifford Pinchot. Pinchot had refused to certify the results of the general election and testified before a Senate committee and brought with him several thousand illegal ballots. Senator Reed had not been especially friendly to Vare but finally fought to protect the boss’s seat in the Senate. It was to no avail as the Senate voted 58 – 22 to deny William S. Vare a seat in the United States Senate.

As the 1934 election approached, there were still some vocal critics of the Roosevelt administration and the New Deal, but perhaps none more so than

Senator David A. Reed. The Pennsylvania senator was considered by many Washington observers to be the New Deal’s chief critic in the United States Senate.

Senator Reed faced determined opposition to his reelection in 1934, not only from the Democrats but also inside his own political party. Governor Gifford Pinchot had long ached to go to the United States Senate and had run twice before in 1914 and 1926. Finishing a second nonconsecutive term as Pennsylvania’s chief executive and barred from running again, Pinchot had his eyes on Reed’s seat in the Senate. The two came from different wings of the Republican Party, and Gifford Pinchot had been known for his devotion to the late Theodore Roosevelt and had followed the former president out of the GOP when TR bolted to run as a Progressive in the 1912 election. “I am a candidate against David A. Reed for the U.S. Senate,” Pinchot said in his declaration of candidacy. “Reed as Senator has run the errands and taken the orders of Mellon, the international bankers and the steel interests long enough. He should be replaced by a man who will take his orders only from the people.”

TIME, the most widely read news magazine in the world, described Pinchot as, “An old-time Progressive with New Deal sympathies...” Senator Reed sniffed that Pinchot was “An unscrupulous politician and a common scold.”

Following a brutal primary, Senator Reed won a majority of the votes cast in the Republican primary, defeating Governor Pinchot and two other candidates. In the fall election, Reed faced Joseph F. Guffey, an oil man who had long been prominent in Democratic politics in the Keystone State for decades. Reed ran as an opponent of the New Deal, while Guffey did precisely the opposite. Joe Guffey not only grabbed the coattails of Franklin Roosevelt, but swaddled himself in the whole cloth of the New Deal. FDR was

“God’s inspired servant,” Guffey gushed during the senatorial race.

Despite the intense infighting engendered by Governor Pinchot’s challenge in the primary, Senator Reed was believed to be the favorite to be reelected as Pennsylvania was considered a Republican bastion. Joe Guffey won a decisive victory and helped to carry George Earle into the governorship in his wake. The Democratic sweep in Pennsylvania was thorough and the first time since the Civil War that Democrats had seen such victories in the Keystone State.

James A. Farley, simultaneously Postmaster General in the Roosevelt administration and Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, crowed over the 1934 election returns, noting the defeat of those GOP senators and congressmen who had run against the New Deal. Farley exulted that Reed had been placed “on the shelf” by Pennsylvania voters, and he believed it was permanent. Farley added, “What’s the use of kidding about it, we all know that Roosevelt carried Pennsylvania in 1932, and this election proves that.” The Democratic mahatma went on to assert, “The Republican Party is through.” Farley’s denial of Roosevelt having

lost Pennsylvania two years earlier and his premature burial of the GOP notwithstanding, Jim Farley turned out to be right about one thing. David A. Reed would never again be a candidate for public office. Reed’s career in elective politics was over. Immediately following the election, Reed sought a hunting license and planned a trip to Europe as his term in the Senate expired.

David A. Reed was somewhat restless in private life. While the former senator’s law practice was highly lucrative, Reed wanted to run for the United States Senate again. The GOP boss in Pennsylvania was Joseph Pew, a profoundly conservative and wealthy oil man. Reed had lost the 1934 election with his outspoken opposition

to Roosevelt and the New Deal. Since his defeat, the former senator had admitted he could see some worthwhile goals in some New Deal proposals. To Joe Pew, that was rank apostasy, if not outright heresy. When the party bosses were cool to his candidacy, the former senator announced he was not a candidate to return to the U.S. Senate. David A. Reed would remain retired from elective politics.

There were some notable dissenters of Boss Pew’s decision to back a candidate other than David A. Reed. The Punxsutawney Spirit published an editorial acknowledging its unhappiness about Reed not being the Republican candidate to contest once again his old seat in the Senate. Acknowledging it was true that Reed was certainly a conservative, the editorial stated the former senator had a good labor record, “and his former colleagues in the Senate, friend and political foe alike, had the utmost respect for his judgment.” The Spirit believed David A. Reed “stands head and shoulders above the crowd in ability.”

Reed was the chairman of Pennsylvania’s delegation to the 1940 Republican National Convention, which nominated a former Democrat, Wendell Willkie, for the presidency. The convention was held in Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania delegation came to support their favorite son, Governor Arthur James, for the presidential nomination. Like every other experienced politician at the 1940 GOP convention, David Reed was astonished by the nomination of a genuine dark horse, Wendell Willkie.

David A. Reed remained active in GOP circles in Pennsylvania and continued to make money with his law practice and investments. For the last six months of his life, the former senator was ailing from a heart condition. Death found David A. Reed at his vacation home in Sarasota, Florida, where he was resting with his second wife in 1953.

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Mental Health Court Advisory Board met earlier this month and approved its state-allocated budget of \$236,000 for next year. The funding request now goes to the Knox County Commission for approval. One member, Jonathan

Cooper, abstained from the vote and requested more information.

Judge Chuck Cerny, as board chairman, noted that the group may turn to the Knox County and City of Knoxville governments for additional funding to help with a salary for Vincent Smith, the court coordinator. Cerny said that last year's funding for the

coordinator position came from excess funds from Mike Hammond's criminal court clerk's office.

Cerny asked the members to brainstorm possible additional funding sources.

Smith reported to the board, giving updates on the nine graduates of the Mental Health Court's program, its 16 active cases,

and the restoration of housing and driver's licenses for some patients. He said the

budget is the same as last year, with some category changes.

The board approved its 2026 meetings for May, August and November.

Ethics committee questions definition of nepotism

Cont. from page 1

included. Attorney Mike Moyers said that a relationship could be included in the

expanded version, but added there might be a problem with disclosure. Under current ethics rules, an official must abstain or

explain a relationship or connection they have with someone that might conflict with their voting or giving an opinion.

"What if it's just a friendship?" Moyers asked.

Stafford replied that the official should recuse himself.

Subcommittee member Krystal Gibson said nepotism and domestic relationships would be discussed at the next meeting.

Another regular committee member, Stephen Goodpaster, said the definition of nepotism as discussed would be sent to the Knox County Law Department for assistance.

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HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Nordin comes alive at the end of OT

‘We never quit,’ says Coach Parrott

By Steve Williams

Just three days after pouring in 31 points at rival Farragut, Bearden’s Justin Nordin had shooting woes on his homecourt last Tuesday night. It was a little eerie too as the Lady Bulldogs’ star player Natalya Hodge had trouble getting her shots to go through the basket as well the game before.

However, unlike Hodge who fouled out in her game, Nordin hit the winning basket in the Bulldogs’ 76-75 overtime win over Alcoa after scoring only two points (free throws) in regulation.

Coach Jeremy Parrott undoubtedly had faith in Justin, who got the ball in his hands after a timeout with 22.3 seconds on the clock and Bearden down by one.

The ball was put in play at mid-court. Nordin allowed the clock to run down to 10 seconds before he started his drive to the hoop. His layup bounced once on the rim and then fell through the net with three ticks on the clock and still counting down. The game still wasn’t over.

The Tornadoes had a player streaking down the court on a runaway, but Bearden’s alert Sean Capshaw caught up with him and deflected the ball away to end the game.

What a wild finish! The game could have gone either way.

“It could’ve,” said Coach Parrott. “It could’ve.”

Nordin scored only six points in the game, but he got the winning bucket.

“He did not play well over the course of the game, but you got to remember,” said

Parrott. “We ask a lot of him. He played Friday night, we played Saturday night and we played last night (Monday) and that’s a lot of ball-handling. I feel like sometimes we ask a ton of him and we didn’t really spell him any, so for him to even have the legs and the wherewithal all right there to get that bucket is a big deal.”

Bearden came into the game with a 28-1 record and Alcoa was 15-9. The Bulldogs added a 66-27 win at Cleveland on Thursday and will go into the district tournament this week 30-1.

Carson Asbaty took top scoring honors with 23 points, including 16 in the first half. Capshaw chipped in 18 points, followed by Brendan Murphy (13), Jack Ferraris (12) and Nordin with six. Alcoa got 18 points from Jamir Dean, 16 from

Condis Cherry, 14 from Jacolby Cooper and 12 from Jay Kirk.

The Tornadoes led the entire way until Bearden went ahead 68-66 on an old-fashioned 3-point play by Capshaw with 1:40 to go in regulation. Kirk tied it back up at 68-all and neither team scored in the final 1:13.

In OT, Cherry scored on a layup to give Alcoa a 75-74 lead with 32.2 seconds to go. He was fouled on the play but missed the free throw.

That set up Nordin for his go-ahead layup and Capshaw’s defensive play.

After the game, Parrott also praised Ferraris for his play. “He had a heck of a game. Buckets, big plays. We went with him in the second half and all of a sudden we just couldn’t take him out. Jack played



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

Bearden's Carson Asbaty goes high to defend the basket as Alcoa's Condis Cherry tries to find an opening. Asbaty scored a game-high 23 points as the Dawgs pulled out a 76-75 overtime win on Feb. 10.

amazing tonight. Really proud of him.”

Asbaty also had a big game. “Carson has been solid all year. He’s one of those guys that we depend on to do a lot of things. Stat sheet stuffer.”

At the end of the post-game interview, Coach

Parrott was asked what was the one thing that was the difference in the game?

“We never quit,” said Parrott. “We didn’t play great. We didn’t shoot it great. We had some very, very bad mental mistakes. At the end of the day, we didn’t stop fighting.”

TSSAA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Coaches Black and Courtney were among state’s best

By Steve Williams

Knox County has two of the eight TSSAA Hall of Fame inductees for this year, with local honorees Rob Black of Fulton High and Eddie Courtney of Farragut High having received the news on Feb. 5.

The annual luncheon will be held at the Student Union Building on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro on Monday, April 13.

Two administrators, three coaches, two officials, and one contributor will be inducted that day to join others in the annual gathering of those selected since the process began in 1982.

In addition to Black and Courtney, those being inducted at this year’s luncheon are Mike Ellson, administrator from Nashville; Gene



PHOTO BY RONDREA PEEBLES / FUL.COM

Rob Black, seen here in Fulton’s game against West High in 2021, resigned as the Falcons’ head coach in February 2022.

Menees, administrator from Madison; Robert “Bobby” Broyles, coach from Chuckey; Ken Melton,

official from McMinnville; Charles Watkins, official from Nashville; and Rick Colbert, contributor from

Brentwood.

The Hall of Fame luncheon, which will begin at 11 o’clock, is to not only honor the new inductees and their families, but to honor all past inductees into the TSSAA Hall of Fame. Tickets will be available online beginning March 2 on the TSSAA website.

Black’s legacy is synonymous with Fulton High football, where his lifelong dedication spans from serving as a childhood ball boy for his father to becoming a state championship-winning head coach. A 1984 Fulton graduate and three-sport athlete, Black played football and baseball at Carson-Newman before returning to his alma mater to begin a coaching tenure that would last over three decades.

After serving as an assistant and Offensive

Coordinator for 19 years, Black was named Head Coach in 2011. Over the next 11 seasons, he compiled an outstanding record of 103-36, establishing himself as one of only 16 coaches in Knox County history to surpass 100 career wins. His leadership defined a dynasty, guiding the Falcons to three consecutive Class 4A state championships in 2012, 2013, and 2014. This dominant era featured a 37-game winning streak and two undefeated seasons. His 2013 and 2014 squads remain the top two scoring teams in TSSAA history, with the 2013 team setting a state record of 862 points.

Beyond his head coaching accolades, Black’s influence encompasses the program’s entire modern history. As an offensive coordinator, he helped

secure state titles in 2003, 2004, and 2006, meaning he was a pivotal part of all six of the school’s state championships. His honors include being named the 2012 State Coach of the Year and induction into the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame.

Coach Black currently serves as an athletic director at Fulton, along with fellow TSSAA Hall of Famer Jody Wright. The football field at Fulton is named after Coach Black’s father, the late Bob Black, who is a member of the 2008 Hall of Fame class.

“I am humbled and blessed to be chosen as an inductee to the TSSAA Hall of Fame,” said Coach Black. “In my coaching career, I was fortunate to have so many really good players and some really good people surrounding
Continue on page 3



HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Fast start helps 'healthy' Lady Warriors run past Concord in district semifinals

By Ken Lay

It's been a season filled with injuries for the Christian Academy of Knoxville girls basketball team.

But the Lady Warriors are finally fully healthy, and they recently began a postseason run that they hope will land them a spot in the Division II-A State Tournament at F&M Bank Arena in Clarksville during the first week of March.

CAK, the top seed in the Division II-A East Region District 1 Tournament, won its semifinal game, toppling Concord Christian School, 67-45, Thursday night in the Dr. Ron Stewart Gymnasium at Grace Christian Academy.

The Lady Warriors (23-4) clinched the No. 1 seed of the district tournament by winning 11 of their 12 league games.

"We've been bitten by the injury bug pretty much all year," CAK coach Abby Williams said. "It's nice to have everybody back and have all nine of our girls play tonight."

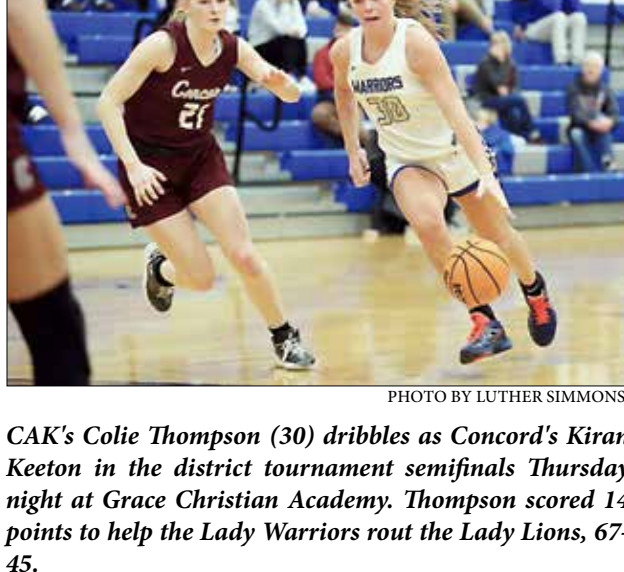


PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS.

CAK's Colie Thompson (30) dribbles as Concord's Kiran Keeton in the district tournament semifinals Thursday night at Grace Christian Academy. Thompson scored 14 points to help the Lady Warriors rout the Lady Lions, 67-45.

The Lady Warriors got off to a fast start against the Lady Lions (16-12) as they opened a 30-12 lead in the first quarter.

"We came out and started the game, and we were really hot," Williams said. "And then in the second quarter, we went cold, and we went away from what we were doing well."

During the Lady Warriors' blistering opening frame, Lexi Hammock scored 12 points as she converted six

field goals. She would finish the contest with 14 points, but gave CAK a huge lift, according to Williams.

"It was great to have Lexi back," Williams said.

During their icy streak in the second stanza, the Lady Warriors managed just five points and hit just two shots from the floor, including one from behind the 3-point arc. Despite the offensive power outage that plagued CAK during the second stanza, the defense

remained stingy, surrendering just nine points over that eight-minute stretch.

But Williams was far from pleased with her squad's showing in the second quarter.

"I gave them a little pep talk at halftime, and we came out and played better in the second half," she said.

The Lady Warriors had three players post double figures in the scoring column. In addition to getting 14 points from Hammock, CAK received a game-high 18 points from eighth grader Karlie Gray. Colie Thompson also chipped in with 14 points, helping her team notch its victory.

Emory Thomas led the Lady Lions with 15 points.

CAK advanced to Saturday's district tournament championship game, where they played tournament host GCA. Results were not available at press time. The Lady Rams edged The King's Academy, 54-51, in Thursday's other tournament semifinal.



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS.

Grace Christian Academy senior Nya Burns (10) battles TKA's Adit Koul for a rebound in a district tournament semifinal at the Dr. Ron Stewart Gymnasium. Burns scored 16 points as the Lady Rams edged the Lady Lions, 54-51.

Lady Rams get defensive in fourth quarter to win semifinal

By Ken Lay

The third time was the charm for the Grace Christian Academy girls basketball team.

After the Lady Rams were swept by The King's Academy in the regular-season series between the two Division II-A East Region District 1 rivals, they exacted a little revenge in the district tournament semifinals on their home floor.

Grace (22-7) earned a spot in the weekend's district title with a hard-fought 54-51 victory over the Lady Lions Thursday night at the Dr. Ron Stewart Gymnasium.

The Lady Rams trailed throughout much of the contest, but stormed back to claim the win with a strong defensive effort in the fourth quarter.

Grace held the Lady Lions to just nine points over the final eight minutes of the contest, allowing the Lady Lions to make just three field goals over that stretch.

"That is where we put our pride in, in our defense," Grace co-head coach Angela Phillips said.

"We work on our defense every single day, and we tell the girls that we know they're tired of doing those shell drills in practice, but we also tell them that it will pay off.

"And tonight, it did."

Offensively, the Lady Rams were red-hot in the final frame as they scored the first nine points of the stanza, all via the 3-point shot as Logan Connatser, Abby Roberts and Nya Burns all knocked down long-range jumpers, allowing GCA, playing in front of a partisan home crowd, to reverse the tide and turn a 42-39 deficit into a 48-42 lead with 5 minutes, 41 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter.

TKA (17-8) pulled to

within 48-44 when Skylar Walden converted a pair of free throws with just over five minutes to play. After that, however, The King's Academy offense went silent for four-and-a-half minutes and wasn't heard from again until Jenny Bitounou made a basket with 31.6 seconds to go.

Despite the scoring drought, the Lady Lions remained within striking distance and trailed, 48-46, after Bitounou scored.

The Lady Rams all but clinched the win at the free throw line as Roberts, Bella Bradley and Myrah Hood combined to hit 6-of-8 foul shots down the stretch.

Despite a solid final frame for GCA on the defensive end, the game's outcome was still in doubt after TKA's Emily Atchley knocked down a 3-point-er with 1.7 seconds left, making the score 52-51.

Hood was then fouled and made 1-for-2 from the line in a chaotic final stretch. Hood was fouled before any time ran off the clock and her free throw extended the Lady Rams' advantage to 53-51 before a blunder by the Lady Lions' coaching staff all sealed TKA's fate.

The Lady Lions called a time-out with none remaining and were hit with an administrative technical, giving the Lady Rams two free throws and the ball. Burns made one shot to provide the final margin before Grace ran out the clock, and a wild celebration from the student section ensued.

The win appeared to erase the memory of two regular-season losses to the Lady Lions and clean the slate for Grace, which will host a region tournament game later this

Continue on page 4

Hodge has an off night but teammates come through

By Steve Williams

Natalya Hodge had a poor shooting night last week and each clang made it hurt a little more. You could see it in her face. An expression that she couldn't believe what was happening followed by a painful look with each miss.

The senior point guard and a Missouri signee is averaging 29 points, but shot no better than 3 for 16 from the field and had no 3-pointers. She finished in double digits with 12 points thanks to sinking all six of her free throws.

Despite Hodge's off night, Bearden defeated Alcoa 60-51 as teammates took over.

Emma Rainey scored a game-high 19 points and swished in three from 3-point land.

Katie Foster led the way in the first half with 10 points inside. She also tipped the ball out of an opponent's hand that led to a fast-break layup plus had four defensive rebounds, one blocked shot and

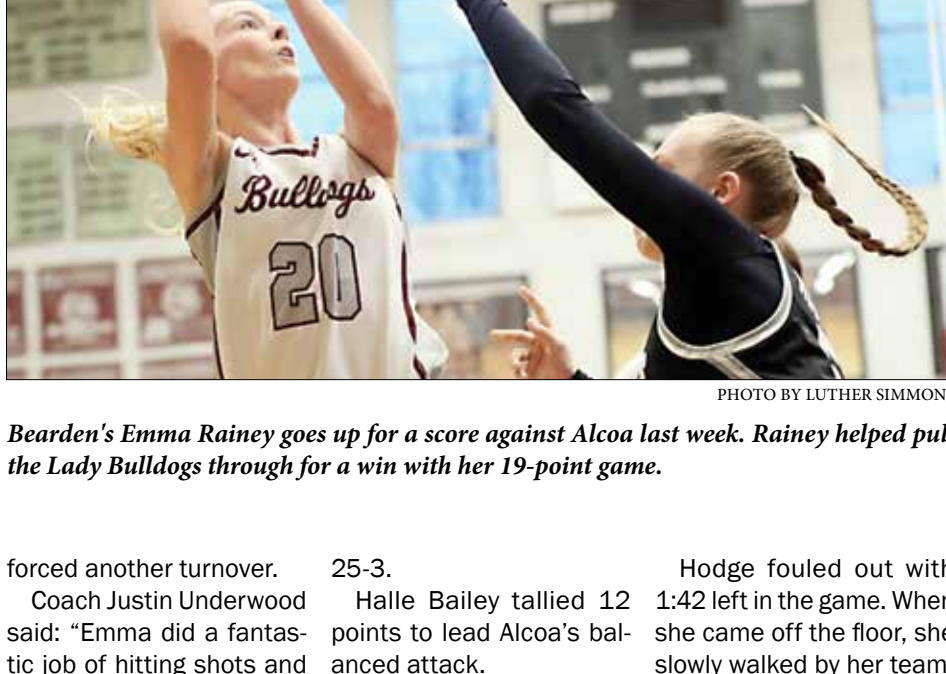


PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

Bearden's Emma Rainey goes up for a score against Alcoa last week. Rainey helped pull the Lady Bulldogs through for a win with her 19-point game.

forced another turnover. Coach Justin Underwood said: "Emma did a fantastic job of hitting shots and I thought Katie did a fantastic job, especially early. That's the second night in a row she's had double digits."

Riley Hunt added 10 points and MC LeMarbre nine for the Lady Bulldogs, who raised their record to

25-3.

Halle Bailey tallied 12 points to lead Alcoa's balanced attack.

Bearden led 16-11 after the first period and 31-24 at halftime. The Lady Tornados (19-7) pulled within five points (38-33) late in the third period, but Bearden ended the quarter with an eight-point run and a 50-36 command.

Hodge fouled out with 1:42 left in the game. When she came off the floor, she slowly walked by her teammates with a smile on her face.

"Natalya knows that some nights you shoot it well and some nights you don't," said Bearden Coach Justin Underwood. "That smile shows her maturity as a player and competitor."

In the dressing room after the game, Hodge said: "I can say this was not the worst game of my life. I feel like my team pulled through. Emma pulled through. Katie pulled through. They all pulled through when I couldn't hit my shots, so I feel like my team adjusted really well with me not hitting."

Bearden won at Cleveland 54-51 Thursday night to wrap up regular season play. The Lady Bulldogs, now 26-3, will next play Thursday in the district semifinals at McMinn County.

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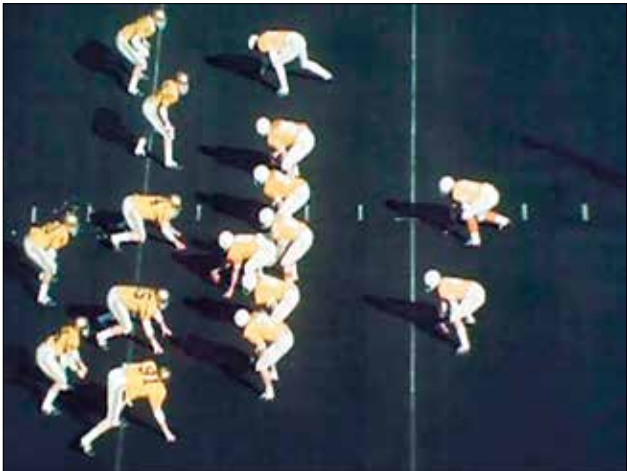
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A great deal of talk and little action

The year was 1969, and the venue was Neyland Stadium/Shields-Watkins Field. The game matched Tennessee and Vanderbilt in the season finale. Tennessee won 40-27, with the Vols annexing a second SEC title in the past three years.

By Tom Mattingly



“Only the helmets distinguished one team from the other.”

Vanderbilt wearing gold jerseys and Vols decked out in orange, the two teams looked nearly alike. Vanderbilt head coach Bill Pace “suggested” that the Vols might be wearing white in the return engagement a year later in Nashville.

Everyone seemed to think that the Vols would wear white in Nashville in 1970. That didn’t happen. There was a great deal of talk and little action. The subject was never broached.

In the 1972 season finale, it was a cloudy

day, and the differences between the two sets of jerseys were more pronounced. Vanderbilt’s jerseys appeared to be a darker hue of gold. As was usually the case, the game was a tough one, the Vols winning 30-10.

In early 1971, the idea of the visiting team wearing white jerseys for road games suddenly became another of those controversies often facing SEC schools. Everyone seemed to have an opinion, particularly those living in Knoxville.

The Vols had worn

orange jerseys on the road up until that time. They had also worn white jerseys at home in 1935, as another “Vol Historian,” Allan Spain, tells us.

Orange jerseys on the road ended with an SEC “Gentlemen’s Agreement” in January 1971, giving the home team the choice of taking the school-colored shirts and the visiting team wearing the white shirts, except when the game was at LSU and, for a year or so, at Vanderbilt.

The genesis of the white jersey rule may have come from the Tennessee-Vanderbilt game that day in 1969 at Neyland Stadium. It was a sunny November day, with Vanderbilt in gold, Tennessee in orange. No one could tell the difference between the two teams.

To his credit, Tennessee head coach Bill Battle voted against the 1971 agreement (“You’re darn right I did,” he said when quizzed about it years later), thus defending the honor of the orange jersey.

The Vols did wear orange against Mississippi blue in Memphis in 1974, 1977,

and 1980. The 1975 game against the Rebels was one of the more confusing in recent history, with Ole Miss in red and the Vols in orange. There wasn’t a great deal of contrast, and, besides, Ole Miss won 23-6. Ole Miss wore its blue jerseys in Knoxville in 1972 and 1976.

The Vols wore orange against Mississippi State in 1978 in Memphis, when they were the designated home team, playing nearly 400 miles from Knoxville. The Vols wore white when winning at Notre Dame in 1991 and 2001, bringing great joy to Big Orange Country.

Perhaps the most radical change in uniforms came in 1963 under the tenure of Jim McDonald, with a get-up called the “Halloween Uniforms,” so named because the shirts were orange with black and white stripes on the shoulders.

The Vols also unveiled a white version that season, with orange and black stripes on the shoulders, in a 35-0 loss at Alabama in 1963. Those shirts were not seen again.

Over the years there were many exciting moments in the white jerseys. Munford’s Johnnie Jones scored the game-winning in 1983 on a 67-yard run late in the game on a play called “39 option.” That play came on third-and-long at left end.

There was also an 80-yard touchdown pass from Peyton Manning to Joey Kent on the first play of the 1995 Alabama game. Carl Johnson saved the 1971 Kentucky game for the Vols with a deflected pass that he turned into an 87-yard TD run. It seemed that he would run out of gas, but he did have a formidable host of teammates to help him finally get to the Promised Land.

Seasons like these come along when least expected, merging little pieces that come together in exactly the right way. These are the seasons that create memories that last a lifetime. They make fans proud to be fans, regardless of the jersey.



PHOTO BY CARLOS REVEIZ - ASHLEY WALTHER / CRFOTO.COM

Eddie Courtney talks to his team during Farragut’s 2016 state championship season.

Coaches Black and Courtney were among state’s best

Continued from page 1

me. This honor is extra special in that I am joining several other Fulton coaches who are already in the TSSAA Hall of Fame. I had the opportunity to work with my dad (Bob Black), Buck Coatney, and Jody Wright who have already been inducted.

Courtney’s name is synonymous with Farragut High football, where his influence has spanned nearly half a century. Serving the school for 45 years as a teacher and coach, and leading the program as head coach since 1996, Courtney has built a legacy defined by integrity, resilience, and championship excellence.

Courtney boasts an impressive career record of 204-121, ranking him fifth all-time among active Tennessee high school head coaches as of 2023. His tenure at the helm of the Admirals includes four Region Championships, 12 Quarterfinal appearances, and the crowning achievement of the 2016 Class 5A State Championship. He has coached close to 50 All-State players, three All-Americans, and six TSSAA Mr. Football finalists. His ability to develop talent is evident, having sent over 200 players to play collegiately, with seven reaching the NFL.

However, Courtney’s impact extends far beyond the scoreboard. Known for his “BAM: Be a Man” program, he prioritizes molding young athletes into responsible men, husbands, and fathers. His personal resilience has served as a powerful lesson to his players; Courtney has battled cancer twice without wavering in his commitment to his team, inspiring the community and earning the 2006 Knoxville News-Sentinel Courage Award.

His contributions have been widely recognized, with accolades including the 2017 Pat Summitt Ignite Greatness Award and induction into the Tennessee Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2021.

Coach Courtney stepped down as the head coach of the Admirals in 2024, but he continues to serve as an assistant coach under his son, Geoff.

“Being selected into the TSSAA Hall of Fame is a tremendous honor,” said Coach Courtney. “I’ve been blessed to be surrounded by a lot of great players and coaches. THEY are the ones who bought in and made this a successful and enjoyable time. I will always be appreciative of them. GOD allowed me to do what I wanted to do and that was coach football.”

Q&A with Hunter Ensley

By Mark Nagi

Hunter Ensley has given Tennessee fans memories that will last a lifetime. His performance in the 2024 College World Series made him a hero to Volunteer supporters and ensured that the cheers would greet him every time he’s recognized at an event on the UT campus.

Recently, we had the chance to catch up with Ensley, talk about those magical days in Omaha, and what the future holds for him.

Knoxville Focus: Let’s talk about that 2024 season. What was it about that team that made them the group to finally get over the hump and win a National Championship?

Hunter Ensley: I would say a mix of, obviously, great recruiting by the coaches and great development, and a mix of older guys with experience as well. Our thing in the fall was how close we could get this team to be an actual team, know each other, and want to play for each other. I think that’s really what separated us from others. Obviously, we were very talented, and the coaches did a great job with the development on the pitching and hitting side. But I would just say the camaraderie as a team and how close the guys were. And the experience of going to Omaha and playing in Omaha. We brought back a lot of guys from that 2023 team who had experience in Omaha. They knew how to win in the postseason, and that definitely helped us going into 2024.

KF: In the second game of the College World Series, you robbed North Carolina’s Anthony Donofrio of an extra base hit when you made a running catch and held on, despite slamming into the center field wall. What are you thinking as the wall is getting closer?

HE: There’s not a lot

going through my head at that moment. I kind of think of myself as a tough player and a tough kid. I feel like I grew up that way. I was a football player, so I was never afraid of contact, but I was never scared of the wall. For me, that was pretty much my brother on the mound (Tennessee pitcher Drew Beam) right there. I had seen him work for three years and how much he deserved to be in that spot on the mound. How can I get this out for this guy, working his tail off for the team? That’s not just me. Fortunately, I was the guy they hit the ball to, but I would say that if you put everyone else in center field right there, they would have tried to do the same thing as I would. It was just that close of a team, and everyone wanted to win.

KF: In the final game against Texas A&M, you scored what proved to be the winning run on an acrobatic dive for home plate. Did you feel like you got a good jump after Kavares Tears hit the ball?

HE: I believe I for sure got a good jump on it. I would say that’s probably one of the most focused moments I’ve ever been in, just because it was game 3 for the National Championship... I think it all kind of just worked out. The slide is kind of tough to explain, because you kind of black out in those moments. But that was just me, you know, natural instincts right there, just trying to avoid the tag and win a game.

KF: So, what’s the feeling

like when guys win and achieve your goal?

HE: Really, just a ton of different emotions being with the guys, obviously. That was kind of a dream. Some of my best friends throughout those years... we wanted to be the last team standing one day. You think back to a bunch of the old days, Little League and travel ball and all the effort you put in, especially with my dad, Marty. A lot of those memories come back. It’s bigger than just yourself because, you know, you have a whole lot of Tennessee fans there that deserve it as well.

KF: Last summer, you spent some time playing in High-A ball with the Kansas City Royals but chose to retire from baseball. Why?

HE: A couple of different things. One, I felt very happy with my career, and also other opportunities that I kind of like the looks of coming up down the road. I won’t go into a whole other detail about that, but (there are) some opportunities for myself, possibly coaching and helping younger kids develop. I think I can have a pretty big impact. Right now, I’m working at Diamond Baseball-Simcox Academy (run by former Tennessee assistant baseball coach Larry Simcox), giving baseball lessons to younger kids, helping with outfield, infield, hitting... all of it. I want to be a resource to these kids, and I want some of them to live out their dreams, just as I was fortunate enough to live out mine.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF GAYLORD W. ANDERSON DOCKET NUMBER 92012-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 23 day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of GAYLORD W. ANDERSON, who died Nov. 20, 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 in triplicate 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 23 day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF GAYLORD W. ANDERSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MATHA ANDERSON, EXECUTRIX
2803 ARBOR PLACE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF HENRY F. BERTELKAMP, JR. DOCKET NUMBER 91972-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of HENRY F. BERTELKAMP, JR., who died December 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 30th day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF HENRY F. BERTELKAMP, JR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
WILLIAM D. EDWARDS, EXECUTOR
1111 N. NORTHSORE DRIVE, SUITE S-700
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DANIEL EDWARD BLANDFORD DOCKET NUMBER 92008-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of JANUARY, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of DANIEL EDWARD BLANDFORD, who died Sept. 18, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of 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 21 day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF DANIEL EDWARD BLANDFORD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CASSIDY BLANDFORD, ADMINISTRATRIX
107 ORCHARD LANE
OAK RIDGE, TN 37830

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JEWELL STELMO BOSHEARS DOCKET NUMBER 91980-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of JANUARY, 2026, letters of testamentary in respect of the Estate of JEWELL STELMO BOSHEARS, who died on the 22nd day of December, 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 30th day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF JEWELL STELMO BOSHEARS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
SHERIE LYNN HANSON
7805 CAMBERLEY DRIVE
POWELL, TN 37849

NEVA M. FOUST, ATTORNEY
4641 CHAMBLISS AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DAVID ALISTER GRAHAM BYARS DOCKET NUMBER 91969-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters

PIGEON FORGE, TN 37863

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WADE DOUGLAS FARRAR DOCKET NUMBER 92031-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of JANUARY, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of WADE DOUGLAS FARRAR, who died on December 14, 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 30th day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF WADE DOUGLAS FARRAR

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
SUSAN CAMPBELL
7412 SEVIERVILLE PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

M. SUE WHITE, ATTORNEY
216 PHOENIX CT., SUITE D
SEYMOUR TN 37865

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CHARLES ROBERT FERGUSON DOCKET NUMBER 91992-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of CHARLES ROBERT FERGUSON, who died Nov. 20, 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 21 day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF CHARLES ROBERT FERGUSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
DONNA FAYE STEWART, EXECUTRIX
7216 BEELER TOWN ROAD
POWELL, TN 37849

WILLIAM T. DANIEL, ATTORNEY
8303 HEISKELL ROAD
POWELL, TN 37849

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF STEPHEN LEE FLESHMAN DOCKET NUMBER 91971-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of STEVEN LEE FLESHMAN, who died on the 4th day of August, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication; or
 - (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or
 - (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
- This the 30th day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF STEVEN LEE FLESHMAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
LAURI ANN FLESHMAN-AHMED
4816 ELM VIEW DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

NEVA M. FOUST, ATTORNEY
4641 CHAMBLISS AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF KENNETH RAY FORD, SR. DOCKET NUMBER 91973-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of JANUARY, 2026, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of KENNETH RAY FORD, SR., who died December 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 30th day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF KENNETH RAY FORD, SR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
NIA N. GRAY
19200 WEST KIMBALL RD.

PIERSON, MI 49339

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARY KATE FOSTER DOCKET NUMBER 92002-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 21 day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARY KATE FOSTER, who died Nov. 13, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or
 - (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or
 - (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
- This the 21 day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF MARY KATE FOSTER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
SUSAN REBEKAH COKER, EXECUTRIX
7714 NORRIS FWY.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37938

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF EDNA GREENE DOCKET NUMBER 91904-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 29th day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of EDNA GREENE, who died November 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 29th day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF EDNA GREENE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
BRENDA CROWE
5933 WINDTRACE LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37914

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ANNIE RUTH HILL DOCKET NUMBER 91975-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 3rd day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ANNIE RUTH HILL, who died October 6, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of 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 FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF ANNIE RUTH HILL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARGUERITE M. CARINI
4158 FOREST GLEN DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JEFFERY KINCAID DOCKET NUMBER 92004-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JEFFERY KINCAID, who died Nov. 9, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of 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 22 day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF JEFFERY KINCAID

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ERICA K. BROUGHTON, EXECUTRIX

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Knox County Commission shall receive letters and resumés/credentials from candidates seeking an appointment to one (1) vacancy to serve an unfulfilled term expiring September 30, 2028 on the Knox County Sheriff's Office Employees' Merit System Board of Directors. Resumés should be submitted by mail, fax, e-mail or hand-delivered no later than **Wednesday, March 11, 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

The Knox County Commission will interview candidates at the Commission Optional Agenda Review meeting on Monday, March 16, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. in the Main 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, March 23, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City-County Building, 400 West Main Street.

The following provisions apply in accordance with Ordinances 0-22-6-103 and 0-25-9-101:

- Membership is completely voluntary, and members will receive no compensation for their service.
- The board meets quarterly, unless a special-called meeting is held.
- Applicants must be over 21 years of age; of good moral character; a citizen of the United States and the State of Tennessee; and a resident of Knox County.
- No person shall be eligible to serve as a member on the Merit System Board of Directors if they have previously been employed by the Knox County Sheriff's Office department within the five (5) calendar years preceding his/her appointment by the Commission, or if any member of such person's immediate family is or becomes employed by the Knox County Sheriff's Office at any time during such person's term of service as a member of the board council. For purposes of this section, "immediate family" shall include spouse, parent, grandparent, siblings, in-laws, or children
- Members will be required to attend an Ethics training provided by the Knox County Human Resources Department, as required of all employees of Knox County.
- The County Commission finds that the actual or apparent political influence on the members of the Merit System Board is injurious to the credibility of the board and undermines its mission as an apolitical civil service system for KCSO employees. Therefore, membership on the Merit System Board shall be conditioned upon the following:
 - No person holding a position on the Merit System Board shall take an active part in any political campaign while a member of the Merit System Board.
 - No member of the Merit System Board shall solicit money for political campaigns.
 - No member of the Merit System Board shall make any public endorsement of any candidate in any campaign for elected office.
 - A member of the Merit System Board shall not use such position to reflect the member's personal political feelings as those of the Sheriff's department or to exert any pressure on anyone to influence that person's political views.
 - No member of the Merit System Board shall display any political advertising or paraphernalia on such person's body or automobile while conducting business on behalf of the Merit System Board. However, nothing in this part shall be construed to prohibit or prevent any such employee Board Member from becoming or continuing to be a member of a political club or organization and enjoying all the rights and privileges of such membership or from attending any political meetings while not on duty. Such employee Board Member shall not be denied freedom in the casting of a vote.
 - During a Merit System Board Member's term of service, should that Member take active steps toward becoming a political candidate, such member shall immediately resign from the Board of Directors.

1330 GATEWOOD LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LESTER NEAL KNIGHT DOCKET NUMBER 92010-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of LESTER NEAL KNIGHT, who died Nov. 13, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or
 - (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or
 - (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
- This the 22 day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF LESTER NEAL KNIGHT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ROB CAMERON, EXECUTOR
8931 COLCHESTER RIDGE ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF PATRICIA LOU LAWSON DOCKET NUMBER 91861-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 3rd day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of PATRICIA LOU LAWSON, who died September 17, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or
 - (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days 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 3rd day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF PATRICIA LOU LAWSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
DONALD RAY HAYES, JR.
10005 OLD RUTLEDGE PIKE
MASCOT, TN 37806

EVAN M. NEWMAN, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 6
RUTLEDGE, TN 37861

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RONALD BOYD LYNN DOCKET NUMBER 92005-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 28 day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of RONALD BOYD LYNN, who died Nov. 28, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty

(60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or

- (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or
 - (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
- This the 28 day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF RONALD BOYD LYNN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
RONALD GREGG LYNN, EXECUTOR
1113 SUMMERFIELD DRIVE
MARYVILLE, TN 37801

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CHARLES L. MCCARTER DOCKET NUMBER 91862-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of JANUARY, 2026, letters of testamentary in respect of the Estate of CHARLES L. MCCARTER, who died October 31, 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 Decedent's date of death.
- This the 30th day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF CHARLES L. MCCARTER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
LOUISE M. COULTER
468 CREEKSIDE WAY
LENOIR CITY, TN 37771

BROOKE GIVENS, ATTORNEY
110 COGILL ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF VERNIE LOUISE MILLER DOCKET NUMBER 91999-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, Letters of Testamentary in respect of the Estate of VERNIE LOUISE MILLER, who died on the 13th day of September, 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 FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF VERNIE LOUISE MILLER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
LYNN MILLER
526 JOSHUA DRIVE
DANDRIDGE, TN 37725-4659

S. DAVID LIPSEY, ATTORNEY
1430 ISLAND HOME AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

