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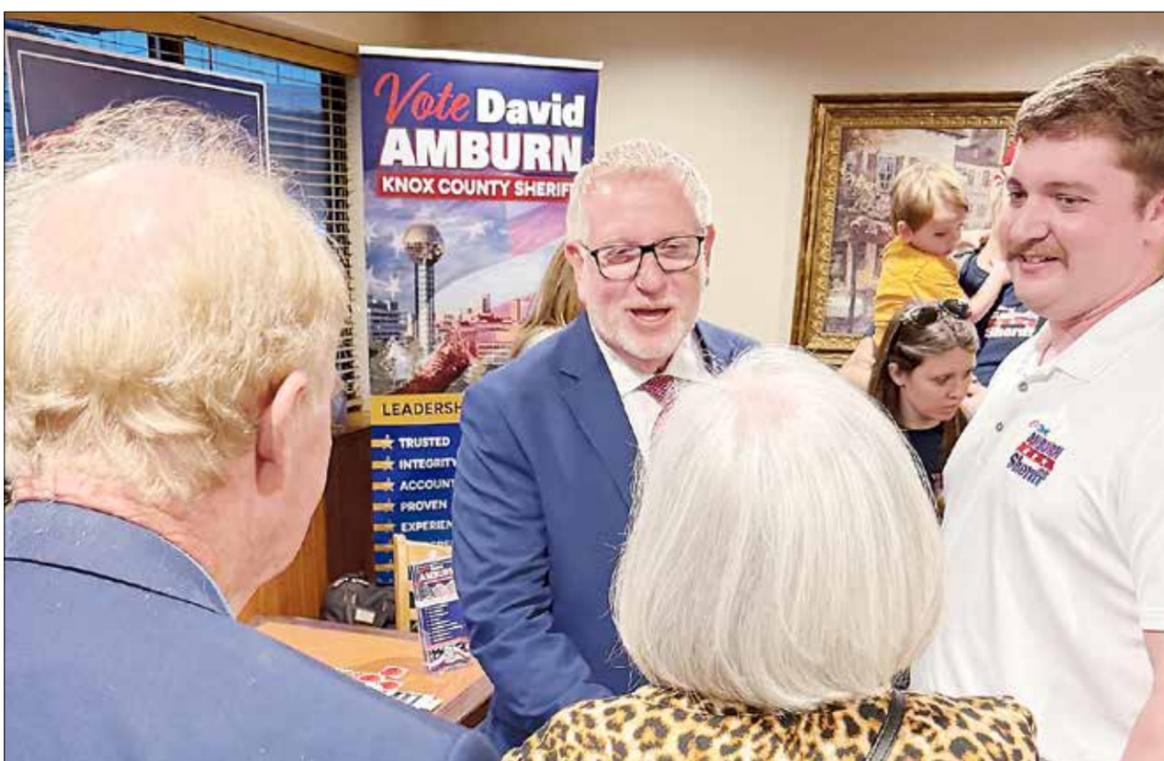
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PHOTOS BY TIFFANEY LAWSON.

David Amburn and son, Conner, welcome well wishers to a Meet and Greet held last Tuesday at Louis' on Old Broadway. Amburn is running for Knox County Sheriff this year and has worked in law enforcement for 34 years.

## Amburn kicks off campaign for Knox County Sheriff

On Tuesday, February 17, Louis' Restaurant on Old Broadway provided the perfect backdrop for a lively meet and greet in support of candidate for Knox County Sheriff, David Amburn. Friends, supporters, longtime law enforcement colleagues, and curious first-time voters steadily filtered through the doors of the famed local landmark, creating a near-constant stream of introductions, handshakes and conversations with the candidate.

Amburn, who currently serves as chief of detectives for the Knox County Sheriff's Office under Sheriff Tom Spangler, greeted each visitor with the same calm, measured demeanor that has defined his 34 consecutive years in law enforcement. Many attendees remarked on his reputation for steady leadership, deep institutional

knowledge, and his longstanding commitment to the people of Knox County.

His law enforcement journey began in corrections, a role that laid the foundation for a career spanning almost every operational division within the KCSO. Over the decades, Amburn has worked his way through the ranks and across divisions, gaining a comprehensive understanding of the agency's inner workings—from the jail and patrol to investigations and administration.

Amburn's path into law enforcement was shaped early on by a close friendship with the late Chief Deputy Bernie Lyon. The two men, as Amburn recalled in his remarks at Lyon's funeral, shared a bond that extended over four decades. That relationship, he has often said, was instrumental in his decision to enter the



David Amburn, left, takes a selfie with Brian Pratt, Robbie Carroll and a crowded dining room at Louis' Restaurant last Tuesday during his Meet and Greet.

profession and continues to influence his approach to leadership, mentorship and public service.

With the election season rapidly approaching, the meet and greet at Louis' served as both a community gathering and a campaign milestone. Early voting begins on April 15 and runs through April 30,

with Election Day set for May 5. Amburn will have another Meet and Greet on Monday, March 2 at Knoxville Tactical.

If the turnout and enthusiasm at Louis' are any indication, the race for Knox County Sheriff is already capturing the full attention of voters across the county.

## Busy field for county mayoral, commission seats

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Election Commission released the list of all the candidates who returned petitions for the May 5th primary following Thursday's qualifying deadline. While most of the candidates are Republicans who will compete against each other, each of the races for Knox County Mayor and County Commission will face a Democrat or Independent in the August 6th general election.

In the primary for Knox County Mayor are Republicans Kim Frazier, Betsy Henderson and Larsen Jay. The Democratic candidate will be Beau Hawk. All are hoping to replace term limited Glenn Jacobs.

In the race for commission District 3 are two Republicans, incumbent Gina Oster and Sheri Super. The winner will face Democrat Brandon

Huckaby.

District 7 has three Republicans: Barry Beeler, Buddy Burkhardt and Justin Mash. The winner will face Democrat William Cooper. The winner would replace Commissioner Rhonda Lee who is running for sessions judge.

At-large Seat 10 candidates include three Republicans: Justin Cofer, Kimberly Glenn and Ronnie Rochelle. The winner faces Democrat Katina Sharp and Independent Ronin Cunningham. All are hoping to gain the seat of term-limited Commissioner Larsen Jay.

The at-large Seat 11 office is being sought by four Republicans: Michael Baer, Garrett Holt, Matthew Parsons and Liz Tombras. The winner will face Democrat Vivian Shipe and Independent David Velarde. The winner will replace term-limited Kim Frazier.

## County finance director urges opposition to state regulation of local tax rates

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
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Knox County hasn't had a property tax increase since 1999, and, currently, there's no one talking about raising taxes. But if the economy slows or the county finds it needs to increase taxes, a pending state legislative proposal may not allow much of an increase.

Following a question during last week's Knox

County Finance Committee meeting about the proposed cap on property taxes before the Tennessee Legislature, Knox County Finance Director Chris Caldwell spoke against it.

One of the sponsors of HB 1873 is Knoxville's Rep. Jason Zachary. His bill would limit local governments to property tax increases of no more than 2% annually or 6% over

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## Strawberry Plains Pike development passes in split vote

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
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Much of the Knox County Commission's zoning meeting last week was taken up by debate on the specifics for a proposed housing development at 7716 Strawberry Plains Pike in District 8.

Drew Statton represented Mesana Investments LLC in the request to change the zoning for the 13.9 acres from

agricultural to planned residential. Statton told the commission that although the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission approved nine townhouses per acre, the developer is only asking for eight.

District 8 Commissioner Adam Thompson said he has visited the property and told Statton, "You have some challenges." Thompson said the site has a spring and geological challenges and that

development needs to include some 35-foot buffers and continuous fencing, a one-acre green space, a traffic study and plans to save the trees there.

Statton disagreed with Thompson on some of the requirements, and Thompson said he would agree to lower the buffer to 20 feet.

Other commissioners spoke about the project, with Angela Russell saying that the developer may

not know what it will do there, and she would vote "No." Larsen Jay said he has never heard of having a fence requirement as a rezoning condition.

Planning Director Amy Brooks said the code doesn't mention requiring a fence during the development process, and, if required, the request would go back to planning for a vote.

Deputy Law Director Mike Moyers said there is

"not much guidance you can place on a property," but added, "It's within the authority of the commission."

One of the Thompson restrictions for developing the property would require an arborist to oversee the removal and replacement of trees there. Jay reminded the meeting that the county has no arborist and questioned using the UT Extension Department to approve the tree removal

or replacement.

Engineering and Public Works Director Jim Snowden said his department would be holding the bonds on the development and could hold it to the restrictions.

Thompson agreed to remove the fencing from his restrictions, but added the 35-foot buffers back in. He referred to the City of Knoxville's rules on the preservation and replacement of

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

**City on the Sea**

We want to make it easy to vote, but hard to cheat. GOP Senator Mike Lee

If you have never done it and have the opportunity, you should try it. This was the modus operandi of the Ferguson family raising our girls. If you tried Brussels sprouts and hated them, you can say no thank you the rest of your life. A chef friend once prepared the vile vegetables for Becky and me, and to be gracious, I sampled his creation, which was tolerable, but I still avoid the sprouts.

I'm game to try most things, at least those not overtly dangerous. I've walked in Times Square, but not again. And when I was younger and foolish, I overindulged. However, I learned that the misery of the next morning is not worth the buzz of the night before. Wisdom is the

prudent assessment of the risk-benefit ratio of any endeavor.

We had not done a cruise since Covid, and because I don't care for February, other than it's short, I was looking for a warm respite from winter's snow and cold. So, we hopped aboard Holland America's Nieuw Statendam for a week of Caribbean warmth, elegant dining and wonderful nightly entertainment while cruising to the next port and next meal! Actually, you are not required to overeat and if you stay active, you will still be able to button your trousers when you get home. We also had the unique experience of watching the Super Bowl on the pool deck giant screen with 250+ fellow travelers.

The downside of travel is repacking your bag and moving to another hotel the next day. On a cruise, your

hotel room travels with you to the next destination.

Some people are concerned about sea sickness, but this is rarely a problem in a big ship, as contrasted with a small fishing boat. Actually, I find the gentle motion of the ship is like being rocked in a cradle.

Clouds seem to hang low over the ocean without the updraft from a warming landscape or mountains to push them higher. I first noticed this while traveling in Ireland. We tend to forget that Knoxville is approximately 1,000 feet above sea level and 1,000 miles from the coast.

Our ship was not a behemoth with an amusement park on the top deck, but was nonetheless a small city carrying almost 4,000 guests and crew and comparable to the souls on an aircraft carrier. Yet, on the ocean expanse, the ship is tiny. Interestingly, diesel fuel is burned to produce steam, which turns turbines to generate electricity for the ship and the electric motors that propel the ship.

Sunsets at sea are breathtaking, and the deep blue of the ocean is often subtly complemented by streaks of floating orange algae. I'm not a beach person, but the

intermingling of blue, turquoise and green colors of the Grand Turks shoreline was spectacular. I wish I could show you the vistas that buoyed/saved my winter-bound spirit.

On our voyage, I discovered that I missed that woman ... Siri, that is. Having access to the internet is sketchy at sea unless you pay exorbitantly for Starlink. And in Caribbean ports of call, despite the assurance by our carrier, even texting is unreliable. Many believe we are enslaved by smartphones and devices. I certainly think social media is problematic, but it holds little interest for me. However, I missed not being able to find answers to questions that pop up during the day. Admittedly, I'm naturally curious about a host of things, so being able to find answers to questions provides my "dopamine hit." And since I read numerous news sources to stay abreast of things and to research topics for this column, I need the net.

I'm not ignoring the Nancy Guthrie tragedy, but I have little to offer. Like most of you, I suspect she was kidnapped and taken to Mexico for ransom, and things went bad, but that is pure speculation. On the

other hand, I can offer factual observations regarding the Safeguarding American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, which has passed the House of Representatives and is now before the Senate. President Trump says he will execute an executive order if Congress fails to act on this critical legislative proposal. So, what are we talking about?

I think congressional legislation is formulated in legalese, perhaps to stand up in court or to keep John Q. Public clueless. The 19th-century Chancellor of Germany, Otto von Bismarck, implied it's best you not know what is in sausage or politics. But since I'm neither a lawyer, a congressional staffer writing legislation or a politician, I will cut to the chase and give you the Ferg-notes synopsis of my SAVE research.

The SAVE Act mandates that voters "present a photo ID at the polls" and requires "proof of U.S. citizenship for voter registration." The act also "mandates that states keep voter rolls clear of ineligible voters" (dead people will no longer be able to vote). Seems simple enough to me, and 83% of Americans support voter ID laws.

However, Democrat Senator Chuckie Schumer

has called this legislation Jim Crow 2.0, implying that people of color are unable to obtain and show a photo ID. How racist! Yet, more than 75% of blacks, Asians and Hispanics support a photo ID to vote (Pew Research Center 2025 poll). A photo ID is required to buy beer, hunt or fish, check into a hotel, cash a check or fly on an airplane. And the argument that married women who take the husband's name might be disenfranchised by having to get new identifying documents is ridiculous. As someone said online, "Women aren't stupid. They have been updating their names and voting for generations." The Dems are also opposed to ICE at the polls; remember, it is illegal for illegals to vote.

Our cruise temporarily saved me from winter's chill, and Republicans are trying to save Americans' voting rights. But of far greater personal and spiritual importance is that I was saved 50 years ago and reconnected to the Creative and Sustaining force of the universe. Blessedly, the Spirit now sustains me through winter's chill and troubled times.

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

**Sen. Blackburn Would Be A Great Governor**

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.

There is a very small, private dining room at the White House directly under the Oval Office. It is for the president, vice president and the very top White House aides. I had the privilege of having lunch there two times.

The second time, I was the guest of Kellyanne Conway, who had managed President Trump's 2016 campaign and had become one of his most trusted advisors.

Among other things, I asked Ms. Conway who some of her favorite members of the U.S. House are. She mentioned Vice President Pence, who was eating just a couple of tables away and whom she had recommended for the second spot on Mr. Trump's ticket.

But the first member she mentioned that day was Marsha Blackburn.

She said, "We need a spitfire like her in the Senate." President Trump also has always supported Sen. Blackburn and said very kind things about her.

Sen. Blackburn was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2018, carrying 92 counties to the three won by former Governor Phil Bredesen. In 2024, she carried all but two of Tennessee's 95 counties against State Rep. Gloria Johnson, winning by a 891,000 margin.

Now, Sen. Blackburn is running for governor, and I believe Tennesseans would be lucky to have her lead our state. She certainly is

well qualified to do so.

Sen. Blackburn has excelled at everything she has ever done. She won a 4-H college scholarship in high school. The 4-H is one of the finest organizations in this country and gives its scholarships only to the very best young people.

She attended and graduated from Mississippi State University. While there, she was elected as president of the Associated Women Students organization.

She worked as a sales manager for the Times Mirror Company while still in college, and from 1975 to 1978 for Mercantile Stores, Inc. She then started and ran a very successful small business called Marketing Strategies.

Sen. Blackburn has always been a family-oriented person. She and her husband, Chuck, have been married for over 50 years, a very special accomplishment in this day and age, and they have two outstanding children.

Like most good citizens, she wanted to try to make this country better, so she became politically active. Not being one to

sit on the sidelines, she helped found the Williamson County Young Republicans and, from 1989 to 1991, became chairman of the Williamson County Republican Party in Tennessee's sixth most populous county.

Sen. Blackburn served as executive director of the Tennessee Film, Entertainment, and Music Commission from 1975 to 1977, and was in the Tennessee state Senate from 1999 to 2003.

While serving in the state legislature, she led the fight against the state income tax, and almost all Tennesseans are grateful to her for that. The fact that we are one of the very few states that do not have this tax is one of the main reasons our economy is so strong, and so many people want to move here.

In 2002, Sen. Blackburn defeated six men in the primary and one in the general election to win her first election to Congress.

She and I then served together in the House for 16 years, and I developed great admiration and respect for her. She

is a true leader. Our voting records were almost identical.

In the U.S. House, Sen. Blackburn represented a district that ran from the Nashville suburbs to the Memphis suburbs. For seven years, she has represented the entire state as our senior senator. Very few people know our state as well as she does.

Probably 15 or 20 years ago, I told a congressman from Florida, former Rep. Cliff Stearns, that by the year 2050, most of the top elective offices in this country would be held by women. Another good friend of mine in the House, Rep. Mary Fallin, became the outstanding governor of Oklahoma from 2011 to 2019.

Sen. Blackburn's opponent in the primary is a very nice man with a good voting record in the House. But I never got to serve with him and do not know him nearly as well as I do my friend.

Sen. Blackburn is honest, intelligent and hardworking, and she really loves this country. She has shown me through her work that she can be strong and tough when necessary, but she is also kind and compassionate. She has a heart for service and is quite simply one of the finest women I have ever known.

I believe she will be a great governor, and I am proud to endorse her in the Republican primary to be voted on in August.



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Deadline for Classified ads is Thursday at noon.  
Deadline for submissions is Thursday by noon.  
Articles, announcements, photo attachments and outlines may be submitted by e-mail to [staff@knoxfocus.com](mailto:staff@knoxfocus.com).  
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# Publisher's Positions



**By Steve Hunley, Publisher**  
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## Nobody Ever Accused AOC Of Being Smart

The Left's favorite barmaid ran amok in what was supposed to be the debut of her foreign policy expertise at the Munich Security Conference. The end result was yet another Leftist delusion went off the rails as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez showed something less than a middle school student's understanding of foreign affairs. It was more embarrassing than a Megan Markle show. Her stammering, gibbering and cawing did not for a moment cover up the fact that she was unable to give answers to questions about specific world affairs. AOC sounded like a third grader who grabbed the first thing she came across for show and tell. She couldn't tell anything about it, and all she showed was that she just wasn't that bright.

AOC's replies were mighty big on long pauses and filled with a bushel full of ums, ohs, ahs and uhs. The magnitude of AOC's misstep was evident when the New York Times attempted to come

galloping to pull her out of the quicksand at her request. The fact that the NYT would respond to the entreaty of a politician to pull her out of the ditch tells you all you need to know about the Gray Lady walking the streets of partisan bias.

The bubblehead from New York squalled that Israel had committed genocide in Gaza. For those leftists who don't know the actual meaning of words, which seems to be the most of them, here is the literal definition of the word genocide: "The deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group." You know, like the Nazis were trying to do to the Jews during World War II. The "Final Solution" of the Nazis involved the literal extermination of every Jew on our planet, and they actually killed 7 million Jews. In fact, that is the ultimate stated goal of Hamas and the Palestinians. And there is AOC making an absolutely false claim in Munich, of all places. Of course, I doubt AOC has ever read a book and was probably out smoking during history and geography classes. It was probably during her college career that she discovered the world was going to end in 12 years.

AOC remains the barmaid who got herself elected to Congress, and as far as I know, nobody ever accused her of being smart.

## Have Moderate Democrats Become Extinct?

Here at The Focus, we've decided not to refer to "Democrats" any longer

because there are none left. People talk about "moderate" Democrats, but I can't find one even after looking pretty hard. The mainstream media told us Joe Biden was a moderate Democrat and that was a lie. So, we are going to refer to them as what they are: Democrat-Socialists.

The Democrat-Socialists seem to be making an effort to retool some of their big issues to try them out on the voting public once again. The Democrat-Socialists have no shame whatever in simply lying to our faces time after time. The Biden administration did it daily, along with their sponsors in the corporate media who dutifully picked up any talking point and repeated it like myna birds.

Democrat-Socialists like to pretend there has never been fraud in conducting elections, which anybody who has ever read a history book knows to be untrue. The Democrat-Socialists have positioned themselves as the patron saints of "migrants" and "immigrants," pretending there is no law against crossing our borders illegally. Every American citizen who believes it is no crime to cross the border of another country should be made to cross China's border or Russia's. That would give us plenty more room in this country for legal immigrants. The reason why they want open borders is that they want to inflate the number of congressional districts in blue states at the expense of the red states. It's not

because they are compassionate, caring, or sweet, loving people. They stoutly claim there isn't a penny of fraud in the massive social welfare system they try to expand at every opportunity. Our country is literally awash in trillions of dollars of debt without spending adequately on infrastructure as our social welfare state expands faster than we can finance it. The Democrat-Socialists are trying to take everything away that working people have worked hard to earn, all the while talking about billionaires. Some intelligent people have suggested these leftists have an ethical obligation to see that immigrants to this country assimilate, follow our established laws and work to contribute to our country rather than come here to take from the communities in which they settle. Even that is too much to ask of the Democrat-Socialists.

The staggering fraud in Minneapolis is a prime example of the failure of the Democrat-Socialists' utopia to buy votes. They try to cloak it in compassion and squeal racism when anyone points to fraud or abuse.

That is an old trick that they tried when Ronald Reagan was president. Unlike then, the Democrat-Socialists now seem all too pleased to embrace crime, criminals and cartels. They do not wish to hold any criminal from another country responsible for the rape, murder or assault of any American citizen. They refuse to speak the name of any American citizen

from their own community who is the victim of such a crime. Americans have never cared for those people who expect to get something for nothing, and yet ours has been, without question, the most generous country in the history of the world. The Democrat-Socialists do not love America, nor her people, her history or culture. They prefer that of any country but ours and proclaim people they have never seen, much less met, as their "neighbors" while not uttering a word on behalf of a victim in their own community. The people who actually live in the same communities with the Democrat-Socialists are expendable in pursuit of their goals. The end always justifies the means.

Such as Nerdeen Kiswani, who exclaimed, "Finally, NYC is coming to Islam. Dogs definitely have a place in society, just not as indoor pets. Like we've said all along, they are unclean." There's an American value for you. There are a lot of people I wouldn't let through the door of my house, and I'll keep my dog indoors, thank you very much. The Democrat-Socialists respect every religion in the world except Christianity.

The Democrat-Socialists have worn out the bloody rag of racism to the point of where it has become meaningless. Nobody in his or her right mind believes racism is a bigger problem today than ever in America's history. The Democrat-Socialists, when it suits them, tell us "Nobody is above the

law," but they want illegal aliens to be above the law. Law and rules must apply to everyone, and that includes Somalis who have immigrated to the United States.

Even the worthless and shameless New York Times has documented how officials in Minnesota suspected fraud and abuse in the waste and theft of hundreds of millions of tax dollars, but were afraid to do anything for fear of being labeled racists or fearing retaliation from the Democrat-Socialists who were protecting the grifters.

If love should know no bounds, crime has no color. A person of any color, creed, religion, sexuality, or identity can commit a crime, and many do every day. To pretend otherwise is not only unrealistic but also just plain stupid. Yet just about every aspect of the political dogma that passes for the religion of the Democrat-Socialists is both illogical and defies reason.

According to the Government Accounting Office, there may be as much as \$521 BILLION annually wasted on fraud and abuse. It could be far more. The Democrat-Socialists can only holler racism and lie. Working families are having enough trouble supporting themselves without being expected to keep up those who came here to game the system. Those who want to work hard and become Americans should come here legally and they will be made welcome.

## County finance director urges opposition to state regulation of local tax rates

**Cont. from page 1**  
three years. A county government wanting to exceed those limits would be required to put the increase to a popular vote in the next statewide election.

Caldwell explained the proposed legislation would limit all counties to raising taxes to match inflation plus 2% each year. He said such a law would damage the county in several ways.

"If it passes, it breaks our bond covenants," he said, adding that bondholders could demand, "I want to be paid now." Caldwell said it would also damage the county's current AA bond rating.

"I have a lot of concerns. Mayors and commissioners

should not be restricted from doing their jobs," he said.

"Talk to your Senate and House members, it's important," he said.

Of placing a tax increase on a public ballot, Caldwell told the commissioners, "That could tie all of your hands."

The current property tax

in Knox County is \$1.55440 per \$100 of assessed value. The county's increased income is based on climbing appraisal values and new construction.

Caldwell has warned the commission that several large bonds are coming due and forecasted leaner times.



## Remembering Diane Jordan

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

Knoxville and Knox County has lost one of its most successful public servants with the passing of former Knox County Commissioner Diane Jordan. Widely known by friends and fellow politicians as "Lady Di," Jordan was elected to the County Commission four times. Diane Jordan set a new standard for holding public office in the Black community and her immense personal popularity was based upon her responsiveness and willingness to go to bat for any or all her constituents daily. Jordan sought her district's fair share of all the county had to offer and was highly effective in bringing home the bacon for her community. Long after concluding her service on the Commission Jordan was a fixture at public events in the Black community and Knoxville. Always wearing one of her colorful hats, more often than not, a cowboy hat, Jordan was always dressed to the nines as she moved throughout her district and Knoxville.

Never before or since has the Black community in Knoxville had a leader who was so devoted to the people she served. Every telephone call was returned as quickly as possible and every scrap of information was collected

as she personally contacted departments, agencies, and public officials on behalf of those who sought her help.

Whatever the need, whatever the request, Diane Jordan followed it up and did her best as she was a woman of very real and genuine empathy for other people. Jordan lost a brother, Kevin, to violence and it was a pain and a loss she carried with her for the rest of her own life. Diane Jordan understood and empathized with the hurt and sorrow of others in her community. An adroit politician who meant what she said, her colleagues remember Diane Jordan as one who always kept her word in a business all too often full of snakes and unpleasant surprises. Jordan was a woman of intelligence and wit who possessed a wonderful sense of humor and a love for people.

Diane Jordan gave of herself continuously and her community is the better for it. "Lady Di" was well loved by her family, friends and supporters. The Lord God must have needed a fighter and summoned one of the most formidable fighters Knoxville's inner-city has ever had.

The Knoxville Focus family extends our deep sympathy and sorrow to Diane Jordan's family members. We, too, loved "Lady Di."

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**SHIRI** – 4 years old, 58 lbs. Shiri isn't monkeying around! She is serious about finding a forever home. The best way to Shiri's heart is with snacks. She is very sweet with staff and volunteers. Shiri loves playing with toys, likes treats, and loves pet all over. If she isn't entertaining herself with a toy, she can be found cozy and bundled up in a nest of blankets. Once friends with you, she might hop up on your lap for pets. She attends playgroups being described as social in the low energy group with other dog buddies.

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# Is carrying a gun on county property allowed?

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When the Knox County Commission meets this Wednesday, there are 41 items on its agenda, but most of the attention may be given to more resolutions and presentations from District 9 Commissioner Andy Fox. The commission is expected to approve, on first reading, placing the juvenile service center under Juvenile Court Judge Tim Irwin and creating an advisory board to oversee operations. It will also hear reports from Rural Metro and from Mike Hammond, Knox County Criminal

Court Clerk, on the Bridge to Safety Program. Fox is on the agenda three times. He told the commission agenda meeting last week that he is withdrawing his resolution to encourage the sheriff's department to expand its agreement with ICE for the 287(G) Task Force Model. Fox plans to give a "Christian's View of Illegal Immigration" presentation. That subject drew some opposition from some commission members in January and may see some discussion this month as well. Fox's third item is one of the last items on the agenda. The

title is "Recognizing the Right to Self-Defense on Knox County Owned Property." He told the agenda meeting last week that he had visited the East Tennessee History Museum and noticed a sign that prohibits any firearms there. He said the sign is "improperly posted" and only applies to county-owned or leased properties that have a metal detector and armed guard. Fox said the posted policy does not apply to people with enhanced or concealed permits, and the policy should apply to all county buildings. Deputy Law Director Mike Moyers agreed with Fox and cited

state law on the issue. District 2 Commissioner Courtney Durrett asked Fox if he had seen similar postings on other buildings and said maybe the history museum had forgotten to change their 10-year-old sign. Fox said his proposal may include a thirty-day warning to all county and county-leased buildings, followed by fines each day if the signs are not updated. Chairwoman Gina Oster asked Moyers if he would reach out to advise the various properties of the state policy, and the attorney said he would get a list, adding that there are some exceptions to the

law, including libraries. At-large Commissioner Larsen Jay wondered if places like the Karns Sports Park and Senior Citizens centers can prohibit gun carrying. He asked how many facilities there are that the county owns or leases and Engineering

and Public Works Director Jim Snowden replied, "Close to fifty." Added to the agenda from Mayor Glenn Jacobs is an agreement with Knoxville Utilities Board for an easement of utility services for Operation Hero's Hill.

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## Strawberry Plains Pike development passes in split vote

**Cont. from page 1**  
trees. "This is getting muddy," said Commissioner Courtney Durrett, adding that the proposed restrictions for the development were getting too complicated. An amended motion by Durrett that dropped some of the restrictions proposed by Thompson and moderated the restrictions

on the replacement of trees was approved in a 7-4 vote. The matter was resolved with the commission's new electronic voting system, and the total vote was announced by Commission Chairwoman Gina Oster. The vote result, which did not detail how each commissioner voted, was broadcast on the television

coverage of the meeting by Knoxville Community Media and raised some questions about announcing the total but not each commissioner's vote. The commission library confirmed to The Focus that the commissioners voting against the approval were Angela Russell, Adam Thompson, Andy Fox and Kim Frazier.

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# Mardi Growl and other special events get beer permits

By Mike Steely  
 Senior Writer  
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

More and more non-profit groups are requesting beer permits to help support their special events. The recent meeting of the Knoxville City Beer Board saw four groups requesting permits. All of them appeared with completed forms and were approved.

"The file is complete," is welcome news to the beer board, and each of the event sponsors made the statement last week.

The Young-Williams Animal Center's 19th Annual Mardi Growl takes place Saturday, March 7, with a pet parade and events at the World's Fair Park. Director Janet Testerman appeared before the board and gained quick approval. Councilman Denzel Grant said he'd attended in years past and said, "I'm bringing my dog this year."

Dragonfly Aerial and Circus Arts on Dutch Valley Drive was granted a permit for a special event, the Crystal Ball Annual Gala. The studio is celebrating its 15th anniversary with the March 7 benefit..

The East Tennessee Kidney Foundation's Shamrock Fest was also approved for a beer permit and is set for Saturday, March 14, at the World's

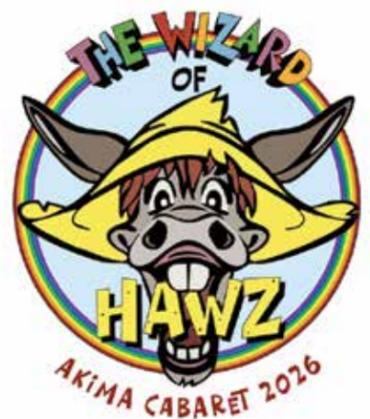
**Continue on page 4**



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUNG WILLIAMS ANIMAL CENTER.

**Calling all pet owners, animal welfare advocates, and people searching for a fun, family-friendly time! Be part of Knoxville's biggest pet parade! The 19th Annual Mardi Growl paw-rade starts in the Old City at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 7, and will go through the streets of Downtown Knoxville to World's Fair Park. Register your pet to participate in the parade, or join the thousands of spectators along the route. The total parade route is approximately 1.2 miles and ends with a festival on the Performance Lawn at World's Fair Park. After the parade, have a dog-gone good time at the pet festival with nearly 100 pet-loving vendors, food trucks, live music, games, and more. Visit [www.young-williams.org/event/2026-mardi-growl/](http://www.young-williams.org/event/2026-mardi-growl/) to register your pet.**

Akima Cabaret 2026 presents



## The Wizard of Hawz

What happens when a couple who hate country music go moonshine tasting in Gatlinburg, only to find themselves transported to the land of Hee Haw with all its colorful characters? Their arrival causes a musical rift, and now all the pop, rock and country artists are singing the wrong genres. Miss Minnie Pearl sends them on a journey to find the Wizard of Hawz to set things right! Who will they encounter along the way? Will country music ever be country again? Will they ever make it home? Find out at Akima Cabaret 2026, The Wizard of Hawz, February 27 and 28 at The Mill & Mine, 227 West Depot Street, Knoxville.

Founded in 1947, Akima is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is in its 79th year. Cabaret is an every-other-year event with all proceeds going to the Akima Grant program, which provides funding to area non-profit agencies. These agencies cover programming for Arts, Culture and Science; Children and Youth; Medical and Social Services; Senior Assistance, and a variety of other fields. Earnings from the 2024 Cabaret went to Akima Grants in 2024 and 2025 and totaled over \$186,000. So grab your partner and get your tickets at [AkimaClub.org](http://AkimaClub.org) and get ready for a night of fun, food and music that will remind you there is no place like down home.

The February 27 and 28 7:00 p.m. evening performances include the show, dinner, dancing, and silent auction. Cost per ticket - \$175.

The February 28 2:00 p.m. matinee performance includes a show and a silent auction. Cost per ticket is \$75.

Go to [AkimaClub.org](http://AkimaClub.org) for more information.

# City grants to non-profits questioned again

By Mike Steely  
 Senior Writer  
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

District 6 Councilman Denzel Grant spoke up again last Tuesday to question a Knoxville City Council resolution regarding \$140,000 in Community Safety and Empowerment funds. Eleven local non-profits were chosen for city dollars and Grant wanted to postpone voting on the proposal until a public hearing could be held. He also wanted to know how much money has been donated since the program was started in 2020 for the African American Equity Restoration Task Force.

Mayor Indya Kincannon told

the council that originally \$100 million had been approved, but that federal funding had stopped.

At-Large Councilwoman Amelia Parker said she has some concerns about the grant awards, which she described as "not fair" and a bad process. She also indicated she would vote for the funding and not on postponing it. At-Large Councilwoman Lynne Fugate agreed.

District 4 Councilman Matthew DeBardelaben said the process needs some conversation, but also opposed postponement.

"I need clarity," Grant said. Tanisha Baker, AAERTF

director, was quizzed by Grant and responded that the next round of grants would be issued in November. Kincannon repeated that the federal funds for the program have been cancelled.

The issuance of the \$140,000 passed when Grant pulled his motion to postpone, with promises of more discussion about the grants to non-profits and the task force.

"Let's get ahead of this for the next cycle," said District 5 Councilman Charles Thomas.

In other business, the council heard from the mayor on the Rail to Trail project, which

replaces 3.8 miles of railroad track stretching from Chapman Highway to Ijams Nature Center with a foot trail.

Parker wants to discuss the city's warming center policy during the council's March 3 meeting, and community activist Vivian Shipe spoke on the issue, asking the city to also look at "cooling centers" and consider the homeless as it looks at the city budget.

The council approved grants of \$23,950 for eight local micro-groups to help in youth violence prevention; contracted with CDM Smith Inc. for

\$419,400 in consulting work for the East Greenway Drive Bridge Replacement Project; and allotted \$50,000 to Goodwill Industries to lease property for the four recycling drop-off centers.

Also approved were grant applications to the state and federal government for equipment for the fire department and funds for the Knoxville Area Transit.

Zoning changes were approved for 222 Patton Street, from industrial mixed-use to general commercial and for five Ninth Avenue properties from RN-4 residential to I-G, general industrial.



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# Work in Progress

My guiltiest pleasure is simple: I like some old-school country music. Before you assume the worst, I'm not talking about songs celebrating drunken binges or bad decisions. I'm



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

talking about the golden era. The story songs. The kind of song that made your mind sit still long enough to reflect on the realities of life their lyrics were telling us about.

I was a teenager in the late '80s and early '90s, which means I had a front-row seat to what I

still believe was country music at its finest. Picture it: a little Mazda B2200 pickup with the windows rolled down, no power steering or air conditioning, and a casebook full of CDs thrown onto the dashboard or in

the floorboard. Those mid-90s country songs from George Strait, John Michael Montgomery and Garth Brooks told stories. They were about working men, faithful love, small towns, heartbreak and redemption. They didn't need flashing lights or auto-tune. They had steel guitars and lyrics

that actually meant something. It was less about the beat and more about the backbone.

I recently heard an old song I remembered almost every lyric to, "Work in Progress," by Alan Jackson. If country music in that era were a front porch, you'd find Alan Jackson sitting on a rocking chair with a sweet tea in one hand and an electric guitar in the other. He didn't need much to get his message across: with just long blonde hair, a cowboy hat, a mustache, and a melody, his catchy songs would hit you right where you lived.

And that is exactly what he did with "Work in Progress," a song that

summed up the human condition in three minutes and a fiddle break. In the song, Jackson wasn't singing about having it all together. He was admitting he didn't. He acknowledged faults, failures, rough edges and the reality that growth takes time.

That message isn't just good songwriting. It's good theology. Every believer in Christ is, quite literally, a work in progress. The doctrine theologians call sanctification describes the ongoing process by which God shapes us into the image of His Son. Justification happens in a moment; sanctification happens over a lifetime. It is the steady, sometimes uncomfortable chiseling of the soul.

God saves us

instantly, but He matures us progressively.

Many walk away from faith because they grow discouraged with their imperfections. They expected the transformation to be immediate. Paul reminds us that the One who began a good work will finish it. It is important to know that the issue is not speed; it is certainty.

Some days progress feels invisible. We still stumble and wrestle with the same habits. Old tempers flare. Old doubts whisper. But sanctification is not measured in isolated failures; it is measured in steady obedience, and daily surrender compounds over time.

An unfinished project is not a failed project; it is proof that the work continues. Awareness of your

weakness is evidence that God is still shaping you. Perfection is not required; participation is.

So don't resist the process. Don't run from conviction. Growth may be slow, humbling, even painful, but it is purposeful.

You are not abandoned in your flaws, nor are you a discarded draft. You are under the construction of a perfect Builder. And He never begins what He does not intend to finish.

So, let Him work. Stay surrendered when conviction comes. Stay teachable when correction stings. Stay patient when the growth feels slow. And remind yourself of the words from the mid-1990s theologian (I mean country singer), "Just be patient, I'm a work in progress."

## Learn a second language

I've listened to several news reports about countries other than the U.S. lately.



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

One thing in particular has caught my attention: so many other country leaders and their citizens speak English. The citizens sometimes make mistakes in word choice or verb tense; however, they speak well enough for others to understand what they

want to convey. Maybe our educational system should begin a concerted effort to make the coming generations proficient in another language.

During my years in high school, students were required to take two years of a foreign language. I had the choice of Spanish, Latin or French. My older brother had taken French, so I decided to do the same. That first year was interesting. As a class, we listened to a recording and repeated words or phrases. Our teacher was patient with our East Tennessee accents as we tried to make our thick tongues produce vocabulary from the "language of love." From that first year, I learned to say, "My name is Joe." I also remembered a few other words, especially the curse words our instructor told us.

The second year, French kicked my bottom. Grammatical structure, reading and writing took center stage. I was lost. Of course, my success might have come with just a little studying, but when I looked at a page of French, I just didn't have a clue. I knew all about English verbs and pronouns and their tenses and cases, but it never occurred to me that what Mrs. Tucker was teaching was the same thing, just in French.

My goal in college was to become a choir director. My advisor told me that since I'd taken two years of French in high school, I would need to take advanced French as part of my course of study. I'd struggled to make Ds in high school and knew that failure awaited me in those college classes. So, I changed my major to English, something I've never regretted.

In the '70s, the world was still a big place.

That's no longer true. We are able to visit places in just a few hours aboard a giant jet that logically shouldn't be able to get off the ground. "Al Gore's" creation of the Internet has brought people from across the world onto our laptop screens. The fact is that we Americans miss out on so much information because we speak only English, and most of us don't do that proficiently.

If we are to remain the greatest country on this planet, we must become bilingual or better. Our goal should be to begin teaching Spanish in elementary school and continue that throughout high school. If schools begin language teaching in the early grades, young minds will easily pick up that second tongue.

No, I'm not advocating that we learn Spanish because of any crisis at the southern border. The fastest-growing segment of our population is Asian Americans, but most of that group speaks English already.

Too many Latin Americans speak little, if any, English. If we are going to continue our success as a major player, learning Spanish is a must. Our hemisphere is filled with Spanish-speaking countries, so the logical conclusion is that we should learn their language to communicate more effectively. If students begin at an early age, they will pick up a second language as easily as they do English.

My proposal for the American generation to become at least bilingual has nothing to do with politics. In fact, I would further propose that Spanish-speaking individuals who want to become American citizens should be tested in the fifth year that they come to the U.S. to make sure that they are proficient in English, and I would tie this demand to their citizenship acquisition.

Learning another language offers our children greater opportunities as they become members of the workforce. Others learning the English language are more likely to include American culture in their worlds. The whole thing is a win-win situation. We must refuse to let prejudice and fear keep our children and future generations falling behind other countries that realize the importance of speaking to others in their native languages. It's as simple as that.

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# The Gentleman From West Virginia

## Dr. Henry D. Hatfield

### Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill

rayhill865@gmail.com

Just about everyone is familiar with the infamous feud between the Hatfields and the McCoys, which may have cost the lives of as many as 100 men and women. Henry Drury Hatfield was a nephew of William A. "Devil Anse" Hatfield. The future governor and U.S. senator hated talk of the legendary feud. "He would actually, physically, throw you out of that hospital if you'd ask him about that feud," the governor's great-nephew recalled.

Henry Hatfield's entire life was one of service. Hatfield was a doctor, and no matter what office he received from the people of West Virginia, it was never as important to him as his occupation. For Henry D. Hatfield, politics and government were his avocation rather than his vocation.

Young Henry was something of a prodigy, having graduated from Franklin College at the remarkably young age of 14. By the time he was 18, he had earned his degree in medicine. Hatfield continued his studies at the University of New York, New York Post Graduate School & Hospital, the New York Polyclinic School & Hospital, and Cornell Medical College. Returning to his home in West Virginia, Henry D. Hatfield became the Mingo County Commissioner of Health at age 20. Dr. Hatfield also began a practice as a surgeon for the Norfolk and Western Railroad. It was not long before the young physician became politically active, not by running for office, but rather by pushing for reforms. Dr. Hatfield lobbied the state legislature intensely to create three new state hospitals. Successful, Hatfield became the chief surgeon of the first state hospital.

As a young doctor, Henry Hatfield traveled to the backwoods and hollows of West Virginia by horseback, where he visited patients, sometimes performing surgeries on kitchen tables and "sterilizing his surgical instruments in kettles bubbling over log fires." At the time of his death, one newspaper noted it was not unusual for Hatfield to visit the nearest country store to buy groceries for the families he treated. Many of the reforms he sought as governor came from his own experience as a young physician, where he had ridden over the rough trails visiting cabins tucked away in the hills and hollows of West Virginia.

Henry D. Hatfield was as talented a doctor as he was busy, completing 18,000 operations in 14 years. Hatfield evidently had a special knack for setting bones. Most of his patients were "feudists, miners and

railroad men." Dr. Hatfield won a national reputation as a bone specialist.

In 1904, Hatfield ran for a seat in West Virginia's State Senate and won. It was the beginning of his own electoral career and was something of an accident. Hatfield had become the GOP nominee only after the candidate who had originally been nominated withdrew. Dr. Hatfield was substituted and won the election and was reelected to the West Virginia state Senate. Eventually, Hatfield served as the president of the state Senate.

As with most everything in his life, great success came early to Henry Drury Hatfield. In 1912, Hatfield was the GOP nominee for governor and won a narrow victory over Democrat W.

R. Thompson by just over 8,000 votes. At the time, Dr. Hatfield was the youngest man to occupy the governor's office in the Mountain State. Many of the reforms proposed by Governor Hatfield, not surprisingly, concerned the health and welfare of West Virginians. The governor demanded and got a state health code, created a medical department for the University of West Virginia, reorganized the state insane asylums, and passed a workers' compensation law that became a model for other states to emulate. The workers' compensation act passed during his administration as governor had been based upon a similar law in Germany. At the time, it was considered quite a progressive law.

Henry D. Hatfield was fearless in taking a position and was never one to compromise a principle or conviction. Hatfield was a stickler for party discipline and was devout in his belief in rewarding the party faithful. As his term as governor came to a close, America was entering the First World War, and Henry D. Hatfield left one field of service for another, serving as a major in the Medical Corps.

In 1928, several Republicans wanted their party's nomination to face U.S. Senator Matthew M. Neely, who had won the seat in an upset six years earlier. Neely had served in the U.S. House of Representatives and was an old-fashioned orator who could quote with equal ease from the Bible or the classics.

Hatfield faced incumbent Governor Howard M. Gore and former Congressman Benjamin Rosenbloom in the Republican primary. It was a measure of Hatfield's personal popularity that he won 55% of the votes cast. The campaign against Senator Neely in the fall was hard-fought and bitter.



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

U.S. Senator Henry Drury Hatfield of West Virginia.

The former governor's campaign was financed by businessmen, railroads and the mine owners. Neely had strong support from mine workers and organized labor. As an orator, Hatfield was no match for Neely on the stump. Hatfield spoke in a "sing-song voice," and while earnest, he read his speeches while Senator Neely memorized his, giving them the appearance of being extemporaneous.

As Herbert Hoover was polling more than 58% of the votes in West Virginia, former Governor Henry D. Hatfield only narrowly nudged Senator Matthew Neely out of office, winning by 9,646 votes or 50.68%.

Henry D. Hatfield looked like both a country doctor and a senator from West Virginia. Bespectacled, serious, always arrayed in dark, conservative suits, Hatfield was tall and broad and walked with his head slightly bowed, as if always in a state of deep contemplation. Hatfield also always carried a Bible in his hip pocket.

While Congress was in session, Senator Hatfield lived in the Hotel Continental at 420 North Capitol Street, a modest and unpretentious hostelry. Married with a daughter, Senator Hatfield was described by TIME magazine as "socially inactive." Quite nearly every weekend, Hatfield left Washington, D.C., to return to his home in Huntington, West Virginia. Usually, Dr. Hatfield spent those weekends performing surgeries free of charge for poor patients. Hatfield derived a nice income from an interest in two hospitals in his home state.

When in Washington, Senator Hatfield was prominent amongst those senators sought out by President Hoover. Hatfield often visited Hoover's summer retreat from Washington's heat and humidity along the Rapidan, which eventually became Camp David.

During his time in the United States Senate, Henry D. Hatfield became a stalwart member of the old guard of his party. Senator Hatfield loyally backed President Herbert Hoover during the first four years of his time in the Senate. Hoover lost to the Democratic nominee for president in a landslide in 1932, largely due to his inability to grapple with the appearance of being extemporaneous. A man of great energy, after Hoover's defeat, Senator Hatfield became a caustic critic of the New Deal and the burgeoning bureaucracy. Ever the individualist, Dr. Henry Hatfield was horrified by Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal. One reporter recalled the senator "neither forgot nor forgave those who embraced" the New Deal.

Matthew M. Neely was very hard to kill politically. Out of office, Neely set his sights on West Virginia's other seat in the United States Senate. Incumbent Guy Goff was in failing health and declined to run again, and Neely came roaring back, winning by the greatest majority that any candidate received for the U.S. Senate in West Virginia's history. Henry Hatfield had the uncomfortable experience of having his former opponent as his Senate colleague for the next four years.

Senator Neely was as enthusiastic a supporter of FDR and the New Deal as Henry Hatfield was an opponent. Neely consolidated his power in West Virginia and headed the politically potent "federal faction" of his state's Democratic Party. Neely backed 29-year-old state legislator Rush Dew Holt for the U.S. Senate to challenge Henry Hatfield, who was seeking a second term.

Holt enjoyed the powerful backing of not only Senator Neely and his federal faction, but also that of the politically potent United Mine Workers'

union. Senator Hatfield did not shy away from the contest, making a determined stand on behalf of both the Republican Party and his dislike for the New Deal. Senator Hatfield toured West Virginia, speaking to audiences in cities and hamlets. Hatfield excoriated Van Bittner of the United Mine Workers of America in a letter addressed to the labor leader, accusing Bittner of having "shown ingratitude, insincerity and political incency." Hatfield was replying to a letter sent by Bitter, and the senator flatly stated, "Your intense desire to control the election of a senator who could be subservient to your wishes precludes you from being fair."

Hatfield continued to flay the New Deal in his speeches to the voters of West Virginia. Senator Hatfield roared that "the stubborn refusal of the New Deal technicians to give assurances asked by business, finance and labor can only serve to prolong the present period of unemployment, destitution and undernourishment of millions of citizens."

Senator Hatfield did not hesitate to criticize the most popular member of President Roosevelt's Cabinet, Cordell Hull of Tennessee. Hatfield declaimed Hull "supported by the arbitrary powers that he possesses under the new tariff law, constitutes an amazing chapter of political duplicity and are a distinct menace, not only to recovery from the depression, but to the long range policy of the whole nation."

Senator Hatfield campaigned as a statesman while attempting to portray Rush Holt as an inexperienced, immature and callow youth who had accomplished very little. Unfortunately, the suffering all across the United States inflicted by the harshness of the Great Depression was acutely felt by many millions of people

and the suffering in West Virginia was especially terrible. The majority of voters didn't care if Rush Holt was young; they wanted someone to back Franklin Roosevelt and help to end their misery. Holt beat Senator Hatfield by more than 68,000 votes, winning with 55% of the ballots cast.

Holt had to wait six months to be sworn into the U.S. Senate, as he did not reach the constitutionally required age of 30 before that time. Senator Holt would have a spectacular falling out with his mentor, Matt Neely, and would become one of the most outspoken noninterventionists in the Senate.

Henry D. Hatfield had run his reelection campaign on his beliefs and record and recognized the tide of the times had been against him. Hatfield had pitched his campaign on "sane government," a plea that had been rejected by the majority of the people he represented.

Hatfield would never be tempted again to seek public office.

There was most certainly life after the Senate for Henry Drury Hatfield. The former senator returned to his home in Huntington and resumed the practice of medicine. The former governor and senator remained a prominent figure in both his own political party and state. So, too, was Dr. Hatfield sought out by patients; he continued to attend well past his own 80th birthday. H. D. Hatfield kept regular office hours as an octogenarian, long past the time when most men had already retired.

Hatfield had been the head of the corporation that ran Huntington's Memorial Hospital for nearly half a century. A facility with 140 beds, the hospital had been closed in 1958 after the federal government filed liens of almost \$350,000 against the corporation. Evidently, the company running the hospital owed corporation and Social Security taxes for almost a decade, a period when Henry Hatfield was ill and thought to be near death. The former governor recovered, but the corporation apparently did not. The furnishings, equipment and everything else were auctioned off, but brought only a small sum.

After a long and very productive life, Henry Hatfield died in his own home, aged 87, on October 23, 1962. The former governor left an estate of some \$3.6 million, which today would be the equivalent of almost \$38 million.

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# East Tennessee REALTORS member Cohl Morgan earns 2026 Good Neighbor award

Cohl Morgan has earned the Good Neighbor Award from Tennessee REALTORS®, which recognizes Realtors who make a meaningful difference in the community, for his efforts to assist cancer patients.

Morgan, a member of East Tennessee REALTORS® (ETNR) and commercial real estate broker at SVN | Wood Properties, is also the founder of the Vols Beat Cancer Scholarship Endowment Fund. After his diagnosis of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Morgan discovered that University of Tennessee students battling cancer often faced significant financial hardship, including tuition and medical expenses, with little to no university funding available to assist them.

Determined to make a difference, he worked closely with UT leadership to establish the endowment. The scholarship provides financial assistance to any active UT student who has been diagnosed with cancer.

"I'm incredibly appreciative of Tennessee REALTORS® for this recognition," Morgan said. "This award reflects the support I received during my own battle with cancer and my ability to now give that same support to students. I'm proud to help make a difference in their lives."

# Mardi Growl and other special events

**Cont. from page 1**

Fair Performance Lawn. It features Irish food, dancing, a Lucky Beer Garden, and Pot O' Gold Playground to benefit the foundation.

The Oasis Thaw Out Music Festival was also approved for a May 1 event at the World's Fair Park, with live music, food trucks and local vendors.

Also approved was Trees Knoxville's Tree Fest planned for April 24

at Baker Creek Preserve, with activities, music, food and tree giveaways.

The board heard a report on non-compliant beer servers who had not attended a server class, estimated to be about 34 percent of the license holders as of last month. Certified letters were sent to those violators and virtually all are not in compliance. Eight violators that were on the February agenda were dropped from the agenda.

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# classifieds

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Director of Marketing sought by FOXO Technologies, Inc. in Farragut, TN. Oversee mktg, internal & external communications, media & PR, & crisis communication mgmt at FOXO Technologies, Inc. & subsidiaries for critical access hospitals & healthcare providers. Partner w/executive team on crafting & implmtg communication strategies. Dvlp & implmt comprehensive mktg strategy that aligns w/ various business lines & growth targets. Lead & direct mktg team, fostering culture of innovation, collaboration, & high performance, for team to translate clinical or scientific concepts into compelling mktg messages, & to utilize content mgmt & mktg automation tools. Oversee team's creation of high-quality content that highlights co's expertise & capabilities. Oversee team's production of mktg materials, advtg, & organizing events. Collaborate w/Sr leadership to define mktg goals, priorities & budgets. Plan & execute industry trade shows, conferences & n/working events. Manage & optimize mktg budget. Stay current w/industry trends & advancements in critical access designated hospitals (CAH), behavioral health & biotechnology. Occasional travel to secondary work location in Oneida, TN & to co. HQ in W. Palm Beach, FL. Reqs master's deg in Mktg. Reqs 2 yrs exp in a Mktg Manager role involving strategic & clinical mktg for critical access hospital, behavioral health, biotechnology, or related field. Must have 2 yrs' exp translating clinical or scientific concepts into compelling mktg messages & utilizing content mgmt & mktg automation tools. Send resume to Karen Taylor at ktaylor@foxotechnologies.com.

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HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL  
TOURNAMENT TIME

## Central gets first shot at district title in 26 years

By Steve Williams

The fourth quarter sounded like something special and it was.

With 3:18 remaining on the clock, the Central Lady Bobcats outscored Campbell County 11-0 for a 62-51 victory in the District 3-4A semifinals Thursday at Halls High to advance to their first district finals since the 1999-2000 season according to their coach Lebrandon Marie.

"This win is extremely special," said Marie after the hooping and hollering by his team and fans. "It's been a long time since Central has been to a championship game of a district tournament, and so we're doing something special. You know 26 years, we're here now. I'm extremely proud of these young ladies.

They've worked really hard all year."

The atmosphere felt like a state championship.

"But that's what we need to be doing," added Coach Marie. "Every game at this point in time is big. Campbell County is really good in the way they play. Coach Kitts does a great job and so for us to have this you have to understand where we've come from. So everything is big right now for us."

The Central coach also said it was the Lady Bobcats' third winning season since 2000 and his fourth year at CHS.

"This is special for us and a long time in the making," said Marie. "I've got two seniors (Avery Brewer and Ayauna Ramsey) that have worked extremely hard for four years and they

**Cont. on page 2**



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Farragut High baseball seniors watch Kaiden play a video game on their visit to the East Tennessee Children's Hospital on Feb. 16.

## Admiral players and kids 'hit' it off swell at ETCH

By Steve Williams

Nine seniors on Farragut High School's baseball team made a community service visit to East Tennessee Children's Hospital the morning of Feb. 16 and it brightened the day for several kids on hand.

The players came away with a good feeling too.

Dr. Safina Kureshi, the Director of Pediatric Pulmonology at ETCH, set up the visit for the Farragut team, which includes her son and centerfielder Zain Kureshi-Smith. Dr. Kureshi's husband, Dr. Joe Scott, also helped with the event. He is an Emergency Medicine Physician at different hospitals.

The Admirals, one of the state's top baseball programs if not the best, arrived at the hospital at 10 a.m. and visited with the kids and staff for about an hour and a half.

In addition to Zain, other members of the team included Jake Harris, Aidan Flagg, Neyland Williams, Will

**Continue on page 4**

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

## Lady Wolves culminate perfect season with second state title

By Ken Lay

For the second consecutive year, the West Valley Middle School girls basketball team has won a Class AAA State Championship.

With their victory in the state title game, a 38-24 victory over Mt. Juliet on Saturday, Feb. 14, at Rockvale High School, the Lady Wolves culminated a perfect season. They finished the 2025-26 campaign with a 33-0 record.

And this year was only part of an epic three-year run for West Valley's eighth graders, who won back-to-back state championships and never lost a game to a Knox County opponent. The eighth-grade class went 87-6 during its time at the



West Valley Middle School's girls basketball team celebrates its second consecutive state championship. The Lady Wolves went 33-0 in 2025-26 and defeated Mt. Juliet, 38-24, at Rockvale High School on Saturday, Feb. 14. Photo submitted.

school.

In the state title tilt, Emery Cooper, a three-year starter for the Lady

Wolves, scored 11 points. Janiya Turner added 10, while Reese Underwood and Reese Davis finished

with seven points each.

West Valley coach Josh Ballard has enjoyed this incredible ride with this

team, but doesn't want to take the credit for West Valley's success.

"I've been blessed and I

am extremely blessed to be at a great place and coach these girls," Ballard said. "I have great girls and great parents, and I'm nothing special.

"I'm just a normal guy, and I love Jesus, and I love these kids."

Ballard noted that the Mt. Juliet win seemed a bit anticlimactic as the Lady Wolves' most challenging test came in a semifinal game against Upperman on Friday, Feb. 13, at Stewart Creek High School.

"This year was a re-classification year, and Upperman moved up to (Class) AAA with us," Ballard said. "They were in (Class) AA and were one of

**Continue on page 2**

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HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TIME

# Powell 'handles business' in 62-37 win over Karns

By Steve Williams

Powell had a slow start against Karns in their semi-final game in District 3-4A, but pulled away for a 62-37 win Thursday at Halls.

"Anytime you can win this time of the year, you don't care how you do it, as long as you do it," said Powell Coach John Fisher.

"It's important for a home region game. Defense for the most part was pretty good. Offensively, we hit some shots. That was huge. We just handled business."

After leading only by one point (11-10), the Lady Panthers outscored Karns 20-8 for a 31-18 lead at halftime. They stretched the difference to 50-24 after three stops.

Powell spread its scoring pretty evenly, with Anna White leading with 12 points, followed by Ivy Wiles (11) and Payton Richmond Watson (10). Claire Campbell chipped in nine points, while Daisy Gentry and Kaysta Madison added six each.

Karns got a 22-point performance from Kiki Clay

**"Anytime you can win this time of the year, you don't care how you do it, as long as you do it. It's important for a home region game."**

-Powell Coach John Fisher

and Mia Miller tallied eight.

Fisher is in his 19th year overall as a head coach. He was at Fulton for 10 years and is now in his ninth season at Powell.

The Lady Panthers, 18-9

and the top seed in the district, will go against No. 3 seed Central tonight (Feb. 23) at 7:30 in the title game at Halls. Karns (3-23) plays Campbell County (13-10) in the consolation game at 6.

# Central gets first shot at district title in 26 years

Cont. from page 1

deserve these moments."

Malia Moore, a sophomore, also "has really turned it on this year," pointed out the Central coach. "She's averaging close to 19 points a game and about 10 rebounds. Freshman Sasha Foster probably played her best game all year. She had to have double-digit rebounds at least and junior Teighley Fowler is the unsung hero of our team. She's the glue who holds us together. We've got a lot of good girls."

Moore had a game-high 23 points against Campbell County. Brewer totaled 19, including 17 in the second half and 10 in the final period. Foster contributed 11 points and Fowler seven.

Campbell County was led by Preslee Chapman with 17 points.

Central shot extremely well at the foul line, sinking 24 of 28 for 85.7 percent. Individually, Brewer hit 12 of 14 and Moore and Foster each made 5 of 6.



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Central Coach Lebrandon Marie talks to his team during the fourth period of its win over Campbell County. At far right is senior Avery Brewer (2), who scored 10 of her 19 points in the final quarter as the Lady Bobcats pulled away for their 62-51 victory.

In the deciding 3:06, Brewer scored eight of Central's 11 points, including two points on a technical foul assessed to the Campbell County coach with 1:20 remaining.

Coach Marie was asked if he had to put his finger on the key to the win, what would it be? "Defense," he said. "Defense wins championships."

Central (18-11) and

Powell (18-9) will square off at Halls in the district championship game at 7:30 tonight (Feb. 23), following Campbell County versus Karns in the consolation game at 6.

# Helton and Walker to have statues at Coors Field

By Steve Williams

The Colorado Rockies will be unveiling statues honoring Todd Helton and Larry Walker at Coors Field during the 2026 season, the team announced in January at Rockies Fest. The team said the statue for Walker will be unveiled on Sunday, Aug.

23, while Helton's statue will be unveiled Saturday, Sept. 19.



## Former Irish star plays big part in Georgia win

The Georgia Bulldogs took down the Kentucky Wildcats, 86-78, inside Rupp Arena for the first time since 2009 to move to 18-8 (6-7) on the season. Junior guard Blue Cain led the Bulldogs with 20 points and five rebounds in the win.

## TWC falls short in lacrosse match

Tennessee Wesleyan's lacrosse team lost 15-11 in their comeback attempt against No. 2 nationally ranked (NAIA) University of the Cumberland's recently at the TWC Sports Complex.

Knoxville area players contributed to the comeback attempt. Freshman attackman Reece Ringer (Knoxville West) had 3 goals, 2 ground balls and 3 caused turnovers. Junior defenseman Torin Piper (CAK) had 1 assist, 2 ground balls and 1 caused

turnover and freshman long stick midfielder Maddox Mazingo (CAK) had 4 ground balls and 1 caused turnover.

## Concord Christian swimmer excels

Concord Christian School's Landon Hall achieved notable success in the 100-yard breaststroke in the TISCA Swim Championships earlier this month and was timed in 52.8 seconds at the Centennial Sportsplex at Nashville.

## Knox and Jackson promoting Girl Scouts Tuesday

Knoxville Smokies father and son mascots Knox and Jackson (pictured right) invite the community to join them at a Girl Scouts cookie booth to support the Wesley House Community Troop on Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 4-5 p.m. at Wesley House Community Center located at 1719 Reynolds

# Lady Spartans stifle Catholic in region title game

By Ken Lay

Webb School of Knoxville's girls basketball got a little defensive on its way to a Division II-AA East Region Championship late last week.

The Lady Spartans routed Cedar Bluff Area rival Knoxville Catholic, 53-24, holding the Lady Irish to a season-low in points scored Friday night before a packed and spirited house at Webb's Lee Athletic Center.

"I've got a really good group of girls, and I'm just so proud of them for the way they defended," Lady Spartans' coach Greg Hernandez said.

Webb's stiff defense came after its coach issued his squad a challenge earlier in the day. He wanted to see the Lady Spartans stifle Catholic's offensive attack.

And they did.

"I challenged them today, (saying) 'Hey, I don't want to give up more than 40 (points),' and they held them (to 24)," Hernandez said. "If we can get 50, I like our chances, as long as we get to 50 first."

That didn't seem to be a problem as Webb racked up 41 points by the end of the third quarter.

The game was tight early as the Lady Spartans (24-6) were clinging to an 11-8 at the end of the opening frame. Webb would look anemic on offense at times, but the defense paved the way for

an easy victory.

"Offensively, it wasn't all that pretty, but we did enough to win," Hernandez said.

On the defensive end, the Lady Spartans sparred as they surrendered just four points in the second stanza on their way to opening a 24-12 advantage by halftime, and that was only a shadow of things to come as Webb's separation ballooned to 41-17 heading into the fourth quarter.

By claiming the region championship, Webb will have a first-round bye in the first round of the state tournament, which opens Tuesday night.

The Lady Spartans will be at home for a state quarterfinal tilt on Friday.

Offensively, Meeyah Green scored 13 points for the Lady Spartans, who are the defending state champions and are currently ranked second in the state.

Hernandez commended Green, a Clemson signee, for her leadership.

"Meeyah's leadership is just tremendous," he said.

Kyndall Mays chipped in with 11 points for the Lady Spartans, and Mary Mac Emery, a junior, had nine in the contest.

Catholic (14-15) will also have a first-round bye in the state tournament.

The Lady Irish got nine points from Emery Haws, a freshman point guard in the region title game.

# Lady Wolves culminate perfect season with second state title

Cont. from page 1

to team camps, and we played against high school JV teams.

"Even though that game was in the semifinals, they were probably the second best team."

In the semifinals, Cooper scored 12 points, Turner had 11. Underwood chipped in with eight points, and Jaide Patel finished with six.

Ballard commended his squad's work ethic during the season and in preparation for the season that began last summer.

"These kids worked hard. They all worked hard on their own, individually, and we practiced hard as a team," Ballard said. "In the summer, we went

to team camps, and we played against high school JV teams.

"Playing that schedule and playing Maryville in the sectional really prepared us for this."

West Valley is the first team to repeat as state champion.

"It was really nice that we kept the (Class) AAA (state championship) trophy on the east side of the state for another year," Ballard said. "These kids worked hard, and they could've sat back and not worked as hard."

"But they came back, and they worked harder, and I think that's what makes this team the best ever from Knox County."



St., in Knoxville.

The mascot duo is among nine local community leaders representing signature Girl Scout cookies to raise money for Girl Scouts of Southern Appalachians.

Proceeds provide financial assistance for the Girl Scout experience, including local programming, uniforms, summer camp scholarships and community troops.

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# A Road Warrior Par Excellence

Tennessee and Notre Dame squared off at Notre Dame Stadium in South Bend, Ind., on Nov. 3, 2001, as a crowd of 80,795 watched

on a picture perfect November day. It was one of those afternoons the South Bend Chamber of Commerce would like to have at the ready whenever Chambers of Commerce show off their city.

This has always been one great venue. The Sporting News had ranked Notre Dame Stadium No. 2 in the country, behind only UT's Neyland Stadium. It was the 160th consecutive sell-out and 208th in the past 209 games.

This was the type of game that makes you old before your time. Tennessee and Notre Dame had knocked heads for 59 minutes and 16 seconds, with Tennessee leading and having the ball on the 1-yard line going in. It was 21-18 and Notre Dame still had a breath of life – a short breath, but a breath nonetheless.

Tennessee called time out, and the brain trust on the east sideline had to come up with a play that would cinch the game with an orange and white ribbon. Or, kick a field goal and hope that some kind of lightning didn't strike on



TENNESSEE SPORTS INFORMATION.

Casey Clausen lets it fly with positive results for Tennessee.

the ensuing kickoff. Casey Clausen, who completed 17 of 29 passes for 228 yards and one score, told the coaches he wanted the ball and Phillip Fulmer et al., said O.K.

Clausen came to the line at the North end, the end in front of "Touchdown Jesus," and sent tight end Jason Witten in motion to the left. Casey then rolled right and found the end zone for the score that clinched the game at 28-18.

Tennessee spent most of the first half trying to recover from poor field position and an early turnover that cost the Vols a 29-yard gain to the Irish 33. The Vols also started at their 1 late

in the first quarter. But the Vols somehow led 7-3 at the half thanks to the ever-vigilant Julian Battle causing two fumbles and, lo and behold, finding the pigskin on the second to establish a 7-0 lead.

The Vols then forced a Notre Dame field goal when it looked as if a TD might have been in the offing.

The Vols had a 19:55-10:05 deficit in time of possession and you had to wonder when the time deficit might bite them. But when you consider the good guys were behind 31-14 at the half 10 years before, the situation actually looked pretty good.

Things worsened in the

third quarter as Clausen's pass to Bobby Graham on third-and-6 at the 24 was intercepted and run in for an Irish touchdown. It was 10-7, Fighting Irish, with 13:23 left.

It was 21-10 with the gloaming of an Indiana evening enveloping the historic arena. Notre Dame pulled to within 21-18 after a monster drive and two-point conversion that saw the Irish make big play after big play. That awakened the crowd again.

A possession later, Eddie Moore took away 9 with a blitz from the near corner and Dominique Stevenson made the key play by grabbing an oskie that was

tipped at least twice by his teammates (once by John Henderson and again by Albert Haynesworth), and returning it to the 17.

That led to the Vols putting the game away.

The Vols went for it all on the first play, with Clausen barely missing connections with Washington, known to some as "The Future," down the far side. Stephens ran for no gain and, with a Notre Dame timeout, it was third-and-10 at the 25.

Tradition dictated that somehow Notre Dame would stop the Vols and march relentlessly to the winning score. That didn't happen.

The Vols had some

tradition of their own to rely on. Clausen found Eric Parker on the far side for 20, and the Vols had it first-and-goal at the 5.

The end zone was so near, yet so far away. Clausen came to the line and scored at right end.

That day, Tennessee made the requisite plays and left with its second victory in three tries at the "House That Rockne Built," fourth in six tries overall against the Fighting Irish to that time.

It was a tough, but rewarding victory. The Vols always seemed to have enough in their tank to win, but it was never easy. No one expected it to be so, and it wasn't.

In his career, Clausen, a true "road warrior," led the Vols to victories at Arkansas, Alabama (twice), Notre Dame, Kentucky (twice), and Florida (twice), not to mention a neutral site pasting of Michigan in the Citrus Bowl on Jan. 1, 2002, by 45-17.

Today, the overall series is now deadlocked at 4-4, with each team winning twice at home and twice on the road. The word "classic" is often overused, but there were a bunch of memorable moments emanating from this series, and fans on each side can't wait for the next series of games, regardless of the location.



PHOTO BY MYAH WILSON

Powell's Dalvin Farmer takes a shot at the free throw line Friday in the District 3-4A basketball tournament. West won the game and both teams are still alive in the tournament, which continues tonight at Halls High School with girls' action. Boys resume play on Tuesday night.

## HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TIME

# Webb overcomes slow start, topples Irish in region championship

By Ken Lay

Webb School of Knoxville's boys basketball team ran past rival Knoxville Catholic to claim the Division II-AA East Region Championship.

The Spartans dismantled the Irish, 86-52, Friday night before a near-capacity crowd at Webb's Lee Athletic Center.

But things didn't look like a runaway victory for the home team early. In fact, the Irish darted out to an early 10-2 lead and held a narrow 16-12 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

But Catholic's joy was short-lived.

Once the Spartans' offense began to click on all cylinders, Webb played one of its best games of the season. The defense was also stiff for the Spartans and together, those were the two ingredients for a winning recipe.

Webb boasted a balanced attack as five Spartans posted double figures in the scoring column.

Owen Lentz, an Alabama-Huntsville signee, led the way with 27 points, knocking down five 3-pointers on eight attempts from beyond the arc.

"He's just an incredible shooter," Webb coach Ricky Norris said of Lentz. "You can be a good shooter, but to make shots in big games, I think is different. Owen has that game."

"The moment is never too big for him and I can't have any more trust in a player shooting the ball than Owen Lentz."

Lentz provided the biggest offensive spark but he also got plenty of help from his supporting cast as Huston Torres scored 19 points off the bench. Cam Swearngen had 13 points, while Brayden Hazelbaker added 12 and Alex Leeth dropped 11 points coming off the bench.

"I think tonight shows you how we can play," Norris said after the Spartans improved to 30-2 on the season.

Friday, Webb put up a master performance and they obviously had plenty to celebrate. The Spartans, however are still looking to improve, which could strike fear in its potential opponents.

The Spartans won't play again until the host a state quarterfinal on Saturday but Norris said his troops will be ready.

"You worry about a little rust because you don't play for a week," Norris said. "But this team has kind of a walk-on mentality. By that, I mean we'll celebrate this weekend and on Monday this group will come back and I won't have to get them ready to practice."

"We'll have a great practice on Monday. We'll have the best practice we've had all year, and that's just their mentality."

The Irish (22-6) won't have as long to prepare for their next game. Catholic will play a first-round state tournament game at home Wednesday night.

Catholic began preparations for the state tournament on

Saturday.

"We're going to go down and scout on Saturday and we'll come back and get ready to play at home on Wednesday," Catholic coach Travis Mains said. "Hopefully we'll get another shot at (Webb)."

"If we do, it'll be in the state championship game but we're going to go out and give it all we have at home on Wednesday."

Webb has beaten the Irish three times this season and Catholic had early leads in both games on the road.

"We had a 10-2 lead to start the game but we went away from our game plan," Mains said. "We came in and we wanted to get the thing inside, but we went away from that and we started settling."

"Webb is a tough team and we're tough too, but tonight, they were tougher than us and that showed its head."

Travis Martin had 15 points to lead Catholic, while Malachi Brown and Jovis Erwan had 13 apiece. Webb clamped down on Cade Murphy, who had just eight points.

"They really did a good job on Cade," Mains said.

### Focus Area District Basketball Tournament Results

<p><b>District 3-3A</b> at Seymour High School <i>First Round</i></p> <p>Austin-East 65, Carter 28 (Girls) Carter 57, Northview Academy 48 (Boys) Seymour 46, Fulton 41 (Girls) Seymour 68, Cocke County 54 (Boys)</p> <p><i>Semifinals</i> <i>(results not available at press time)</i> Cocke County vs. Seymour (Girls) Fulton vs. Carter (Boys) Northview Academy vs. Austin-East (Girls) Austin-East vs. Seymour (Boys)</p> <p><b>Monday, February 23</b> 6 p.m. Girls Consolation 7:30 p.m. Girls Championship</p> <p><b>Tuesday, February 24</b> 6 p.m. Boys Consolation 7:30 p.m. Boys Championship</p>	<p><b>District 3-4A</b> at Halls High School <i>Semifinals</i></p> <p>Central 62, Campbell County 51 (Girls) Powell 62, Karns 37 (Girls) West 74, Powell 52 (Boys) Central 70, Halls 54 (Boys)</p> <p><b>Monday, February 23</b> 6 p.m. Karns vs. Campbell County (Girls Consolation) 7:30 Powell vs. Central (Girls Championship)</p> <p><b>Tuesday, February 24</b> 6 p.m. Powell vs. Halls (Boys Consolation) 7:30 Central vs. West (Boys Championship)</p>
<p><b>District 4-3A</b> at Anderson Co. High School <i>Semifinals</i></p> <p>Clinton 62, Gibbs 40 (Boys)</p> <p><b>Tuesday, February 24</b> 6 p.m. Anderson County vs. Gibbs (Boys Consolation)</p>	<p><b>District 4-4A</b> at McMinn Co. High School <i>Semifinals</i></p> <p>Bearden 76, Oak Ridge 47 Farragut 47, Lenoir City 43 Friday Boys Semifinals Bearden 83, Hardin Valley Academy 38 Farragut 65, Oak Ridge 62</p> <p><b>Monday, February 23</b> 7:30 p.m. Bearden vs. Farragut (Girls Championship)</p> <p><b>Tuesday, February 24</b> 6 p.m. Oak Ridge vs. Hardin Valley Academy (Boys Consolation) 7:30 Bearden vs. Farragut (Boys Championship)</p>
<p><b>District 5-3A</b> at Heritage High School <i>Semifinals</i></p> <p>Heritage 48, South-Doyle 34 (Girls)</p> <p><b>Monday, February 23</b> 6 p.m. Loudon vs. S-D (Girls Consolation)</p>	

# Penn State Connections for Vols

By Mark Nagi

The Tennessee Volunteers have gone through a lot of changes this offseason, and nowhere is that more evident than on the defensive side of the football.

Jim Knowles takes over for Tim Banks as defensive coordinator. This marks a significant change for head coach Josh Heupel, as his dismissal of Banks was the first time in his tenure at Tennessee that he fired an assistant coach.

Over the last six seasons, Knowles's defenses have been ranked in the top 15 nationally four times. The reason for that success isn't very complicated.

"Good players, number one. It's always the players," said Knowles. "But two, it's having answers. That is the most critical thing: having answers. Because you're always going to get into situations in a game where you have to have an answer for how they're hurting you and how they're attacking you, or where you're going to go week-to-week in college football or how offenses change. That's my job. I think that's why it has worked, why our stop rate has been so good, is because we're going to have answers. We're going to have answers to anything an offense can do to us."

Familiarity has proven to be very important for

coaching staffs, and Knowles made sure to bring some familiar faces with him to Knoxville. Most recently, Knowles was in charge at Penn State. Two coaches on the Nittany Lions defense under Knowles in 2025 made the trek south in co-defensive coordinator and secondary coach Anthony Poindexter and LEOs coach Andrew Jackson.

"We can go faster than other situations that I've been in, because of the fact that we have a lot of coaches who have worked with me before," said Knowles. "That's a huge advantage. Definitely faster than other places."

"I know you guys see him between the lines, he looks like he's just a crusty old man, but he actually has a big personality," said Jackson. "He's one of the funniest people I've been around. Good person, good human being. He loves what he does, loves teaching. He's just a perfect leader of men. He helped me through a turmoil I was going through when my mom passed last season in February. He basically gave me something to do to get past that. Opportunity to come to Tennessee, a great place, and to work with Coach Heupel."

"Coach Knowles is a brilliant mind when it comes down to defense," said Poindexter. "I was honored that he wanted me to come with him. I've known

him for a long time, but not like I knew him in 2025. I just want to be around good people. I mean, the staff he has put together is excellent, so I'm excited to be here... We have a lot of experience. A lot of guys that have been in different conferences, been around different players, and we've already meshed well together quickly. I'm excited to be with this staff. There's a lot of really good coaches in our room. Knowles is a great leader of men and coaches, so I'm excited."

That staff includes cornerbacks coach Derek Jones. A former assistant at Virginia Tech, Jones coached on Knowles' staff at Duke from 2010-17. Defensive line coach Rodney Garner and linebackers coach William Inge are also on this defensive staff, both retained by Knowles.

We've talked about those Vols/Penn State connections, and that doesn't just apply to the coaching staff. In 2026, the transfer portal is now a huge part of every offseason. Four former Nittany Lions players have transferred to Tennessee. Redshirt sophomore defensive linemen Xavier Gilliam and Chaz Coleman, senior linebacker Amare Campbell, and junior defensive back Dejuan Lane will each get their first taste of the SEC this season. Coleman potentially could make the biggest impact

immediately.

"He's explosive. He is difficult to block," Knowles said of Coleman. "He has

a little bit of an invisible cloak, where he can twist and turn, beat guys one-on-one. He has great initial quickness off the ball. He's a guy that can create havoc for an offense and really creates a matchup issue."

## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

February 23, 2026

Knox County  
400 W. Main Street, Suite 364  
Knoxville, TN 37902  
865-215-5253

These notices shall satisfy three separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by Knox County.

#### FINAL WETLAND NOTICE

This is to give notice that Universal Engineering Sciences, LLC (UES), on behalf of Knox County (County), has conducted an environmental evaluation as required by Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20, to determine the potential affect that its activity in the wetland will have on the human environment for Housing Choice Voucher and HOME Program. Hopeful Housing, LLC, with the help of the County and HUD plans to construct a new development, Everett Pointe Development, which includes construction of 4 apartment buildings, associated roadway, parking lot, and stormwater ponds (Project). The proposed Project is located at Parcel 141 038, along Everett Road in Knoxville, Tennessee. Within the proposed Project's area of disturbance, a non-mapped wetland, measuring approximately 0.07 acres (3,050 square feet), was identified that would be impacted. The proposed development will provide affordable, updated housing for the growing population of Knoxville.

The County has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing non-jurisdictional wetland. Multiple alternatives were considered, including alternate structure configuration on the site; however, the alternative configuration involved filling in the non-jurisdictional wetland with a concrete lot for a proposed parking area. This approach would fully eliminate the existing non-jurisdictional wetland feature from the Project site, transforming the area into a paved surface, thus creating more impervious surface within the Project site, to meet the new development's parking demands. This alternative was not selected.

A No Action Alternative was also considered when reviewing sites for this project; however, this alternative was rejected as City of Knoxville and Knox County are in need of more affordable rental properties for its increasing population. Per the 2023 State of Housing Report, published by the Knoxville Area Association of Realtors, Knoxville is currently experiencing a lack of rental housing availability. From 2018 to 2023, rental demand increased 13% on average over rental supply. The industry standard suggests a cities' average rental occupancy rate should be around 93% to 94%. Knoxville's rental occupancy rate reached a record high in 2021 at nearly 99% occupancy and was still high when compared to the national average at the end of 2022, at approximately 97.3%. As of December 2024, the City's occupancy rate was approximately 95.6%. Thus, the need for the Project is to construct more affordable rental properties. The purpose of the Project is to meet the demand of the current rental market in Knoxville. The No Action Alternative does not meet the needs of the City nor County; thus, this alternative was not selected.

Mitigation measures, or best management practices, have been implemented in order to minimize the effects of the flooding to limit the loss of life, property and preserving the natural values of the wetland, such as limiting the introduction of invasive species to the wetland area. Following completion of the project, the wetland area will operate as a stormwater pond, which has potential to support similar animal and plant species as current conditions.

The County has reevaluated alternatives to building in the non-jurisdictional wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to wetland development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11990, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comments about wetland can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in wetland it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

#### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about March 11, 2026 the Knox County will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of funds under Section 8(o)(13) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)[13]), to undertake a project known as Everett Pointe Development Project for the construction of 4 new affordable apartment buildings along Everett Road in Knoxville, Tennessee.

#### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Knox County has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Knox County Grants and Community Development office, 400 W. Main Street Ste.364, where the ERR may be examined or copied on weekdays from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Knox County Grants and Community by mail at the address above or by emailing grants@knoxcounty.org. All comments received by March 10, 2026, will be considered by the Knox County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

Knox County certifies to HUD that Glenn Jacobs in his capacity as Mayor of Knox County consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows Hopeful Housing, LLC to use Program funds.

#### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and Knox County's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Knox County; (b) the Knox County has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to U. S. Department of HUD, Knoxville Field Office, Region IV, John J. Duncan Federal Building, 710 Locust Street, Suite 300, Knoxville, TN 37902-2526. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

**"Si usted necesitara asistencia para este aviso en otro idioma, por favor llame al 694-8880 para mayor información y mencione del Desarrollo Comunitario del Condado de Knox."**

Sincerely,

Glenn Jacobs  
Knox County Mayor  
Certifying Officer



## Admiral players and kids 'hit' it off swell at ETCH

Cont. from page 1

Dickens, Travis Brumitt Jr., Brody Watkins, Patrick Kovac and Bradley Wade.

"I think it's great and we are blessed to be in the shape that we are physically," said Harris, the team's catcher, at their arrival.

"Any way to make these kids happier, showing up and giving them a baseball, I think it benefits them and it benefits us too so it just makes us feel better. It kind of brings us together as a team when we go out and do things like this in the community."

Flagg, a captain and right fielder, added: "I'm looking forward to meeting the kids."

The Admirals brought small rubber baseballs with a big blue "F" and "star" on them to pass out to the children as they went through the hospital.

Cheryl Allmon, Director of Volunteer Services at ETCH, was asked: Who gets the biggest kick out of this, the kids or the players?

"Oh gosh, well you can tell by looking at these players, they're having a wonderful time," answered Allmon. "And it's good for the kids. And it's great for the parents, because parents come in and they are worried, and they are stressed, and what's the condition of my child? And this just takes their mind off of what's going on on a daily basis in their lives right now. But I love seeing these players engage and have fun."



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

**6-year-old Mason shows off his miniature Farragut baseball with the Admirals' Aidan Flagg looking on at ETCH.**

Some of the kids that the players enjoyed included DQ and Mason.

"I think we both (players and kids) got a good bit out of it," said Jake. "I think the kids had a fun time once we were able to break the awkwardness. We had to let it just break for a little bit and then we were able to speak with them."

"I was really surprised with how well this staff and patients interacted together," he added. "Like everybody knew everyone. I really thought that was great. I thought that helped with us meshing with the kids."

Harris said he really liked DQ and that he reminded him of his little brother. Neyland Williams interacted with 6-year-old Mason well. Not knowing much about baseball yet, Mason said someday he wants to

"drive a train."

Aidan said: "It was good to see the kids smile. It made us a little happy too. It was heartwarming for sure."

"I think this is probably it for (community service) this season because we've got the season coming up and we're going to be pretty busy with baseball."

Farragut has won four straight state titles and is going for a 5-peat this year and one for the thumb.

The Admirals also took part in "Wreaths Across America" back in the fall, laying wreaths on the veterans' graves in downtown Knoxville. In past years they've gone to KARM to volunteer.

"We try to get a lot of work in the community just to put us out there and show we're more than baseball players," said Harris.

**"Any way we can make people happy, that makes us happy. It just brings good to all around."**

- Farragut High catcher Jake Harris

# LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

## COURT NOTICES

### NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ANNIE MAUDE ANDERSON & O SYCAMORE DRIVE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37921**

**IN RE: KIMALISHEA ANDERSON, Plaintiff VS. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ANNIE MAUDE ANDERSON & O SYCAMORE DRIVE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37921, Defendant(s)**

**NO. 212514-2 IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ANNIE MAUDE ANDERSON & O SYCAMORE DRIVE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37921, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ANNIE MAUDE ANDERSON & O SYCAMORE DRIVE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37921, it is ordered that said defendant, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ANNIE MAUDE ANDERSON & O SYCAMORE DRIVE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37921, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Luke D. Durham, BPR., an Attorney whose address is 265 Brookview Centre Way Drive SW, Knoxville, TN 37919, on or before thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Richard B. Armstrong at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division II, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. This 28th day of JANUARY, 2026.

J. Scott Griswold  
Clerk and Master

### NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: TERRANCE JOSEPH MCCRAY**

**IN RE: ASHLEY-ANITA SIERRA, Plaintiff VS. TERRANCE JOSEPH MCCRAY, Defendant**

**NO. 211267-3 IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, TERRANCE JOSEPH MCCRAY, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon TERRANCE JOSEPH MCCRAY, it is ordered that said defendant, TERRANCE JOSEPH MCCRAY, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Barbara W. Clark, BPR., an Attorney whose address is 2415 E. Magnolia Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917, on or before thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Christopher D. Heagerty at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division III, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. This 29th day of JANUARY, 2026.

J. Scott Griswold  
Clerk and Master

### ORDER OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

**TO: CAMERON POWERS and CAITLYN ANNE POWERS**

**IN RE: CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18; E.J.A.B – DOB 05/03/2014 W.S.P. – DOB 02/10/2017 P.A.M.T. – DOB 10/08/2020 BY: CANDICE MICHELLE RAINEY and JAMES PATRICK CROWLEY, Petitioners vs. CAMERON POWERS and CAITLYN ANNE POWERS, Respondents**

**DOCKET NO. 2025CV141 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

Notice to CAMERON POWERS AND CAITLYN ANNE POWERS  
Candice Michelle Rainey and James Patrick Crowley have filed a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights and To Adopt Related Children against you in Roane County, Tennessee. It appears that ordinary process of law cannot be served upon you because your whereabouts is unknown. You are hereby ORDERED to file an Answer to the Petition to Terminate Parental Rights and To Adopt Related Children with the Roane County Circuit Court, 200 E. Race Street #11, Kingston, Tennessee 37763, and to serve a copy of that Answer upon Attorney Kevin W. Shepherd, Shepherd and Lone, P.C., Counsel for Candice Michelle Rainey, at 232 Gill Street, Alcoa, TN 37701, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice. If you fail to do so, a judgment will be taken against you pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-1-211(n), Rule 55 of the Tenn. R. of Civ. P., and Rules 1 and 39 of the Tenn. R. of Juv. P. for the relief demanded in the Petition to Terminate Parental Rights and To Adopt Related Children. You may view and obtain a copy of the petition and any other subsequently filed legal documents in the Roane Court Circuit Court Clerk's Office at the address shown above.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. This 20th day of January, 2026

Michaels S. Pemberton  
Circuit Court Judge

### NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

**TO: BRIAN ERIC RUSSELL IN RE: ERIN GABRIELLE RUSSELL, Plaintiff Vs. BRIAN ERIC RUSSELL, Defendant**

**Docket # 154748 IN THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

In this cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, BRIAN ERIC RUSSELL, is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon BRIAN ERIC RUSSELL. IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file an answer to an action of PETITION TO MODIFY FINAL DECREE OF DIVORCE filed by ERIN GABRIELLE RUSSELL, Plaintiff herein, with the Fourth Circuit Court in Knoxville, Tennessee,

and with ANN MOSTOLLER, Plaintiff's Attorney whose address is 136 S. ILLINOIS AVE., STE. 104, OAK RIDGE, TN 37830, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication, and if you do not answer or otherwise respond, a Default Judgment may be entered against you on the thirtieth (30th) day after the fourth (4th) publication.. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks. This the 28th day of JANUARY, 2026.

Mike Hammond  
Clerk

Robert A. Clark  
Deputy Clerk

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF DEWEY LYNN FOULK, JR. DOCKET NUMBER 92027-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of DEWEY LYNN FOULK, JR., who died on August 9, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by Chancery Court for Knox County, Tennessee Probate Division. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF DEWEY LYNN FOULK, JR.**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
STEPHEN FOULK  
2224 TOMASSEE DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

L. ERIC EBBERT, ATTORNEY  
PAUL F. HANNAN, ATTORNEY  
9145 CROSS PARK DRIVE, STE. 103  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF VELMA RUTH GLOVER DOCKET NUMBER 92069-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of VELMA RUTH GLOVER, who died on July 15, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF VELMA RUTH GLOVER**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JONATHAN T. DONNELLY, EXECUTOR  
5033 MAGIC LANTERN DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

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

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF NATALIE LEACH HASLAM DOCKET NUMBER 92075-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of NATALIE LEACH HASLAM, who died January 16, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF NATALIE LEACH HASLAM**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JAMES A. HASLAM, II, EXECUTOR  
510 UNION AVENUE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

WILLIAM D. EDWARDS, ATTORNEY  
1111 N. NORTHSHORE DRIVE, SUITE S-700  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF ALLEN LEE HOWELL, II DOCKET NUMBER 92057-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of ALLEN LEE HOWELL, II, who died Nov. 29, 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

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 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF ALLEN LEE HOWELL, II**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
CAMERON HOWELL, CO-ADMINISTRATOR  
217 COUNTYSIDE CIRCLE, APT. 55A  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

CANDRA HOWELL, CO-ADMINISTRATOR  
3356 BEAVER GLADE LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF PRISCILLA ANN KIRBY DOCKET NUMBER 92033-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of PRISCILLA ANN KIRBY, who died Dec. 16, 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 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF PRISCILLA ANN KIRBY**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
PHILLIP DAVID KIRBY, EXECUTOR  
231 GREEN HARBOR ROAD, UNIT 24  
OLD HICKORY, TN 37138

JON S. JABLONSKI, ATTORNEY  
320 SEVEN SPRINGS WAY, SUITE 250  
BRENTWOOD, TN 37027

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF WANDA CODY MATTHEWS DOCKET NUMBER 92051-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of WANDA CODY MATTHEWS, who died Nov. 6, 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 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF WANDA CODY MATTHEWS**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ELAN MATTHEWS, ADMINISTRATOR  
4924 LONAS DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37909

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF CATHY TERESA MONDAY DOCKET NUMBER 92036-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of CATHY TERESA MONDAY, who died Nov. 12, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of 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 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF CATHY TERESA MONDAY**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
SHASTA MCGILL, EXECUTRIX  
1097 HOLSTON SHORES DRIVE  
RUTLEDGE, TN 37861

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF PATSY NELSON PRITCHETT DOCKET NUMBER 92060-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of PATSY NELSON PRITCHETT, who died Dec. 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 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF PATSY NELSON PRITCHETT**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
VICKI P. KIEFFER, EXECUTRIX  
421 ALLEN ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JOHN WILLIAM SPARGO DOCKET NUMBER 92042-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOHN WILLIAM SPARGO, who died Dec. 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 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF JOHN WILLIAM SPARGO**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
KIMBERLY DIANE SPARGO, EXECUTRIX  
3530 BIG SPRINGS ROAD  
MARYVILLE, TN 37801

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF ROBERT LEE TOWLE DOCKET NUMBER 92018-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of ROBERT LEE TOWLE, who died on December 7, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the Decedent's date of death. This the 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF ROBERT LEE TOWLE**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JULIA TOWLE LUCK  
9400 TURF ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

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

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF MARTHA CARMON WALKER DOCKET NUMBER 92066-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of MARTHA CARMON WALKER, who died Jan. 6, 2026, 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 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF MARTHA CARMON WALKER**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JEFFREY C. WALKER, ADMINISTRATOR  
6719 ALKISON LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF ALVIN JAMES WYRICK, JR. DOCKET NUMBER 92000-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of ALVIN JAMES WYRICK, JR., who died Dec. 7, 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 6 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF ALVIN JAMES WYRICK, JR**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
COURTNEY LINDSTROM, ADMINISTRATRIX  
603 CULVAHOUSE CIRCLE  
TEN MILE, TN 37880

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Knox County Commission shall receive letters and resumés/credentials from candidates seeking an appointment to one (1) vacancy to serve an unexpired 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

# LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF PERRY BRUCE COOPER DOCKET NUMBER 92038-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 9th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of PERRY BRUCE COOPER, who died Oct. 21, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

This the 9th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF PERRY BRUCE COOPER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MELISSA RENEE MANESS JONES, EXECUTRIX  
5416 STONE OAK LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF CARLA ANTOINETTE DUBOSE DOCKET NUMBER 91926-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of CARLA ANTOINETTE DUBOSE, who died Aug. 10, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of 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 5th day of February, 2026.

ESTATE OF CARLA ANTOINETTE DUBOSE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
CORNELIUS DUBOSE, ADMINISTRATOR  
544 SUSAN RENEE LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37924

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF DAVID EDWARD DUNN DOCKET NUMBER 92020-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters administration (or letters of testamentary as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of DAVID EDWARD DUNN, who died November 8, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

This the 13th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF DAVID EDWARD DUNN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JAMES MADISON DUNN  
6404 BEELER RD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918  
  
J. NOLAN SHARBEL  
9111 CROSS PARK DR., BLDG. D, SUITE 200  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF SAM CARLTON EREXSON DOCKET NUMBER 92068-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of SAM CARLTON EREXSON, who died November 13, 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 13th day of FEBRUARY, 2026

ESTATE OF SAM CARLTON EREXSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JOYCE G. EREXSON  
6919 WYNODHAM POINTE LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

M. CATHERINE WARMBROD, ATTORNEY  
10805 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 200  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF MARK EDWARD GLENN DOCKET NUMBER 78085-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 17th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of MARK EDWARD GLENN, who died on August 21, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her 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 17th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF MARK EDWARD GLENN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JOHN R. GLENN  
7 MUSTANG COURT  
GRAYSLAKE, IL 60030

DAVID A. MONTGOMERY, ATTORNEY  
112 GLENLEIGH CT., SUITE 4  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF PAUL EDWARD GREEN, JR. DOCKET NUMBER 92055-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of PAUL EDWARD GREEN, JR., who died Oct. 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 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 5th day of February, 2026.

ESTATE OF PAUL EDWARD GREEN, JR

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
PAULA L. SNELLING, ADMINISTRATRIX  
2145 RAMBLING ROSE LANE  
JEFFERSON CITY, TN 37760

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF MARC ALAN HARRISON DOCKET NUMBER 92074-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARC ALAN HARRISON, who died 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 13th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF MARC ALAN HARRISON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
LAUREL SHANNON HARRISON  
3509 SPARKS SCENIC WAY  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

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

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF VICKI J. HINDMAN DOCKET NUMBER 92054-1

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

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

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

This the 13 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF VICKI J. HINDMAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
HOME FEDERAL BANK OF TENNESSEE  
ATTN: LEIGHANNE K. COVINGTON  
515 MARKET ST., SUITE 500  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF LULA ELIZABETH MASSIE JONES DOCKET NUMBER 91434-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of JANUARY, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of LULA ELIZABETH MASSIE JONES, who died on July 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 LULA ELIZABETH MASSIE JONES

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
TIMOTHY MASSIE  
2207 HAY MEADOW TRAIL  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

WILLIAM A. MASSIE  
322 ELDORADO CIRCLE  
SEYMOUR, TN 37865

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

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF CHARLES B. LANDGUTH DOCKET NUMBER 92081-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 13 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters of testamentary in respect of the Estate of CHARLES B. LANDGUTH, who died November 21, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, for Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against 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 13 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF CHARLES B. LANDGUTH

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
BEVERLY J. LANDGUTH  
570 WINDHAM HILL RD.  
FARRAGUT, TN 37934

REGAN CARUTHERS, ATTORNEY  
110 COGDILL ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF CHARLOTTE S. LEES DOCKET NUMBER 92080-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 17th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of CHARLOTTE S. LEES, who died December 28, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

This the 17th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF CHARLOTTE S. LEES

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MARY CORNELIA (CONNIE)  
SHIFLETT WALLACE

STUART I. CASSELL, ATTORNEY  
707 MARKET STREET, SUITE 1  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF CONRAD LOY DOCKET NUMBER 91958-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 13 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of CONRAD LOY, who died Nov. 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 13 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF CONRAD LOY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
CONNIE LOY MCNEILL, EXECUTRIX  
1820 EDWARD DRIVE

SEVIERVILLE, TN 37876

MICHAEL TROTTER, ATTORNEY  
1148 WAGNER DRIVE, SUITE 201  
SEVIERVILLE, TN 37862

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF EDWARD DOUGLAS MYSINGER DOCKET NUMBER 91851-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of EDWARD DOUGLAS MYSINGER, who died September 26, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

This the 5th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF EDWARD DOUGLAS MYSINGER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MIKE DOUGLAS MYSINGER, ADMINISTRATOR  
1041 STONEBURY DR.  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

BRADLEY C. SAGRAVES, ATTORNEY  
M. ALAN MOORE, JR., ATTORNEY  
2095 LAKESIDE CENTRE WAY, SUITE 131  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF JOHN EDWIN O'CONNOR DOCKET NUMBER 92073-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of JANUARY, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOHN EDWIN O'CONNOR, who died November 20, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

This the 30th day of JANUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF JOHN EDWIN O'CONNOR

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ADAM S. O'CONNOR  
601 STONEWALL DRIVE  
RUTLEDGE, TN 37861

KATHERINE A. YOUNG, ATTORNEY  
9041 EXECUTIVE PARK DRIVE, STE. 121  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF GARETH DAI POTTER DOCKET NUMBER 91673-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 17 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of GARETH DAI POTTER, who died on the 30th 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 17 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF GARETH DAI POTTER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
CHRISTINE E. TRIMBLE  
2708 W. OLD TOP SIDE DRIVE  
LOUISVILLE, TN 37777

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

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF BETTY SUE HOLT SHIPLEY DOCKET NUMBER 92032-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of BETTY SUE HOLT SHIPLEY, who died on January 5, 2026, 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 13th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF BETTY SUE HOLT SHIPLEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
WILLIAM ANDY MASSIE  
322 ELDORADO CIRCLE  
SEYMOUR, TN 37865

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

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### ESTATE OF HELEN BRUNER STEWART DOCKET NUMBER 92016-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of JANUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of HELEN BRUNER STEWART, who died Jan. 9, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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