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## Union County Opry presents Con Hunley in Concert

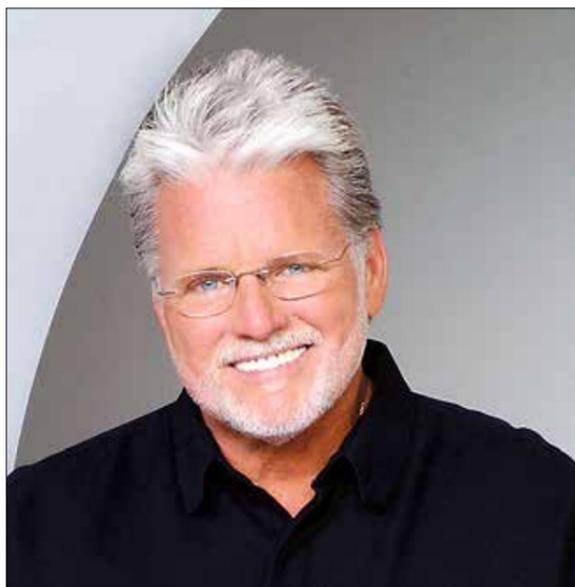
Union County Opry is gearing up for its first show of 2026, featuring country music star Con Hunley. In what has become an annual event, this marks Hunley's 4th year at the Opry.

The show is a homecoming of sorts for Hunley. Although raised in Knoxville, he has firm family roots throughout Union County. Family and friends from all over the southeast look forward to the live show and the opportunity to hear one of country music's greatest voices and one of East Tennessee's favorite sons.

The show will be held in the auditorium of the Union County High School on Saturday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Hunley will be there with his full band, and his nephew, Nashville singer-songwriter Stephen Hunley, will open the show.

Tickets can be purchased in advance online at unioncountyopry.com and at the Kitchen Design Center in Maynardville, or by calling 865-556-4255. Tickets will also be available at the door.



## School board votes to rezone

*Brickey-McCloud, Karns, Powell elementary school zone lines to be redrawn*

By Pete Gawda

At their Thursday, March 5, meeting, the Knox County Board of Education took action, which apparently did not meet the approval of many Powell Elementary School parents. After a lengthy discussion, the

board decided, on a split vote, to redraw the school zone lines between Powell, Brickey-McCloud and Karns elementary schools.

Predicted growth and traffic congestion were factors that influenced

**Continue on page 4**

## Hero's Hill Challenge issued by Mayor Jacobs



PHOTO COURTESY OF KNOX COUNTY

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, who is championing Operation Hero's Hill, was joined by members of the Knox County Commission and other officials late last month to break ground on the much-praised project to house 20 homeless local veterans.

## What is Hero's Hill?

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Ground was recently broken by Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and other officials for a tiny-home development for homeless veterans. Hero's Hill will contain 20 one-bedroom homes in a complex that will also include a community center with laundry, computer lab and a meeting space.

The houses are being built by Knox County Schools' Career and Technical Education students, reentry program participants, and skilled-trade mentors. When completed and ground prepared, the homes will be transported to the site. The \$1.2 million project was spearheaded by Mayor Jacobs, according to Alanna McKissack, Knox County Community Relations Manager of the Grants and Community

Development.

VA social workers will provide case management and develop treatment plans to support veterans as they transition out of homelessness. Once construction is complete, the property will be managed by the Knoxville Community Development Corporation. It is slated to open to residents in late summer, according to McKissack.

The groundbreaking was held in a field near the Knox County Public Defender's office at 1101 Liberty Street between I-40 and Sutherland Avenue. For decades, the corner of the property sat vacant and unused, contaminated from nearly 50 years ago. The cleanup comes from funding made available by Gov. Bill Lee's Brownfields Investment Act of 2023. An award of \$500,000 in state grant funds was marked for the

**Continue on page 3**

## Mayor Jacobs to Host Hero's Hill Challenge Supporting Local Veterans

Join Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Johnson University for the Hero's Hill Challenge, an impactful fitness event with a mission to help end veteran homelessness in Knox County.

Participants of all ages and fitness levels can choose from a 5K run, a family walk/run, or the signature Hero's Hill Challenge, a demanding course that combines running with strength exercises and is available for individuals and teams.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Operation Hero's Hill, an

initiative led by Mayor Jacobs focused on providing safe, stable housing for local veterans in need.

"The Hero's Hill Challenge is a chance for our community to come together and support those who served our country," said Mayor Jacobs. "I encourage families, teams, local businesses - everyone - to sign up and show up for our veterans."

Registration is now open. Community members are encouraged to sign up online at www.runsignup.com/HEROSHILLCHALLENGE and help make this meaningful event a success.

## City council continues to deal with homelessness

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

During Tuesday's meeting, the Knoxville City Council worked on the homeless problem, postponing a vote on a homeless center on Clinton Highway and approving a resolution to partner with other groups to look at changing the temperature thresholds required for the warming and cooling centers to open.

### A homeless day center in Norwood?

CareCuts, the non-profit that began as free hair care and services to the homeless, had planned to open a social service homeless center at 5200

Clinton Highway near the Food City. Several local organizations, including the Norwood Homeowners Group, appealed a special use permit granted by Knoxville-Knox County Planning for use of the former bank building there. CareCuts hopes to move its operation there, open four days a week, and provide additional services to the homeless.

Attorney Benjamin Mullins represented CareCuts, and David Hamilton spoke for the groups appealing the permit. Both parties said attempts to meet with each other were fruitless.

District 5 Councilman Charles Thomas reviewed the situation and said

**Continue on page 3**

## Pickin' in the Park returns to Gibbs this month

Pickin' in the Park is a live music festival benefiting the Gibbs High School Foundation and will take place on Friday, March 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Gibbs Ruritan Park.

The event brings together local and regional musicians, food vendors, and community supporters for a family-friendly day of music and fellowship. Proceeds from the festival

directly support educational programs and initiatives for students at Gibbs High School.

Pickin' in the Park is designed to be accessible to all ages while showcasing local talent and strengthening community ties through support of public education.

Full event details, tickets, and updates are available at www.gibbshighfoundation.org.

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

**Warriors and Heroes**

Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them.

William Shakespeare, from "Twelfth Night"

Last week, I had the honor of meeting Master Sergeant Matthew O. Williams, who is a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was in Knoxville as a guest speaker to raise awareness of this select "band of brothers" who are American heroes. The Medal of Honor is our nation's highest military decoration for valor. It is awarded by the president in the name of Congress, representing the gratitude of the American people.

Green Beret Williams is an impressive man. I encourage you to Google and read about the Battle of Shok Valley, Afghanistan, which occurred on April 6, 2008. You will begin to understand why warrior and Master Sergeant Williams is a hero and deserving of our nation's highest military honor.

The Medal of Honor award began during the Civil War and is not infrequently awarded posthumously. Knoxville's Master Sergeant Roddie Edmonds fought at the Battle of the Bulge during WWII and was captured by the Germans. As the highest-ranking prisoner in Stalag IX-A, Edmonds refused to identify Jewish soldiers in the prison, telling the Germans, "We are all Jews here," undoubtedly saving 200 men. Senator Marsha Blackburn introduced legislation to award Edmonds the Medal of Honor, and on March 2, 2026, President Trump posthumously gave Sergeant Edmonds our country's highest military decoration.

We need heroes like our Medal of Honor recipients, our Olympian hockey teams and medalists, and our soldiers who are now battling the mad Mullahs of Iran. Those religious fanatics declared war on us in 1979 and have been killing and maiming Americans ever since. Becky

and I honor our servicemen and women, police, first responders and the agents of DHS and ICE who protect us. We donate to many causes and are adding the Congressional Medal of Honor Society to that list. And we plan to take a road trip to Chattanooga (where our nation's first and highest military award was presented) to visit the Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center.

These days, patriotism and the wisdom of common sense seem to have been replaced by the pursuit of power, prestige, party and money. The patriotic love of our country is even ridiculed by the warped and lost. Their hatred of Trump overrides any love of country.

Philosophy is the love of wisdom, and the father of philosophy is Plato. Being a science guy, my education was not within antiquity's classical trivium and quadrivium. As a result, my formal education was skewed toward sciences like chemistry. So, what I know of history, philosophy, theology, rhetoric and creative writing is largely self-taught (autodidactic).

We moderns often fancy ourselves as wiser than the ancients. Actually, mankind has changed little over time. Our technology and knowledge base have increased, but the ancient cardinal virtues of common sense, courage, justice and moderation seem to

have suffered. Plato and his mentor Socrates were deep thinkers, and in "The Republic," Plato outlined the divisions and philosophy of an ideal society. There were leaders ("guardians"), producers/workers and "auxiliaries" who were the warriors charged with protecting the polis (city-state) and the people. Plato thought that philosophers would be the best leaders because they would wisely seek what was best for the people. Unfortunately, this ideal is unachievable because of imperfect human nature. As a result, there were political factions in ancient Greece as well as dishonest people and fools.

And today we have liars, fraudsters and fools. It amazes me that Democrats keep finding 80-20 issues to side against common sense, the American people and heroes. It was bad enough to disparage our hockey teams, but Democrat leaders would not even show support for grieving families and injured children. They even sided with illegal aliens over citizens during the SOTU address. And now Democrat Grand Poobah Hakeem Jeffries cheers against our warriors and for the Iranian Mullahs.

President Trump is right: "They are crazy!" They display none of the cardinal virtues espoused by the ancient Greeks. We must not allow these modern

Democrats to regain power. It is a national security issue.

Everything that the modern Democrat party stands for is a farce. They offer no solutions, and their only policy position is, "I hate Trump." And most everything they say is a lie. Their base is constantly enraged because many Democrat media types and celebrity mouthpieces who suffer from Trump derangement syndrome foment dissent. Notable examples of lunacy include Rachael Maddow, Keith Olbermann, and Robert De Niro. Leftist fools dress up as furrries, frogs and giraffes, drop F bombs and screech protest songs.

The one voice of common sense in the Democrat party is Senator John Fetterman. One could argue that he suffered a "therapeutic stroke," which ablated an area of excessive liberalism in his brain. As I said last week, "I don't fear Russia, China, North Korea, or Iran. I fear modern Democrats and the useful idiots who support them."

I am not a starry-eyed optimist, but after the US Olympic hockey triumphs and successful Winter Olympics, President Trump's optimistic and patriotic State of the Union address, I believe the tide has turned. And with the border controlled, the economy improving, reindustrialization

underway, the Venezuelan drug pipeline interrupted and the mad Mullahs (along with their terrorist 3-H club of Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthis on the run), I believe this will be America's grandest anniversary of freedom, celebrating the most successful nation in human history. I have read that other cultures support winners, whereas the US has empathy for the underdog. What if the elitist liberal movement of the last 50 years has relegated Americanism to the underdog status? What if President Trump's historic reelection as the 47th president stopped our descent into decay and destruction and began the resurgence of Americanism? Two hundred fifty years ago, Europeans derisively labeled our revolution and Constitution as "the American experiment." Maybe we've been the underdog all along.

The midterm vote will answer the question whether we are poised for an American Renaissance or whether we will again devolve into Democrat impeachment fiascos and have us again circling the drain to destruction. Join me and President Trump to Make America Great Again by opposing and voting against Democrats everywhere.

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

**Washington, Eisenhower—Anti-War War Heroes**

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.

On Jan. 20, 2025, in his second Inaugural Address, President Trump said: "We will measure our success not only by little battles we win, but also by the wars that end, and perhaps most importantly, the wars we never get into."

In April of 2016, I was one of six members of Congress invited to the Mayflower Hotel in Washington to hear candidate Trump's first major speech on foreign policy. He said he was going to apply America First policies to foreign as well as domestic affairs.

Trump said then that since the end of the Cold War, the U.S. had made decisions in which "logic was replaced with foolishness and arrogance, which led to one foreign policy disaster after another."

He was the only Republican candidate who criticized our war in Iraq and said we were "rebuilding other countries while weakening our own."

Because of statements like these and his actions in Venezuela, I hope and believe that President Trump will end the war against Iran very quickly. I don't believe he will make the same mistake President George W. Bush did in allowing the Iraq war to go on long after he stood in front of a huge banner saying "Mission Accomplished!"

It is very significant to me, and I hope to President Trump, that our two greatest military leaders who

later became president, Washington and Eisenhower, were both very anti-war.

Washington's farewell address has been read on the floor of the U.S. Senate every year since 1862, near the time of his birthday. In that address, Washington warned against "overgrown military establishments which, under any form of government, are inauspicious to liberty, and which are to be regarded as particularly hostile to republican liberty."

He also said, "A passionate attachment of one nation for another produces a variety of evils. Sympathy for the favorite nation, facilitating the illusion of an imaginary common interest ... betrays the former into a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter without adequate inducement or justification."

Likewise, President Eisenhower, in his farewell address, spoke of the "grave implication" of our "immense military establishment and large arms industry."

He said: "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous

rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."

In a speech broadcast from London in 1959, Eisenhower said, "I think people want peace so much that one of these days, governments had better get out of the way and let them have it."

I spent most of my life thinking it was necessary to drop the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end World War II. Last year, I read in Bret Baier's book "Three Days In January" and other places that Eisenhower expressed his "grave misgivings" about this bombing to both Secretary of War Stimson and President Truman, telling them that Japan was already ready to surrender and that it would not save any American lives.

On April 16, 1953, Eisenhower gave probably the most anti-war speech ever given by an American president. In his first major speech as president, to the American Society of Newspaper Editors meeting in Washington, he gave many examples of the tremendous cost of an arms race.

"The cost of one modern heavy bomber is this: a modern brick school in 30 cities. One destroyer could have housed eight thousand people." And he gave many other similar

examples. He added that this is "humanity hanging from a cross of iron."

According to AI, Iran's total military budget was somewhere between \$7.8 and \$10.3 billion, or about one percent of ours. Israel's annual military spending is about four times that of Iran, and Israel has about 300 nuclear bombs to zero for Iran. Even with some hidden or unreported spending, the highest possible estimate for Iran's military budget would be only two percent of ours.

As this column is being written, Iran has been shown to be a very weak paper tiger. The U.S. military has sent 50,000 troops and 200 jets and has hit over 2,000 targets and sunk 10 Iranian ships. Most of Iran's top leaders were killed in the first hour of fighting.

Iran's refusal to give in to U.S. demands has to be one of the biggest mistakes in human history. For the sake of their own people, its leaders should have been begging for peace.

Iran has already lost this war. Any continued resistance on its part is little more than a suicide mission. But all Americans should hope this fighting ends quickly for two main reasons: first, we should

hope that no more Americans are killed; second, we are \$38 trillion in debt and cannot afford to keep spending billions that we do not have fighting paper tigers.

Also, we need to re-establish civilian control of the military, no matter who is president. Our founding fathers believed this was very important. At the Smithsonian Institution in a section about George Washington, these words are displayed: "A triumphant general in Washington's position might have tried to seize power, but Washington returned to private life. On December 23, 1783, Washington surrendered his commission as General and Commander in Chief. Like many Americans, he saw himself and his army as agents of the Continental Congress. During the war, he deferred to its directives even when he disagreed with them."

Finally, while he was not a great military leader, President Reagan once (or perhaps many times) said, "Our troops should be committed to combat abroad only as a last resort, when no other choice is available." I believe both Washington and Eisenhower would have agreed with those words.

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Published by Fountain Printing and Publishing, Inc.  
Deadline for ad design is Monday at 5 p.m.  
Deadline for Classified ads is Thursday at noon.  
Deadline for submissions is Thursday 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**  
publisher@knoxfocus.com

which has been instituted and paid to the state party. That brought some rejoicing from a handful of Leftist loons who overpopulate the other party.

Certainly, there needs to be requirements for someone to become a candidate for public office, and the state executive committee has rightly removed some would-be public officials from the ballot, most notably following the legislature carving up Davidson County into three separate congressional districts. Robby Starbuck and Morgan Ortagus were both ruled off the ballot for failing to meet the residency requirement. Both Tennessee and Knox County have been overly blessed with a host of prospective officials who have moved here from states that are the deepest hue of indigo blue. The world did not begin until these would-be office holders arrived. We have seen some start campaigns when that candidate had not even voted in Knox County.

Representative government can only occur when

someone holding office is familiar with the individual communities that comprise the whole of Knox County. There are nine individual districts that make up the Knox County Commission and two at-large seats. It might be a good idea for any prospective candidate for countywide office to be able to point out, say, five of those individual communities on a map as a requirement to get on the ballot. Burlington and Corryton are both inside Knox County, and that's where the similarities end. Any candidate who can't tell the difference between Burlington and Corryton hasn't lived here long enough and should immediately be disqualified for office.

It's quite easy to tell the newcomers because they never run on local issues when seeking election to local offices like the board of education and the county commission. When not familiar with the individual communities, they tend to run on national issues. We have candidates for Knox County Law Director swear up and down

they will end illegal immigration. Of course, that's absolutely not true, and the truth is the law director has as much to do with halting illegal immigration as most of us do with interstellar space exploration. Still, there seem to be more and more people boarding the next rocket to Pluto. If you are that gullible, you probably shouldn't be allowed to run for office or vote.

**It seems to me that the chair of the state party could do more to better communicate what is required of those who wish to run as Republicans.**

I certainly agree that there needs to be requirements. If you've never voted in a Republican primary, you should not be able to run as a Republican. If you really want to run for office, run as what you apparently are - - - an Independent or a Democrat masquerading as a Republican. If you haven't voted in Republican primaries except occasionally, then you should likely turn out to vote more often. The last people we need as officeholders are people who are

half-hearted or who haven't really participated. If the rest of us can get up and go and exercise our privilege of voting, they should as well.

## Trump Right On Iran

Considering what's going on in the world today, here's a good question for readers: Do you think Adolf Hitler should have been allowed to have a nuclear bomb? What about Idi Amin? There are some folks too crazy to be trusted to have a nuclear bomb, and the late ayatollah was one of them. Iran has been the source of heartache and suffering for a lot of people. Iran has used the billions it got from Barack Obama, along with its oil profits, which escalated when Biden stopped our own booming oil business here in the United States. America's oil business was just one more thing (on a long, convoluted list) for the lunatic Democratic-Socialists to hate about our country. If you want to make yourself dizzy, try and follow

their hypocrisy, which, to their credit, they don't even remotely try to hide. These days, they squeal that Congress must exercise its war powers before we can deal with Iran, when they uttered not a peep when Obama bombed the crap out of Libya.

## Drug Cartels Should Be Destroyed

The Knox County Regional Forensic Center has released some alarming information about a new drug reportedly more deadly than fentanyl. It comes from China and is called cychlorphine and is now here in Tennessee. There have been 28 deaths in East Tennessee related to the new drug from overdoses.

There is some reason to believe the drug entered this country through Venezuela, through the speedboats and other vessels before the US Navy began blowing them out of the water.

## Qualifying Conditions Should be Made Clear To Potential Candidates

The State Republican Party, through chairman Scott Golden, sent a letter to the state coordinator of elections, Mark Goins. The purpose was to notify Goins that the Tennessee Republican Party was ruling some 249 candidates off the ballot all across the state. Some of the candidates did not meet the criterion set by the state executive committee to qualify as candidates; most had reportedly not paid the qualifying fee,

# City council continues to deal with homelessness

Cont. from page 1

both parties have valid concerns. Several council members spoke on the stalemate as supporters of CareCuts sat watching in the audience. Thomas moved to postpone the appeal until the council meets again on March 17, and the motion passed.

## Changing when Warming Centers open

At-large Councilwoman Amelia Parker and District 4 Councilman Matthew DeBardelaben successfully offered a resolution for the city to work with other organizations to change the entry temperature at warming centers from 25° to 32°. The partnerships with Knoxville-Knox County Joint Office of Housing Stability and Knox County also call for strengthening efforts to promote transportation, shelter, and other services during extreme weather. The resolution also called for reviewing the heat index of 90° for the



The late county commissioner and community leader Diane Jordan was honored and remembered by the Knoxville City Council last week, who were joined by her family during the ceremony.

non-profit shelters to open.

Parker went into the meeting hoping for passage of the idea, and it gained a "Yes" vote from all the council members. Another resolution from Parker and DeBardelaben, to have a planning review of city codes on temporary emergency shelters, failed with other

council members saying the review isn't needed because it conflicted with the other motion that passed.

## CAC's homeless program

In related action, the council voted to give the Knoxville-Knox County

Community Action Committee and the Community Development Corporation \$187,500 to fund case management focused on preventing homelessness among the elderly and disabled population.

The city's part of that donation is \$156,250.

## In other council action

Unrelated to the homeless issues, the council voted to increase funding for a roofing project at Fire Station #7, hire a consulting group for the fire department, hire a firm to study the city's longevity pay program, hire a firm to evaluate and train firearm use by the police

department, coordinate with the state on internet crimes against children, contract with Keep Knoxville Beautiful for staffing four recycling drop-off centers, and endorse the South Waterfront Down River Master Plan.

Vice Mayor Lynne Fugate named Councilman Denzel Grant to the Rules Committee, and the council honored the life of the late Diane Jordan, a long-time county commissioner and community leader.

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## Hero's Hill

Cont. from page 1

cleanup of contaminants at the site for its conversion into a community for homeless veterans. Operation Hero's Hill continues to raise funds for the project. Donations go toward appliances for the community center and homes, the community center's construction, the computer lab and fitness center, the community garden and landscaping, furnishings and soft goods for the tiny homes, construction and transport trailers, and ongoing services for the veterans. Information on the project, fundraising and more is available online at www.knoxcounty.org/operation-heroshill.



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# Knox Fire and Rescue planning for future county expansion



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Brad Anders, executive of the Knox County Emergency Communications District, chaired the meeting of the Knox County Fire and Technical Rescue Committee last week which touched on the financial needs of the three fire and rescue departments.

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
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The population of Knox County is growing. While Rural Metro's fire service covers the majority of the county, the remaining home and business owners rely on non-profit departments for protection.

The Knox County Fire and Technical Rescue Committee met Thursday to approve its request for \$605,000 from the county, and that, according to Knox County Finance Director Chris Caldwell, is what's in the 2027 fiscal budget for them. The amount

coming from the county has remained unchanged since 2023.

The committee is made up of chiefs from the Karns and Seymour Fire Departments and the Knoxville Rescue Squad, and the group, chaired by Knox 911 Director Brad Anders, discussed the need for planning for increased funding in the future.

The budget request breaks down to \$290,615 going to the Karns Fire Department, \$112,534 to the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department, and \$201,849 to the Knox

County Rescue Squad. Together, the three groups last year covered 524.5 square miles inside the county or a population of 494,148 people. The population in 2020, when the committee was formed, was 288,405. "We're growing too fast not to have a plan," Anders said.

Rural Metro Fire Chief Jeffery Devlin sat in on the brief meeting and took part in the overall conversation. He told the meeting that Rural Metro has about a \$25 million budget within the county and noted that

it does "not get a penny of this," referring to the small percentage of county property tax that goes to the county units.

Anders said the fire and rescue group needs to develop a 5- to 10-year plan. He also said he hopes the Tennessee legislature would define fire and rescue services as an "essential service," as that could loosen up some funding. Anders added that there are plans to work with the new county administration and inform them of the needs.

## School board votes to rezone

Brickey-McCloud, Karns, Powell elementary school zone lines to be redrawn

Cont. from page 1

this zoning change. Studies indicate that building new schools or adding to existing schools is not the best solution. The studies took into account the existing enrollments and capacities of current schools and their projected future enrollments and determined that the best solution would be to change the boundaries of districts to equalize the student population.

For those students who would be attending a different school, there is the option of early transfer to the school that they would attend after rezoning. Also, those students who wish to remain at their present school would be allowed to do so after rezoning.

Board member Steve

Triplet, whose district includes Powell Elementary School, said he had heard from many Powell parents who felt the board was moving too fast on the issue. He suggested a "no" vote would give more time for discussion. He said the community would rather stay together with portable classrooms than rezone. However, it was noted that in three years, projected increases in enrollment would cause overcrowding even with portables.

"Rezoning conversations are really, really hard," noted board chair Kristi Kristy. However, she went on to say, "The longer we delay, the less generous the zoning proposal becomes."

"Rezoning is the answer," asserted superintendent

*"Rezoning conversations are really, really hard. The longer we delay, the less generous the zoning proposal becomes."*

- school board chair Kristi Kristy

Jon Rysewyk. "In a year, the recommendation would be the same." He said the number of empty seats in schools surrounding Powell made rezoning the best solution and more fiscally responsible than building a new building.

During the public comment time before the board's discussion, there were two speakers who

addressed rezoning. Both speakers urged a "no" vote in order to allow for more discussion and consideration of different options. A number of Powell parents were in attendance.

Board members Betsy Henderson and Triplet voted against the rezoning, while Anne Templeton and Rev. John Butler abstained.

## Tired of paying a wheel tax?

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

At-large Commissioner Larsen Jay is sponsoring a resolution on the county commission's March agenda that could save vehicle owners \$36 when registering or renewing a tag on their vehicle.

Jay's resolution, supported by Mayor Glenn Jacobs, is before the commission on a first of two readings and would repeal the 23-year-old Knox County Code regarding vehicle registration fees.

He is appealing to citizens to contact their county commissioners to support the tax repeal and support a five-year phase-out of the Wheel Tax, calling the extra fee a "special

privilege vehicle tax." It was approved in a public referendum in 2003 and, Jay says, was intended to help fund the building of a new downtown library.

"Decades later, the library hasn't been built, yet the taxes have continued to be collected," Jay said, adding that the six counties surrounding Knox County have not placed such additional fees on vehicles.

Jay's proposal was first introduced in August of last year and deferred at his request. It requires a 2/3 vote of approval by the commission. The code change would not require another public referendum.

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## Honor Fountain City Day in the Park 2026

Memorial Day – May 25  
10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Fountain City Park

Fountain City Town Hall is hard at work on this year's Honor Fountain City Day in the Park, an annual Memorial Day event that reflects Fountain City pride, history and community spirit.

FCTH is seeking nominations for the event's annual awards, including:

- **Commercial Restoration:** This award is given to any business owner or corporation who has recently renovated or reused a property and thus enhanced a neighborhood by conveying a sense of community, preserving the past, or beautifying Fountain City.

- **Residential Restoration:** This award is given to a private homeowner whose rehabilitation, renovation, or preservation has added to the community. This award

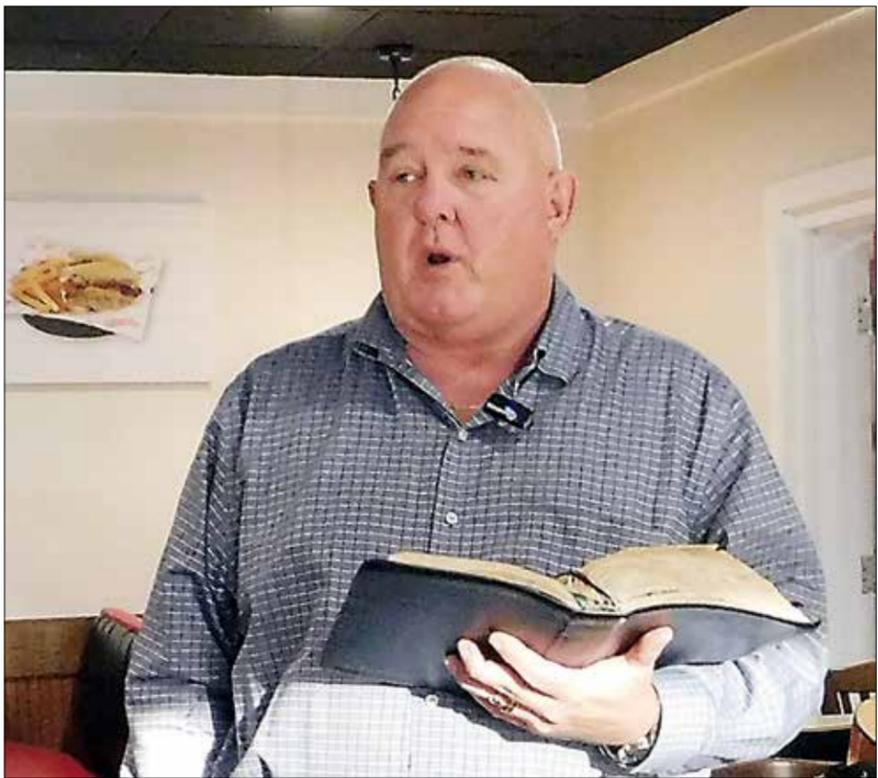
is not limited to historic properties older than 50 years of age but any property that is well maintained.

- **Residential Landscaping:** This award is given to a private homeowner whose garden or yard beautifies Fountain City through landscaping or plantings.

- **Person Of The Year:** This award is given to an adult resident, business owner or who works full time in Fountain City who exemplifies the spirit of the community through dedicated long-term service to individuals and the community.

- **Friend Of Fountain City:** This award is for the person with residence outside of Fountain City. An individual that has gone above and beyond to help Fountain City

**Continue on page 2**



Dr. Kenneth Link preaches a sermon at a local Shoney's recently. Link pastors a congregation from the former Churchwell Avenue Baptist Church. Shoney's on North Broadway provides worship space on Sundays at 8 a.m. Photo by Ken Lay.

## Local restaurant provides worship space for church congregation

By Ken Lay

If you're an early bird in need of a place to worship on Sunday morning, a small church gathers for a service at 8 a.m. at Shoney's, located at 4032 N. Broadway. The congregation meets in the private banquet room.

"We meet at 8 a.m., we worship, we have a prayer board we pray over, and then we have breakfast," said Dr. Kenneth Link, who pastors the church, which was previously Churchwell Avenue Baptist Church in North Knoxville. "We want to welcome people."

"We want to be real. I mow my grass like everybody else and I work every day like everybody else. We want people to be real and we want people not to resent who God is and we don't want to mold people."

Link, who has been a pastor for nearly five decades and has pastored eight churches during his tenure at the pulpit, adds that he wants to be a welcoming force as he shares his faith.

"We're relaxed and we want to welcome those

who have been disenfranchised by organized religion or pushed aside," Link said.

The church is Southern Baptist in theology but stays out of politics. It has 20 or so in-person members and reaches approximately 300 more people online through Facebook Live at Ironworks Kville, which not only streams its Sunday morning services, but it also streams its midweek services on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

"We have about 20 in-person members and have 300 followers online," Link said. "They're all just good people and they don't fight."

"We don't have a lot of ministries. What we have is us. We read and follow the Bible, even the parts that we don't like."

Through Facebook Live, the church has a worldwide following, particularly in Brazil and Bulgaria.

Link has been pastoring to his current congregation for 10 years and the church had to leave its former building as the upkeep had just become too much.

"We weren't reaching the



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Jay Collins leads music for Sunday morning services for members of a neighborhood congregation that meets on Sunday mornings at Shoney's on North Broadway. He displays a sign that explains who and what the church is.

community," he said. "The building is a community treasure, but we couldn't continue to take care of the building itself and could foresee it becoming more

of a burden. "We finally let go of the weight of our brick and mortar. But our church is not a building. Our church **Continue on page 4**

## Tennessee Artist's Association to meet Tuesday, March 17

The Tennessee Artist's Association will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 17 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 6500 Northshore Dr., Knoxville. This meeting is free and open to anyone interested in the arts in East Tennessee. Refreshments will be served.

The program will feature artist Carla Sanchez. While Sanchez grew up in a family of artists living in the Hamptons in NY, she was encouraged to follow a different academic path. After a career in

psychology and counseling, Sanchez began to rekindle and pursue her love of classical painting. She has studied with modern masters of painting and finds inspiration in the works of Velasquez and David Leffel. A big influence has been her late grandfather, who was a well known local artist in The Hamptons.

Sanchez is a classical realist, and her works reflect the rich, painterly qualities of that genre. You can find more about Carla Sanchez at her website, [www.carlasanchez-art.com](http://www.carlasanchez-art.com).

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# Attention Wars: Defeating Distractions that Divide the Heart

I try to avoid going to the grocery store. What should be a simple task, such as walking in to grab a box of cereal, often turns into a mental tug-of-war. The shelves are lined with endless options:



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

honey-coated, frosted, cinnamon-dusted, whole-grain, ancient-grain, gluten-free, high-protein, high-fiber, low-sugar and zero-sugar. Some boxes promise energy and performance. Others advertise heart health and discipline. Then there is the bright cartoon mascot smiling from one row, just begging for me to take them home.

This small moment illustrates a larger reality. When options multiply beyond clarity, choice can become a burden rather than a blessing. In today's world, many people are living in a constant "cereal aisle" of decisions. We assume that more choices mean more freedom, but the overwhelming number of decisions we face often produces anxiety instead.

Psychologists refer to this as decision fatigue. It is the phenomenon in which a person's decision-making quality deteriorates over time. Our brains operate on limited cognitive resources. As we

move through the day, making countless choices, work decisions, family decisions and financial decisions, our mental energy becomes depleted. When that

depletion occurs, our mental guard begins to weaken. Impulse control declines, long-term goals lose their emotional strength, and immediate relief becomes more attractive. This is where distractions quietly enter the picture.

Distractions require little mental effort. Scrolling through social media, checking sports scores or watching short videos on our devices offers quick bursts of novelty and dopamine. They provide an easy escape from mental strain. Because the brain is tired, it naturally gravitates toward whatever requires the least amount of effort. Over time, this creates a pattern. Fatigue leads to distraction, distraction provides relief, and the brain records the behavior as a solution. Repeated enough times, that behavior becomes a habit. What once felt like a choice becomes automatic. A habit has begun to form.

Scripture describes a similar dynamic in the story of Martha and Mary in Luke 10. When Jesus enters their home, Martha immediately takes on the responsibilities of hosting. Bread must be baked, water must be served, and the house must be prepared. None of these actions is wrong; in fact, they are good and necessary. Yet the Bible reveals something deeper about Martha's condition. The text says she was "cumbered about much serving," meaning she was pulled in different directions and distracted. Her hands were full, but her mind was fragmented. Her devotion to responsibility had divided her attention.

Soon, frustration surfaces. Martha turns to Jesus and asks, "Lord, do you not care?" Her anxiety had grown so strong that it distorted her perception of Christ Himself. Mary, however, had chosen something different. Instead of being consumed by activity, she sat at Jesus' feet and listened. Jesus gently explained that Mary had chosen the "good part."

The lesson here is not that work or responsibility is wrong. Martha's problem was not her service but her distraction. Her devotion to activity had replaced her devotion to His presence.

**Continue on page 4**

# Olympian to speak at Health & Fitness Expo

Kara Goucher, an American long-distance runner, author and two-time Olympian, will be the featured speaker for the Health & Fitness Expo, part of the Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon weekend on April 11-12, 2026.

Goucher was the 10,000-meter silver medalist at the 2007 World Championship in Athletics and represented Team USA at the Olympics in Beijing in 2008 and in London in 2012. She made her marathon debut in 2008 and finished third at the Boston Marathon the following year.

Since retiring from professional competitive running, Goucher has worked as an author, race analyst and podcaster. She and runner Des Linden discuss a wide range of running topics on their podcast, "Nobody Asked Us." Goucher also co-wrote a book released in 2023 entitled, "The Longest Race: Inside the Secret



**Two-time Olympian, author and podcaster Kara Goucher will be the featured speaker for the Health & Fitness Expo, part of the Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon weekend April 11-12.**

World of Abuse, Doping and Deception on Nike's Elite Running Team."

"We are thrilled to have

an elite runner like Goucher offer her invaluable insight

**Continue on page 4**

# More than 60 years and counting

Forgive me for not understanding what's going on in this world. Not much makes sense anymore. Computers, cell phones, and iPads confound me. I'm not sure that all the gadgets in my car



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

are working right now. I open the hood of the vehicle and just stand there; nothing other than the windshield wiper fluid container is familiar. Even so, this week, I once again met the bogeyman.

I was born in 1952, so that means I entered this world with the U.S. involved in a war just after World War II. In elementary school, we practiced hiding under our desks and walking home so that we'd be ready for a nuclear attack.

By the time I reached high school, the Vietnam War was raging. On our eighteenth birthday, my friends and I filled out the appropriate paperwork to register for the draft. Several guys had such low lottery numbers that they joined branches of the service to avoid the army. Some of us had student

deferments, and I worked hard to maintain that status to earn a degree. The country was divided about support for that war, and many battles were fought between the two sides. It

was a nasty situation. Even today, few people realize that the Vietnam War began in 1955 and ended in 1975.

Life settled down for a while, but then George H. Bush went nuts on Iraq and started the Persian Gulf War. After the disgusting attack on the towers in New York, George W. decided he would finish what his father had started. For the next twenty years, U.S. troops were mired in a war that couldn't be won. Thankfully, our president finally withdrew troops from Afghanistan to put an end to our country's involvement, but even that turned out to be a bloody mess.

This week, the U.S. took steps to once again stick the necks of young soldiers into another war. This one is against Iran. No doubt,

Iran has been led by some of the vilest folks the world has ever seen. The leaders have funneled money to many groups that are determined to terrorize our country and its citizens. No one wants Iran to have nuclear capabilities, but that was one of the reasons we've been given for the attack. Most informed institutions declare that Iran was at least a decade away from posing a threat to the U.S. We have no idea how long this war will last or how many people will be destroyed in it.

The point of this is not to blame one party or person for this predicament. What I'm trying to point out is that at this point in my life, one which has been blessed, I have lived 63 years of my life with our country entangled in some wars in some place. Too many of our young men have died on foreign soil. Surely to goodness, a country with people so wise and educated and skilled can figure out a way to live without having its past, present, and future scarred by brutal ways of killing and maiming others. If not, we are a doomed world.

# Honor Fountain City Day in the Park 2026

**Cont. from page 1**

- Youth Of The Year: Must be a student under 21 and exhibit exemplary qualities of good conduct. He must have respect among his peers and educators. He

is expected to be involved with extracurricular activities within his community as well as his school.

The deadline for award nominations is April 1, 2026. Individuals can

submit nominations for any or all of the awards at [www.fountaincitytownhall.org/fountain-city-day-award-nominations/](http://www.fountaincitytownhall.org/fountain-city-day-award-nominations/)

FCTH is also accepting booth applications for crafters, artists, vendors, community organizations, candidates for political office and elected officials and food trucks. The application, fee information and rules can be found online at [www.fountaincitytownhall.org/fountain-city-day-booth-application](http://www.fountaincitytownhall.org/fountain-city-day-booth-application). The deadline for booth applications is Friday, May 15.



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# The Gentleman From Nevada

## James G. Scrugham

### Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill

rayhill865@gmail.com

Most of history is unknown, and it is always fun for me to dust off certain tales and people and share those stories. Largely forgotten today, James Graves Scrugham lived an interesting and productive life. At various times, he was an engineer, a professor, the publisher of a major daily newspaper, and was elected to the three highest offices within the gift of the people of Nevada: governor, congressman and United States senator. Balding and compact, James G. Scrugham looked more like a country storekeeper than a politician.

Coming from a sparsely populated state, a successful politician has to know people on a personal basis, as well as have a strong grasp of what drives that state's economy. The successful officeholder understands the needs of farmers and industry, as well as everything in between. James Scrugham knew and understood Nevada and her people very well. Scrugham gloried in simply living in the American West, frequently telling the tale of how he once watched in wonder as a mother eagle nudged her fledglings out of the nest high on the edge of a cliff one by one. The future governor saw the chicks fall and the mother sweeping down to catch her young before they hit the ground and repeat the process until each learned to fly.

Coming from a big cattle-producing state, as a congressman, Scrugham didn't like the idea of the U.S. Army & Navy wanting to buy canned corned beef from Argentina. As Nevada's lone member in the U.S. House of Representatives, Jim Scrugham was the author of an amendment attached to legislation coming to the Senate which kept out South American beef. Congressman Scrugham's amendment forbade the government from buying clothing and food produced outside the United States. "I come from a district dependent almost entirely on beef and wool," Scrugham explained. "I'm sent here to protect the interests of those growers. If I don't they'll kick my ass."

Scrugham was a native of Kentucky and graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in engineering. Jim Scrugham moved to Nevada to become a professor of engineering at the University of Nevada. Scrugham's reputation and ability as an engineer helped to raise the University of Nevada from a small college to a level comparable to the larger schools in the West.

Governor Emmet Boyle appointed Scrugham state engineer for Nevada in 1917. The following year, Scrugham went into the

Army, where he was commissioned as a major when the United States entered World War I. He was quickly promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in an artillery company. Jim Scrugham maintained the same rank as a member of the reserve.

Back home in the United States in 1919, Scrugham became one of the incorporating members of the American Legion and also resumed his duties as state engineer. James G. Scrugham also became a member of Nevada's Public Service Commission in 1919 for a term of four years. Scrugham frequently represented the interests of his state, beginning with the Panama Pacific International Exposition held in San Francisco in 1915. Later, Scrugham was one of Nevada's members of the first Colorado River Commission. Jim Scrugham also represented Nevada during the preliminary stages of the consideration of the building of the Boulder Dam.

In 1922, James G. Scrugham made his first bid for public office, announcing as a candidate for governor. Scrugham won the Democratic nomination handily, beating an attorney from Reno, James T. Boyd. The general election was hard fought, but Scrugham won a comfortable victory in the general election with almost 54% of the vote against Republican John Miller.

During his administration as governor, Scrugham extended Nevada's state highway system, which also expanded the state highway department. Governor Scrugham utilized the expanded highway department effectively for political purposes as well, setting a pattern for future governors. The nucleus of the highway department was helpful to Scrugham when he sought a political comeback in 1932.

Scrugham's political career was launched by Governor Emmet Boyle who had groomed him as a successor. When Emmet Boyle died in 1926, it was a terrible blow to Scrugham, who had managed to alienate many of his fellow Democrats by being abrupt, "unwilling to listen to advice and devoting too much attention to promoting historic affairs."

Governor Scrugham lost the 1926 election in an upset to Fred Balzar, a highly popular former sheriff of Mineral County, when Nevada saw a rise in Republicanism. Scrugham bought the Nevada State Journal from the widow of his predecessor as governor, Mrs. Emmet Boyle. Scrugham became the editor and publisher of the State Journal until he sold it to F. W. McKechnie in 1932.



Congressman James G. Scrugham of Nevada (left), Admiral John Greenslade (middle) and Congressman Harry Sheppard of California in 1941.

Scrugham also accepted an appointment as a special advisor to Secretary of the Interior Hubert Work in 1927 during the administration of Herbert Hoover on the development of the Colorado River.

The political horizon had darkened considerably for GOP candidates with America in the grip of the Great Depression. Scrugham announced as a candidate for Nevada's lone seat in the House of Representatives and easily beat Maurice Sullivan, a former lieutenant governor, for the Democratic nomination. The former governor faced Congressman Samuel S. Arentz, a Republican, in the general election, in the general election. Arentz had been first elected in the 1920 GOP tidal wave, which swept across the country that year. Arentz did not run for reelection in 1922, choosing to seek the Republican nomination for the United States Senate and losing by a mere 315 votes. Arentz sought to regain his seat in the House in 1924, which had been won by Democrat Charles L. Richards. It was a very close election with Arentz winning by 227 votes. Congressman Arentz had been easily reelected in 1926 and 1928. Arentz won again in 1930, albeit more narrowly, beating Lieutenant Governor Maurice Sullivan with 54% of the ballots cast.

The suffering wrought by the Great Depression was even more intense in 1932 than in 1930. Franklin D. Roosevelt carried Nevada overwhelmingly against President Herbert Hoover, winning quite nearly 70% of the vote. Roosevelt's coattails allowed Democrat Pat McCarran to eke out a narrow win over Senator Tasker L. Oddie. James Scrugham ran well ahead of McCarran, taking 60% of the vote over Congressman Arentz.

For the next decade, Jim Scrugham was one of Nevada's most popular public officials and routinely won reelection every two years as the Silver State's congressman-at-large. As a congressman, Scrugham was a supporter of President Roosevelt and the New Deal. Scrugham was strong enough

politically not to have any primary opponent once he had been elected to Congress. When Senator Key Pittman died days after the 1940 general election, Scrugham was an obvious choice for appointment to fill the vacancy. Governor E. P. "Ted" Carville looked elsewhere for a senatorial appointee, choosing Berkeley L. Bunker, the 35-year-old Speaker of the Nevada State House of Representatives. Carville likely chose Bunker precisely because he was not a high-profile candidate, nor one who triggered outrage from the competing and powerful political factions inside Nevada's Democratic Party. Scrugham was a leader of the faction headed by the late Senator Pittman, while the other combine was headed by Senator Pat McCarran, who led a formidable organization.

Scrugham had been somewhat of an independent, or as one Nevada political writer termed, "had played a lone hand" since his election to Congress. It was almost universally conceded that Scrugham would be a candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1942, although the congressman had said nothing about running himself. Senator McCarran and Congressman Scrugham had not been especially friendly, to put it mildly. McCarran was a very strong personality who proved unable to get along with any of his senatorial colleagues, and Berkeley Bunker was no exception. McCarran and Bunker had feuded about political patronage.

While the Carville administration supported Senator Bunker, many in McCarran's camp backed Congressman Scrugham. If Scrugham were to bump Bunker out of the U.S. Senate, it would also remove him as a threat to McCarran's own reelection in 1944.

Although he had never run statewide before, Berkeley Bunker proved to be an energetic candidate, almost 30 years younger than Jim Scrugham. Political observers believed the senatorial campaign would be a real horse race. There were a few differences in their positions on the issues; both had records of support for

President Roosevelt and his program. The campaigns fired salvos at one another through handbills and mailers, attacking specific aspects of one another's records. The two hotspots of the campaign for the Democratic nomination for the senatorial nomination were the two most populous counties, Washoe (Reno) and Clark (Las Vegas). Many supporters aligned themselves with the candidate closer to their own generation. Longtime Democrats sided with Congressman Scrugham, while many young Democrats were enthusiastically for Senator Bunker.

The race was decided by 1,146 votes. Bunker won Clark County, albeit by only 85 votes. Scrugham won Washoe County by 1,248 votes, which was more than enough to provide his margin of victory in the Democratic primary. Senator Bunker carried eight counties while Congressman Scrugham carried nine.

1942 was a good year for Republican candidates across the country, but not in Nevada, where the Democratic ticket won across the board. James G. Scrugham beat GOP senatorial nominee Cecil Creel with roughly 59% of the vote. Maurice Sullivan finally won the congressman-at-large seat, Governor Carville was reelected, and the late Senator Pittman's brother, Vail, was elected lieutenant governor.

James G. Scrugham was sworn in following the certification of the election results in December of 1942, giving him seniority over the other senators elected in 1942. At the time of his election, Jim Scrugham was 62 years old. While it was obvious he would not be able to accrue considerable seniority in the Senate, there was reason to believe he could serve at least a couple of terms.

Scrugham managed to secure a place on the Small Business Committee and was named chair of the subcommittee on Mines & Mining, a post of some importance to Nevada. Mining was also a vital concern during the Second World War when

the United States was going all out to produce materials and machinery for its use and that of its allies. It was in that capacity Senator Scrugham embarked on a trip to hold hearings in Reno and Las Vegas in Nevada, as well as Tucson, Phoenix, Riverside, California, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Denver, Salt Lake City, and Grants Pass in Oregon. The purpose of the hearings was to help coordinate a program to fully develop mineral resources for the war effort.

Once in the U.S. Senate, Scrugham's personal relations with the cantankerous Pat McCarran improved somewhat, and the two worked together for Nevada. Scrugham also helped stave off defeat for McCarran in the 1944 Democratic primary.

Senator Scrugham's activity in the Senate slowed considerably due to illness. Scrugham was reported to be resting at a remote ranch in Clark County in May of 1944 and had been sick since January. The senator had gone to Bethesda Naval Hospital that January, reportedly because of influenza. Scrugham's office reported late in January that the senator would return to his office very soon. Following November 1944, Jim Scrugham only appeared on the Senate floor twice.

By 1945, Berkeley Bunker had won Nevada's seat in the House of Representatives, and he was anxious to return to the U.S. Senate. Governor Carville, disappointed by Scrugham's failure to support him for a federal judgeship, was also avidly eyeing the senator's seat in the Senate. Scrugham's deteriorating health had many of the senator's supporters thinking he would not be a candidate for reelection in 1946 in any event.

Jim Scrugham's health was getting no better, and the senator was carried by stretcher to board a Navy plane in Las Vegas and then flown to the Naval hospital in San Diego, California. It was reported he was suffering from a kidney infection. Senator Scrugham never recovered and died in the Naval hospital on June 23, 1945, at age 65. © 2026 Ray Hill

# SOKNO RAILTRAIL



## Work begins to create SoKno Rail Trail and Art Walk

The tracks have been removed and the first public art installation revealed as momentum builds on the SoKno Rail Trail and Art Walk, the much anticipated multi-use, rail-to-trail project in south Knoxville, Legacy Parks Foundation announced at the end of last month.

Through a collaboration among Gulf & Ohio Railways, the City of Knoxville and Legacy Parks Foundation, the 3.8-mile rail corridor stretching from Chapman Highway to Ijams Nature Center will be transformed into a soft-surface multi-use trail that includes a 1.5-mile Art Walk, blending outdoor recreation with public art.

"The SoKno Rail Trail will offer an experience that is both urban and natural," Carol Evans, Executive Director of Legacy Parks Foundation explained. "Running alongside the restaurants and

breweries of Sevier Avenue and continuing through wooded areas to Ijams Nature Center, it will provide a unique cultural, recreational and transportation corridor that connects neighborhoods, provides safe routes for walking and biking, and celebrates Knoxville's creativity through public art."

Legacy Parks Foundation has been collaborating with Gulf & Ohio Railways since 2015, to create a rail-with-trail along south Knoxville's waterfront - a trail in the right-of-way alongside the rail line. In December 2025, Gulf & Ohio made the decision to close the rail line, creating the opportunity to remove the tracks and convert the rail line into a public trail.

The City of Knoxville's Public Works Department is expected to begin construction within the next three months

on a soft-surface, accessible trail, including the first 1.5-mile segment from Chapman Highway to Island Home Avenue designated as the Art Walk.

Legacy Parks will create the Art Walk, beginning with an initial \$1 million gift from the Lawson Family Foundation. The Art Walk that will feature unique, diverse, and engaging works by local, regional and nationally-renowned artists, transforming the trail into a cultural destination for residents and visitors alike. Art along the trail will include murals, sculptures, functional installations, landscape architecture, and youth-created works.

"It is so appropriate that the first art installation celebrates the rail heritage of the trail with artwork by world-famous muralist Emmanuel Jarus on a caboose with Knoxville ties as it was originally owned by B. Ray Thompson's Shamrock

Coal Company, said Pete Claussen, Gulf & Ohio Railways chairman.

"Dogwood Arts is honored and excited to support Legacy Parks and the City of Knoxville in the creation of the SoKno Rail Trail and Art Walk, Knoxville's newest cultural destination, said Sherry Jenkins, Executive Director of Dogwood Arts. "We look forward to bringing large scale murals and sculptures to create points of interest along the trail as part of our existing Art in Public Places program. When finished, we know this new thoroughway will be heavily used by local residents who enjoy living in the thriving South Knoxville community while also serving as a new point of interest that will draw visitors from outside the area."

The SoKno Art Walk is anticipated to open in Fall 2026.

## Attention Wars

**Cont. from page 2**

This story reveals a profound truth about modern life: anxiety often grows in the soil of constant distraction. When our attention is pulled in a thousand directions, our minds become fragmented and our spirits restless. Peace is found when our attention is anchored. Mary discovered that peace does not come from eliminating responsibilities. It comes from positioning our hearts near

Christ before the noise of life takes over. In a world full of competing voices and endless distractions, the greatest battle many people face is the battle for their attention. And ultimately, whatever captures our attention will shape our affection and the direction of our lives. Choose the good part. Find your place in the presence of Jesus before anything else steals your mind with the distractions of the world.

## Local restaurant provides worship space for church congregation

**Cont. from page 1**

is our people." In letting go of the building, the congregation needed to find a way to continue to hold services and find a place to worship and fellowship. And the church would find its place.

"We were Christmas caroling and I told everybody that we had to go to

Shoney's afterward," Link said. "And the next Sunday, before we even had any kind of agreement, when we got there, they already had everything set up for us."

The church has been having its Sunday services at Shoney's ever since.

"We met and talked it over, and I said 'let's think

about it and let's pray about it', and the people said let's go to Shoney's. The people in the church made the decision to meet at Shoney's," Link said. "Pastor Ken did not make the decision."

The church will continue to meet at Shoney's and Link is hoping that Shoney's will continue the

partnership. "We want Shoney's to be glad we're there and we're hoping that they will actually be proud that we're there."

If you would like to check out Ironworks Kville, Pastor Link says they would love to have you visit and worship with them any Sunday morning.

## Olympian to speak at Health & Fitness Expo

**Cont. from page 2**

to our athletes and attendees," said Jason Altman, race director of the Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon. "We're excited for her to speak at the expo and share her incredible experience, tips and inspiration."

Goucher will deliver her motivational speech at the World's Fair Exhibition Hall on Saturday, April 11, at 1 p.m. The Health & Fitness Expo, located at 935 World's Fair Park Drive, is a pre-race celebration featuring exhibitors focused on fitness, sports, wellness and nutrition. The expo is

free, open to the public and will be held from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The marathon weekend is not just for runners, whether elite, recreational or just beginning. Race officials with the Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon reiterated that race weekend has something for everyone, and there is still time to get involved.

"Maybe you're spending your weekends on the couch, but you're ready to challenge yourself to tackle something new," Altman said. "There is still time to train for the 5K, and if you're not feeling ready for

that, walking is always an option."

The Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon weekend includes several events such as a marathon, half marathon, four-person relay, 5K and the Covenant Health Kids Run. All race participants must attend the Health & Fitness Expo on Saturday, April 11, to pick up race packets. Registration is open now, with early sign-ups offering discounted rates.

For more information and to register for the 2026 Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon races, visit [knoxvillemarathon.com](http://knoxvillemarathon.com).



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## THE KNOXVILLE FOCUS ALL-KNOX COUNTY BOYS TEAM

# Nordin's path could lead to TSSAA gold and Naval Academy

By Steve Williams

Justin Nordin has a lot going on when it comes to basketball these days.

Right now, the Bearden High School senior and his teammates are focused on getting to the TSSAA state tournament.

This coming summer, Justin will join the Naval Academy.

Will it be a career for him?

"As of right now it's going to be four years of school with basketball in it, my commitment (to the Academy) afterwards, and God's plan for me, so I don't know what's going to happen in the future, but I'm just going to stay on for the ride," he said.

Nordin also may find out today he is The Knoxville Focus / Coaches' Player of the Year in Knox County and a runaway winner for that award. The 6-2 guard averaged 16.1 points, 4.2 assists, 3.8 rebounds and 3.1 steals during the regular season and is the Bulldogs' go-to-guy when a game is on the line.

"He has led Bearden to an amazing season," said West High Coach Tommy Eggleston.

During his recruitment, Nordin said: "They showed me so much love. They got me on campus two times. I just prayed a



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

Bearden senior guard Justin Nordin looks for an opening in the Alcoa defense in mid-February. He wasn't at his best that night, but the All-Knox County Player of the Year pulled out an overtime win for the Dawgs.

lot. It was a stressful decision, because there's a lot that goes into that place. That's just where my heart felt. That's where it belongs, so that's where I made

my decision. So this past summer, that's when I knew I was going to the Navy."

Jon Perry, head coach of the Midshipmen,

**Continue on page 2**



### ALL-KNOX COUNTY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM 2025-26

#### FIRST TEAM

**Carson Asbaty**, Bearden High  
6-2 Senior Guard

**Sean Capshaw**, Bearden High  
6-3 Senior Guard

**Ben Cross**, Central High  
6-0 Sophomore Point Guard

**Kalou Fofana**, West High  
6-0 Junior Point Guard

**Parker Lane**, Farragut High  
5-11 Senior Point Guard

**Owen Lentz**, Webb School  
6-1 Senior Guard

**Cade Murphy**, Catholic High  
6-5 Senior Guard

**Justin Nordin**, Bearden High  
6-2 Senior Guard

**Segond Somba**, Grace Christian  
6-9 Junior Forward

**Nick Steen**, Fulton High  
6-3 Junior Forward

**Cam Swearengen**, Webb School  
6-5 Senior Wing

## HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION II STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS

# Lady Spartans fight back a second time for title

By Steve Williams

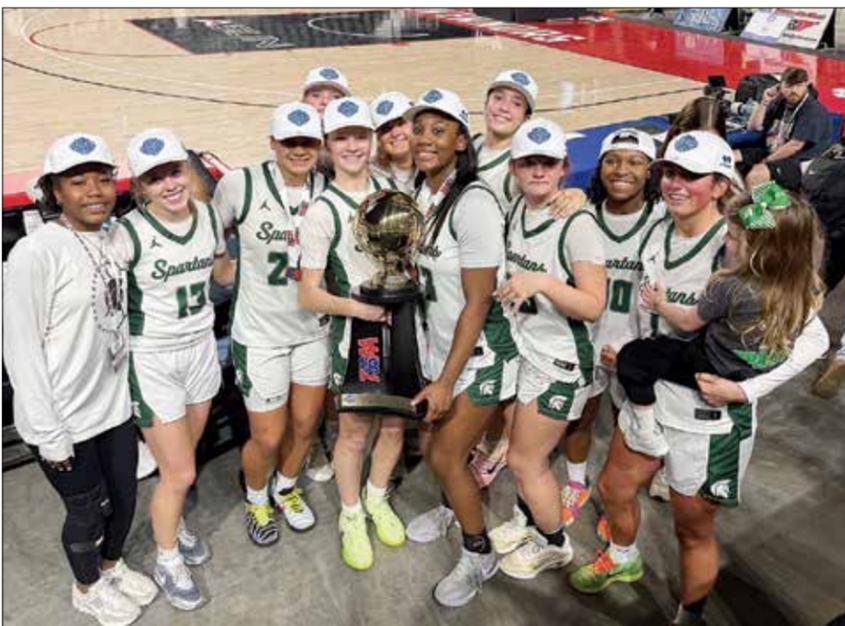
Webb School's girls won their see-saw battle in the TSSAA Division II-AA state championship game Saturday afternoon at the F&M Bank Arena in Clarksville.

It resulted in Back2Back state champions, too, as the Lady Spartans edged Lipscomb Academy 48-47 in the closing seconds.

Coach Greg Hernandez's Lady Spartans took an 11-8 lead in the first quarter, but found themselves trailing by 10 points after the third period.

Webb worked to even the score at 44-all, but Brooklyn Lowry's 3-point shot put the Lady Mustangs ahead again (47-44).

The Lady Spartans forced a turnover with 52 seconds left in the game, and Webb sophomore forward Kyndall Mays then



The Lady Spartans are all smiles following their tough-fought 48-47 state title victory over Lipscomb Academy Saturday in Clarksville.

scored to cut the deficit to one (47-46) with 0:35 on the clock.

With the clock running down, Meeyah Green was

forced to foul.

And then the play of the game. Green stole the ball with 12 seconds to go and went down the court and

scored with six seconds remaining, giving Webb a one-point lead (48-47).

The Lady Spartans had

**Continue on page 2**



Members of the KAYA Roadrunners Black and Roadrunners Red celebrate their dual championship wins.

## YOUTH BASKETBALL

# Roadrunners Red and Roadrunners Black tie and win!

By Steve Williams

There were no losers in this game.

The championship stage was set by two teams that practiced together all season long as one. They each ended the season

with the two best records in their 8-year-old leagues, 9-1 KAYA Roadrunners Black and 8-2 KAYA Roadrunners Red.

Each of the coaches wanted this championship

**Continue on page 4**

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## THE KNOXVILLE FOCUS ALL-KNOX COUNTY BOYS TEAM

**Parrott is All-Knox County boys' Coach of the Year**

By Steve Williams

When a team is having an awesome season and the gold ball is a win or two games away, what can a coach do to keep his team loose and on track?

Bearden Coach Jeremy Parrott and his team (35-1) are in that position and Parrott had the answer after his Bulldogs defeated rival Farragut 60-48 in the Region 2-4A championship game Thursday night.

"I told them when we were playing in the district tournament it's really hard to coach a basketball team that's 32-1 because it seems like there's not a lot going wrong," recalled the Bearden coach. "But you have to keep the bigger picture in mind. We're trying to improve as well. You can even improve on that. Do some different things and do some things differently that will make you better."

Parrott went on to say: "We keep reminding them that we're never at the journey's end. We're always chasing a state championship. We're always chasing that next win. So we



Bearden Coach Jeremy Parrott, left, is The Knoxville Focus All-County coach of the Year. Webb School's Ricky Norris, above, and Central's JP Payne, top right, were co-Runners Up. Photos by Luther Simmons and Colton Edwards.

just try to keep them in the moment by giving them little goals per game.

"How many rebounds we're going to have. How many steals we're going to have. Are we going to give up this many points? Just tapering in your goals a little bit. Not getting too far ahead of yourself is really

important. And then as far as the training goes, try to keep them healthy. Reduce the contact a little bit. Hope the injury bug stays away.

"It's hard to coach a team that thinks they're good sometimes," continued Coach Parrott. "It's important that they think they're good, because confidence

is everything. But at the same time, you've got to keep it in perspective because everybody wants to finish the season on a win. And you only do that when you stay in the moment and stay focused."

You can tell from this one topic Parrott knows his stuff and he is deserving of



being voted The Knoxville Focus / Coaches' 2025-26 Coach of the Year. Webb School's Ricky Norris and Central's JP Payne were co-Runners Up.

Norris' highly ranked Spartans were defeated by Montgomery Bell Academy 56-52 in the Division II-AA state quarterfinals.

Payne led Central to the District 3-4A championship, but the Bobcats were eliminated by Hardin Valley 57-55 in the Region 2-4A quarterfinals.

Parrott guided Bearden to the Class AAA state championship in 2019 and Class AAAA state runner-up in 2022.



## ALL-KNOX COUNTY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM 2025-26

### SECOND TEAM

Malachi Brown, Catholic, Sr.  
Brayden Hazelbaker, Webb, Sr.  
Colton Hoffmeister, Halls, Jr.  
Wilson Luton, Webb, Sr.  
John Martin, Grace Christian, Sr.  
Travis Martin, Catholic, So.  
Spencer Moore, Austin-East, Jr.  
Brendan Murphy, Bearden, Jr.  
Justin Pruitt, Austin-East, Sr.  
Robert Shuler, West, Sr.  
Jonah Smith, South-Doyle, Sr.  
Reid Vining, Farragut, Sr.  
Hudson Wilkins, Grace Christian, Sr.  
Larrione Winton, Austin-East, Sr.  
Rejuan Womble, Fulton, Sr.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Cam Bates, Gibbs, Jr.  
Justin Burris, Fulton, Sr.  
Foster Coleman, CAK, Sr.  
Miles Comparato, Halls, So.  
Rio Curry, CAK, Fr.  
Dylan Duncan, Berean Christian, So.  
Kaden Duncan, Berean Christian, So.  
Parker Hampton, Central, Sr.  
D'Andre Hundley, Austin-East, Sr.  
Landon Lee, Catholic, Jr.  
Alex Leeth, Webb, Sr.  
Hayden Scarbrough, Berean Christian, So.  
D.J. Smith, Central, Sr.  
Kymani Smith, Hardin Valley, Fr.  
Huston Torres, Webb, Jr.  
Lincoln Wilkerson, Berean Christian, So.

## Nordin's path could lead to TSSAA gold and Naval Academy

Cont. from page 1

headed up the recruitment of Justin.

A 35-1 record at this point in the season shows Bearden has a lot of talent and is not a one-man show. Two teammates – Sean Capshaw and Carson Asbaty – also are first-team honorees and junior Brendan Murphy is on the second team. All four also average in double figures. In addition to Nordin's 16.1 points, Capshaw averages 14, Asbaty 13.1 and Murphy 11.

Bearden has four good shooters. Nordin has hit 69 percent of his 2-point shots, 43.1 percent on 3-pointers and 80 percent of his free throws. From the

same distances, Capshaw has connected on 58, 46 and 82 percent, Asbaty 74, 44 and 61 percent and Murphy 54, 40 and 89 percent.

Asbaty leads the team with 6.3 rebounds and 2.2 steals per game. Nordin also tops the assist category with his 4.2.

Catholic's Cade Murphy, a 6-5 senior shooting guard, has the top scoring average – 21 points – for the All-Knox County first team. He is an Eastern Kentucky University commit. Fulton junior Nick Steen ranks second at 20.6, and West junior Kalou Fofana is third at 19.1.

Grace Christian's 6-9 junior Segond Sompma is

No. 1 with 10.2 rebounds per contest.

First team honoree Parker Lane of Farragut is among the Top 5 all-time scorers in school history.

Travis Martin, a Catholic sophomore point guard who is on the All-Knox second team, leads the state with 7.1 assists per game.

Fighting Irishman Malachi Brown is also on the second team and is committed to Michigan.

Another All-Knox County player on the second team, Farragut's 6-4 senior center Reid Vining, who averages 12 points and 10 rebounds, is the record holder for double-doubles in a season with 17 or more.

At 6-foot-4 and 240 pounds, Jonah Smith of South-Doyle averaged 13 points and 10 rebounds and was probably one of the strongest players.

Kymai Smith, a Hardin Valley freshman, is on the honorable mention list and rising. He averaged 17 points, five rebounds and five assists.

CAK's Rio Curry was another standout freshman this season as he averaged 13.7 points, 3.7 rebounds and shot 38 percent behind the arc.

Berean Christian School, led by Kaden Duncan, had four sophomores who shot in double digits this season.

## Lady Spartans fight back a second time for title

Cont. from page 1

plenty of fouls to give, and they drained the clock down to 3.3 seconds and then 1.4 seconds. Lipscomb's

last shot was in-bounded from the back court and their long shot was blocked, ending the game.

Green finished with 17 points and Mays with 12 to lead Webb, which finished with a 25-6 record.

### Webb roars back to win tourney opener

The Lady Spartans fell behind by 10 points in their first quarter at the state tournament last week, but rallied in the fourth quarter for a 59-54 win over Christian Presbyterian Academy.

CPA's lead grew to 16 points in the first two minutes of the second quarter, but Webb caught fire and rode a 13-point run in the final quarter to advance.

Sophomore forward Kyndall Mays had a strong performance in Webb's comeback victory, as she scored 18 points and pulled down 13 rebounds. Her shooting touch also was exceptional as she hit six of 10 field goals and six

of six free throws.

Green scored 20 points and grabbed 12 boards, but misfired on three attempts behind the three-point line and had five turnovers.

As a team, Webb was zero for 10 behind the arc.

Ivy Napier chipped in 10 points and Corisa Lowery seven, respectively.

### Catholic boys fall in 4-overtime thriller

Catholic battled through 4-overtimes before falling to Briarcrest 75-72 Thursday in the Division II-AA semifinals.

Briarcrest outscored the Irishmen 7-4 in the final 4-minute OT period.

Catholic overcame a 15-8 first period was tied 51-all at the end of regulation.

Cade Murphy led the Irish with 23 points and eight rebounds. Travis Martin added 18 points and Malachi Brown 10.

Joshua Huggins led Briarcrest with 32 points. Coach Travis Mains'



Irishmen ended their season with a 24-7 worksheet. Briarcrest hangs up a 30-3 record.

### TKA girls bow to Providence Christian

The King's Academy dug itself into an early hole and bowed 68-43 to Providence Christian Academy Friday.

PCA led 21-6 after the opening eight minutes and its lead widened in the fourth quarter.

Eva Birkofer scored 28 points and pulled down 13 rebounds to lead her team in the battle of Lady Lions.

Skylar Walden scored 17 points to lead TKA. Kyle Young contributed 12 points and Adit Koul seven.

TKA's season record ends at 27-9, while PCA finishes at 26-5.

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# Great stories behind the numbers

There are times the game-by-game scores in the Tennessee Football Record Book are just a mind-numbing array of numbers, assembled neatly over the years, stretching from that first game in 1891 through the recent years.

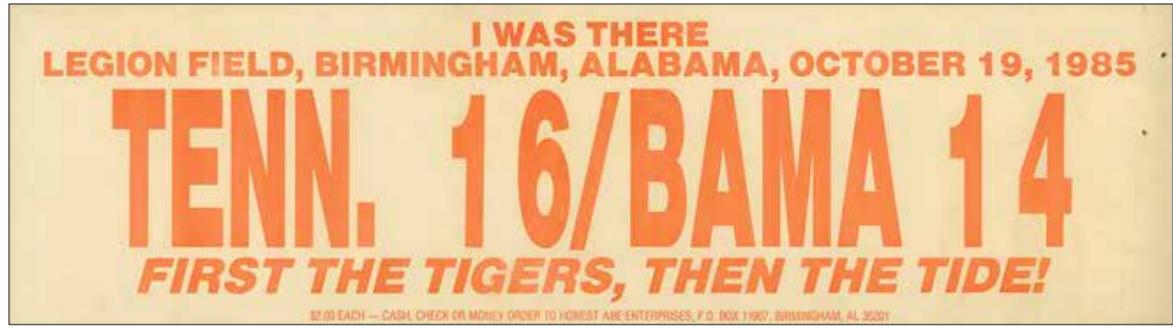
No one has quite had the patience to count how many different scores there have been, but there are certain scores that definitely stand out.

35-34 / 15-13 / 23-16 / 37-34 / 15-13 / 23-16 / 16-14 / 45-3 / 20-14 / 35-7 / 24-13 / 31-11 / 35-28.

Here are the stories behind the scores:

35-34: The day was Nov. 9, 1991, Notre Dame Stadium, South Bend, Ind. Tennessee defeated Notre Dame, but it was no ordinary game. The Vols trailed 31-7, 31-14 at the half, but rallied to win. Freshman placekicker John Becksvoort said he dreamed over the years of winning the game with a field goal, but in this case an extra point was plenty.

15-13: On Oct. 20, 1928, on Denny Field



Certain scores that definitely stand out.

in Tuscaloosa, Ala., Tennessee defeated Alabama in a game highlighted by Gene McEver's 98-yard TD run with the opening kickoff. This is the game that brought the Vol program and Maj. Neyland into the bright sunlight of big-time college football.

23-16: In a game no one has forgotten, Tennessee knocked off Florida State, Jan. 4, 1999, in Tempe, Ariz., in the inaugural BCS Championship Game. Tee Martin had a 79-yard touchdown pass to Peerless Price. Dwayne Goodrich had an interception return for a touchdown and won Defensive MVP honors despite being injured and missing the second half.

37-34: It was Dec. 4, 1965, when Tennessee and UCLA squared off in the famed "Rosebonnet Bowl" game at the new stadium in Memphis. The Vols and Bruins combined for 71 points in an unprecedented

offensive onslaught, with Dewey Warren scoring the game-winner at left end on one of the longest 1-yard runs ever seen. Someone once asked Dewey if he really scored. Dewey's response was to the point: "Did the official raise both hands over his head?"

16-14: On Oct. 19, 1985, Dale Jones had a point-blank interception off Mike Shula at Legion Field, saving the game and highlighting a season in which the Vols won the SEC title and a berth in the Sugar Bowl. The Vols lost starting quarterback Tony Robinson to a knee injury against Alabama in mid-October, but found a more-than-capable replacement in Daryl Dickey.

45-3: It was Homecoming night, Oct. 13, 1990. The halftime score was 7-3 Tennessee over Florida, but the Vols laid a 38-0 haymaker on the Gators in the second half. Dale Carter's

93-yard kickoff return launched the onslaught. The point total included a TD pass from tight end Von Reeves to wideout Carl Pickens.

20-14: Take your pick of the triumph over Texas in the Cotton Bowl on Jan. 1, 1951, or a similar triumph over Ohio State in the Florida Citrus Bowl on Jan. 1, 1996. Andy Kozar and Cowboy Hill led the way in the fourth quarter in Dallas. Kozar scored twice, while Hill had an interception and fumble recovery. In Orlando, Jay Graham had a long run, Joey Kent caught a TD pass, and Bill Duff had a key stop on Eddie George in the shadow of the Vol goal line.

35-7: On Jan. 1, 1986, the underdog Vols, supposedly fodder for a talented Miami team that had national championship hopes and dreams, took inspiration from a heavily partisan Vol crowd at the

Louisiana Superdome and dismantled the Hurricanes. Jeff Powell's 60-yard scoring run still stands as one of the most memorable in Tennessee football history.

24-13: In the late afternoon of Oct. 21, 1967, Vol fans knew the Vols were back, after third-string quarterback Bubba Wyche led the offensive side of the victory, the first over the Tide since 1960. Albert Dorsey had three interceptions off Snake Stabler in the fourth quarter to help fend off an Alabama comeback. Sophomore defensive back Mike Jones made the cover of Sports Illustrated. One excited Vol fan called the News-Sentinel sports department with a pertinent question: "Does Coach Dickey plan to come back to Knoxville on the plane with the team or will he just walk up the river?" Legion Field entrepreneurs worked overtime selling game memorabilia

outside the stadium that can still be found in homes and offices across Big Orange Country.

31-11: Penn State was 10-0 coming to Knoxville for the 1971 season finale and celebration of "Majors Family Day" in Knoxville. Bobby Majors had two long kickoff returns and a 44-yard punt return for a score. Conrad Graham had a 76-yard TD run off a fumbled pitchout by State quarterback John Hufnagle, outlegging the more heralded Franco Harris and Lydell Mitchell down the east sideline for a touchdown.

35-28: On Oct. 16, 1982, the Vols defeated Alabama, breaking a losing streak that dated to Oct. 16, 1971. Vol quarterback Alan Cockrell threw the ball all over the field, and Mike Terry had the game-clinching interception in the final seconds. That led to Vol fans storming Shields-Watkins Field after the game.

One sad note. This game marked Bear Bryant's final appearance at Neyland Stadium. He died Jan. 26, 1983.

Scores... numbers... nothing more?

If you look closely, there are some great stories behind the numbers.



From left to right: Randy Webb, Johnny Darden and Cylk Cozart are pictured at the Tennessee Basketball Reunion Celebration held February 13.

## Former Vols reunite

By Mark Nagi

Tennessee basketball is a family. Has been for years and will continue to be as long as people are bouncing a ball and putting it into a hoop.

Last month, approximately 45 former players, alumni, and friends attended a Tennessee Basketball Reunion Celebration in Louisville, Blount County. The reunion coincided with the weekend of Tennessee's game against LSU, which the Vols won 73-63.

This get-together has been an annual event for about a decade.

"We tell a few stories, meet and greet, have fellowship, and have a good time," said Johnny Darden, who played for the Vols from 1975-1979.

One of the overarching themes of the reunion was looking back at their mentors, including Ray Mears and Stu Aberdeen. Mears was the Vols' head coach from 1962-1977, and Aberdeen was his top assistant from 1966-1977.

"He (Mears) built the program. He built Tennessee basketball," said Darden. "Let's face it. UT was known for football. And it still is. But Coach

Mears started the basketball program. The history behind what he has done for the program and for Knoxville. He not only had a passion for basketball, but he also had a passion for it and for the University of Tennessee, the school itself. He wanted the best."

Those two coaches combined for lots of on-court success at UT. Mears went 278-112 in his 15 seasons in Knoxville. Tennessee also went 182-76 in SEC play during that span, including three conference titles. During most of Mears's era, only one team per conference could compete in the NCAA tournament. We can only wonder what success the Vols would have had had they gotten more opportunities.

Aberdeen was Mears' top recruiter, helping UT bring in Bernard King and Ernie Grunfeld from New York. Winning those recruiting battles helped Tennessee basketball reach another level.

But those are the wins and losses. Mears and Aberdeen's impact has been felt for years in more important areas.

"On the court, they were coaches," said Darden. "Off the court, they treated us like men, and I really respected that and always

have and always will. Just learned a lot of good, a lot of valuable lessons from them."

"Those guys have so much deep respect for one another and admiration for Coach Mears and Coach Aberdeen and everything they learned," said Randy Webb, who is good friends with these alumni and went to Tennessee from 1975-1979. "(Former Vols) Mike Jackson said that night, he (Mears) didn't just teach us basketball skills. They taught us how to be a man. One day, he was walking to class, and Mears saw him and said he had a wrinkle in his shirt and needed to go change because he represented the University of Tennessee."

And that University is better off today because of men like Mears and Aberdeen, and because of the men they led who keep their memory alive.

## HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNEY TIME

# Nordin leads the way in Region 2-4A title win

By Steve Williams

Justin Nordin scored a game-high 21 points and Bearden took a 10-point lead in the first period that rival Farragut could not overcome in a 60-48 victory Thursday night in the Region 2-4A championship game.

With the win at the Dawg House, Bearden (35-1) earned the homecourt advantage in tonight's Sectionals against Maryville, while the Admirals (24-11) will play at Sevier County.

"We had way too many turnovers in the first quarter," said Farragut Coach J.P. Burris. "And then we gave up too many offensive rebounds in the second quarter and I think we had no legs by the end of the game. And they are a really good team."

In addition to Nordin's production, Bearden got 10 points from Sean Capshaw, nine from Braden Murphy, and seven each from Carson Asbaty and Damian Cullom.

Farragut had balanced scoring as Aiden Foshie scored 11 points, Reid Vining 10, Don Lanning nine and Matthew Dickens and Parker Lane seven each.

The Admirals got as close as six points (35-29) after a technical foul on Bearden with 3:45 remaining in the third period.

After Bearden built its lead back to 14 points early in the fourth quarter, Farragut got within eight (50-42) with 3:11 to go.

But a dunk by Capshaw in the closing seconds pretty much put an exclamation point on the win.

Bearden and Farragut both have not faced their Sectional opponents this season.

**FULTON ADVANCES:** Coach Jody Wright's Fulton Falcons nipped Clinton 59-57 to win the Region 2-3A championship game Thursday and will host Greeneville tonight (March 9) in the Sectional



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Bearden's Sean Capshaw soars for a basket late in the game Thursday in the Region 2-4A tournament finals against Farragut. The Bulldogs won 60-48 for their 35th win.

round with a state tourney berth up for grabs.

Clinton also will play in the Sectionals tonight, but on the road at Tennessee High in Bristol.

The tip off time for all Sectional games is 7 p.m.

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## HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

## Halls looks to compete for District 3-4A title with youthful experience

By Ken Lay

Halls High School's baseball team has some veterans on its 2026 roster. But the Red Devils also have some youthful experience, and on Thursday, it was a pair of sophomores who shined on the mound.

Fisher Green started on the hill and posted a stellar performance, all but silencing Anderson County's bats in a 3-0 victory over the Mavericks at Bob Polston Field.

Fisher Green started for Halls and posted a dominant performance as he allowed just three hits over six innings. He struck out nine Anderson County hitters, while not allowing a walk.

His outing impressed both Mavericks' coach Josh Boynton and Halls High's third-year coach Ryan Gentry.

"He's good," Boynton said of Green. "He's the best righty that we'll see all

year, and he just competes on the mound.

"He's got a couple of years of high school baseball left after this year, and he's going to be fun to watch. I'm just glad that we don't have to see him in our district, and we'll see him outside of it. It was good for us to see Fish today because we're all getting ready for May."

Gentry, who opened his third season by guiding the Red Devils (2-0) to a

10-4 win over Kingston on Wednesday, agreed.

"He's just a bulldog, and he competes for us on the mound, especially in pressure situations," Gentry said.

Bryce McCarty pitched a flawless seventh for Halls against the Mavericks as he retired them in order.

The game was a true classic pitchers' duel as Anderson County (2-1) got solid performances from left-hander Daniel

Unthank and right-handed reliever Reese Young, who combined to hold the Red Devils.

"I think we saw two pretty good arms," Gentry said. "Unthank is a veteran, and he knows what he's doing out there, and the young right-hander was good too."

Dylan Bowser went 1-for-4 as he doubled and scored, while Amari Lethgo, who pitched against the Yellow Jackets, went 1-for-3 with a double and an RBI.

He also scored a run.

Bowser, Lethgo, Cooper Faust, and leadoff hitter Colby Comparato all returned for their season in 2026, and they'll be counted on to lead Halls as it pursues a District 3-4A Championship, and Green will provide some youthful experience but experienced depth in the Red Devils' pitching rotation.

## Farragut has eyes on a fifth straight Class 4A State Championship

By Ken Lay

The 2026 high school baseball season has begun, and so has Farragut High's defense of the 2025 Class 4A State Championship.

The Admirals entered the new campaign with one major distinction. They are gunning for a fifth consecutive state title, and they are the only team to own a Class 4A championship since the classification was created five years ago.

Second-year head coach Garrett Copeland and the Admirals want to keep that streak alive, but Copeland said he knows that it will be a tall order, especially considering the team plays in District 4-4A, the most competitive league in the entire state, which features

the likes of Hardin Valley Academy and Bearden, along with newcomers Oak Ridge (which has made two consecutive state tournament appearances and defeated the Admirals last season to win the Region 2-4A Championship), Lenoir City, McMinn County and Rhea County.

"Our district is tough, but that's the path we have to take," said Copeland, who guided Farragut to a 32-11 record and a regular-season district title. "Our goal is to make it to the state tournament every year.

"And we know that nobody is going to feel sorry for us."

The Admirals opened the season on a win when they shut out Catholic, 8-0, on

Monday, March 2, on the road at Gaylor Field in a game that saw senior Travis Brummitt Jr. hit a solo home run. He finished the contest with a pair of hits

Caleb Van Lant went 2-for-4 with three stolen bases and three runs scored, while Cole Creasman had a hit and two RBIs.

Brummitt Jr. started on the mound for Farragut and picked up the win as he gave up three hits and totaled four strikeouts in three innings of work.

Braiden Meredith and Cash Schroeder also appeared on the mound in relief for the Admirals.

Farragut has all three of its starters back in the outfield, as Neyland Williams

will play left field, Zain Kureshi-Smith will patrol center, and Aidan Flagg will man right field.

Other key returners include: Braxton Tye, who will move to shortstop after playing second base last season. Creasman and Jake Harris are also back, along with relief pitcher Joey Ray (who saw action in the state tournament in 2025).

Van Lant and Mason Shelton will also be top arms on the mound after transferring from Hardin Valley. Meredith and Schroeder will also pitch for the Admirals, who played Nolensville in their home opener Friday. Results were not available at press time.

## Falcons look to build on last year's diamond success

By Ken Lay

Fulton High School had its most successful baseball season in recent memory last year, and for head coach Buzz McNish, the expectation for the 2026 campaign is simple.

"We want to build off what we did last year and do better than we did last year," said McNish, who began his fourth season in North Knoxville on Wednesday night. "A big part of that is going to be finding consistency, consistency on the mound.

The Falcons got things started on a high note Wednesday night as they routed Happy Valley, 21-7, at Tusculum University in Greeneville as several players recorded a multi-hit game.

Senior Joseph Garcia collected three hits for Fulton in its season opener. Gavin Gant, Trey Salyer, Noah Lyons and Manny McNish

all came up with two hits apiece.

All of those players will look to contribute as Fulton navigates its 2026 campaign after helping Fulton finish 22-12-1 in 2025

Lyons, who picked up the win on the mound Wednesday night, returns for his senior season with the Falcons, and he'll pitch and play in the outfield. Garcia, also a senior, will pitch and play shortstop.

The junior class on the diamond for Fulton includes two key returners as Gant will pitch and play in the outfield, and Salyer will pitch and play both first base and third base. Alex Bailey, also a junior, is a newcomer to the fray for the Falcons. He's a pitcher and utility player.

Manny McNish, who pitches and plays first base, returns for his sophomore season this year.

## Young Bulldogs notch comeback victory at Karns to open season

By Ken Lay

When Bearden and Karns tangled to open the 2026 high school baseball season Tuesday, both teams began the long and winding road on the diamond.

Both the Bulldogs and Beavers are looking to make deep postseason runs in Class 4A. But Bearden lost four of its top players to graduation following the 2025 campaign.

"We lost four guys who were really good last year," Bulldogs coach Dave Prichard said. "But we have a 45-man roster, and in Tennessee, they don't limit the number of JV games you can play, so we played 38 JV games last year.

Meanwhile, at Karns, the Beavers return some savvy veterans, including a senior class that features several players who have started since their freshman campaign. This is also the third year for coach Drew Patterson, who is looking to

guide his squad to the Region 2-4A Tournament for the first time under his leadership.

"We want to get to the region," said Patterson, who replaced Matt Hurley as head coach following the 2023 season. "We have five seniors who came here in 2023 and they all started as freshmen, and they all know that they can compete at a high level."

The Beavers also feature a strong and battle-tested junior class that arrived the same year that Patterson took the reins for the program.

And Tuesday's game, won by the Bulldogs, 3-2, at Karns High's Coach Dwight Smith Field, certainly proved that both teams could certainly compete at a high level as they took their first steps in what they hope will be an epic journey.

The Beavers took an early lead when sophomore Carter Branson clubbed a two-run homer in the

bottom of the third inning.

The Bulldogs would answer and score all three of their runs in the top of the fifth frame. They would score what turned out to be the winning run when Tyler Cline walked with the bases loaded.

Top offensive stars for Bearden on opening night included senior Fenn Piper, who went 2-for-3 with a triple, three stolen bases and a run scored. He also knocked in a run. Boone Piper singled and scored, while Jack Fennell singled and drove in a run.

On the mound for the Bulldogs, Colton Perkins hurled five innings and yielded two runs and two hits, while striking out seven. Walter Pankau earned the save as he pitched two scoreless and hitless innings. He finished his outings with four strikeouts.

## Roadrunners

Cont. from page 1

Knoxville Area Youth Alliance (KAYA).

Head Coach: Cordarrell Anderson. Assistant Coaches: Brandon Winton, Anthony McAlister, Jarod Henderson.

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# KCDC earns Pinnacle Business Award for partnerships, affordable housing

Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) has earned a Knoxville Chamber 2026 Pinnacle Business Award in the Impact Award category for its efforts to build partnerships, support the community and expand affordable housing.

"Being a catalyst to improve and transform communities is at the core of what we do each day," KCDC Executive Director and CEO Ben Bentley said. "KCDC's impact can be measured not only in new buildings or investments, but in the lives changed: children developing in safe environments, seniors aging with dignity, veterans finding stability and families gaining access to healthcare and opportunity. By aligning partners, resources and residents toward shared goals, KCDC is helping to build a stronger, healthier and more equitable community.

"We're honored to be recognized with the Impact

Award by the Knoxville Chamber and proud of our team members and partners who deserve this recognition."

The annual Pinnacle Business Awards salutes regional business excellence across nine categories, with winners chosen by the Knoxville Chamber board of directors. The Impact Award celebrates community improvement in multiple areas and the ability to engage other partner organizations in these endeavors. An event honoring the winners was held March 5 at The Pavilion at Hunter Valley Farm.

KCDC was chosen for the Impact Award in part by its work to expand affordable housing across Knoxville, including the innovative Liberty Place initiative. The Liberty Place housing community, which serves the needs of military veterans who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, is becoming a model for other communities to follow.

Strategic partnerships brought the community to reality, with individuals, groups and organizations across the area stepping up to provide services and goods - including comfortable home furnishings - to support the residents.

KCDC has brought or is committed to bringing more than 1,200 renovated, replaced and new housing units to the local market between 2020 and 2029. In meeting the parameters of the Impact Award, KCDC has brought more than \$500 million in housing investment to the Knoxville area over the past 10 years; leveraged more than \$100 million in philanthropic and private investment for neighborhood projects that uplift Knoxville; championed environmental stewardship in each redevelopment; and fostered healthcare, education and workforce pathways, adding new on-site primary care clinics and partnering with schools, colleges and

workforce agencies to connect residents to training and career opportunities.

"The rationale for any KCDC investment is the same: to align with the mission to collaborate with the Knoxville community to create and preserve housing opportunities and strengthen neighborhoods," Bentley said. "This is especially important during a time when Knoxville has a huge shortage of housing units, and we believe the Impact Award further confirms that we're succeeding in reaching our mission."

To learn more, please visit [kcdc.org](http://kcdc.org).



PHOTO COURTESY OF KNOXVILLE'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) was presented a Knoxville Chamber 2026 Pinnacle Business Award in the Impact Award category at a ceremony March 5 at The Pavilion at Hunter Valley Farm. Pictured from left: Andy Beam of Pinnacle Financial Partners, presenting sponsor of the Pinnacle Awards; Keith Kuykendall of Segra, sponsor of the Impact Award; KCDC Executive Director and CEO Ben Bentley; and Knoxville Chamber Board Chair Rob Stivers of Regions Bank.

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# LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

## COURT NOTICES

### NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: CHRIS DOTY and NETTIE DOTY

IN RE: FARM AT WILLOW CREEK HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION, INC., Plaintiff

VS.

CHRIS DOTY and NETTIE DOTY, Defendant(s)

NO. 212209-3

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant(s), CHRIS DOTY and NETTIE DOTY, 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 CHRIS DOTY and NETTIE DOTY, defendant(s), CHRIS DOTY and NETTIE DOTY, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Melanie E. Davis, an Attorney whose address is 217 E. Broadway Avenue, Maryville, TN 37804, on or before thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a Judgement by Default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor 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 30th day of JANUARY, 2026.

Christopher D. Heagerty  
Chancellor

J. Scott Griswold  
Clerk and Master

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
SHERRY A. MARLOW, EXECUTRIX  
418 LAKEVIEW DRIVE  
MT. JULIET, TN 37122

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF KATHLEEN LOFTIS BAILEY  
DOCKET NUMBER 92061-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of KATHLEEN LOFTIS BAILEY, who died Dec. 31, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of 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 12th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF KATHLEEN LOFTIS BAILEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JAMES THOMAS BAILEY, III, EXECUTOR  
661 N. EAST END ROAD  
STRAWBERRY PLAINS, TN 37871

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RAYMOND HENRY BARGER  
DOCKET NUMBER 78154-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters of testamentary in respect of the Estate of RAYMOND HENRY BARGER, who died on May 16, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This 25th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF RAYMOND HENRY BARGER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
CYNTHIA BARGER  
1514 CHARLES DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

CARIN C. BRIO, ATTORNEY

3217 GARDEN DRIVE, SUITE 1  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LEE FOWLER BLAIR  
DOCKET NUMBER 78104-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 20 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of LEE FOWLER BLAIR, 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 20 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF LEE FOWLER BLAIR

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JOHN BLAIR, ADMINISTRATOR  
10134 WOLFEN LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF KENNETH RAY BOWMAN  
DOCKET NUMBER 78161-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 20 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of KENNETH RAY BOWMAN, who died December 12, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk 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 20 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF KENNETH RAY BOWMAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ABIGAIL BOWMAN SMASAL  
3805 WESTVIEW DRIVE NE  
CLEVELAND, TN 37312

JON MCMURRAY JOHNSON, ATTORNEY  
10413 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 200  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF SCOTT ERNEST CAGLE  
DOCKET NUMBER 78148-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 18th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary (or of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of SCOTT ERNEST CAGLE, who died on the 17th day of October, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) below, otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This 18th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF SCOTT ERNEST CAGLE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MELISSA CAGLE, EXECUTRIX  
10555 RATHER ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

ESTATE OF SCOTT ERNEST CAGLE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MELISSA CAGLE, EXECUTRIX  
10555 RATHER ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

ESTATE OF SCOTT ERNEST CAGLE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ELIZA JONES, ATTORNEY  
P. O. BOX 10388  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37939

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DAVID PATRICK CRAWFORD  
DOCKET NUMBER 78196-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of DAVID PATRICK CRAWFORD, who died on January 7, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); 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 25th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF DAVID PATRICK CRAWFORD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
BRIE A. CRAWFORD, ADMINISTRATOR  
231 COUNTRY RUN CIRCLE  
POWELL, TN 37849

CARIN C. BRIO, ATTORNEY

3217 GARDEN DRIVE, SUITE 1  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RUTH ANN CRAWLEY  
DOCKET NUMBER 92044-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 19 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of RUTH ANN CRAWLEY, who died Oct. 26, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against 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 19 day of February, 2026.

ESTATE OF RUTH ANN CRAWLEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
SHARON C. SMITH, EXECUTRIX  
3109 TEE LANE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DONALD LEE CROMER  
DOCKET NUMBER 92044-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 20 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of DONALD LEE CROMER, who died December 18, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This 20 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

This the 20 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF DONALD LEE CROMER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MARK DONALD PAPISH

RYAN N. SHAMBLIN, ATTORNEY  
205 MOHICAN STREET  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MILES E. CULLOM, SR.  
DOCKET NUMBER 91976-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 20 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MILES E. CULLOM, SR., who died August 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 (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or  
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This 20 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF MILES E. CULLOM, SR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MILES E. CULLOM, JR.  
4459 FORREST RIDGE  
LOUISVILLE, TN 37777

ESTATE OF MILES E. CULLOM, SR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MILES E. CULLOM, JR.  
4459 FORREST RIDGE  
LOUISVILLE, TN 37777

ESTATE OF MILES E. CULLOM, SR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MILES E. CULLOM, JR.  
4459 FORREST RIDGE  
LOUISVILLE, TN 37777

ESTATE OF MILES E. CULLOM, SR.

BRENDEEN S. MORIARTY, ATTORNEY  
1111 N. NORTHSORE DR., STE. S700  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF GERALDINE LOUISE  
EFFLER COLLINS FORD  
DOCKET NUMBER 92085-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, Letters of Administration in respect to the Estate of GERALDINE LOUISE EFFLER COLLINS FORD, deceased, 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 this Estate are required to file the same in triplicate with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court within the earlier of:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first public notice if the creditor received an actual copy of such notice at least 60 days before the date that is four months from the date of the first publication or posting; or  
(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice, if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication or posting as Described in (1)(A); or  
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death, otherwise their claim will be forever barred.

All persons indebted to the above Estate must come forward and make proper settlement with the Undersigned at once.

This 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF GERALDINE LOUISE

EFFLER COLLINS FORD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
TINA WYRICK, ADMINISTRATRIX  
P. O. BOX 1331  
MAYNARDVILLE, TN 37807

K. DAVID MYERS, ATTORNEY

P. O. BOX 13  
MAYNARDVILLE, TN 37807

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF THERESA CHARLENE KIRBY  
DOCKET NUMBER 92086-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 19th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, Letters of Administration in respect of the Estate of THERESA CHARLENE KIRBY, who died on November 18, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This is the 19th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF THERESA CHARLENE KIRBY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
RONALD JASON KIRBY  
2506 E. CLARK AVENUE  
MARYVILLE, TN 37804

ELIZABETH MAXEY LONG, ATTORNEY  
232 GILL STREET  
ALCOA, TN 37701

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOSEPH B. KIRK, SR.  
DOCKET NUMBER 92034-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOSEPH B. KIRK, SR., who died on November 16, 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 12th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF JOSEPH B. KIRK, SR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
KEELSEY R. REILLY, ATTORNEY  
800 S. GAY STREET, #1400  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37929

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

This the 12th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

ESTATE OF JOSEPH B. KIRK, SR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JOSEPH B. KIRK, JR., EXECUTOR  
P. O. BOX 50843  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37950

RICHARD T. SCRUGHAM, JR. ATTORNEY

550 WEST MAIN STREET, SUITE 500  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF EDWIN L. MCDANIEL  
DOCKET NUMBER 92076-2

Notice is hereby given that on the FEBRUARY 10, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of EDWIN L. MCDANIEL, who died October 27, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MORGAN D. MCDANIEL  
397 FLATROCK ROAD  
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY 42701

W. ALLEN MCDONALD, ATTORNEY

249 N. PETERS ROAD, SUITE 101  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

ESTATE OF EDWIN L. MCDANIEL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MORGAN D. MCDANIEL  
397 FLATROCK ROAD  
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY 42701

W. ALLEN MCDONALD, ATTORNEY

249 N. PETERS ROAD, SUITE 101  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

ESTATE OF EDWIN L. MCDANIEL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
MORGAN D. MCDANIEL  
397 FLATROCK ROAD  
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY 42701

W. ALLEN MCDONALD, ATTORNEY

249 N. PETERS ROAD, SUITE 101  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DOROTHY JANE MCMAHAN  
DOCKET NUMBER 78155-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 20 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of DOROTHY JANE MCMAHAN, who died January 3, 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 20 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.



# LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF ANDREW EDMOND MCNEIL, III**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 78217-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of ANDREW EDMOND MCNEIL, III, who died on January 11, 2026, 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 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF ANDREW EDMOND MCNEIL, III**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
KRISTOPHER MCNEIL,  
189 BRIMER RD,  
ELIZABETHTON, TN 37643

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

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF NATHAN PAUL MEEKS**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 78179-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 24th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect to the Estate of NATHAN PAUL MEEKS, who died December 17, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or
  - (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or
  - (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
- This the 24th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF NATHAN PAUL MEEKS**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
RYAN MEEKS  
536 HWY. 25 E  
CROSS PLAINS, TN 37049

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF RALPH FRANCIS MILLER**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91705-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of MARCH, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of RALPH FRANCIS MILLER, who died on the 23rd day of September, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred :

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

**ESTATE OF RALPH FRANCIS MILLER**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
PATRICK ALAN MILLER  
183 THUNDER RIDGE DRIVE  
VONORE, TN 37885

MATTHEW B. FRERE, ATTORNEY  
1001 E. BROADWAY  
LENOIR CITY, TN 37771

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF DEBORAH KAY NELSON**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 78134-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of DEBORAH KAY NELSON, who died Jan. 12, 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 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 23rd day of February, 2026.

**ESTATE OF DEBORAH KAY NELSON**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
KIMBERLY K. BRYAN  
801 HOUSTON DR  
SEYMOUR, TN 37865

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF SANDRA LEE OLIVER**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91914-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of SANDRA LEE OLIVER, who died November 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 23rd day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF SANDRA LEE OLIVER**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
DAVID M. OLIVER  
213 LITTON DRIVE  
SEYMOUR, TN 37865

FELICIA F. COALSON, ATTORNEY  
900 S. GAY ST. SUITE 800  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF KAYLA DANIELLE PATE**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 78073-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 24th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of KAYLA DANIELLE PATE, who died Dec. 20, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of this first publication; or
  - (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or
  - (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
- This the 24th day of February, 2026.

**ESTATE OF KAYLA DANIELLE PATE**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
BILLY JOE PERRY, JR.  
7836 WEBSTER DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37938

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF ALLIE LOIS PEAVEY**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91252-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 19 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ALLIE LOIS PEAVEY, who died June 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 19 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF ALLIE LOIS PEAVEY**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
WILLIAM FRANK PEAVEY, JR.  
6732 STONYHILL ROAD  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

JAMES C. WRIGHT, ATTORNEY  
D. ANDREW YORK, ATTORNEY  
2701 KINGSTON PIKE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JAMES TYLER PORTER**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 78198-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of JAMES TYLER PORTER, who died Jan. 20, 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 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF JAMES TYLER PORTER**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
NORRIS C. PORTER, ADMINISTRATOR  
7101 FONTIS DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

EVAN E. HAUSER ATTORNEY  
306 LONE RIDGE LANE  
CLINTON, TN 37716

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF LAURA SUE RUSSELL**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 78160-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, Letters Testamentary, in respect of the Estate of LAURA SUE RUSSELL, deceased, who died January 16, 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 in triplicate with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) , otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or
  - (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors, if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or
  - (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
- This the 25th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF LAURA SUE RUSSELL**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
ERIK LUNDIN, EXECUTOR  
527 COPELAND DRIVE  
POWELL, TN 37849

K. DAVID MYERS, ATTORNEY  
P. O. BOX 13  
MAYNARDVILLE, TN 37807

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF FAYE NICLEY RUTH**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 92165-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 3rd day of MARCH, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of FAYE NICLEY RUTH, who died October 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 abovenamed court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred :

- (1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first 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 3rd day of MARCH, 2026.

**ESTATE OF FAYE NICLEY RUTH**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
TAMMY RUTH DEAN, EXECUTRIX  
1316 GREENWELL DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37938

VICTORIA B. TILLMAN, ATTORNEY  
1019 ORCHID DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF WILLIAM WESLEY SNYDER**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 78071-1**

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of WILLIAM WESLEY SNYDER, who died March 2, 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 27 day of February, 2026.

**ESTATE OF WILLIAM WESLEY SNYDER**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JAY W. SNYDER, EXECUTOR  
4624 BALL CAMP PIKE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF KATHLEEN T. WARD**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91965-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of KATHLEEN T. WARD, who died October 27, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or
- (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of 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 23rd day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF KATHLEEN T. WARD**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
RICHARD C. WARD  
207 HILLSIDE DRIVE  
MONROE, NC 28112

KAITLYN A. SELL, ATTORNEY  
JONATHAN D. REED, ATTORNEY  
900 S. GAY STREET, 14TH FLOOR  
P. O. BOX 2047  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF JOHN SCOTT WEBB**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91594-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOHN SCOTT WEBB, who died July 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 27 day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF JOHN SCOTT WEBB**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
LISA A. CORWIN, EXECUTRIX  
4181 EASTLAKE DRIVE  
MASON, OH 45040

LINDSEY L. HOBBS, ATTORNEY  
445 S. GAY STREET, SUITE 401  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF TOMMIE WAYNE WHITE**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 78145-3**

Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of TOMMIE WAYNE WHITE, who died September 24, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or un-matured, 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 25th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF TOMMIE WAYNE WHITE**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
JOHNNY OWENS  
1010 GOLDEN AVENUE  
ROCKY TOP, TN 37769

T. SCOTT JONES, ATTORNEY  
CHRIS W. BEAVERS, ATTORNEY  
KIMBERLY A. TROTTER, ATTORNEY  
2125 MIDDLEBROOK PIKE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF ROGER WHITESIDE**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 78133-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 23 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ROGER WHITESIDE, who died Oct. 12, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication; or
  - (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication as described in (1)(A); or
  - (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
- This the 23 day of February, 2026.

**ESTATE OF ROGER WHITESIDE**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
KATHERINE WHITESIDE  
8424 VININGS WAY  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF WALTER WIESER**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 91956-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of WALTER WIESER, who died October 30, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their

claims will be forever barred:

- (1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors, at least sixty (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 23rd day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF WALTER WIESER**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)  
LANA ROMANO  
511 SAGEWOOD DRIVE  
WILMINGTON, NC 28411

P. TIMOTHY GRANDCHAMP, ATTORNEY  
123 CENTER PARK DRIVE, BOX 11  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF WILLIAM EDWARD WOODRICK**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 92088-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of WILLIAM EDWARD WOODRICK, who died October 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 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

**ESTATE OF WILLIAM EDWARD WOODRICK**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES  
WILLIAM E. WOODRICK, JR.  
5050 YOUNG ROAD  
GAINESVILLE, GA 30506

JACK B. WOODRICK  
104 STONEWALL DRIVE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

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

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE OF ANNIE JEAN WRIGHT**  
**DOCKET NUMBER 78131-2**

Notice is hereby given that on the 23 day of FEBRUARY, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ANNIE JEAN WRIGHT, who died Dec. 9, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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